

NEWS RELEASE

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NTU's undergraduates engineer an impactful launch for Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games logo

Expect an action-packed launch mechanism to dazzle the guests at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games logo unveiling come this Saturday, 10 January 2009.

A group of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Art, Engineering and Science students design and build a multi-faceted launch mechanism for the Singapore 2010 logo.

The 14 undergraduates, hailing from three distinct disciplines — NTU's School of Art, Design and Media (ADM), School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS) and School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) — have combined artistic, scientific and engineering solutions to simulate mechanical actions symbolic of the 26 sporting categories the athletes will be participating in, come August 2010.

The model is developed with multiple steps to generate a chain reaction. Standing at a height of 2.5 metres by 7.6 metres, it presents distinctly differing actions – downward, upward and sideways motions – with the use of rolling balls, sports apparatus and many others as triggers. Computer modelling was used to simulate each mechanical movement and improvement was made to achieve a better design. To overcome budget and time constraints, the students creatively recycled used items and use materials that are cheaper and readily available.

Chairperson of the launch mechanism task force, 21-year-old Iris Kam Sok Yee, a year-two MAE undergraduate, says: "We are honoured to be given the opportunity to participate in the launch of the Singapore 2010 logo. All of us will still be at NTU when the Games kick-off in 2010. Hence we are thrilled to build a machine that shouts out how excited we are to be a part of the Youth Olympic Games. Even though we used up our spare time to work on top of our schoolwork, we were happy to as it was like a giant jigsaw puzzle and we are the contributing parts that connected to the finish. Our different trainings in school made it exciting for us to apply what we learned together. We also found solutions from countless directions. This one-of-a-kind opportunity has given us

insight into out-of-the-box ideas for life. To manage and complete this is just like the satisfaction one gets from finishing a fantastic puzzle.”

As NTU prepares to be the inaugural games village, the 14 students aptly demonstrate strong team spirit and Olympic fervour in their expression of a launch mechanism that embodies the sporting categories expected at the Games next year.

“Designing the aesthetics for the launch mechanism has turned us into art engineers. We can appreciate the theories behind dimensions and elements that would normally be boring. To us, the artistic interpretations for each sporting feature are special because, these are guided in science and engineering logic and merged with art,” said Lui XingZhi, 21 years old, an ADM second year undergraduate.

The group is supported by faculty and technical staff members from MAE and ADM. The design and construction of the machine took about four months. MAE Assistant Chair, Lee Yong Tsui notes, “I am very impressed with their commitment which is evident in their craft. Though relatively raw in experience, the students have demonstrated their ability to create, design and build beyond the confines of their know-how. They form an efficient and seamless team producing a complex system using numerous innovative mechanisms. The end product is a symbol of the latent potential that our students have in becoming masters of their field in challenging situations.”

End

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the world’s top 100 universities. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU’s main campus, is located in the south-western part of Singapore and will be the Youth Olympic Village of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore’s biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new engineering and physical sciences hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four colleges, namely:

- The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), the first and only Singapore business school to be ranked in the top 50 of the Financial Times Global MBA 2008 rankings
- The College of Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world

- The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, home to Singapore's first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media; the Humanities and Social Science School; and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia
- The College of Science, with award-winning faculty and world class laboratories, offers Singapore's only direct-honours bachelor's degree programme

The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, one of two autonomous institutes of NTU, is a world authority on strategic studies and security research. NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute.

As Singapore's main science and technology university, NTU makes significant contributions to the nation's renewed drive for research and innovation spearheaded by the Singapore National Research Foundation (NRF). NTU's strengths in biomedical sciences, environmental and water technologies, and interactive and digital media mirror the NRF's research focus.

NTU has a strong and broad international reach covering academic and research partnerships with top institutions in the US, Europe and Asia, such as MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University; Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; and Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, and Indian Institute of Technology.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About NTU Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Club

The Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Club (MAE Club) has been through many years and is truly among the oldest clubs in Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Now it is into its 27th year under the 27th MAE Club Management Committee.

MAE Club consists of the undergraduate students in Nanyang Technological University (NTU) from the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. MAE Club organises various events for MAE students as well as serves as the voice for MAE students.