SINGAPORE: Thirty-five high-ranking government officials from China will undergo a new training course - called the Mayors' Programme by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) - next month.

The announcement came as the university celebrated its 20th anniversary of training senior Chinese officials at a gala dinner on Wednesday evening.

The short-term course will focus on the themes of social management, urban management and economic restructuring.

NTU has groomed more than 12,000 officials from almost all provinces in China, under its current executive and postgraduate programmes.

Guest-of-Honour, Education Minister Heng Swee Keat, showed his support, saying the programmes are effective platforms for the two countries to learn from each other.

NTU has access to past and present leaders to share their best practices in public administration.

They included former transport minister, Yeo Cheow Tong, and former defence minister, Dr Yeo Ning Hong.

Mr Heng said; "Not all of Singapore's development experience will be applicable to China but perhaps our story can stimulate further ideas that would be relevant to you; and given the fast pace of development in China, Singaporeans and local academics can also learn a great deal from their interactions with the participants in the Mayors' Class."

- CNA/ms