

PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEDAL 2018

Professor Lam Khin Yong

Vice President (Research)

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

“For his dedication to fostering scientific talent and shaping the research landscape in Singapore, and his deep commitment to advancing close collaboration between academia and industry, which have profoundly influenced Singapore’s development into a thriving research hub”

Professor Lam Khin Yong, Vice President (Research) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, is a lifelong advocate of research with impact, and has embodied this philosophy throughout the course of his illustrious career spanning more than three decades.

His contributions and leadership in shaping the pool of local scientific talent, charting the strategic development of Singapore’s high-performance computing capabilities, and driving the University’s research efforts have been, and continue to be, instrumental in advancing Singapore’s transformation as a knowledge economy and a global hub of innovation.

A strong advocate of the triple helix research collaboration model in which industry, academia and public agencies work together to deliver research outcomes with societal impact, Prof Lam was pivotal to the formation of landmark partnerships that have nurtured local scientific talent to support Singapore’s growth into a research hub of global renown.

Prof Lam was also instrumental in fostering an interdisciplinary mindset among researchers to address real-world challenges through translational research while advancing the frontiers of knowledge through theoretical discoveries in fundamental research.

Early in his career, Prof Lam led the successful merger between the National Supercomputer Research Centre, which was then under the National Science and Technology Board, and the Centre for Computational Mechanics at National University of Singapore (NUS) to form the Institute of High Performance Computing, or IHPC.

As the Founding Executive Director of IHPC, Prof Lam was key in its formative years. IHPC has since become a significant and strategic resource for Singapore, as it drives scientific inquiry and industry development and taps translational research for impact. His dedication towards extracting research value subsequently paved the way to the establishment of a series of key collaborations with industry. The legacy of his effort is evident to this day.

As the Founding Director of the A*STAR Graduate Academy, Prof Lam successfully established new models of collaboration with leading global universities to offer A*STAR graduate students the opportunity to receive co-supervision from leading academics as well as PhD degrees bearing the seal of the partner university.

At NTU Singapore, he continued to drive deep engagement with research and academic partners alike. As Associate Provost for Graduate Education & Special Projects, he developed longstanding partnerships with well-regarded international institutions including the University of Cambridge and Technical University of Munich, and continued to cement a series of joint PhD degree programmes.

With his colleagues, Prof Lam led the advancement of the University's mission to engage industry partners in scientific and translational research. Over the last five years, his strong push for deeper industry engagement has led to the creation of six Corporate Labs (set up with Rolls-Royce, ST Engineering, SMRT, Delta Electronics, Singtel and Surbana Jurong), as well as bilateral research partnerships between NTU Singapore and Alibaba, BMW and SAAB, among others.

Prof Lam's efforts to bolster the research landscape in Singapore extended beyond national borders. In his various capacities, he established new links with numerous global industries and universities to leverage their expertise across research themes and innovation ventures.

Prof Lam has received international recognition for his success in initiating and growing research partnerships and collaborations. In 2017, he was conferred the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier), for nurturing academic and industry collaborations that have strengthened bilateral relations between France and Singapore.

For his distinguished contributions to fostering closer collaborations between academia and industry, as well as his tireless efforts in shaping the development of Singapore's high-performance computing capabilities and nurturing local scientific talent, Professor Lam Khin Yong is awarded the 2018 President's Science and Technology Medal.