

EMBARGOED TILL 25 JULY 2020

SINGAPORE SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2020 OFFERS NEW AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES WITH A FULLY VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

25 July 2020, Singapore – The Singapore Science Festival (SSF) is back for its 20th year, marking a new milestone in its festival history with a fully digital experience. Jointly organised by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Science Centre Singapore, the Singapore Science Festival is an annual event celebrating the role that Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) plays in shaping our lives and moulding our future.

The theme of this year's festival, *Empowered by Science*, is an invitation for young scientists and curious minds to get curious, dream big and harness the power of science to discover the limitless possibilities they can achieve. The first fully digital experience in two decades, ***Singapore Science Festival 2020: Empowered by Science*** is designed to take participants on a virtual journey to experience, engage and explore the power of science. From 25 July to 8 August, the virtual festival will offer over 30 interactive events and activities for you to engage in, accessible on both desktop and mobile at www.sciencefest.edu.sg.

"It has been two decades since we launched The Singapore Science Festival and I'm proud of the headway we've made in making STEM approachable to Singaporeans. The festival has always been about taking science beyond the classrooms and this year we call on participants to discover the limitless possibilities when empowered by science from the comfort of their homes. Defying physical restrictions due to Covid-19, technology and teamwork allow the spirit of curiosity and life-long learning to thrive beyond these constraints as we explore digital platforms to bring the festival to life. We are thrilled to bring this digital experience to you and hope that you will all be inspired to harness the power of science with the line-up of engaging and enriching activities at SSF2020," **said Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive, Science Centre Singapore.**

"A*STAR is honoured to be a part of this 20-year journey with the Science Centre. The Singapore Science Festival, has created awareness of the great science taking place across A*STAR's research institutions, institutes of higher learning and other innovation and enterprise organisations. The festival has always played a key role in nurturing the next generation of young talent and future leaders in the research industry. At a time when research has proven essential to understanding challenges like pandemics and environmental change, what better time to showcase the latest innovations that are creating a more sustainable future? Learning does not stop outside the classroom. We must continue to ensure that our youths are provided with opportunities to develop their aptitude and interests in science and technology," **said Professor Lisa Ng, Executive Director, A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA).**

Supported By Partners From Around The World

With the support from the wider global science community, SSF will feature weekly live performances with Science Busker Extraordinaire, David Price, via livestream direct from the United Kingdom. Uncovering the extraordinary science behind things in our everyday lives, Price will take participants on an immersive and enriching learning journey as he shows us the secret behind the science of water and sound.

This comes in addition to SSF's long-standing partnership with The Royal Institution of Great Britain, whose scientists Fran and Dan will be touring Primary and Secondary schools virtually through livestream sessions for an interactive show that puts food in a new light! Expect fire, explosions, chemical reactions and more as they show us the incredible amount of energy contained in the food that goes in our mouths.

Breaking Records With Science – Virtually!

SSF will also take up the challenge to set a new record with the Singapore Book of Records by attempting the “*Most number of people doing a science experiment together on an online platform*”. Organised on 8 August 2020, participants will simultaneously conduct the “Magic Milk” experiment, led by a Science Educator from Science Centre Singapore, via Zoom, to create a visually stunning experiment based on the scientific properties of surface tension using just milk, ink and dish soap!

A Revamped Classic

The Singapore Science Festival 2020 will kick off the 13th edition of *The Science Buskers Festival*, a trademark event where primary, secondary and tertiary students share their love of science through a show-and-tell demonstration. This year, all 40 shortlisted buskers will have videos of their performances uploaded on the SSF 2020 website, where viewers can vote for the most creative video, best science demonstration and best on-camera talents.

Other festival highlights to watch out for include:

- X-periment! – A virtual exhibition designed to celebrate the latest developments in STEM featuring interactive displays and activities, and opportunities to engage with scientists and innovators from A*STAR Research Institutes, tertiary institutions, private and public organisations.
- Story Quizzes – A collection of stories where participants can go on a fun, exciting and thrilling adventure to uncover the mysteries of nature, chemistry and mathematics!
- Trivia Series – Challenge your friends and family to a game of trivia! Put your knowledge to the test and see how many famous scientists and scientific discoveries you can recognise, guess the inventions that changed the world!
- Inventions that changed the world – Let your hands run wild despite being stuck at home with our specially curated hands-on activities. Using items found around the

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house and a little spark of creativity, learn about six inventions that have empowered mankind.

- Science Whaaaaat? – From foamy elephant toothpaste to an indoor hot air balloon, if you are up for an afternoon of science-filled activities, these hands-on experiment videos will get you asking “Science Whaaaaat?!”

For more information about the Singapore Science Festival 2020, additional activities and workshops, visit sciencefest.edu.sg

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FOR MEDIA QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT

Natasha Caluza

AKA Asia

E: ssf@aka-asia.com

Kel Lee

Science Centre Singapore

E: Kel_LEE@science.edu.sg

T: +65 9047 7969/6425 2594

Jyotika Thukral

Science Centre Singapore

E: Jyotika_THUKRAL@science.edu.sg

T: +65 9114 0039/ 6425 2541

Shirley Wong

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

E: Shirley_wong@hq.a-star.edu.sg

T: +65 9796 4527/ 6419 6501

ABOUT SCIENCE CENTRE SINGAPORE

Science Centre Singapore, a non-formal educational institution and leading regional Science Centre, along with its group of attractions, brings out the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through its unique blend of exhibitions, educational programmes and events. A custodian of creativity and innovation, Science Centre Singapore has captured the evolution of scientific developments for nearly four decades.

The Centre and its partners have played a pivotal role in transforming the way students and the public interact with and learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Since 1997, the Centre has welcomed over 30 million visitors and inspired them with more than 1,000 exhibits spread across 14 exhibition galleries and outdoor exhibition spaces.

The Centre's group of attractions include Omni-Theatre, Snow City and KidsSTOP™. The Omni-Theatre is an immersive dual-technology edutainment destination fitted with Southeast

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Asia's largest seamless dome screen and featuring the latest and brightest 8k digital fulldome system in the world. Snow City is Singapore's only permanent indoor snow centre offering an Arctic inspired experience at Singapore's first ice gallery and snow chamber. KidsSTOP™ - Where every child gets to Imagine, Experience, Discover and Dream - is Singapore's first children's science centre offering an enriching experience through purposeful play for children aged 18 months to 8 years old.

For more information, please visit <http://www.science.edu.sg>.

ABOUT THE AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (A*STAR)

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency, spearheading economic-oriented research to advance scientific discovery and develop innovative technology. Through open innovation, we collaborate with our partners in both the public and private sectors to benefit society.

As a Science and Technology Organisation, A*STAR bridges the gap between academia and industry. Our research creates economic growth and jobs for Singapore, and enhances lives by contributing to societal benefits such as improving outcomes in healthcare, urban living, and sustainability.

We play a key role in nurturing and developing a diversity of talent and leaders in our Agency and research entities, the wider research community and industry. A*STAR's R&D activities span biomedical sciences and physical sciences and engineering, with research entities primarily located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis. For ongoing news, visit www.a-star.edu.sg.

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