IU Singapore Students Association Conference Welcomes Singapore Ambassador

In Fall 1980, only thirteen students from the Republic of Singapore were enrolled at Indiana University’s eight campuses. Over the last fifteen years, however, there has been enormous growth in the number of IU students from Singapore, with eighty-eight currently enrolled at IU Bloomington alone. It is this expanding educational linkage between IU and Singapore, and the commitment of IU’s Singapore Students Association (SSA) that brought the 1995 Singapore Midwest Conference on Re-entry to the Bloomington campus.

The SSA’s preparations for the March 4-5 conference began over a year ago. Enthusiastic about sponsoring a program focusing upon Singapore students’ re-entry concerns, SSA members began the months of preparation required to host the 1995 conference at IU. The students obtained major funding for the project from NAFSA’s Project ASPIRE, the IU Students Association, CASI, and the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore. The dedication and hard work of the Singapore Students Association paid off, with the organization hosting 110 participants and guests at the 1995 Midwest Conference, Crossroads—What Happens After Graduation?

Among the conference’s distinguished guests were Singapore’s Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. S.R. Nathan; Embassy First Secretary of Education, Ms. Lim Siong Fun; three Singapore Economic Board representatives who came to the U.S. to attend the conference; and former SSA president Mohan Veloo. Local dignitaries included Bloomington Mayor Tomilea Allison, IU Dean of Students Richard McKaig, and Associate Dean Damon Sims. Representing IU’s Office of International Programs were Dean Patrick O’Meara, Associate Dean and Director of International Services Kenneth Rogers, IUPUI’s Office of International Affairs Director Patricia Biddinger, and OIP Program Associate Susan Carty. Also attending was Alexander Mirkin of IUPUI’s Center on Southeast Asia, which hosted a luncheon honoring Ambassador Nathan following his Indianapolis arrival, followed by a tour of the Center’s new library.

The conference opened with a reception hosted by Dean O’Meara in the Distinguished Alumni Room of the Indiana Memorial Union, followed by a dinner in honor of the Singapore Ambassador. The conference, held at the IU School of Education, convened with opening remarks by Patrick O’Meara and Embassy Secretary of Education Lim. Ambassador Nathan delivered the keynote address, “Social, Economic, and Political Trends of Singapore and Southeast Asia—the Present and Future.” Following his address, Susan Luchs, Director of NAFSA’s Project ASPIRE, spoke on re-entry concerns—the tasks of networking, establishing credentials, and dealing with social, family, and economic readjustment. Afternoon sessions featured a panel discussion led by Dean Rogers, Mohan Veloo, Business School professor and SSA Advisor William Perkins, Mr. Chang of the Singapore Investment Company, and Mr. Seow, Director of Manpower, Singapore Economic Development Board, San Francisco. The conference concluded with a formal dinner and dance in IMU’s Frangipani Room.

NITA LEVISON, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR
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IUB Kobe Relief Fund Contribution From IU Alumni Club of Japan

The IU Bloomington Japanese Student Association gratefully acknowledges the generous donation of the Indiana University Alumni Club of Japan to assist Japanese students at IU whose families were affected by the Kobe earthquake. The contribution was presented on behalf of the Japanese IU alumni association by club president Mr. H. Watanabe, President and CEO of Hoechst-Mitsubishi Kasei Corporation and member of Indiana University’s International Council.