

I have been fortunate enough to visit Singapore on several occasions during the time that I have been in post as Pro Rector for Development and Corporate Affairs at Imperial College London. From the first time that I was welcomed to Singapore by the Alumni Association in January 2002 to the last time that I visited you in October, I have been overwhelmed by your warmth and hospitality. It is greatly encouraging to witness the commitment and drive of your committee and members in your support and enthusiasm for the College.

As the Association celebrates its 25th Anniversary, you continue to provide a solid base upon which the College can build links with industry and education in Singapore. For graduates who return to Singapore following the completion of their studies at Imperial, you are a vital channel for the development of social and business connections. The College today continues to attract the most able and hard working students from Singapore and I am confident that these students will, in turn, provide a solid base to take the Association forward into the next 25 years.

The 25th Anniversary of the Association marks a momentous occasion in the history of an active and vital group of alumni. It also comes at a time when the College itself is moving towards the Centenary of its foundation in 1907. The Centenary provides Imperial with a unique opportunity to reassess its vision and plans for the future and to address how it will move forward to meet the challenges posed by the current environment surrounding higher education in the UK to ensure that it remains amongst the top tier of universities worldwide. A crucial element in doing this is the support of our alumni worldwide.

The Association in Singapore has certainly seized this challenge. Through such initiatives as the production and sale of the DVD made to commemorate the conferment of the Fellowship of Imperial College on Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew in October 2002, you have started to raise vital funds for the support of future generations of students.

Additional ventures such as the book prize for the College's MBA programme in Singapore and the 'Most Outstanding Junior College Science Student Award' not only lend valuable support to gifted students, but also help to raise the profile of the College in Singapore. The presence of Association members at student recruitment events helps to ensure that Imperial continues to attract a steady and considerable flow of talented students from Singapore and provides support to the College in its mission to continue to attract the most able students from around the world.

As you celebrate your 25th Anniversary, I would like to thank you for your commitment in supporting the College. I offer you every encouragement in continuing in your efforts in both raising the profile of Imperial College in Singapore and lending your support to both today's students and to those of future generations.

My warmest congratulations to all of your members on 25 momentous years!

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Pro Rector for Development and Corporate Affairs