Professor Kam Chan Hin

Education has been defined as a process of training and instruction which is designed to impart knowledge and develop skills. However, in the modern era where knowledge grows at an exponential pace, education must necessarily encompass more than just the imparting of knowledge and skills because what is known today becomes obsolete very soon. This is especially so in a rapidly developing discipline like Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

Although it is still important and necessary to impart the basic core knowledge in the discipline, it is probably even more important to inculcate in our students the spirit of enquiry and the passion to go beyond current knowledge and practices and to innovate and spawn new ideas and technologies. We must help them to build up their self-confidence, sharpen their powers of analysis, develop their creative potential and nurture their entrepreneurial instincts. We must work to change their mindset, from one which considers university education as the ticket to a comfortable life, to one where learning is sought for its intrinsic value in satisfying one's natural curiosity and desire for improvement in knowledge and skills. This requires them to embrace lifelong learning, for what has been learnt at university is not the end of his education but the beginning of a never-ending journey of discovery and growth.

As technological change accelerates, engineering problems becomes increasingly complex and requires a multidisciplinary approach. This is the motivation behind the recent changes to our curriculum to make it more broad-based, and in which I was privileged to play a small part. The impact of this change may not be felt in the short term, but we certainly believe it will serve our graduates well in their future work.

As an academic for almost two decades now, it has been an enriching and satisfying experience to have participated in the development of the university and to have played a role in shaping the course of the School. In the increasingly competitive educational environment, with the imminent establishment of local campuses of renown overseas universities, we will need to work hard to maintain our position as a premier higher education institution. While we will need to raise our international profile even further with cutting edge research, we must not forget that good teaching will be just as important, as it will have a far greater impact on society through our numerous graduates.

Professors

Professor Yoon Soon Fatt

Education and learning are a life-long experience. We go through various stages in life where such learning experience may differ in nature. In today's dynamic economic environment, it is essential to keep up with learning so that one is not left behind in this fast changing technological age. I consider the impact of education is best reflected in the success of the students we train and educate. Success is not only measured in economic terms or in the level of jobs being held, but also in terms of character building and sense of responsibility towards self and society at large. In short, education should be treated in a holistic manner. In these uncertain times in which the world is changing so rapidly, students should consider education as a lifelong investment in themselves, as one never knows what type of qualification the society will need in years to come. In short, one never knows when today's qualification may become obsolete. As a member of A*STAR's University Research Panel, I have played a humble part in contributing to the development and guidance of the R&D scene in Singapore.