



National Library Board Singapore



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PRESS RELEASE

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF “GRID IS GOOD: UNLEASHING GRID
COMPUTING TO POWER BUSINESS, EDUCATION & LIFE”**

SINGAPORE, 07 FEBRUARY 2006 – The “Grid Is Good: Unleashing Grid Computing To Power Business, Education & Life” series of programmes was officially launched today by Mr. Richard Lim, Chairman of the National Grid Steering Committee (NGSC).

This seminar series is jointly organised by the National Library Board (NLB), National Grid Office (NGO) and Imperial College Alumni Association of Singapore (ICAAS).

Mr. Richard Lim, Chairman of NGSC, said: “As part of the National Grid effort, we have been promoting Grid Computing to communities in both research and industry. ‘Grid Is Good’ is our first initiative to reach out to the man in the street and create awareness about Grid Computing. Attendees will be able to learn about the basics of Grid Computing, its benefits and how it improves day-to-day living.”

The seminar series consists of monthly lectures to be held in the National Library at Victoria Street. The series will cover introductory topics in Grid Computing that are targeted at the layman. The inaugural lecture features Dr. Ruediger Berlich, Institute for Scientific Computing, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany, who will be speaking on Grid Computing: New Frontiers.

The following lecture on 7 March 2006 will be by Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee, from the National University of Singapore, who will be covering PC Grid Computing.

Said Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive of NLB: "A key thrust of our **Library 2010** plan is to be able to support research and development in key growth areas for Singapore, as well as provide access to scientific and technological information to the broader public. To this end, we have worked closely with the National Grid Office and the ICAAS to bring these talks to the public. As much as possible, we would like to provide greater support to those interested with resources and services to acquire, apply, create and export knowledge."

Said Dr. Hing-Yan Lee, President of ICAAS: "In fulfillment of its mission, ICAAS is pleased to initiate yet another public lecture series in science and technology. Our working relationship with the NLB goes back to January 2001 when we had a 2-year run of 21 public lectures in Life Sciences launched by Mr Philip Yeo, then Chairman of the Economic Development Board. Concurrently, we also had a 3-year series of public lectures on Information Technology, which ended after hosting 28 speakers. Coincidentally, ICAAS and NLB are organizing a second Life Science series entitled 'Body Parts: The Science of Human Reconstruction', comprising public lectures, workshops and a panel discussion this month."

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Annex 1: About Grid Computing

Annex 2: Information about Inaugural Lecture in Feb 2006

Annex 3: Information about Second Lecture in Mar 2006

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About the National Library Board

National Library Board (NLB) was established on 1 September 1995 with the mission to continuously expand the learning capacity of the nation. NLB oversees the management of the National Library including the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, 3 regional libraries, 19 community libraries, 18 community children's libraries, as well as over 30 libraries belonging to government agencies, schools and private institutions. Through its innovative use of technology and collaboration with strategic partners, NLB ensures that library users have access to a rich array of information services and resources that are convenient, accessible and useful. More information on NLB can be found on www.nlb.gov.sg.

About the National Grid Office

The NGO was established by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research in January 2003 to promote Grid Computing and to develop a cyber-infrastructure that steers Singapore towards a Grid-enabled economy where computing resources, services and intellectual property can be provisioned securely on a high-speed network.

The roles of the National Grid are:

1. To develop a cyber-infrastructure for science and engineering research and education; and
2. To promote the use of Grid Computing for research, academic, commerce and industry.

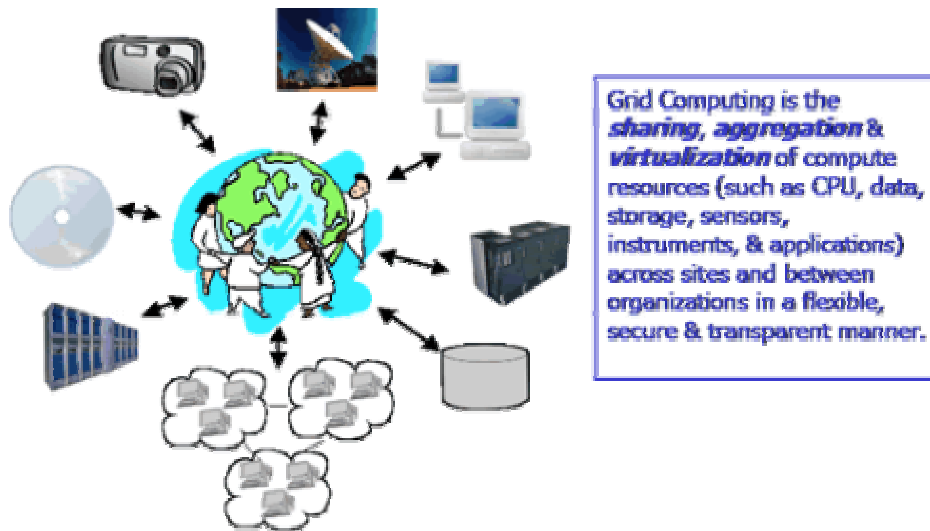
For more information, please visit www.ngp.org.sg

