

**Mr Lim Chuan Poh** Hon DSc

**Oration by Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya**  
**Director of WMG**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Mr Lim Chuan Poh. Since 2007, Mr Lim has chaired A\*STAR, Singapore's lead agency that spearheads research to advance scientific discovery, create innovative technology, further economic growth and improve lives both in knowledge-based, innovation-driven Singapore and internationally.

Mr Lim's exceptional, distinguished career has embraced major contributions to science and innovation, peacekeeping and defence diplomacy. He is renowned as a longstanding advocate of international co-operation and the central role that science and technology plays in economic development and societal progress.

He has personally ensured that science and technology lie at the heart of Singapore's economic and social success; continuing the remarkable achievements of a country of 5.6 million people with no natural resources.

At A\*STAR he pioneered an open innovation framework, reflecting the fact that no single entity has all the resources, capabilities and research required to solve the 'big questions'. His inspirational vision is that new knowledge creation and innovation are hugely accelerated when scientific communities around the world galvanise to work collaboratively towards a common purpose.

One example is the innovative collaboration between A\*STAR and WMG with the first international Engineering Doctorate scholarship programme. Here we address major global challenges including advanced materials, digital healthcare and autonomous systems through selecting highly talented individuals, who spend two years in each country, benefitting from the excellence and complementarity of the research and exploitation environments.

Prior to A\*STAR, Mr Lim was Permanent Secretary at Singapore's Ministry of Education. He launched the creative transformation of publicly funded universities into autonomous universities to enable them to reach new peaks of excellence, catalysing change that has led to two universities now ranked in the World's top 15.

Mr Lim's initial career was with the Singapore Armed Forces. He served for 23 years, rising through the ranks to become Chief of Defence Staff in 2000. Lieutenant General Lim oversaw the operational deployment of peacekeeping troops to Timor Leste and led the plans and measures to counter catastrophic terrorism. In defence diplomacy, he hosted the inaugural Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference and the first Chiefs of Defence Conference to be held outside the USA.

Mr Lim's leading and original contribution has been recognised through many international awards; reflecting the enormous personal contribution that he has made to Singapore and the World's scientific community. He has combined the wealth of his leadership experience, in the armed forces, in education and in science and technology to deliver his major contribution to enabling international collaboration in research and education. The strength of his character has not been changed by the scale and impact of his achievements; he remains a highly empathetic individual with tremendous humility. With his enormous experience; very few people match him in the world.

Vice-Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I present for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, Lim Chuan Poh.