



Eight of Singapore's brightest students and post-doctoral scientists in physics and related disciplines have been picked to accompany President Tony Tan to the Jubilee Meeting next month. They include (from left) Dr Derrick Fain, 30, Mr Wong Ghee Liang, 33, Mr Khoo Jun Peng, 25, Mr Shi Jing, 25, Mr Colin Tan, 23, and Mr Chen Mangjun, 24. The other two scientists are Mr Chen Manning, 26, and Mr Nicholas Agung Karimawan, 26. (1) PHOTO: HO JOO EUAN

Honour for 8 young scientists

Larger-than-usual group to meet Nobel laureates at prestigious science meet

By FENG ZHENGMU

The secret to better clean air

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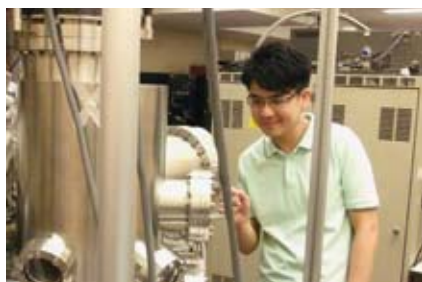
**NATIONAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

RECENT RESEARCH COOPERATION

Singapore committed to fostering transcultural scientific exchange



The National Research Foundation (NRF) of the Republic of Singapore is a new official Academic Partner of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, and thus entitled to nominate young scientists for participation. Eight NRF nominees – specialised in ultra-cold quantum gases, soft matter physics, experimental condensed matter, biological physics, quantum field theory, spintronics, and nanomaterial synthesis – will have the unique opportunity to meet 27 Nobel Laureates at the 2012 meeting. They currently work at the National University of Singapore, the Institute of High Performance Computing, the Data Storage Institution, Nanyang Technological University, the University of Cambridge, and the California Institute of Technology. 27-year-old Swee Liang Wong, doctoral candidate at the National University of Singapore, recognises one of the central benefits of this gathering: “The Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting will be a perfect platform for new inspiration. With over 580 talented young scientists around, the majority of them working in different fields, I am sure to gain new insights into my own research, which often relies on interdisciplinary approaches,” he says. Apart from promoting scientific exchange with plenty of discussion sessions and new science master classes, the Lindau Meetings foster and nourish transcultural exchange – vividly expressed on each meeting’s International Day. It will be presented by the Singapore government this year and shed light on the importance of international collaboration in science and research. The NRF seeks to strengthen Singapore’s R&D capabilities, encourage greater innovation and nurture the growth of technology-based enterprises in the country.



Swee Liang Wong examines molecular interactions and modifications of graphene – two-dimensional carbon structures used in nanotechnology and distillation.

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RECENT RESEARCH COOPERATION

New prospects for German-South African Research



How can resources be used sustainably? How can the economy grow without harming our climate? What will tomorrow’s cities look like? And what can science and research contribute towards solving these global problems? South Africa and Germany are answering these questions with a joint initiative: the German-South African Year of Science 2012/2013, which was officially launched in mid-April 2012. The Year of Science aims to strengthen research policy cooperation and establish new networks and partnerships. It is especially intended to stimulate junior researchers’ interest in cooperation with the partner country. Attention is being focused on the subjects of climate change, human capital development, bioeconomy, urbanisation/megacities, astronomy, health innovation and social sciences & humanities under the heading “Enhancing Science Partnerships for Innovation and Sustainable Development”. “Our goal is to share the weight of global responsibilities and to prepare the way for sustainable innovation,” said Federal Research Minister Professor Dr. Annette Schavan, who opened the Year of Science jointly with her South African counterpart Naledi Pandor. On her journey to South Africa, the Federal Research Minister also signed a declaration with African partners on the establishment of two new regional research centres in Southern and Western Africa at which German and African researchers will engage in research on climate change and land management in the future.



Federal Research Minister Professor Dr. Annette Schavan and South African Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor at the opening of the German-South African Year of Science 2012/2013 in Cape Town.

More information: www.germansouthafrican-scienceyear.co.za
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