

NEWS RELEASE

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Total: 3 pgs including this pg

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Singapore, 4 February 2005

NTU OFFERS CLEAN WATER TECHNOLOGY, EXPERTISE AND EQUIPMENT TO AID TSUNAMI-HIT AREAS

Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) offers its expertise in water reclamation and purification to aid those affected by the recent tsunamis.

Following the scarcity of clean drinking water in tsunami-hit areas, the university is donating a mobile water reclamation system that can sustain the daily water needs of more than 30,000 people – about 75,000 litres a day.

Designed by NTU graduate students and completed in 1999, the mobile water reclamation system uses a combination of membrane technologies to produce high quality drinking water. Raw water is first passed through the ultra-filtration process to remove high molecular weight substances and bacteria. The reverse osmosis method is then applied to remove low molecular weight substances and purify the water, improving the colour, taste and properties of the fluid. The final step involves disinfecting the water by passing it through the ultraviolet process, preventing the spread of water-bourne diseases.

NTU has also offered 10 hand-pump membrane units, each capable of producing up to 5,500 litres of good quality drinking water a day. One of NTU's partners in industry, Jurong International, donated some \$5,000 to defray the costs of these units.

NTU has passed the offer of equipment and manpower to the relevant relief agencies to be deployed to tsunami-hit areas.

NTU staff members and postgraduate students will also be on standby to assemble and operate the water reclamation system and the hand-pump membrane units in the tsunami-hit areas. While there, the NTU team will also educate the locals on the operation and maintenance of the systems.

Says Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, Deputy President and Dean, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, NTU, "We are glad to be able to do our part in alleviating the hardship of those affected by the tsunamis by making available the technology, equipment and expertise to derive potable water for cleaning and consumption."

The offer of NTU's expertise in water-related technologies and the water reclamation system and hand-pump membrane units is part of 'Operation Moving Hearts', the university's tsunami relief campaign.

NTU's 'Operation Moving Hearts' has raised over \$100,000 in cash for survivors of the disaster.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University was recently ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement at the 50th place globally and 7th in Asia, in its ranking of the 200 best universities in the world. The campus was originally developed for a Chinese language university, Nanyang University in 1955. In 1981, Nanyang Technological Institute was established on this campus to educate engineers for the rapidly developing Singapore economy. In 1991 Nanyang Technological University was inaugurated.

The university has a strong engineering school ranked among the best in the Commonwealth, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programs in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best Schools of Communications and Information in Asia, and a new (2001) School of Biological Sciences playing a leading role in Singapore's Life Sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is an international authority on terrorism. The university is in a major expansion from 16,000 to 22,300 undergraduate students. During this expansion three new schools are being built – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Art, Design and Media.

A traditional strength of the university is the high employment rate and high remuneration received by its graduates. The university is now in the process of realizing its New Undergraduate Experience initiative with a comprehensive curriculum, wide choices of options for students, vibrant campus life and international experience. Strong international relationships and collaboration programmes is a hallmark of the university. This includes the Singapore-MIT Alliance, Singapore-Stanford Partnership, Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management, Singapore – University of Washington

Alliance in Bioengineering, Global Immersion Programme with Peking University, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, University of Washington and Georgia Institute of Technology, among many other programmes in US, China, India, Japan and Europe.
