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Tues Feb 24, 2009

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938LIVE POLL

Should we do away with examinations in primary school?

Yes

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Maybe

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Updated: 20th February 2009, 1820 hrs

National Research Foundation establishes 4th research center of excellence

Despite the downturn, the government says it remains committed to investing in research capabilities that will keep Singapore's economy competitive in the long run.

Which is why the National Research Foundation, or NRF and the Education Ministry will be committing \$150 million over the next decade to support a newly established Research Center of Excellence RCE.

The centre, to be set up at the National University of Singapore, will specialise in mechanobiology - that is the study of cell and tissue functions at the most basic level.

Results of this research will influence the development of specific drugs and accurate treatment of diseases such as cardio-vascular disease, cancer and other ailments due to ageing.

NRF's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Francis Yeoh.

"The plan is to build up a small number, a very select small number of outstanding research centers that can be the best in the world, in specific fields. We plan to set up about 5 and we are now at our fourth RCE. In R&D, it is necessary to think long term because if you change your mind about R&D every few years, you will not get very far. So it is very important for a center like the RCEs we are talking about, that they have a very long term horizon because that is what it takes to become the best in the world."

The National Research Foundation and MOE say they will be investing a total of \$750 million in the five Research Centers of Excellence in Singapore.

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