



President's Office

Welcome Speech by

DR SU GUANING
PRESIDENT, NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

**2ND WORLD CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY
2010**

Thursday, 22 July 2010, 9.00am
Grand Ballroom (Pacific 1 & 2)
Pan Pacific Hotel

Time : about 10 minutes

Guest of Honour, Dr Ng Eng Hen,
Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence,

Mr Lim Chuan Poh,
Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research
(A*STAR),

Prof Howard Hunter,
President, Singapore Management University (SMU),

Prof Bertil Andersson
Provost, Nanyang Technological University (NTU),

Prof Seeram Ramakrishna,
Vice President (Research Strategy), National University of
Singapore (NUS),

Distinguished speakers,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Opening and welcome

A very good morning to everyone and thank you for joining us at the Second World Conference on Research Integrity 2010.

To our eminent speakers and delegates who have come from all over the world, I bid you a very warm welcome to Singapore. We are indeed honoured to have you here with us. We have over 300 participants from over 50 countries gathered here today, making our conference a truly international one.

Background

The First World Conference on Research Integrity was organised by the United States Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and the European Science Foundation (ESF) in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2007. It was an opportunity for us to discuss key points of research misconduct policies and to strategise how we should inculcate responsible conduct in research. Specifically, the conference addressed research integrity issues – defined mainly as falsification, fabrication and plagiarism.

Following the success of that inaugural conference, it was agreed that we should meet again at a second conference, held preferably in

Asia. Singapore, through its three universities – Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU) - and the national research agency, Agency for Science, Technology And Research (A*STAR) offered to host the meeting. And here we are now in Singapore to continue the discussions and build on the foundations started three years ago in Lisbon.

Singapore is honoured to host this highly regarded event, supported not only by the three Singaporean universities and A*STAR, but also by the Ministry of Education, which shows the emphasis that Singapore places on educating its students on the importance of research integrity.

NTU is proud to be appointed the lead organiser and host for this event, bringing together renowned experts in their respective fields to address the vital issue of research integrity. Cutting across all disciplines, research integrity has become increasingly important today, given that innovation and R&D are key drivers of economic growth worldwide.

Conference theme

The theme of this year's conference is '**Leadership Challenges and Responses**'. With many research activities now taking on a global dimension, it is imperative to discuss positive approaches towards inculcating best research integrity practices, including examining the role of academic publications in setting the standards for integrity.

We have with us today representatives from research funding organisations, universities, as well as other research agencies. I hope that this four-day conference - a platform for thought-leaders, academics and researchers to share their ideas and views on common research integrity issues - will challenge all delegates, in particular the heads of institutions, to think more about the leadership challenges and responses in research integrity which may in turn inspire new and practicable standards in the field.

Conference outcomes

This conference, however, will not be just another "talk shop". By the end of the event, we intend to formulate a set of recommendations, to be known as the 'Singapore Statement'. This statement, to be crafted based on the discussions during the conference, will focus on recommendations on four key aspects of research integrity, namely:

1. A national and international framework for promoting research integrity and responding to misconduct;
2. Global codes of conduct and best practices for research integrity;
3. Coordinated principles and strategies for training students and researchers in best practices, and
4. Best practices for academic editors and publishers.

The Singapore Statement will be a benchmark for the future. All conference delegates are encouraged to get involved in its development through an online discussion forum. The debate has started even as I speak. This exchange of views and information will continue over the entire duration of the conference.

In an increasingly globalised world, there is a critical need to develop guidelines and recommendations for promoting integrity in research at an international level. To this end, the Singapore Statement shall serve as a fundamental and landmark document containing basic principles that can be used as a standard for research integrity throughout the world.

Research integrity and education

Such a standard will be especially important for educators and educational institutions like NTU, growing rapidly as major research universities. It will serve as a guideline against which our behaviour can be assessed, and be a point of reference to deal with infractions in research integrity.

Indeed, it is important to imbue good values and practices early on in our young researchers, starting at the undergraduate level. Not only should we guide them on what is inappropriate behaviour, but more positively, we must educate them about best practice in research.

At NTU, we have taken steps to introduce a clear policy, based of course, with due acknowledgement, on the model provided by the US Office of Research Integrity. We have a zero tolerance policy for anyone, whatever their status, who breaches the university's research integrity norms. In addition, we are developing, in collaboration with a number of universities around the world, programmes to educate our young researchers, as part of a consortium led by Epigeum from London.

Another step we have taken is to introduce a clause in our international partnership agreements pertaining to integrity. The clause commits our partners and NTU to adopting best practices and undertaking joint action in handling any cases of breach of integrity which may arise.

But beyond educators and university leaders, it is equally important that the leaders of funding agencies as well as research institutions are committed to the best practices in research. Indeed, I am very pleased and heartened to see many delegates holding leadership positions attending this conference. This bodes well for the future of research integrity worldwide.

Recognition of planning committee members and sponsors

At this juncture, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Local Organising Committee, chaired by Prof Tjin Swee Chuan, and the International Planning Committee, headed by Prof Nicholas Steneck and Mr Tony Mayer, for their hard work and effort in planning and coordinating this event. Prof Steneck, who is widely acknowledged as a world expert in this area, has been instrumental in putting together the conference programme.

I would also like to thank the Ministry of Education, A*STAR, as well as our three Singaporean universities for their support in making this conference possible.

Other organisations that have contributed to this event include the European Science Foundation, the US Office of Research Integrity, the Committee on Publication Ethics, the US National Science Foundation, and the European Molecular Biology Organisation.

In addition, we received support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, International Council for Science, European Forum for Good Clinical Practice, China Association for Science and Technology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, European Cooperation in Science and Technology, Research Councils UK, the Korean Centre for Good Research Practice, South Africa's National Research Foundation, the National Science Council, Taiwan, King Abdullah University of Science & Technology and Thomson Reuters.

Last but not least, I would also like to acknowledge the Singapore Tourism Board for their supporting grant for this event.

In closing, I encourage delegates to participate actively in the interesting discussions over the next four days. I wish everyone a successful and fruitful conference.

Thank you.