

Largest number of National Research Foundation (NRF) PhD Scholarships for Water and Clean Energy awarded

The 30 recipients will strongly boost our human capital development efforts

Singapore, 29 June 2010 – The largest ever batch of NRF (Environmental & Water Technologies) PhD Scholarships and NRF (Clean Energy) PhD Scholarships, was presented by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, at a joint award ceremony held during the Singapore International Water Week.

30 outstanding students, with strong passion in Environment & Water Technologies (EWT) and Clean Energy research, were selected from more than 200 applicants for the scholarships awarded by the Environment and Water Industry Programme Office (EWI) and the Clean Energy Programme Office (CEPO). These students will pursue their research at top universities including the Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Stanford University and Cambridge University.

One of the EWT R&D scholarships was also jointly awarded with IUT Global Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based environment and water company. Such joint-company scholarships aim to help Singapore-based companies build up their R&D capabilities by co-funding their employees for post-graduate studies.

Together, EWI and CEPO have set aside S\$55 million from the funds received from the National Research Foundation for the award of such scholarships and have given out more than 50 scholarships to-date.

The government had earlier announced that Clean Water and Clean Energy will be key growth areas for Singapore, and committed a total of nearly S\$700 million to develop the R&D and manpower capabilities. EWI targets to grow the value-added (VA) contribution from the water sector to S\$1.7 billion and increase the jobs in this sector to 11,000 by 2015. CEPO targets the Clean

Energy industry to contribute S\$1.7 billion VA and employ some 7,000 within the same timeframe.

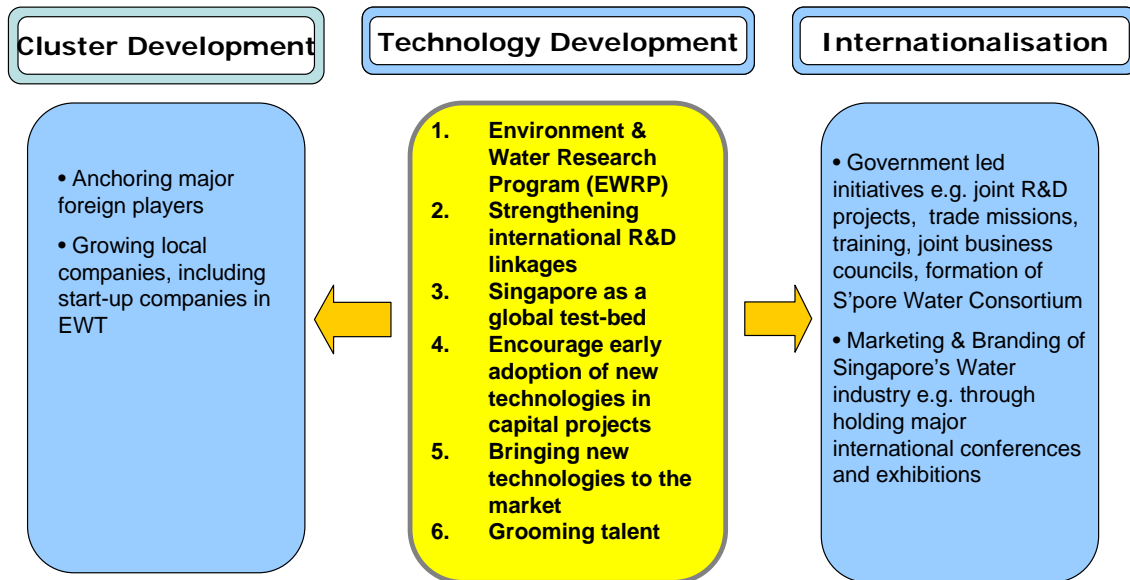
Issued by:

Environment & Water Industry Programme Office (EWI)

Clean Energy Programme Office (CEPO)

About Environment & Water Industry Programme Office (EWI)

The Environment & Water Industry Programme Office (EWI) was set up in May 2006 with \$330mil funding from National Research Foundation over 5 years to spearhead the development of the environment and water industry. EWI adopts a three-pronged strategy with technology development as a key pillar to grow the water industry.



Our vision is to grow value-added (VA) contribution from the water sector from \$0.5 billion (0.3% of GDP) in 2003 to \$1.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) by 2015. Jobs for this sector are expected to double to about 11,000 in 2015, with a large part of the growth in professional and skilled categories.

About the Clean Energy Programme Office

To synergise efforts to grow the clean energy industry, the multi-agency Clean Energy Programme Office (CEPO) was established in 2007, consisting of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the Energy Market Authority (EMA), Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and National Environment Agency (NEA). CEPO is responsible for planning and executing strategies to develop Singapore into a Global Clean Energy Hub where clean energy products and solutions are developed here and exported globally.

