

National Science and Technology Board Bill

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Bill No: 25/1990

Read the first time: 4th October 1990

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National Science and Technology Board Bill

Bill No. 25/1990

Read the first time on 4th October 1990.

An Act to establish the National Science and Technology Board and for matters connected therewith.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the National Science and Technology Board Act 1990 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“appointed day” means the date of commencement of this Act;

“Board” means the Science and Technology Board established under section 3;

“Council” means the Science Council of Singapore constituted under the Science Council of Singapore Act [Cap. 287];

“member” means a member of the Board and includes the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman;

“chief executive officer” means the chief executive officer appointed under section 14 and includes any temporary chief executive officer of the Board.

Establishment of National Science and Technology Board

3. There shall be established a body to be known as the National Science and Technology Board which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and shall, by that name, be capable of —

(a) suing and being sued;

(b) acquiring, owning, holding and developing or disposing of property, both movable and immovable; and

(c) doing and suffering such other acts or things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

Constitution of Board

4.—(1) The Board shall consist of —

(a) a Chairman;

(b) a Deputy Chairman; and

(c) not less than 8 and not more than 20 other members.

(2) The First Schedule shall apply to the Board, its members and proceedings.

Functions of Board

5. The functions of the Board are to —

- (a) encourage and promote research and development in science and technology;
- (b) co-ordinate the establishment and development of research institutes and other facilities connected with science and technology;
- (c) undertake programmes and provide funds to promote and facilitate scientific and technological research and development in both the private and public sectors;
- (d) assess scientific and technological manpower needs and engage in programmes for developing such manpower;
- (e) undertake exchanges and joint programmes with other national and international organisations connected with science and technology; and
- (f) promote activities to increase public awareness of the importance of science and technology.

Powers of Board

6.—(1) The Board shall have power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions and, in particular, may —

- (a) appoint committees consisting of persons who may or may not be members of the Board and delegate to the committees such of its powers and functions as it may determine;
- (b) form or participate in the formation of a company or enter into any joint venture or partnership for the purposes of this Act;
- (c) provide scholarships and training grants for the development of manpower in the fields of science and technology;
- (d) grant loans or advances to, or subscribe to stocks, shares, bonds or debentures of new enterprises based on technology;
- (e) provide financial support for research institutes and specific research and development projects undertaken by the private and public sectors;
- (f) promote or undertake publicity in any form;
- (g) publish or sponsor the publication of periodicals, booklets and other written materials;

(h) receive donations and contributions from any source and raise funds by all lawful means; and

(i) do anything incidental to any of its powers.

(2) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make rules to regulate the proceedings of the Board and generally to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(3) The Board may, in addition to the powers vested in it by subsection (1), exercise such other powers as the Minister may authorise the Board in writing to exercise.

Grants

7. For the purpose of enabling the Board to carry out its functions under this Act, the Minister may from time to time make grants-in-aid to the Board of such sums of money as the Minister may determine out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

Power to borrow

8. The Board may from time to time for the purposes of this Act raise loans from the Government or, with the consent of the Minister, from any other source.

Bank accounts and application of revenue

9.—(1) The Board shall open and maintain an account or accounts with such bank or banks as the Board thinks fit; and every such account shall be operated upon as far as practicable by cheque signed by such person or persons as may from time to time be authorised in that behalf by the Board.

(2) The moneys of the Board shall be applied only in payment or discharge of the expenses, obligations and liabilities of the Board and in making any payments that the Board is authorised or required to make.

Investment

10. Moneys belonging to the Board may be invested in such securities as trustees may by any written law be authorised to invest or, with the written approval of the Minister, in any other securities or investments.

Annual report

11. The Board shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, submit to the Minister an annual report on the activities of the Board during that financial year and the Minister shall cause a copy of every such report to be presented to Parliament.

Accounts