

15 MAR 1977

Acc. No.	NARC	
77	0057	55

Press release

SINGAPORE METRICATION BOARD
1, Anson Road, Singapore, 2. Tel:79595

Date: 30.8.76 Ref No. PR/64/76

Embargoed till 2nd September 1976, 0930 hours

OPENING SPEECH OF THE SI QUIZ FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS BY MR BAEY LIAN PECK,
CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE METRICATION BOARD AT THE METROPOLITAN YMCA AUDITORIUM
PALMER ROAD ON SEPTEMBER 2ND 1976 AT 9.30 AM

The process of metrication in Singapore has advanced considerably since its inception five years ago. All government departments are essentially metricated and about 75 per-cent of the industrial sector have converted to the metric system.

The Metrication Board is presently concentrating on the retail market. This is the area where metrication will touch the man-in-the-street. Metric retailing will involve everyone in everyday life.

Because of the far-reaching effect of metric retailing, the Metrication Board has chosen to introduce it "painlessly".

This policy of "painless metrication" hinges on education. The best form of consumer protection is knowledge. To this end the Metrication Board has launched a number of campaigns to teach metric; housewives market education programmes, metric fairs at shopping centres, mobile exhibitions and school campaigns like the Inter-School Metric Drama Competition and this SI Quiz.

The objectives of this SI Quiz for secondary students, jointly organised by my Board and the Metropolitan Young Men's Christian Association is to inculcate the use of SI units among students. This is done in a practical and positive way by exposing participants to the wide ranging uses of metrication in industry.

Metrication experts will hold, for your benefit, a seminar that will teach the theory and applications of the metric system. You will be able to see theory applied to practice, on the tour of factories tomorrow.

We, the organisers, hope, that all you participants of this SI Quiz, armed with the knowledge gleaned over this three-day programme, will actively spread your acquired metric confidence and knowledge beyond your school life to your homes, to your family, relatives and friends.

Secondary three students of Singapore, you are in a critical stage of your school career. Yours is the foundation year of the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level examination, the examination that holds the key to your future working life. Remember, that on this threshold of your new career you will soon be entering the world as a fully contributing member of our economy.

Singapore's economy is largely dependent on trade hence it is vital for us to keep in with the times. This is a metric world and whether we like it or not we have to metricate.

Modern science and technology leads the way and the SI system is the only acceptable system of measurements in modern science.

Therefore, we encourage, indeed we exhort, you students to prepare yourself for your working environment by ensuring that you acquire a sound knowledge of the SI system.

Having acquired your metric knowledge it is your duty to use it thereby contributing to the spread of metrication by your example.

Since the beginning of this year, metric retail sales have been compulsory on demand. Here is wonderful opportunity to put your knowledge to use. Let the leaders of tomorrow lead the way — go metric now !

I send my good wishes to all participants that you may use this three-day educational programme, not so much to strive for material success in the quiz, but rather to learn.