Since inception, CEPO has launched several key initiatives, including a S\$50 million Clean Energy Research Programme to support R&D efforts, a S\$25 million graduate scholarships programme to groom top-notch talent for the industry and a S\$20 million Solar Capability Scheme to test-bed innovative Clean Energy solutions. The total funding from the government amounts to S\$350mil.

CEPO's Co-Executive Directors are the Managing Director of EDB, Dr Beh Swan Gin, and the Chief Executive of EMA, Mr Lawrence Wong.

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2010 NRF (Environmental & Water Technologies) PhD Scholarship Award Recipients

1. Sim Siang Tze Victor

Age: 26

University (PhD): NTU

Course of Study: R&D in Failure of Membranes

Victor Sim has worked in several industries (semi-con, finance) before he found his calling to pursue a career in water technologies. In Nov 09, Victor took a pay cut to join the Singapore Membrane Technology Centre (SMTC) in NTU headed by the Prof Tony Fane, a renowned expert in water membranes.

Victor graduated with a 1st Class Honours in Chemistry from NUS and was a three-time recipient of the Dean's List.

2. Gu Yangshuo

Age: 21

University (PhD): NTU

Course of Study: R&D in Forward Osmosis Anaerobic Membrane Reactor

Yangshuo entered Singapore in 2006 to pursue her undergrad degree in NTU. She got into the Dean's List the following year and today, she is looking to graduate from NTU with a 1st Class Honours in Environmental Engineering.

3. Huang Zhenzhen

Age: 25

University (PhD): NUS

Course of Study: R&D in Nanoporous Alumina Membrane

Zhenzhen was pursuing her Masters cum PhD in Wuhan University until she was offered the scholarship to obtain her PhD in Singapore. For excellence in her academic results, Zhenzhen was awarded the outstanding student scholarship on 5 occasions during her undergrad and Masters studies.

4. Liu Xin

Age: 23

University (PhD): NTU

Course of Study: R&D in Toxicity Effects of Nanomaterials on Biofilms

Liu Xin entered Singapore in 2009 to pursue his Master degree in NTU under the NEWRI Environmental Master of Science (NEMS) programme. He has also been involved in the research work in Singapore Membrane Technology

Centre (SMTC) headed by Prof Tony Fane, a renowned expert in water membranes.

Liu Xin is a recipient of the First-Class Scholarship given out by the Shandong University in China in 2008, which placed him amongst the top 3 students that year.

5. Melvin Tang Kai Yin

Age: 24

University (PhD): NUS

Course of Study: R&D in Forward Osmosis Membrane Bioreactor

Melvin is a two-time recipient of the Dean's List in NUS for his undergrad studies, and is looking to graduate with a 1st Class Honours in Environmental Science and Engineering.

6. Azhar Bin Ismail

Age: 24

University (PhD): NUS

Course of Study: R&D in Energy Self-Sufficient Wastewater Treatment Plant

Azhar is a three-time recipient of the Dean's List in NUS for his undergrad studies, and is looking to graduate with a 1st Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering.

7. Daisy Setyono

Age: 25

University (PhD): NUS

Course of Study: R&D in Removal of Nanomaterials from Water using Multifunctional Polymers

Daisy entered Singapore in 2004 to pursue her undergrad degree in NUS.

After graduating in 2008, she has been working in A*Star (Exploit Technologies, Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology) as a researcher. She is driven to apply for the NRF(EWT) PhD Scholarship by her passion to apply her skills and knowledge to the water sector.

Daisy was awarded the Dean's List in 2005/06 for her undergrad studies in NUS and holds a 2nd Upper Honours in Chemistry.

8. Yang Peipei

Age: 27

University (PhD): NTU

Course of Study: R&D in Hydrodynamic Modeling of Algal Blooms

Yang Peipei entered Singapore in Jan 2010 to pursue her PhD in NTU.

Besides her undergrad degree from Fudan University (China), she also holds a Master degree from Technical University of Munich (Germany).

2010 Joint EWI-IUT Scholarship Award Recipient

1. Poh Leong Soon

Age: 28

University (PhD): Nanyang Technological University

Course of Study: Environmental Biotechnology

Leong Soon graduated with a Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering from the National University of Singapore in June 2010. He obtained his Bachelor of Environmental Engineering from the Nanyang Technological University in July 2007. Leong Soon had spent time as an Engineering Assistant in Taiwan before embarking on his career with IUT Global Pte Ltd. His keen interest in environmental engineering aspired him to pursue his PhD studies that will make a positive impact on the environment.

2010 NRF (Clean Energy) PhD Scholarship Award Recipients

1. Kevin Pye Phyo Nay Yaung

Age: 24

University (PhD): Yale University, US

Course of Study: R&D in multi-junction solar cells

Kevin has been awarded numerous research-related awards in NUS and has participated in various design projects and research internships. As an undergrad, he also led an undergraduate science policy journal.

2. Liu Xiaogang

Age: 27

University (PhD): Cambridge, UK

Course of Study: R&D in thin film solar

Xiaogang graduated with First Class Honors for his undergraduate and completed his Masters under the Singapore-MIT Alliance.

