

PRESS RELEASE

6/15/73

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SPEECH BY DR. AUGUSTINE H.H. TAN, MP FOR WHAIPOA,
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN,
NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY BOARD, AT THE BOARD'S ANNUAL
CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION DINNER AT SHANGRI-LA
HOTEL ON TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 1973 AT 7.30 P.M.

A VIGOROUS YEAR FOR NPB

Last year was a year of vigorous expansion of the National Productivity Board's activities. On 12 May 1972, we became a full-fledged statutory board under the Ministry of Labour.

The Board provided 29 courses last year, representing an increase of 53% over the previous year. The number of course-participants rose by 43%. We also had more seminars, in which 568 participated, representing an increase of over 900% over the previous year. The Board also doubled its consultancy services. Nine courses were specially conducted without charge for the National Trades Union Congress.

In April last year, the Board launched the MINIMAX, its monthly newsletter, published in English and Mandarin.

Looking ahead, we are planning even more activities.

1. The Board intends to conduct more courses and seminars in Mandarin. We have, in the past year, recruited a number of top Nanyang University graduates for the purpose.

2. More courses will be offered in the evenings. A recent NFB survey indicated a 40% preference for evening courses.
3. The Board is also seeking an additional location in the city area to cater to industries outside Jurong.
4. In June we shall be hosting a regional Workshop On Productivity Measurement, in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organisation.
5. We shall be establishing a Panel of Consultants, drawing upon expertise in our Universities, Colleges and industry.
6. We are also planning to provide services in low-cost automation, management information systems and electronic data processing.
7. The Research Unit is being strengthened and will launch a series of in-depth studies on productivity of our industries. Eventually we plan to conduct regular surveys to diagnose the health of various industries. The research will enable the Board to provide better services and to make recommendations to other Government organizations to provide assistance to industries.

8. The Board will also actively encourage and help in the formation of Works Council as a vehicle for cooperation between management and labour to promote greater productivity.

9. In order to create greater awareness of the need for productivity improvements the Board is launching an affiliate body called the National Productivity Association. I believe the membership forms have been distributed and cordially invite you all to join as members.

Finally, may I thank the honourable Minister and his wife for gracing this occasion and wish you all a pleasant evening?

Date : Tuesday 27 February 1973

Time : 0900 hours