

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release

MIDAS Media Contact:

Ms Jasmine Ong
DID: (65) 6770 5375
Email: pr@midas.org.sg

SEMICONDUCTOR PANEL DISCUSSES FUTURE SUCCESS OF SINGAPORE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

MIDAS, Singapore's Semiconductor Community, panel "Ensuring future success for Singapore's IC Design Industry - Meeting the Manpower requirements for the next 5 years"

SINGAPORE August 4, 2006 – MIDAS, Microelectronics IC and System Design Association, Singapore organized a panel discussion, "**Ensuring future success for Singapore's IC Design Industry - Meeting the Manpower requirements for the next 5 years**" on 4th August 2006. In addition to MIDAS, the event was sponsored by Cadence, Mentor Graphics and Synopsys.

The session was inaugurated by Mr. Zainudin Nordin, Mayor CDC and a former active member of the ICommunity, Singapore. The panelists representing the broad spectrum of the IC & System Design eco-system in Singapore included Mr. Hsieh Ping Lung, Director, Engineering-VLSI Design Broadcom, Prof. Yong-Ping Xu, Associate Professor NUS, Mr. Ulf Schneider, VP Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific, Prof Yeo Kiat Seng, Head Division of Circuits and Systems NTU, Mr. Ken Lee, CEO BCT Technology, Mr. Steven Sim, Deputy Dept. Manager Panasonic Semiconductor Development Asia, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Head of IC & Systems Lab IME and Mr. Damian Chan, Head Semiconductors Electronics Cluster, EDB.

After the presentation of the findings of trained manpower survey conducted by Economic Development Board (EDB), the panel discussed the possibilities, challenges, and issues in addressing the trained manpower requirements of Singapore IC design industry.

The overall consensus was that a pro-active concerted effort by industry, academia and the government is key in addressing the manpower requirement. It was acknowledged that gaps exist between the industry requirements and the available talent pool – not just in short term but also in long term if not addressed in a timely manner. Some of the possible solutions were discussed. Some key recommendations included – industry support for universities' programs, refining the course curriculum, increasing awareness and promoting IC design as a lucrative job option, attracting foreign talent. It was a provocative session with active participation from the audience which included students as well as professionals from different strata of the design community.

The outcome of this panel discussion will help MIDAS facilitate some broad strategies/guidelines for the overall IC design industry in Singapore and proactively assist in harnessing Singapore's talent pool.

About MIDAS

MIDAS is the premier organization representing Singapore' semiconductor industry. MIDAS established in 2005, includes members from leading semiconductor companies. It is committed towards fostering an active collaboration between the various entities in the microelectronics eco-system in Singapore. The four main thrust areas of MIDAS are: Technology, Manpower Development, Market Requirements and Infrastructure. For more information, please visit www.midas.org.sg

###