

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the Imperial College Alumni Association of Singapore on your 25th anniversary. I hope that your organisation will continue to flourish in the next quarter century.

The continuing support of our alumni in Singapore has fostered much valuable collaboration and many important relationships. In October last year, we welcomed Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew to the Fellowship of Imperial College, the highest award that the College can bestow on an individual.

Imperial is, and always has been, a culturally diverse institution. Our first Singaporean student was enrolled here in 1911 and today, over 200 students from Singapore form one of the largest national groupings at the College. We were delighted recently to learn that no less than 10% of A* students from Singapore have chosen to continue their studies at Imperial in September 2003.

We continue to offer a world-class education. In 2003, Imperial is once again leading the academic league tables for UK universities, whilst the amount we receive in research funding continues to grow year on year. Our staff and students are of the highest international quality, borne out by the consistently high rating for Imperial alumni amongst employers.

We do, of course, face challenges. Financial constraints make it increasingly difficult to provide the amenities that our students and staff need to learn, research and innovate. Fundraising efforts are underway to help us to provide these facilities, as well as vital scholarships to encourage the brightest and best to benefit from an Imperial education, regardless of their ability to pay.

This landmark anniversary of the Association marks a significant milestone for your vibrant and active group, at a time when a large part of the College's success is dependant on the ongoing support of our alumni all over the world. Your contribution is an example to other Imperial alumni associations around the world, your support in raising funds for scholarships, and the recruitment and mentoring of our future students is valued and necessary.

My thanks to you all, on behalf of the generations present and future who will benefit from your efforts.

Sir Richard Sykes
Rector of Imperial College