

# **NUS Launch of 50 Years of Science in Singapore**

Opening Remarks by Prof Tan Eng Chye,  
Dy President and Provost

31 May 2017, 4 pm  
University Town Auditorium 2

Colleagues, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very happy to join you today, to mark the launch of 50 Years of Science in Singapore.

Science is central to life and development of mankind. More than half a century ago, the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Nehru, once said, “It is science alone that can solve the problem of hunger and poverty, of insanitation and illiteracy, of superstition and deadening customs and traditions, of vast resources running to waste, of a rich country inhabited by starving people. Who indeed can afford to ignore science today? At every turn we have to seek its aid. The future belongs to science and to those who make friends with science.”

Here in Singapore, we have an able and far-sighted Government, who understands the importance and potential of Science in a country’s progress. 50 Years of Science in Singapore chronicles the history and development of Science education, and scientific research activities in Singapore over the past 50 years, in tandem with Singapore’s growth. Many of the contributors to this commemorative book have played unique and significant roles in shaping Science in Singapore.

Every country’s journey with Science is different, and this book is a record of Singapore’s unique journey. Successful science unlocks constraints, pushes the knowledge, boundaries and limits of what humans can pursue. At the same time, Science clearly does not exist in a vacuum; its advancement, direction and impact to humanity depend very much on many other operating factors.

Science in Singapore has come a long way, and we can be very proud of where we are today. Singapore now has a bustling scientific enterprise. Amongst others, we have Science Park 1, Science Park 2, Biopolis, Fusionopolis, universities, research institutes, schools, and others. There is a thriving community of scientists, scientific industries, science education and many other science activities.

Moving forward, Science in Singapore must evolve to collaborate with others for greater impact. Challenges and problems do not exist along disciplinary lines; scientists must go beyond their laboratories and work with others like industry, other academics and policy makers to understand complex issues more deeply. The collective wisdom of science and other fields of expertise have the potential to deliver comprehensive and impactful solutions.

I wish Science in Singapore continued success. Thank you.