

Gold for NUS iGEM Team 2018!

Congratulations to NUS iGEM 2018 team for **clinching a Gold Medal and being nominated for 3 best awards – Best Manufacturing Project, Best Hardware and Best safety and security!** This is the best accomplishment NUS has ever achieved in this prestigious competition, excellent job team, you have done us proud! iGEM is an international student competition in the area of synthetic biology/engineering and over 300 teams from around the world (including Harvard, MIT, Oxford and Imperial College London) participated this year. This year, the team of 13 students hailing from diverse academic backgrounds encompassing biomedical, material, chemical, mechanical engineering and engineering science, life sciences, architecture and medicine, had one ambitious goal: to alleviate the water pollution problem caused by chemically synthesized dyes via an eco-friendly biomanufacturing platform.



The NUS iGEM 2018 Team is a multidisciplinary group of students

The team was quick to identify a pressing need to address this problem given that the textile and dye production industry is the second most pollutive industry in the world according to the World Bank. They looked to nature for the solution, and recognised the advantages of using natural dyes as the alternative to chemically synthesized dyes. At the same time, the team understood the limitations of traditional plant dye extraction which render natural dyes an unsustainable solution. Hence, they sought to produce natural dyes using bacteria to increase the viability of natural dyes. Eventually, the team

developed a novel, eco-friendly and multicomponent biomanufacturing platform that takes in waste as a feedstock to produce dyes. Their innovative platform made use of intelligent machine control to optimise the production process of natural dyes. To find out more about their outstanding project, visit http://2018.igem.org/Team:NUS_Singapore-A. If you are interested in iGEM at NUS, please contact A/Prof Poh Chueh Loo at poh.chuehloo@nus.edu.sg.



The team presenting their project to a panel of distinguished judges at the Giant Jamboree



The team finally meeting friends from other teams in Boston



Proud members of NUSGEM 2018