NTU unveils 5-year blueprint

By Jane Ng

NTU President, Dr Su Guaning said that it is the responsibility of NTU to train the next generation so they have both the breadth and depth of knowledge to contribute to the country’s economy.

NANYANG Technological University has identified five areas of focus for the next five years to develop it into a great global university by 2015.

The areas cover healthcare, new media innovation, entrepreneurship, the best of the East and West, and sustainability.

NTU, which unveiling its five-year strategic plan on Tuesday, said it will build on its current strengths and heritage to make its mark globally.

‘As one of the two largest public universities in Singapore, NTU is like a brain trust for our country. Our responsibility is to train the next generation so they have both the breadth and depth of knowledge to contribute to Singapore's economy and take on leadership positions in future,’ said NTU President, Dr Su Guaning.

Under the five-year plan, NTU will develop 'Five Peaks of Excellence' - Sustainable Earth, New Media, Future Healthcare, New Silk Road and Innovation Asia.
These peaks leverage NTU's diverse strengths, particularly its longstanding expertise in engineering and business, and the interfaces these have with various disciplines such as with healthcare, science and the humanities, said NTU.

Besides supporting the new areas that will drive Singapore's economy, these five strategic thrusts will nurture leaders who will help to address some of the challenges that Singapore and the world faces, such as in sustainability and healthcare.

NTU Provost, Professor Bertil Andersson, a world-acclaimed scientist himself, who will be receiving the prestigious Wilhelm Exner Medal in Vienna next week for his work in biochemistry research, joining the league of previous Nobel Laureates, said: 'New knowledge is found in the interfaces between different disciplines. As education and research have a symbiotic relationship, NTU not only transfers knowledge to our students but we are also at the forefront of knowledge creation through our cutting-edge research.'

The five peaks of excellence are:

Sustainable Earth

With more than S$830 million of research funding, NTU is a global leader in environmental technologies. NTU started developing a niche in sustainable development and urbanisation in the 1990s, in response to Singapore's need for new and reclaimable sources of water.

Healthcare

The Peak of Excellence in Future Healthcare leverages NTU's ongoing research at the College of Engineering, which has had more than 10 years of partnership with Singapore General Hospital. NTU has had some 200 projects in biomedical engineering and the use of technology in healthcare.

New Media

Institute for Media Innovation, a catalyst for interdisciplinary research at NTU. The institute will be the principal facilitator of cross-campus new media research collaborations and will work with NTU schools on external research funding.

New Silk Road

Beyond China, NTU is seeking to enlarge its links with India, the rest of ASEAN and the Middle East - places that hold the promise of bold new outcomes in education and research.

Innovation Asia

New programmes will be introduced to inspire an entrepreneurial mindset and nurture a sense of social responsibility, especially among students, who are often the major drivers of innovation.