

Singapore Government **MEDIA RELEASE**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore honours contributions from top global talent with prestigious Honorary Citizen Award

Dutch and British recipients hail from the chemicals and biomedical sciences sector which are fuelling the city's economic growth.

Singapore will be honouring Sir Richard B Sykes, Rector of Imperial College London in the UK and Mr LC van Wachem, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Royal Philips Electronics in the Netherlands, with the Honorary Citizen Award for their invaluable contributions to Singapore in the biomedical and business field.

2 The award represents the highest level of recognition by the Singapore government for outstanding contributions by international talent towards the growth and development of Singapore, and is conferred on those who have made a significant impact in the areas of business, science and technology, information communications, education, health, arts and culture, sports, tourism, community services or security.

3 Mr Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Home Affairs, who is also in charge of population issues, says, "The Honorary Citizen Award reflects Singapore's long-standing position of welcoming and recognising talent. These two Honorary Citizens' dynamic leadership and passion for Singapore have helped contribute to our economy's growth."

4 "To maintain Singapore's economic growth, we need to attract the best people to the country. As our immigrant forefathers helped build Singapore to the prosperous country it is today, Honorary Citizens like Sir Richard and Mr van

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Wachem would play important roles in helping Singapore stay competitive," Minister Wong observed.

5 Chairman of Singapore's Biomedical Sciences International Advisory Council, Sir Richard has been instrumental in guiding major biomedical sciences initiatives in Singapore, including the establishment of the Genome Institute of Singapore, Biopolis and the Cancer Syndicate Programme. Reflecting on being named Honorary Citizen, Sir Richard says, "I am delighted to be an Honorary Citizen of Singapore. Singapore is becoming an exciting global biomedical hub, attracting firms and top minds in this field. Singapore is entering a very exciting phase of its development and I'm thrilled and honoured to be part of this journey."

6 Mr van Wachem, an active member of the Singapore Technologies (ST) International Advisory Panel and the Economic Development Board (EDB) International Advisory Council, has been championing Singapore's position as a compelling global hub for business and investment, exerting his positive influence and helping Singapore clinch investment projects worth billion of dollars over the past 10 years." In the past, Singapore has been remarkably successful in economic terms as well as in nation building. The future will bring new challenges, but I am confident that Singaporeans will come up with the right answers. I am delighted to be an Honorary Citizen of this dynamic country! " Mr van Wachem said.

7 The Honorary Citizen Award ceremony, which will be held at the Istana on 12 October 2004, marks the second year Singapore is conferring this honour on global talent. President SR Nathan will confer the Honorary Citizen Award on Sir Richard at a ceremony to be held at the Istana on 12 October 2004, while Mr van Wachem will receive his award from the President at a later ceremony on 5 November 2004.

8 The Honorary Citizen Award is open for nominations from Ministries and government agencies annually. In addition, there are two National Day Awards – the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) and Public Service

Medal (Friends of Singapore) – which also recognise the contributions of non-Singaporeans to the growth and development of Singapore.

9 The fact sheet on the Honorary Citizen Award and biographies of the recipients are attached in Annex A.

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FACT SHEET ON THE HONORARY CITIZEN AWARD

About the Honorary Citizen of Singapore

- The title of Honorary Citizen is a national award conferred by the Singapore government to recognise and acknowledge the contributions of foreigners who have rendered extensive and valuable services to Singapore and its people, or who have made a significant impact in the areas of business, science and technology, information communications, education, health, arts and culture, sports, tourism, community services or security.
- Honorary Citizen is the highest form of national recognition for a non-Singaporean and ranks ahead of existing awards - the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award and the Public Service Medal (Friends of Singapore) award.
- 2004 is the second year this prestigious award is being conferred.
- The title of Honorary Citizen is conferred for life.
- The award does not equate to citizenship. Therefore, the rights and duties of Singapore citizens, such as voting and National Service, do not apply to Honorary Citizens.
- The privileges for Honorary Citizens include the right to live and work in Singapore for themselves as well as their dependent family members and to purchase property if they decide to stay in Singapore.

Honorary Citizen Awards In Other Countries

- Shanghai, Taiwan and Korea also have similar awards by various names, while the western OECD countries tend to use the term "Freedom to the City" or "Freeman of the City".

