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LEE KUAN YEW DISTINGUISHED VISITOR, DR CHARLES VEST
President Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1-10 November 2005)

Dr Charles Vest, President Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the 57th Lee Kuan Distinguished Visitor, will be in Singapore from 1 to 10 November 2005. During his stay in Singapore, Dr Vest will be meeting the top management of National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Ministry of Education. He will also be delivering public lectures at NUS and NTU.

At NUS, Dr Vest will be sharing his views on the topics "Globalisation in Higher Education and the Emerging Meta University" while in NTU his focus will be on "Universities, Innovation and Economic Development."

The objective of the Lee Kuan Yew Visitors Programme is to invite eminent academics and scholars to Singapore to make high-level contributions to NUS and NTU. Established in 1983, the programme has had a total of 56 Distinguished Visitors come to Singapore.

About Dr Charles Vest

Dr Charles M. Vest served as President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1990 to 2004. During his term, he placed special emphasis on enhancing undergraduate education, exploring new organisations forms to meet emerging directions in research and education, building a stronger international dimension into education and research programs, developing stronger relations with industry, and enhancing racial and cultural diversity at MIT.

Dr Vest has also worked to bring issues concerning education and research to the broader public attention and to strengthen national policy on science, engineering and education. He chaired the President's Advisory Committee on the Redesign of the Space Station and serves on the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology and the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. The U.S Department of Energy Task force on the Future of DOE Science Programs and the Council of Competitiveness and the Association of American Universities were also committees that Dr Vest served as Chair and Vice-Chair for a number of years.

As a member of the Mechanical Engineering Faculty at MIT, Dr Vest has research interests in the thermal sciences and the engineering applications of lasers and coherent optics.
**Public Lecture at NUS**

**Topic**: Globalisation in Higher Education and the Emerging Meta University  
**Date**: Friday, 4 November 2005  
**Time**: 6.00 pm  
**Venue**: University Cultural Centre Theatre, NUS

**Abstract**

Science has long been a collaborative, international endeavour. Higher education has been more focused on individual residential campuses, and dominated in recent decades by the American research university model. But as we enter the 21st century, the forces of globalisation and competition, growing aspirations and excellence in Asia, and above all the Internet and World Wide Web are creating new possibilities. Experience with MIT's OpenCourseWare and other developments of open-source platforms, content and pedagogy suggest the emergence of a global Meta University - a new framework of open material and platforms on which much of higher education can be constructed or enhanced.

**Public Lecture at NTU**

**Topic**: Universities, Innovation, and Economic Development  
**Date**: Monday, 7 November 2005  
**Time**: 6.00 pm  
**Venue**: LT 2A, Academic Complex North, Nanyang Avenue, NTU

**Abstract**

Much of the world is moving rapidly into a knowledge-based economy. Universities generate, interpret and transmit much of human knowledge, so it is natural that they have an increasing role in economic development. They do this within national or regional innovation systems. These are loosely coupled interactions among universities, governments and industry that create new knowledge and technology through research, educate young men and women to understand and extend it, and move it from the marketplace in the form of goods and services. MIT has experience in many dimensions of interaction with industry - through research partnerships, research consortia, knowledge integration communities, and activities that foster entrepreneurship. New models of innovation are emerging. Despite the important role universities play in innovation and economic development, their traditional roles as conservators of culture, heritage and values - and as critic and analysts of culture and society must be cherished and stewarded.
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