

PM Launches A*STAR Publication Of Science & Tech Planning In Singapore
Bernama
November 29, 2011
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SINGAPORE, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- A*STAR: 20 Years of Science and Technology, launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong today, captures the transformation of Singapore from a science and technology (S&T) backwater into a vibrant research and development (R&D) hub.

The book is a meaningful record of how sustained investments in R&D in the last two decades helped Singapore to develop a spectrum of deep capabilities across the physical sciences, engineering and biomedical sciences, bringing benefits to Singapore.

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) chairman Lim Chuan Poh said: "In a short span of 20 years, we have become a serious player in the world R&D stage."

He said Singapore was responsible for some of the world's breakthroughs from being the first to sequence the pufferfish genome to making the world's smallest molecule-sized gear.

"Our investment in R&D has also opened up new opportunities from the contribution to economic growth to the creation of meaningful jobs for Singaporeans," he said at the launch here.

Singapore's investment in R&D has grown from a modest sum of \$2 billion in 1991 with the first five-year National Technology Plan to S\$16 billion this year, with the launch of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2015 plan.

Today, Singapore is ranked among some of the most research-intensive nations in the world.

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