About the Imperial College Alumni Association of Singapore

The mission of ICAAS is to harness the energies of its members to participate in the development of science, technology and medicine in Singapore for the betterment of the lives of fellow Singaporeans. In the process, ICAAS members build robust networks based on enduring friendships and trust. The ICAAS was formed in 1977 for the benefit of graduates of Imperial College who are resident in Singapore and who want to keep in touch with friends, to remain current with Imperial College affairs and to achieve its mission collectively. The ICAAS patron is Mr Teo Chee Hean (Minister of Defence) while the ICAAS advisor is Mr J Y Pillay (Chairman, Singapore Stock Exchange).

For more information, please visit www.icaas.org.

Annex A About Grid Computing



How Grid Computing works

Grid computing is a massive smoothing technique for asset allocation. A Grid makes compute resources (such as CPU, data, storage, instruments, and applications) securely and transparently accessible to authorized users and applications, across sites and between organizations.

Characteristics of Grid

A Grid tends to have numerous resources that are heterogeneous in nature. The resources are typically geographically apart and owned by various distrusting organizations with different resource management policies. The Grid supports collaboration and collectively delivers a service that is non-trivial.

Advantages of Grid Computing

The value from deploying a Grid is dependent upon the specific end user application.

The benefits that are typically achieved from aggregating compute resources include:

- Reduced hardware and software costs.
- Reduced ICT complexity and systems management costs.
- Increased end user productivity and effectiveness.
- Accelerated time to market through increased collaboration, faster computation and better quality analysis.

Annex B Inaugural Lecture in February 2006

Title: Grid Computing: New Frontiers
Speaker: Dr. Ruediger Berlich
Institute for Scientific Computing, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe,
Germany
Date: 7 February 2006 (Tuesday)
Time: 1900 hours
Place: Possibility Room, Level 5
National Library
100 Victoria Street
Singapore 188064

Abstract

Grid is at the onset of mainstream commercial adoption. Learn where we are headed in science and industry from a leading Open Source community expert. Apart from a general introduction to Grid Computing, issues to be covered in this talk include use cases and deployment scenarios of Grid computing in business and science, convergence of Grid and web services standards and specific technical and political hurdles that Grid computing has to face on its way to mainstream adoption. The talk comprises a demonstration of the Grid techniques developed as part of the largest European Union Grid initiative, EGEE ("Enabling Grids for E-Science").

Biodata



Dr. Ruediger Berlich has studied physics at the University of Bochum in Germany. Until 2001 he was a member of SuSE Linux AG, then Europe's leading Linux distributor. Among other duties, he has served as Technical Manager (Support) of SuSE's US office in Oakland/California and as founder and Managing Director of SuSE's UK office SuSE Linux Ltd. near London/UK.

In January 2004, he finished a PHD at Bochum University, relating to particle physics and distributed computing. Since then he has been active in the field of Grid Computing at Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany's largest independent research institution.

Apart from his research activities, he is responsible for the work areas "training" and "dissemination and outreach" of the largest EU Grid initiative, EGEE ("Enabling Grids for E-Science"), on behalf of the German/Swiss EGEE federation. To find out more about Ruediger and to get in contact with him please visit <http://ruediger.berlich.com>

Annex C Second Lecture in March 2006

Title: Romance of the PC Grid
Speaker: Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee
National University of Singapore
Date: 7 March 2006 (Tuesday)
Time: 1900 hours
Place: Possibility Room, Level 5
National Library
100 Victoria Street
Singapore 188064

Abstract

The Tera-Scale Campus Grid at the National University of Singapore (or TCG@NUS) is Singapore's first large-scale campus-wide grid implementation that harnesses idle computing capacity of PCs to provide high-speed computing power. Over 1,000 PCs have been aggregated to form a huge computational monster. In this talk, the speaker will cover uses of such PC Grids for computational challenges in life sciences, for digital media and global world wide workflow integration systems.

Biodata



As a pioneer of new Internet technologies such as Internationalized Domain Names over the past 15 years, Dr. Tan Tin Wee is now working on broad-scale workflow integration of database, computational and manufacturing services on the grid for the biological sciences. He obtained his PhD from University of Edinburgh (UK). He is also a Board Director of International Society for Computational Biology, a Director of Keppel T&T and Chairman of ASEAN Sub-Committee on Biotechnology.