Distinguished Lecture Series

Foresight Taiwan - Science Policy for Economic Growth

Tuesday, July 28th, 2009 10:30 am
Auditorium 106 at new IIS Building

Eugene Wong

Professor
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, College of Engineering
UC Berkeley

Abstract

"Foresight" refers to a forward planning tool for formulating research funding policies. Introduced in Britain in 1994, foresight projects have been undertaken by many countries around the world. Unlike most other such projects, Foresight Taiwan is focused on outcome. In particular, it seeks to determine how the results of research funding can best be used to serve Taiwan's economic needs. Our methodology is both empirical and experimental. Through a series of NSC funding programs, we try to determine what has been done and how it can be used.

In this talk we first present a worldwide context for Taiwan's economic future and try to show that, contrary to popular belief, the current strategy of "continuous technology improvement" is not likely by itself to suffice. Instead, we believe that new industries and new economic activities based on early stage technologies and high value-added services will be needed. To identify such technologies and services is the primary aim of Foresight Taiwan.

In operation, Foresight Taiwan comprises a two-part funding program. The first part, called translational research, is designed to uncover discoveries that may have significant potential for commercialization. The second part of the program, called germination, is designed to bring such discoveries to a point where conventional funding would be available. The results to date will be summarized in this presentation.

For more information : http://www.iis.sinica.edu.tw/