

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SST-3M Innovation Challenge sets students on applying science to life

*Singapore's response to World Creativity and Innovation Week sees
lower secondary students harnessing STEM skills to solve real-world problems*

Singapore, April 17, 2015 – To celebrate the World Creativity and Innovation Week, some 200 students of the School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) threw themselves into unfamiliar worlds - to design solutions for education, as well as safety and mobility for the aged. Proving that one can never be too young make a positive impact to society, SST's 2015 cohort of Secondary One students developed the prototypes for their creations using special Innovator's Toolkits from 3M and showcased them in a fair held on the school's grounds.

The top five prototypes jostled for the judges' attention at the inaugural SST-3M Innovation Challenge, held at the school today. These included a lightweight frame for carrying learning materials, a portable stairs support unit, a learning aid for the needy, a modular house to aid disaster recovery and a safety handle for children on buses. The SST-3M Innovation Challenge is an innovation, science and engineering themed project within the Art, Design, Media & Technology (ADMT) subject in the SST Secondary One curriculum. Members of 3M Singapore's staff also provided mentorship to the student groups during the project period.

Each of the five teams, shortlisted from more than 40 groups, had to give a three-minute presentation on stage, complete with e-book reports, computer-generated 3D models and a prototype. The real-world applicability and market potential of the projects were assessed by a judging panel comprising Ms Chew Mok Lee, member of SST's Board of Directors and also Assistant Chief Executive in charge of Entrepreneurship & Innovation in SPRING Singapore; Ms Grace Choo, Head, Business Services Group and Brand & Strategy, 3M Singapore; and Ms Serene Goh, Editor, (IN and Little Red Dot), The Straits Times.

Ms Chew said, “The ability to innovate is key to creating a lasting competitive edge for businesses in Singapore. Through the SST-3M collaboration, I am heartened to see this spirit of innovation being nurtured in today’s youth. We hope this challenge-based learning for students inspires them to continue creating and thinking out of the box in future.”

Mr Hoe Wee Meng, Principal of SST, said, “SST emphasises an integrated approach to learning that is learner-centred, authentic and community-focused. Challenge-based learning provides an active and relevant way of engaging our students, and fosters critical thinking and creative problem-solving. Students are asked to collaborate with their peers, teachers and industry experts to identify issues and take action to solve them. Our students benefited greatly from interacting with the 3M staff and have gone away inspired to do even more for society.”

Arthur Fong, Managing Director of 3M Singapore, said, “I am glad the SST students have used the 3M Innovator’s Toolkit as a springboard to generate innovative solutions to perennial problems. Through this process, they would have gained valuable experience in managing real-life constraints in product development. Most importantly, I just want them to have fun with science, and actively apply its principles to make life better.”

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About 3M

At 3M, we apply science in collaborative ways to improve lives daily. With \$32 billion in sales, our 90,000 employees connect with customers all around the world. Learn more about 3M’s creative solutions to the world’s problems at www.3M.com or on Twitter @3M or @3MNewsroom.

3M Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary of 3M Company. The company serves a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, which include electronics, health care, transport engineering, chemicals, building and construction, and consumer retail. 3M’s presence in Singapore includes two manufacturing plants at Woodlands and Tuas, an R&D Center at Woodlands, and a Customer Technical Center, laboratory and other supply chain and business operations based at Yishun. For more information on 3M, please visit www.3M.com.sg.

About SST

The School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) is a Specialised Independent School that offers a distinctive 4-year GCE O-Level programme with an integrated approach to applied learning. Learning in SST is multi-faceted as students gain a strong foundation of key academic concepts in core subjects like Mathematics and Science. Having delivered success at the GCE O-Level examination, the school aims to be a global leader in transforming learning and to nurture passionate innovators who improve society through real-world applications of science and technology. For more information, visit www.sst.edu.sg

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