

16 MAR 1977

OPENING CEREMONY OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY QUIZ ON 9 MARCH 1977
AT 2.30 PM AT THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Acc. No.		NARC
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OPENING ADDRESS by

Associate Professor Ang How Ghee
Chairman
Organising Committee of
Science and Industry Quiz
Science Council

Distinguished guests,
Ladies, gentlemen and students.

On behalf of the Science Council of Singapore, I extend a warm welcome to you to the opening of the 6th Annual Science and Industry Quiz.

In the last five years, the participating teams were made up of students in secondary 4 classes from about 50 schools in the Republic. This year, the rules have been modified to include students in secondary 2 and 3, thereby widening the base of participation. The Science and Industry Quiz has come to be accepted as an annual event which schools look forward to. The response ^{this} ~~that~~ year has reached a record number of 72 entries. With 11 members in each team, it means that 800 pupils will be directly involved.

The quiz is one of a number of promotional activities organised by the Science Council for Schools. In the next few months, the Science Council will make available scientific films to all secondary schools who request for them. In addition, the Council undertakes publications of quiz books which contain illustrated answers to questions on current scientific and industrial topics, and which have in the past baffled students. Practically all the 30,000 copies of volumes 1 and 2 have been sold at a subsidised price for students. This has been made possible by the voluntary efforts of many writers. Volume 3 will be released in the middle of this year.

From the preliminary round this afternoon, 12 teams will be selected to enter the 7 televised competitions. The questions will cover a wide range of topics on physical and biological sciences, industry and general knowledge. The televised series will also include questions on a selected number of scientific films as well as industries in Singapore. Conducted tours to 6 industries will precede the televised competitions.

Taking in account these ancillary activities, the nature of the questions is such that what could sometimes appear as a test of memory would in point of fact be a test of the power of observation and deduction. They are part of the scientific systems or principles that make up the science programme. Whilst my Committee welcomes new ideas for the enhancement of education, it could only be taken within the limits of time allocation in the televised series without affecting the quality of the programme. In this respect, the promotional activities are complimentary to the formal teaching and learning in the classrooms. The quiz and other related activities are also designed to bring to the homes in a stimulating way the impact of science and technology on modernisation, industrialisation and national development.

The creation of a broad industrial base in the Republic in the last decade has opened up new vistas of thinking and approach to scientific and technical education. The industries and the wide range of applications of science and technology to social and economic development in the Republic must provide a new vigourⁱⁿ the teaching and learning of science. The Science Council will therefore undertake the publications of industries in Singapore this year for schools.

The success of the Science and Industry Quiz as a vehicle for the promotion of science has prompted another series of competitions being organised for students in the vocational institutes. This new series, which will be presented later this year, will be skill-orientated. The aim is to enhance the image of the blue collar worker.

It would not have been possible to organise these promotional activities had it not been for the voluntary assistance given by various individuals, institutions and Government Ministries. On behalf of the Science Council, I would therefore like to extend my heartfelt thanks to members of my Organising Committee, Questions Subcommittee and the Ancillary Activities Subcommittee for their contributions. The Council is also indebted to the Ministry of Education, Radio and Television Singapore, Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research, Science Teachers' Association of Singapore and the Singapore National Academy of Science for their support and assistance. Thanks are also due to the Institute of

Education for the use of this auditorium and other facilities, to Wo Kee Hong Pte Ltd. for sponsoring the TV Series. I thank all schools for sending in their teams, and am grateful to the teachers who will later assist in the marking of papers. Last but not least, I thank the Science Council secretariat for the hard work they have put in.

It leaves me now to declare the "Science and Industry Quiz 1977" open.

Thank you..