

CDIO 2016 KEYNOTE

Mr. Benedict Cheong



Mr. Benedict Cheong is the first CEO of Temasek Foundation of Singapore, a non-profit philanthropic organisation set up by Singapore investment company, Temasek. Before this, he was the CEO of the National Council of Social Service of Singapore, where he served for nine years from 1998 to April 2007. He also worked with the Singapore Government in the Singapore Police Force for fifteen years, from 1982 to January 1998, where he held various appointments at headquarters and in the operational units.

Mr. Cheong currently serves on the Medifund Advisory Council of Singapore and on the boards of non-profit organisations Caritas Singapore Community Council and Temasek Cares of Singapore. He has a Bachelor's degree from Oxford University, UK and a Master in Public Administration degree from the Harvard Kennedy School, USA.

Philanthropy and Engineering Education

β The Experience of Temasek Foundation of Singapore

Set up by Temasek, an investment company based in the Republic of Singapore, Temasek Foundation is a Singapore philanthropic organisation that seeks to build a more prosperous, stable and connected Asia through building human and social capital. Working with content institutions from Singapore and the region and in partnership with the host communities, the foundation supports capacity-building programmes in health care, education, public administration and disaster-response. The foundation also supports programmes that promote learning exchange and networks of cooperation in and across communities in Asia.

Under the thrust of Education, Temasek Foundation appreciates that the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are important pillars for economic development and growth. These intertwined disciplines are relevant to manufacturing and industry, infrastructure development, connectivity and many other sectors in a community. Just as important, they enhance community capacity in systems-thinking, decision-making, design and innovation. Over the eight years since inception, the foundation has supported capacity-building programmes in Asia, with a focus on engineering education at technical/technological levels as well as at vocational/skills development levels. Based on needs as articulated the respective host communities, these programmes are designed to enhance policies, systems, standards and quality assurance, pedagogy and curriculum.

At the technical/technological level in engineering education, in response to a growing interest in the state-of-the-art Conceive-Design-Implement-Operate (CDIO) framework, Temasek Foundation has been privileged to partner with Singapore Polytechnic to share the various elements of CDIO framework with leading educational institutions in Asian communities and to promote mutual learning and exchange. Through such programmes, the

foundation seeks to bring about systemic and institutional improvements that lead to sustained growth and development in communities in Asia in the longer term.

The presentation will highlight the experience of Temasek Foundation, Singapore in its programmes in the area of engineering education at technical/technological levels and also at vocational levels in Asia, with a special focus on CDIO framework programmes that are run in partnership with Singapore Polytechnic. The presentation will also feature some learning points from the programmes and partnerships and suggest how other foundations, donors, international organisations and companies can play a part in furthering engineering education at all levels.