

Speech by

DR SU GUANING

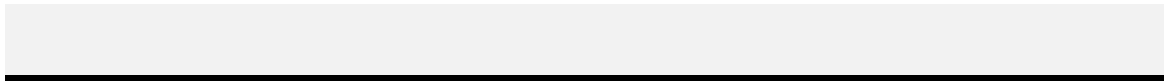
President, Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Scholarship 2009 Award Ceremony

Keynote Address

Auditorium, School of Art, Design and Media

Friday, 28 August 2008, 5.15 pm



Prof Bertil Andersson, Provost

Prof Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost

Dr Lalit Goel, Dean of Admissions

College Deans and School Chairs

Distinguished guests,

Parents and Scholars,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us today as we welcome our latest cohort of Nanyang and CN Yang Scholars to NTU.

One of the most prestigious scholarships in Singapore, the Nanyang Scholarship enables the brightest local and international students from our junior colleges, polytechnics and other high schools to pursue their tertiary studies at NTU. This year, a record number of students applied to NTU and admission standards were some of the highest we have seen. As recipients of the Nanyang Scholarship, you not only have academic results of the highest calibre, you also possess character qualities that the University recognizes as being essential in our

endeavour to groom well-rounded graduates with ideals and passion. On behalf of NTU, welcome to our family.

Together with us today are 23 CN Yang Scholars who are also recipients of the Nanyang Scholarship. Named in honour of Physics Nobel Laureate, Professor Yang Chen Ning, the CN Yang Scholars programme was launched in 2006 to groom exceptional science and engineering undergraduates into top-notch scientists and engineers. Our promising young talents were recruited not only from Singapore, but also from Malaysia, India, Indonesia, China and Vietnam.

As CN Yang Scholars, you will not only undergo a specially-tailored programme with a strong global component and a core curriculum in basic sciences, you will also have the opportunity to take other classes that will enable you to pursue the NTU degree of your choice. In addition, the programme offers ample opportunities for you to conduct research and interact with scientific giants.

Indeed, we are pleased to share that two scholars from our first cohort, Physics students Azar Eyvazov and Er Chern Han, currently in their fourth year of studies, have done us proud. Last year, they presented their research findings at the prestigious International Conference of Physics Students in Poland and have undoubtedly set the standard for other CN Yang Scholars to emulate, if not surpass, in the years to come.

Exciting times lie ahead for our University. I believe all of you are aware that NTU has been picked by the Ministry of Education to set up a third medical school to nurture a new generation of medical doctors to meet the increasingly complex healthcare needs of Singapore, with particular focus on dealing with issues such as chronic diseases that affect our growing ageing population. A possible collaboration with Imperial College London - one of the world's foremost medical schools – is currently being explored.

In addition, we are also planning to set up graduate schools in the areas of digital media and environmental sustainability. These new areas will add a new

dimension to the NTU global education experience and set us on the path of achieving even greater peaks of academic and research excellence.

Over the years, NTU has established a strong international reputation that has drawn some of the world's finest researchers and academics to join our faculty. Serving as your guides and mentors, they will help you to navigate your way through your voyage of discovery and learning here, preparing you to take your place as our global leaders of tomorrow.

I urge all of you to experience fully our vibrant campus community and immerse yourself in the intellectually-stimulating environment here. Become not just an outstanding graduate with excellent academic credentials, but an adaptable, well-rounded entrepreneurial leader, ready to tackle the dynamic global changes that are certain to come our way in the future.

Finally, many - if not all of you - will excel in your future chosen professions. However, true success goes beyond conventional benchmarks of fame and fortune. Rather, it will ultimately be measured by your contributions to society and your desire to improve the well-being of those around you. This, then, is the true hallmark of an NTU scholar, and I am confident you will live up to it now and in the future.

Once again, my warmest congratulations to all our scholars and their proud parents, and I wish you all the very best in your journey of learning and discovery here at NTU!

Thank you.