NTU’s upcoming facility to be Asia’s largest wooden building

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has unveiled an ambitious five-year plan that will see Asia’s largest wooden building being constructed on its campus.

NTU president Subra Suresh said yesterday the proposed six-storey, $180 million building will be the new home for Nanyang Business School.

When completed in 2021, it will be Asia’s largest wooden building at 40,000 gross sq m.

Professor Suresh said at a university townhall meeting yesterday: “NTU’s new academic building will be our most ambitious sustainable construction project to date. Ninety-five per cent of our buildings are already certified Green Mark Platinum, and we are seeking to be the greenest university campus in the world.”

Designed by RSP Architects Planners & Engineers, the building located at Nanyang Drive will be constructed using technology known as Mass-Engineered Timber.

The material used will be taken from renewable forests and prefabricated for installation onsite, which is less polluting and less labour-intensive than traditional methods.

The building was part of what Prof Suresh called “moon-shot” projects to propel NTU’s next growth phase.

From this year, NTU will support 350 new two-year post-doctoral positions for researchers. It also plans to recruit about 300 faculty members and create up to 100 new named professorships.

NTU also plans to reduce energy, water and waste intensity by 35 per cent in 2021, and by 50 per cent by 2025, from 2011 levels.

Prof Suresh outlined a project to double the solar energy harnessed to power NTU to 9.9 mega-watts by 2019. This will supply between 7 per cent and 10 per cent of the university’s electricity needs.

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