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TITLE: Eight scientists and engineers recognised for R&D contributions

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SINGAPORE: Eight scientists and engineers were the recipients of the President's Science and Technology Awards at the Istana on Tuesday evening.

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The President's Science Award was presented to **NUS Prof Loh Kian Ping** for his breakthrough research in graphene chemistry. Two teams from NUS and NTU receive the President's Technology Award for their works on eye treatment technology.

The pinnacle award, the President's Science and Technology Medal, went to Prof John Wong, CEO of the National University Health System. Prof Wong is a pioneer in Singapore's push for biomedical science and was instrumental in shaping its development.

Prof Wong said: "I'm glad to have been able to contribute to help develop the medical school, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine to a school where we are able to turn out some really world-class young doctors. Our graduates are highly sought after from all around the world and I guess I'm very proud of all our students.

"I'm also proud of being able to help develop the cancer scene in Singapore. We are now able to treat all cancers in Singapore and no one needs to go overseas for treatment."

Mr S. Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, said: "The depth of Singapore's research talent base has been key to our ability to tap science, technology and innovation in growing our economy. We will continue to focus on developing a strong core of Singaporean research talent through comprehensive talent development programmes.

"Equally, the diversity of our talent ecosystem is a critical success factor for the generation of novel approaches and insights, through the creative and vigorous exchange of ideas. Hence, even as we grow the Singaporean core of our research talent base, we must continue to ensure that the community of scientists and researchers remains diverse and vibrant to facilitate the cross-fertilisation of ideas."

Mr Iswaran noted that the overall number of researchers, scientists and engineers has doubled over the last decade. There are about 30,000 of them in both the public and private sectors ... and 70 per cent of them are Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.

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