



SEMINAR

INNOVATION AND ENERGY

Date: Thursday, 25 February 2010

Time: 10.30 am — 12.00 noon

Venue: Seminar Room II, ISEAS

About the Speaker

Dr Geoffrey Nicholson
Retired 3M Vice President
International Technical Operations



Dr. Geoff Nicholson – Geoff attended Grammar School in Houghton-le-Spring. He was awarded his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Imperial College, University of London, U.K. in 1963. While at RCS he was secretary of the Students Union and President of the student Chemical Society. Geoff joined 3M in 1963 in Minnesota, USA. After several years in 3M's Central Research Laboratories, he was appointed to positions in the company's Visual Products and Commercial Tape Business units. In the latter Business, he was instrumental in the development of 3M's highly successful "Post-it" Notes and the subsequent line of "Post-it" products. The Chairman of the Board and CEO of 3M described him as "The Father of the Post-it Note Program" long before the program reached it's potential of many millions of dollars in sales. He was then appointed to a succession of international assignments, including Vice President, 3M International Technical Operations which included the establishment of extensive laboratories in more than 30 countries such as the UK, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Singapore, China and India. Geoff was responsible for the activities of more than 2500 technical people around the world. He was elected to the Carlton Society in 1991, 3M's highest recognition for Scientists.

Geoff was noted for his passionate and persistent promotion and defender of the culture of Innovation throughout 3M's organization. He encouraged the formation of the Technical Forum, an internal organization of 3M which encourages the transfer of technology within the community, which enhances creativity and innovation

Energy Studies Programme



across business units. Geoff retired in Feb. 2001. After retirement he has been involved with some startup companies, such as Cimananotech, as well as various publications such as In Search of Excellence, Built to Last, Breakthroughs and other Innovation publications.

He has continued to give presentations on the subject of Innovation including to the Young President's Organization, the Japan Management Organization, Imperial College Business School and Chemistry Dept. and many other organizations around the world. Geoff continues to be active in the Industrial Research Institute with several publications in its journals.

About the Seminar

We hear a lot of talk about innovation, its importance to companies and nations. If we are to succeed with a world of challenges, we need innovation with energy, and I mean with passion as well as in the energy business. And so I ask, is it part of your business plan? Do you provide the resources to do it? Is it the responsibility of all the disciplines in your organization? How do you define innovation? Do you measure it? Are long term research groups in touch with customers and flexible enough to support short term developments when necessary? Do research projects with a short term focus leave room for longer term efforts? What volunteer employee activities foster innovation and how can these activities be encouraged? Does your organization have a history of stories that help employees to learn about innovation? Does the company recognize innovative achievements?

We will try to answer these questions with examples of a successful company who has been passionate in innovation and with results in the energy business.

You are cordially invited to the Seminar.