3. Ng Bing Feng

Age: 27

University (PhD): Georgia Tech, US

Course of Study: R&D in dynamics of wind turbines

Bing Feng has been awarded numerous research-related awards in NTU and graduated with First Class honors for his undergraduate in Aerospace Engineering. He is interested in wind research building on his capabilities in aerodynamics and materials.

4. Siah Sin Cheng

Age: 25

University (PhD): MIT, US

Course of Study: R&D in solar thin film

Sin Cheng was awarded the Dean's List for his undergraduate studies in NUS and was active in research. As an aspiring scientist, his goal is to be a successful researcher who is able to contribute significantly towards the photovoltaics industry

5. Tan Zhi Kuang

Age: 25

University (PhD): Cambridge, UK

Course of Study: R&D in organic PV

Zhi Kuang was awarded the Dean's List for his undergraduate studies in NUS and is expected to graduate with a First Class honors. He is passionate about solar research and keen to develop low-cost, high efficiency options for solar PV.

6. Yee Ye Sheng

Age: 24
University (PhD): Stanford, US
Course of Study: R&D in solar thin film

Ye Sheng was awarded the Dean's List for his undergraduate studies in NUS and is expected to graduate with a First Class honors. He aspires to start his own solar company after his postgraduate studies.

7. Aditya Venkataraman

Age: 21
University (PhD): NTU, ERI@N
Course of Study: R&D in power systems

Aditya pursued his undergraduate studies at the National Institute of Technology, India and is expected to graduate with a First Class with distinction. His undergrad experience has helped him establish clean energy as his area of interest.

8. Avishek Kumar

Age: 25
University (PhD): NUS, SERIS
Course of Study: R&D in solar thin film

Avishek completed his undergraduate studies in R.V. College of Engineering, Bangalore, India and did his Masters at NTU. He would be pursuing his PhD at the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore.

9. Charlie Soon Jing Jun

Age: 24
University (PhD): NTU
Course of Study: R&D in power systems

Charlie graduated from the Singapore Poly and is expected to obtain a First Class honors for his undergrad studies at NTU.

10. Chee Yu Ping

Age: 29
University (PhD): NUS, SERIS
Course of Study: R&D in micromorph triple junction solar cell

Yu Ping graduated with First Class honors from the University of Birmingham and would be pursuing his PhD at the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore. Through his research, he aspires to establish a solar start-up company.

11. Felix Law Heng Kai

Age: 26
University (PhD): NUS, SERIS
Course of Study: R&D in solar thin film

Felix would graduate from NUS with a Masters and would be pursuing his PhD at the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore.

12. Hong Lei

Age: 23
University (PhD): NTU/EEE - SERIS
Course of Study: R&D in silicon-based solar technology

Hong Lei was awarded the Dean's List for his undergraduate studies in NTU and is expected to graduate with a First Class honors. He has performed well in research during his undergrad days.

13. John Ho Chun Wan

Age: 25
University (PhD): NTU, ERI@N
Course of Study: R&D in thin film CIGS

John has great passion in Clean Energy research and is prepared to take it one step further through this PhD study.

14. Lim Hui Min

Age: 23
University (PhD): NTU, ERI@N
Course of Study: R&D in thin film CIGS

Hui Min has great passion in Clean Energy research and is actively pursuing opportunities in this area.

15. Lim Jun Wei

Age: 23
University (PhD): NTU
Course of Study: R&D in sustainable manufacturing

Jun Wei is active in research as an undergrad and appreciates how research should be conducted. She is expected to graduate with a First Class honors.

16. Liu Licheng

Age: 25

University (PhD): NUS, SERIS

Course of Study: R&D in inkjet printing for solar applications

Licheng has great passion in Clean Energy research and is pursuing his PhD at the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore.

17. Samuel Lo Tat Ming

Age: 25

University (PhD): NTU

Course of Study: R&D in biomass

Samuel is expected to graduate with a First Class honors and is active in research as an undergrad. He has also experience in some research internships.

18. Shu Zhen

Age: 26

University (PhD): NUS

Course of Study: R&D in power systems

Shu Zhen had won several awards during her undergraduate studies at the Huazhong University of Science & Technology and graduated with a First Class honors.

19. Sun Juan

Age: 24

University (PhD): NTU, ERI@N

Course of Study: R&D in thin film CIGS

Sun Juan has great passion in Clean Energy research and is actively pursuing opportunities in this area.

20. Wang Hao

Age: 23

University (PhD): NTU/EEE - SERIS

Course of Study: R&D in silicon-based solar technology

Wang Hao is expected to graduate with a First Class honors from NTU and has experience in research work.

21. Wang Mengxi

Age: 23

University (PhD): NTU, ERI@N

Course of Study: R&D in thin film CIGS

Mengxi is passionate about Clean Energy. She is expected to graduate with a First Class honors.