
Dr. N. Varaprasad

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Dr. N Varaprasad has been dedicated to the field of education and leadership for 40 years and has made many significant contributions to public service and education in Singapore.

He started his career as a lecturer in Industrial and Systems Engineering, with his PhD in Urban Transport modeling.

From 1985, he served 16 years in the polytechnic sector, 11 of which were as founding Principal/CEO of Temasek Polytechnic which he founded and built to a leading institution of 13,000 students, with a strong reputation for innovative teaching and progressive educational methods.

Upon leaving the polytechnic, Dr Varaprasad was appointed as Deputy President of the National University of Singapore in Dec 2001, overseeing the corporate cluster of departments, such as information services, computer centre, student affairs, university health centre, occupational safety, quality management, and arts and culture.

In Sep 2004, he joined the National Library Board as its Chief Executive. NLB Singapore is recognised world-wide for its innovations in delivering a world-class library system for Singapore. Within nine months he published the Library 2010 strategic plan for the NLB, laying out the directions for the following five years.

Dr Varaprasad is best known for his visionary and pioneering work as Founding Principal of Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore's 3rd polytechnic. As Principal of Temasek, he moved the polytechnic sector from an engineering bias to a more diverse range of programmes such as Design, Tourism, Hospitality, Retail, Law and Security Studies. He also introduced Character Education into the curriculum and made Problem-based Learning (PBL) pedagogy the standard to future-proof his graduates.

He has also served overseas as Senior Director, Academic Programs and Senior Advisor to the Managing Director at the Institute of Applied Technology, Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has contributed to education study projects in the Sultanate of Oman, Mauritius and Rwanda.

Among his contributions to society, he was Chairman of the National Council Against Drug Abuse; he still serves as Life Trustee of SINDA and Trustee of Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society.

His book on Technical Education was published in April 2016 and launched by the Minister of Education with a foreword by the Minister of Finance.

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

This presentation will examine the forces driving Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HE) and the responses of the sector. The nature of Quality in HE is explored, starting with the multiple purposes of higher education. From this, the benefits and pitfalls of quality assurance are enumerated and strategies developed for universities to develop quality assurance to build their reputation and a virtuous cycle of better students, higher standards and higher sustainability.
