

## **Speech from 2008 PY Prize SERC winner: Dr Tony Quek**

A\*STAR Chairman, SPRING chairman, Dr Sydney Brenner, Senior management of A\*STAR, and distinguished guests.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the judging panel for selecting me for to this award. I am deeply honored to join other outstanding recipients of this award.

I would like to emphasize that this accomplishment would not have been possible without the guidance of my PhD advisor, Prof. Moe Win, who taught me all I know about communication and information theory and much, much, more! Newton is quoted as having said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." I know that I have benefited from standing on my advisor's shoulders.

It has been an exhilarating and humbling 5 years at MIT -- an experience I will treasure and never forget. When it came to choosing between giving up and hoping, I made the right choice to conquer my fears and doubts, and survived. This would not have been possible without the care and support from chairman, ex-chairman, senior management of A\*STAR and especially all staff of A\*GA. In addition, I would also like to thank ex-chairman, Mr Philip Yeo and Prof. Chong Tow Chong for selecting me for the NSS scholarship back in 2002. Without this scholarship at the first place, I would not even be standing here receiving the Philip Yeo Prize Award.

As always, I also want to thank my wife and my two children, who taught me two precious lessons in life – "Stay focus" and "Manage your time wisely".

Now, as I embark on my new research career, I am filled with a mix of ambition and uncertainty. Will I have an impact in science? Will I reach greatness in science? Will I simply wander in the mediocre lanes of scientific traffic? I do not have the answers right now. But I do know that regardless of how small or large my contributions are, they will pass on to the next generation and they will bring Singapore's R&D expertise to the next level.

Once again, I thank you for honoring me with the Philip Yeo Prize Award.