As we enter into the new year, many fresh challenges appear on the horizon. The School has done well over the past 2 decades. As one of the three founding schools of NTU’s predecessor, the Nanyang Technological Institute, the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, has grown in scope and stature to become one of the largest concentrations of talent, expertise and knowledge in the area of electrical, electronic and information sciences and engineering and one of the top Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) schools in Asia.

While we continue to consolidate our position and grow in strength, we are mindful of the rapidly changing educational landscape in Singapore in recent years. Many new players, including some well-known universities from abroad, have plans to set up Singapore-based overseas campuses and will offer courses in electronics and related areas among other disciplines. Many other private institutions already offer a myriad of electronics-related programmes with local partners and more will come.

In response to this increasingly competitive landscape, a critical review of our existing programmes was undertaken recently. The conclusion was that our broad-based bachelor’s degree programme, which had been revised and updated several times in recent years, remains very much in tune with industry needs and is competitive with similar programmes offered by top world-class universities. However, to further strengthen our programme and to better prepare our graduates for the new knowledge intensive and innovation-driven economies, we have developed more specialised streams for those who may be more inclined to research and development. The customised curriculum for these enhanced specialisations will begin earlier in Year 3, and require 3-4 additional technical electives to provide greater technical depth deemed necessary for future research intensive work. These enhanced specialisations will now be acknowledged in the transcript to enable prospective employers to more easily identify these new specialists.

We will continue to offer a more broad-based “generalist” stream for those who may prefer a more broad-based EEE degree. These generalists will be better equipped to easily adapt to many of the new jobs that will be created by the rapid technological changes in the dynamic economy. We will elaborate further on the changes in curriculum in future issues of E³World.

Another noteworthy development has been the recent announcement of increased funding for Research & Development as recommended by the governmental high-level task force last year. With the massive infusion of funds into A*Star, MOE and the National Research Foundation, the opportunity to elevate our research output and impact to a higher level has never been better. We must move quickly to review our research thrusts, identify emerging trends and rework our strategies. We need to identify niches where we have considerable strengths and build upon them to move ahead in the competition. We must work more closely with one another to synergise our efforts and leverage on our greatest asset - the large talent pool of faculty and researchers.

The new year brings fresh challenges for management and governance, with the corporatisation of the university. This will provide greater autonomy and flexibility in our operations but also impose added responsibilities to determine our destiny and deliver on our promises to our funding agencies.

We have recently completed our leadership renewal and put in place a new management team of keen, enthusiastic and highly capable people. With the support of everyone, faculty, staff, students, alumni and industry partners, we are confident that we will be able to forge ahead and build upon the impressive achievements that have been made so far.

**Professor Kam Chan Hin**
Dean
School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering