Quality Engineering guru on handling life’s complexities

FOREST Gump has got it right when he (or rather his mum) said that life was like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get. How do we overcome life’s uncertainties? In his NUS Engineering Lecture, Professor Goh Thong Ngee, faculty member with Department of Industrial Systems & Engineering and guru in Quality Engineering, discussed handling complex problems and achieving performance excellence through Statistical Thinking and Systems Engineering.

His lecture was chockfull of examples. He cited an example of Statistical Thinking by asking the audience to see if they could predict whether the son of a well-known couple (both basketball players) would be taller or shorter than dad. The father is 2.26m and the mother is 1.9m. What about generations down the road? Try to factor in regression, he said, and illustrated this with this another question: How many Nobel Prize winners have children who also became Nobel Prize winners?

Effective approach to data and information utilization is crucial to future designs, he said, giving examples of international airports which are well designed because it took into consideration, key passengers’ needs.

For more information on his lecture: Handling 2 Things Inevitable In Life - How to "future-proof" ourselves visit: http://www.eng.nus.edu.sg/ELS/