Honorary Citizens 2004 (biographies attached, high-resolution pictures available for download)

- Sir Richard Brook Sykes
- Mr Lodewijk Christiaan van Wachem

Honorary Citizens 2003 (biographies available upon request)

- Dr Sydney Brenner – for his contributions in establishing Singapore as a biomedical hub
- Mr Pasquale Pistorio – for his contributions in establishing Singapore as a microelectronics hub



SIR RICHARD BROOK SYKES

Rector
Imperial College London, UK

Photo by Jan Chlebik, © Imperial College London

Born in 1942, Sir Richard B Sykes graduated from the University of London with a first class Honours degree in Microbiology. He obtained his Doctor of Science Degree from the University of London in 1993 and his Doctorate in Microbial Biochemistry at Bristol University in 1995.

Sir Richard started his illustrious career with Glaxo Research Limited in 1972 as Head of the Antibiotic Research Unit, a post he held for five years before moving to The Squibb Institute for Medical Research, USA. At The Squibb Institute, Sir Richard assumed several prominent positions before re-joining Glaxo, UK as Deputy Chief Executive of Glaxo Group Research Ltd. Sir Richard was subsequently appointed Chairman and Chief Executive of Glaxo Wellcome in May 1997 following the acquisition of Wellcome PLS by Glaxo in May 1995.

For his long services to the pharmaceutical industry, Sir Richard received his knighthood in 1994.

Sir Richard was appointed Rector of Imperial College London in January 2001, and in May 2002, he stepped down as Chairman of GlaxoSmithKline PLC. He currently sits on several government and scientific committees and was appointed Chairman of the UK Bioscience Leadership Council in November 2003.

Since the early 1990s, Sir Richard has been an ardent supporter of Singapore's push to build a vibrant biomedical sciences hub. In 1993, Sir Richard was instrumental in setting up the Centre for Natural Product Research (CNPR), a joint venture between Glaxo Wellcome PLC, the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology and EDB. Under his stewardship as Chairman, Glaxo Wellcome PLC, Sir Richard raised the international profile of Singapore as a major player in the Biomedical Sciences (BMS) by endorsing the setting up of two Glaxo Wellcome manufacturing and development facilities, and establishing Glaxo Wellcome's regional HQ in Singapore. With Sir Richard's support, opportunities were provided for young Singaporeans to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies through scholarships funded by Glaxo Wellcome. For his numerous contributions to Singapore, Sir Richard was conferred the Public Service Star in 1999.

Sir Richard has been Chairman of Singapore's Biomedical Sciences International Advisory Council (BMS IAC) since 2000 when Biomedical Sciences was launched as one

of the key economic pillars of Singapore. Owing to his extensive international network, the BMS IAC has the counsel of 23 eminent and outstanding scientists. Through Sir Richard's chairmanship, the BMS IAC continues to provide insightful inputs and guidance to several major BMS initiatives including the establishments of the Biomedical Research Council, Singapore Genomics Programme (now evolved to become the Genome Institute of Singapore), Biopolis, and the Cancer Syndicate programme.

Sir Richard's strong faith in Singapore also led to the recent establishment of the A*STAR-Imperial Partnership (AIP). The flagship AIP PhD programme aims to widen the international exposure of A*STAR scholars during their course of PhD training through the attachment and research opportunities at the Imperial College.

Sir Richard B Sykes has shown his deep commitment to Singapore through his association with the country for over a decade. He has provided valuable insights and has been a strong advocate on Singapore's efforts to excel in the sciences. As a result of his extensive global network of scientists and associates, Singapore has gained a high level of international visibility.

In 2004, Sir Richard B Sykes was named an Honorary Citizen of Singapore for his invaluable contributions to the development of Singapore as an international biomedical sciences hub.

About Imperial College London

*Imperial College London has a long history of collaboration with Singapore. In 2002 former Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew was appointed a Fellow of the College, the highest award Imperial can bestow on individuals judged to be "persons of distinction". Earlier this year Imperial and Singapore's Agency for Science Technology and Research (A*STAR) announced a Memorandum of Understanding that allows students in Singapore to earn an Imperial PhD while working on A*STAR research projects in their home country. In addition, Imperial, Colombia University, USA, and Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd signed a tripartite partnership in 2003 to foster close collaboration across countries on technology exchange and commercialisation of projects of mutual interest.*

Over 200 students from Singapore form one of the largest national groupings at the College. Many Singaporean graduates have gone on to achieve senior positions in their field. Alumni from Singapore include Joseph Pillay, FIC, former High Commissioner to London and now Chairman of Singapore Exchange Ltd; Chew Choon Seng, Chief Executive of Singapore Airlines and Board member of Imperial's Tanaka Business School; and Koh Boon Hwee, non-executive Chairman of Singapore Airlines. Singaporean graduates have an active alumni association that facilitates the development of social and business connections, as well as giving the opportunity for continuing education.



