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Agency for Science, Technology and Research



Sci-fun for all

With flying 'roos and Tom Cruise, science.03 is never boring

by Rosalyn Lim
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WHAT do deepjays Daniel Ong and Jamie Yeo have to do with science? Well, they are part of X-periment!, an event that will kick off the annual science festival, science.03.

This yearly national science festival is jointly organised by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and the Singapore Science Centre. It showcases more than 100 activities during the month of September.

X-periment!, will be held at Suntec City Entertainment Centre for three days from Sept 5 to 7.

X-periment! is a science carnival with interactive exhibits where participants can build molecular structures of salt and water, and visitors will be greeted with "sci-sational" hands-on experiments, quizzes, games and the latest innovations from local researchers.

For budding Einsteins, the Qwestacon performers are in town to conduct their Cool Science! shows daily. Kids can watch Anita and Jennifer ham science up with their fun and educational acts from making slime to erupting volcanoes!

And if that's not enough, the Scitech performers are in Singapore on a Quest for the Best Science Souvenir with schools.

Along the way, they will encounter flying kangaroos and amazing explosions, and investigate top-notch travel

toothpaste.

"science.03 is now more important in promoting public understanding of science as we are in the knowledge-based economy. And like in previous years, we have activities that are targeted at the primary, secondary, tertiary and the professional levels," said Dr Chew Tian Chiong, director and chief executive of Singapore Science Centre.



Sci-Fi movie buffs will also get a slice of the pie. Reload with some computer-techno gee-whiz with Tom Cruise in *Minority Report* or camp it out with cyborg-muscleman Arnie from *Terminator 1 and 2*.

Otherwise, just be swept away by the digital special effects in *X-Men 2*. All these titles are part of the lineup of films that will be screened at Fort Canning Green from Sept 18 to 21, as part of the Singapore Sci-Fi Movie Festival.

Another interesting new activity introduced with the family in mind is the Sci-Fi Family Weekend on Sept 20 and 21. Visitors can participate in building rockets with family members before catching *Jimmy Neutron* or *The Iron Giant* in the evening.

But there is a serious message behind all the fun. Said Professor Lam Khin Yong, director, A*STAR Graduate Academy: "We hope to create a greater awareness of science, technology and biomedicine among the public and to inspire and inculcate an interest in our youth to pursue science as a career."

"science.03 also aims to enhance the profile of the R&D community by according greater

recognition, as well as providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the latest technology and research."

As such, the National Science & Technology Awards (NSTA) Dinner 2003 will be held on Sept 25 to give the highest national level recognition accorded to outstanding scientists and engineers in Singapore and special commendations will be given to researchers who have made considerable contributions in research and development.

A new activity with a biomedical twist has also been introduced this year. The Biomedical Conquest is a competition where schools form a team to create or build the ultimate biomedical monument.

Also, Images of Science, a digital imaging competition, is calling for graphic manipulation maestros to come up with the image that bridges arts and science, and reflects the vibrant and intertwining worlds of science, technology and biomedicine.

Another highlight of science.03 is the National Junior Robotics Competition (NJRC), an event that will see teams of upper primary and lower secondary students assembling and programming the ultimate robot that can outperform the rest.

This year's theme of Bermuda Triangle guarantees the record number of over 740 teams yet another stormy, but fun, ride. With so much in store,



Science is fun for grown-ups too, as this visitor finds out in last year's X-periment!.



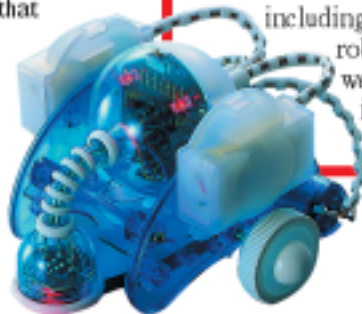
The Sci-Fi screenings will offer *X-Men 2*, *Minority Report* and *Terminator 1 and 2*.

there's bound to be something for everyone. So, don't miss the fun and excitement in science.03.

LOG ON AND WIN

VISIT www.sciencemonth.org.sg to find out more about the exciting activities in science.03.

You can also win great prizes, including science kits and robots (picture) in the weekly quizzes and interactive game, Virus Attack!



science.03 features lots of fun science activities for the young ones too.