Prince Andrew meets Phaos at “Science is GREAT”

Professor Hong Minghui and his team from the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, NUS, have established a private limited company Phaos Technology to commercialize their research fruits. Together with Lloyd’s Register Foundation, they were one of 5 teams invited to showcase their technologies at “Science is GREAT” event held by the British Council from 12-13 June. It celebrates UK-Singapore ties to enable Great scientific innovations. Presentations were made to Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, as well as Mr Scott Andrew Norman Wightman CMG, the British High Commissioner to Singapore. Prince Andrew and Mr Scott Wightman were fascinated by the state-of-the-art optical technologies demonstrated.

These technologies include the next-generation optical microscope; material “fingerprint” analyzer; and an eco-friendly laser coating. Among all these, Prince Andrew was most interested in the Optical Microsphere Nanoscope. Optical Microsphere Nanoscope is a research outcome of the Competitive Research Programme, supported by the National Research Foundation, Prime Minister’s Office, Singapore. This technology enables conventional optical microscopes to achieve super-resolution effect by introducing a micro-scale sphere lens between the sample and objective lens. With the ability to image samples with feature sizes of sub 100 nanometer in real time solely by optical means, Professor Hong and team are able to extend the potential for this enabling technology to the fields of biomedical and pharmaceutical research.

“‘Phaos’ is the Greek word for light. We believe that advanced optical technologies should go beyond the laboratories, into the lives of ordinary people bringing ‘light’ to their lives,” answered Professor Hong enthusiastically when asked about his motivation in spinning off the technologies.

(Please see following pages for pictures taken during the event)
Mr Scott Wightman, the British High Commissioner engaging with a hands-on demonstration with (left to right) Mr Chris Chung, Head of Strategic Development and External Affairs (Asia) at Lloyd’s Register, and Professor Hong Minghui, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Picture 2: Professor Hong Minghui (right) explaining the state-of-the-art technologies to Mr Scott Wightman, the British High Commissioner to Singapore.
Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, was introduced to the next-generation optical microscope; material “fingerprint” analyzer; and an eco-friendly laser coating by the team, while Mr Scott Wightman, the British High Commissioner, looks on. The team comprises of (left to right) Mr Chen Lianwei, Chief Scientist of Phaos Technology Pte. Ltd. and Mr Chris Chung, Head of Strategic Development and External Affairs (Asia) at Lloyd’s Register.

Science is GREAT is an event organized by the British High Commission with the focus on celebrating and showcasing the strong UK-Singapore partnership enabling great scientific innovations to be developed.