

S\$100m grant to help local universities build research strengths

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The National Research Foundation (NRF) has launched a grant called the Medium-sized Research Centre Grant to help local universities to build their research strengths and deepen their competencies. The funding will be up to S\$100 million over 10 years.



(Darren Hauck/Getty Images/AFP)

SINGAPORE: The National Research Foundation (NRF) has launched a grant called the Medium-sized Research Centre Grant to help local universities to build their research strengths and deepen their competencies.

The funding will be up to S\$100 million over 10 years. NRF will fund 50 per cent of the budget while the rest will come from the centre.

Only publicly funded autonomous universities are eligible for the funding. The eligible universities include National University of Singapore (NUS) including DUKE-NUS Graduate Medical School (GMS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD.)

The grant will allow universities to organise their research programmes and infrastructure across departments and faculties to have leading researchers in areas like advanced materials.

This was announced by Health Minister Gan Kim Yong at the second Global Young Scientists Summit@one-north on Sunday.



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The five-day summit will see top international science and technology leaders discuss the latest advances in science, future game changes and solutions to global challenges.

Over 500 people - 10 top science and technology speakers, 350 researchers and 150 guests in the research community and industry gathered at Nanyang Technological University on Sunday evening.

Mr Gan said that while Singapore has built up a suite of biomedical research capabilities, it still has to engage with the rest of the world.

He said: "The world is increasingly connected and the challenges are becoming more global and complex. Singapore must engage with the rest of the world to address these challenges because we do not have all the capabilities to go for it alone, and we need diversity of ideas and talent for innovation and enterprise.

"Only strong international partnerships among countries and collaborations across different scientific disciplines can solve the problems we face."

Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn also attended the opening ceremony of the summit, where she met Mr Gan.

Princess Sirindhorn is in Singapore for a two-day visit.

Earlier on Sunday, she had lunch with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee at the Istana.

On his Facebook page, PM Lee said she talked about her social projects in Thailand and her interests in education.

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