

EMBARGOED till after delivery
PRESS RELEASE: Please check against delivery

Speech by Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Inche Mohd. Ghazali Ismail, at the Inauguration Ceremony of the 'Esso Youth & Industry Project' organised by the Esso and the Science Teachers' Association of Singapore on Saturday, 10th October, 1970 at 8.30a.m. at Victoria School

In countless ways, the present day civilization is deeply indebted to the Sciences. The practical benefits, which have grown out of the discoveries in the Sciences extend to nearly everything connected with daily life. They affect food, water-supply, clothing, housing, heating, ventilation, lighting and a thousand-and-one conveniences. They also affect almost every operation in connection with the farm, factory, store or business office.

The immense success of Science is due to the way in which it seeks, finds and tests knowledge. More valuable than any of its discoveries are its effective methods which make still greater achievements possible.

The true scientific investigator never jumps at conclusions, never takes anything for granted, never considers his judgement better than his information and never substitutes opinion or long established belief for fact.

Every notable modern invention has had its origin in a new application of the laws of Science. The invention of the steam engine that revolutionized industry and transportation throughout the world, Faraday's experiments in electricity that led to the creation of the dynamo and electromotor, that in turn further revolutionized industry, the invention of the internal combustion engines, the x-rays discovered by the Curies, the atomic bomb invention and the innumerable applications of radioactivity are all based on one scientific principle or other. The practical benefits of all these inventions when handled by sober people, are exciting indeed. The days of the oxcart, the stage coach, the sailing ship are gone. Today we have the railway, the automobile, the oceanliner, the airplane and the spaceship!.

Singapore is on the threshold of an industrial revolution. It is vital for everyone of us to see that this revolution is brought about at an optimum pace. We also have to see that the benefits of this revolution are sustained. We have to be aware of the dynamics of change in the field of science and technology. It is here that the role of Science students comes in. You will represent the nucleus of the scientifically inclined citizens of this country. With a realistic appreciation of the scientific method of seeking, finding and testing your knowledge in the Sciences, you should be able, sooner or later, to apply your scientific knowledge to the needs of Singapore. Competition in the field of industry in this part of the world is keen. Adaptions, innovations and some inventions if possible are necessary. Groundwork has been done. A suitable climate prevails today. To exploit this favourable climate to the fullest advantage is a challenge, which our younger generation is faced with. I am confident that you will meet this challenge.

This Esso Youth & Industry Project, devised in conjunction with the Science Teachers' Association of Singapore is aimed at supplementing your extra-curricular activities in the field of Science.

In the first instance, Industrial Organisation tours are arranged. This will give you an opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the meaning and scope of Industries. In the course of these study tours, I hope, you will not only become familiar with the working of our Industries, but will also hit on new ideas to improve upon the present.

Let me congratulate the Esso and the Science Teachers' Association of Singapore in organising this Project. I have great pleasure in declaring the Project open.