LODEWIJK CHRISTIAAN VAN WACHEM

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Royal Philips Electronics N.V.
Chairman of the Board, Zurich Financial Services and Zurich Insurance
Chairman of the Board, Global Crossing

Born in 1931, Lodewijk Christiaan van Wachem is a graduate of Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. He joined the Royal Dutch/Shell Group in 1953, working in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. He became a Director of Royal Dutch Shell Group in 1977, President in 1982 and Chairman of the Committee of Managing Directors in 1985. He served in that capacity until 1992, when he was appointed Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company. He held this function until July 2002.

Until 2002 he also served on the Supervisory Boards of Akzo Nobel, BMW and Bayer as well as on the Board of IBM. He is currently Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Royal Philips Electronics N.V., Chairman of the Board of Zurich Financial Services and of the Board of Global Crossing, a member of the Board of ATCO (Canada) Ltd. and of the Executive Board of Rand Europe.

Mr van Wachem was made an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1977 and an Honorary Knight in 1988. In 1981, he was appointed a Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion and in 1990, a Commander in the Order of Orange Nassau.

Mr van Wachem has always been supportive of Singapore's economic and strategic interests. He was instrumental in securing Singapore's first styrene monomer/propylene oxide plant (SM/PO) in 1994 – Seraya Chemicals Pte Ltd. Under his leadership, the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company made significant investments in Singapore, including the company's Pulau Bukom refinery, the expansion of Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore and a second SM/PO plant in partnership with BASF AG, the largest chemical company in the world.

Mr van Wachem has also been an active member of the Singapore Technologies (ST) International Advisory Panel (IAP) since its formation in 1999, and a member of the EDB International Advisory Council (IAC) since its inception in 1994. He was conferred Emeritus IAC status in 2000. As an active member of the advisory panels with Singapore agencies, he has devoted much of his time to provide advice to Singapore, particularly on our economic and business policies.

Over the years, he has gone out of his way to promote Singapore and created opportunities for ST, EDB and other Singapore agencies. He was instrumental in helping Singapore clinch Dutch investments from companies such as Akzo Nobel and Philips. As a member of the Singapore-Netherlands Business Friends Network, he remains one of Singapore's strongest proponents in Europe.

For his many contributions to Singapore's economic development, Mr van Wachem was amongst the first group of three international recipients of the Public Service Star – Distinguished Friends of Singapore award in 1998.

In 2004, Mr Lodewijk van Wachem was named an Honorary Citizen of Singapore for his invaluable contributions in positioning Singapore as a compelling global hub for business and investment.

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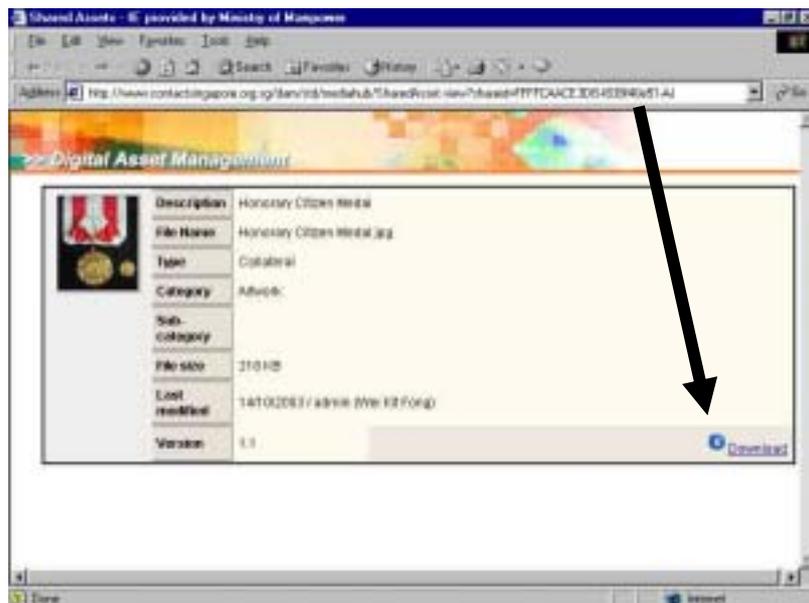
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* Pls credit photo of Sir Richard to “Jan Chlebik, copyright Imperial College London”

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