

APRU ends pandemic hiatus with first physical meeting at NTU Singapore and highlights urgency to collaborate through international university networks

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The [Association of Pacific Rim Universities \(APRU\) Annual Presidents' Meeting 2022](#) wrapped up in Singapore on July 9th, marking an important milestone as university leaders from at least nine countries gathered together in person as our societies began to open up.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220712005731/en/>



More than 100 presidents, university delegates, higher education leaders, and guests from around the world gathered at the 26th APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting hosted by Nanyang Technological University Singapore, which kicked off on 6 July 2022. Themed "Reconnecting in a Sustainable World", this APM is the first in-person meeting of APRU since 2019. In the 3-day meeting, speakers and panelists addressed critical sustainability and climate change issues, how to prevent the next pandemic, and the urgent need to collaborate in a post-COVID-19 world. More: www.apru.org

century for future generations.

Opening of Annual Presidents' Meeting 2022

APRU is a network of 60 leading universities linking the Americas, Asia, and Australasia. APRU has members in very diverse contexts, so it is well-positioned to offer relevant expertise from around the region.

NTU Singapore President Professor Subra Suresh said in his opening remarks: "For the first time since 2019, this in-person meeting brings together presidents of some of the world's leading research-intensive universities from around the Pacific Rim. As we gather at this pivotal moment, let us pledge to create a roadmap for compelling action-oriented cooperation and make a positive contribution in a transformed world."

Fireside Chat with Mr. Piyush GUPTA

DBS Chief Executive Officer Piyush Gupta discussed sustainability issues, suggesting that universities and businesses like DBS should explore co-creation and research to combat climate change. They should also partner to train the workforce in the sustainability field by providing grants, for example. "The private sector and the corporate world are serious about putting money behind these big issues. Just the motivation of being able to fund some research helps businesses and universities come together," Mr. Gupta said.

Hosted by **Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore**, under the theme "Reconnecting in a Sustainable World", the three-day event saw more than 100 presidents, senior university administrators, and private sector representatives in attendance.

Over six sessions, the participants addressed critical sustainability and climate change issues, how to prevent the next pandemic, and the urgent need to collaborate in a post-COVID-19 world suffering from an alarming trend of international rivalry.

The meeting ended with a firm commitment by the university presidents to pool together their resources by combining the formidable scholarship, research, and innovation on our campuses to help shape a cleaner, safer, more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous world to secure the 21st