

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Singapore, 10 December 2007**

### **Nanyang Technological University's Film students are first in wildlife filming expedition in China**

Six film major students from the Nanyang Technological University's School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) will form a filmmaking expedition to China from 11 to 20 December 2007 to create two documentaries on the conservation of Tibetan Mastiffs and the Black Necked Cranes for the China Exploration and Research Society.

A first-of-its-kind student expedition, it is organised by Canon Singapore in cooperation with NTU's School of ADM, Wildlife Asia, the China Exploration and Research Society (CERS), and the Digital Creative Center. The six students, who are currently in the Digital Filmmaking Program in NTU's School of Art, Design and Media, are aged 21 to 27 years. Executive Director of Wildlife Asia and Cinematographer Chris Dickinson will lead the group to interview foremost Chinese conservationist, author and explorer Wong How Man on location and document his efforts to save these two rare breeds.

The students will stay in lodges built by Wong How Man for his research with rare access to one of China's most visually-stunning remote regions. The nine-day expedition will include flying to Shangrila (Zhongdian) to visit and film the bird sanctuary and travel four hours up into the Himalayas to film the breeding of the Mastiffs. Felice Tang Chai Chin, 24 year-old, third year film major from NTU's School of ADM says: "Wong How Man's contribution in conserving Tibetan Mastiff Dogs and the Black Necked Cranes inspire my curiosity in discovering his personal philosophy in relation to the breeds. With the documentary, I hope to increase public awareness towards the extinction of these breeds." Youngest in the group, 21 year-old Ellen Tay Wee Ling adds: "Patience, interest, stamina and passion, I have all of these ready and waiting for the chance to be in this project."

NTU's School of ADM is proud to be chosen by Canon Singapore who is funding the project to create films that will raise public support and awareness of How Man's conservation efforts. Part of Canon Singapore's Filmmaking Expedition for CERS, the company will equip the students with the Canon XL H1 High-Definition video cameras

and using Canon EF lenses that are specific to location wildlife filming. Further details are provided in Annex 1 and 2 attached.

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### **Media contact**

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### ***About Nanyang Technological University***

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 25 technological universities. The university has two campuses in Singapore. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU's main campus, is located in the southwestern part of Singapore. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore's biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new infocomm and media hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore's life sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world's top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences boasts Singapore's first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, was inaugurated on 1 January 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism. NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University in USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian

Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

**ANNEX 1:**

***About School of ADM's Digital Filmmaking Programme***

The Digital Filmmaking Programme in the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) at Nanyang Technological University is one of the first six BFA professional degrees offered in Singapore's history. In two years, the School is on its way to becoming become one of the top film, art and design destinations for students Southeast Asia. The work of ADM digital filmmaking students is already showing at top international film festivals. The School has invested in the finest equipment and resources, top educators from around the world, and a unique creative vision that ties to the technical skills being taught. The Digital Creative Center complements the educational role of ADM by offering professionals, faculty members and students the opportunity to pursue funded creative research in the context of digital technology and the Asian multicultural identity.

The students are:

Felice Tang Chai Chin

Age: 24

Studying: Year 3

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Lim Liang Danny

Age: 24

Studying: Year 3

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Boo Xinying

Age: 21

Studying: Year 3

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Tay Wee Ling Ellen

Age: 21

Studying: Year 3

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Peng Wee How Joseph

Age: 27

Studying: Year 2

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Tan Seah Hiang Kenny

Age: 25

Studying: Year 2

Bachelor of Fine Arts

## **ANNEX 2:**

### ***About Chris Dickinson***

Cinematographer Chris Dickinson is a Singapore-based television lighting, cameraman, and editor. He is Executive Director of Wildlife Asia and a founding member of Filmmakers for Conservation, the international TV and media organisation for world conservation. Chris has over 15 years of experience in the television industry, focusing most of his work in documentary features, such as wildlife, conservation and environmental programming and human interest programmes. His work has appeared on such broadcasters as Channel 4 (UK), Channel 7 (Australia), CNBC (Europe), Discovery (Europe/Asia), ITV (UK), La 7 (Italy), National Geographic (Europe/Asia) and Star TV (Asia). In July 2007, he was a cameraman on "The Amazing Race Asia" for AXN/Active TV.

### ***About Wong How Man***

Wong How Man is a world-renowned scholar and explorer of China's remote regions, recently honoured by *Time* Magazine as one of the "25 Heroes of Asia" who called Wong "China's most accomplished living explorer." He is also President of the China Exploration and Research Society, a veteran National Geographic expedition leader and photojournalist, and known for his discovery of a new source of the Yangtze River. He has authored several books on conservation both for wildlife and Tibetan monasteries. His work has been featured on CNN, CNBC, the Discovery Channel, and National Geographic.

### ***About Canon Singapore's Filmmaking Expedition for CERS***

Established in 1979, Canon Singapore Pte Ltd is Canon's regional headquarters for South & South East Asia. Guided by its 'kyosei' philosophy that focuses on "living and working together for the common good", Canon seeks to preserve the natural environment with a host of environmentally friendly research and manufacturing policies, which reduce waste and preserve the environment. The Filmmaking Expedition for CERS, organised by Canon's Johnny Ng and funded entirely by Canon Singapore, expands on that philosophy by using Canon video cameras to make films that will help advance conservation issues and introduce the next generation of Singaporean filmmakers to the possibilities of digital cinema.