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NUS Engineering bags three awards at IChemE Singapore Awards 2016



Assoc Prof Chua Kian Jon, Ernest (second from right), Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Ms Betty Tsai, (second from left), an alumna from the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, with other award recipients at the IChemE Singapore Awards 2016 held on 21 October.

At the Institution of Chemical Engineers' (IChemE) awards dinner held on 21 October, NUS Engineering researchers picked up awards in three categories, namely the Energy Award (Singapore), the Research Project of the Year Award (Singapore), and the Young Chemical Engineer in Research Award (Singapore).

Associate Professor Rajasekhar Balasubramanian, from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, won the Energy Award (Singapore) this year, from a shortlist of eight. The award, sponsored by IChemE's Energy Centre, recognised his project '*Resource recovery from wastes*', a novel waste treatment technology that converts urban waste streams into biofuels and other useful products. This project was pursued in collaboration with the Iowa State University (USA).

Associate Professor Chua Kian Jon, Ernest, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, picked up the Research Project of the Year Award (Singapore) for his project '*Membrane dehumidifiers to reduce energy consumption*', in which he has developed foil-like membranes to sieve out water molecules in air conditioning systems, reducing energy consumption by 35%.

The best Young Chemical Engineer in Research award went to Ms Jinsong He, a PhD student from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Her research work focused on the development and applications of adsorption and membrane technologies for water treatment. She successfully developed a full-scale production system for metallic oxide nano-particles and two types of highly cost-effective membranes, for decontamination of toxic heavy metals from aqueous solutions.



Assoc Prof Praveen Linga and Dr Hari Prakash Veluswamy, both from the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, with their 'Highly Commendable Awards' at the IChemE Singapore Awards 2016 held on 21 October.

From the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Associate Professor Praveen Linga and Dr Hari Prakash Veluswamy received two 'Highly Commendable Awards' in the following categories:

Research Project of the Year Award (Singapore)

'SNG – next generation natural gas storage technology'

Assoc Prof Praveen Linga, Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, and Lloyd's Register Global Technology Centre Singapore

Young Chemical Engineer in Research Award (Singapore)

Dr Hari Prakash Veluswamy, Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

Ms Betty Tsai of Proctor & Gamble International (P&G), and an alumna from the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, took the award for Young Chemical Engineer in Industry. Her work at P&G focused on skincare consumer products, where she designed the innovation process from start to finish.

The event, which formed part of IChemE's Global Awards programme, celebrates excellence and innovation in chemical engineering.