NTU to house training hub for journalists of the future

SINGAPORE — The journalism school at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will soon have a new S$500,000 training centre to prepare students for newsrooms of the 21st century.

Newsplex Asia, a centre dedicated to innovation, training and research for newsrooms of the future, is the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) first Newsplex in Asia.

The centre, which will be ready in September, is also the fourth centre of its kind in the world. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed yesterday between NTU and WAN-IFRA.

Newsplex Asia will span over 160 sq m within the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI) building at NTU’s Yunnan Garden campus.

It will have a prototype newsroom of the future to test new techniques and technologies, said NTU and WAN-IFRA. It aims to mirror editorial operations in leading global news organisations.

WAN-IFRA Deputy chief executive Thomas Jacob said: “It’s a concept about how news companies have to put the consumer or the audience in the middle of the whole process. Previously, it used to be centred on the platform, whether it is print or TV, but now, those things have changed a lot.

“So (the) Newsplex philosophy is to rearrange and reorganise the workflow in newsrooms to make sure ... end consumer gets news wherever he is, in whatever format he wants, irrespective of the platform,” he said.

Newsplex Asia aims to help newspapers and media companies understand and manage these changes through training, coaching and research services. “It will draw on many sources, both global and regional, to provide the latest tools and techniques to Asia’s media professionals,” he said.

NTU provost and deputy president Freddy Boey said Newsplex Asia reflects the university’s firm commitment to excellence in training the next generation of digital-savvy journalists, while advancing Singapore’s position as a media hub.

“This is a timely and welcome development in an era when news consumption is rapidly changing and increasingly defined by new technologies, as more and more people use the Internet and social networks as their primary sources of news and information,” he added.

SHARON SEE