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Singapore, China universities strengthen ties in R&D, scholar exchanges

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SINGAPORE: Three universities each from Singapore and China on Monday (Dec 7) announced the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoA) to build on existing strong collaborations in student and faculty exchanges and joint research and development (R&D).

In a joint press release, the three local varsities – National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) – said they inked agreements with China's Tsinghua University, Peking University and Zhejiang University, respectively.

The collaborations between varsities from both countries will be funded through a donation of 150 million yuan (S\$33 million) from the family of Mr Ng Teng Fong, with each pair of universities receiving 50 million yuan (S\$11 million), they said.

NUS and Tsinghua University will be focusing on joint R&D in a number of areas such as data science and data analytics, as well as opportunities to commercialise the technology, according to the press release.

NTU and Peking University will establish a joint research institute, which will research on areas such as multi-modal big data analytics for smart cities and human-centred technologies for healthy living and lifelong learning. The institute will also work with NTU's Rapid-Rich Object Search Lab, which is another collaboration between both varsities to pioneer next-generation visual and object search tech, it added.

SUTD and Zhejiang University will establish a joint Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship Alliance (IDEA) focusing on design innovation in the initial areas of manufacturing, urbanisation and sustainability. The IDEA will be implemented through the setting up of a joint centre covering areas of mutual interest, the press release said.