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Nanyang Technological University and Temasek Foundation set up inaugural Asia Journalism Fellowship

Accomplished journalists from across the region are being invited to spend three months in Singapore under the new Asia Journalism Fellowship Programme at Nanyang Technological University (NTU)'s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

Up to 15 journalists will be selected. Selected fellows will be given the opportunity to pursue their own intellectual interests away from the usual deadline pressures of their jobs. The programme also includes seminars and workshops to sharpen professional skills and deepen participants' understanding of latest trends in media and communication at a time of rapid and sweeping change.

"Journalists everywhere long for the time to reflect more deeply on their profession and the issues they cover," said Dr Cherian George, acting head of the journalism programme at Wee Kim Wee School. "They are in constant output mode, with precious little time for reflection and personal improvement. It's an occupational hazard. With the support of Temasek Foundation, NTU is able to offer experienced journalists from the region some quality time to prepare for the next stage of their professional careers."

The Fellowship also addresses another regret often expressed among journalists in Asia: many do not know their Asian neighbours well, having had few opportunities to interact with fellow professionals from across the region.

"This programme will hopefully allow the journalists to build friendships and networks and they may find interesting opportunities to work together in future. Relationship building is very much a part of our Asian culture," said Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation.

The Fellowship will also introduce the journalists to key newsmakers in Singapore's public sector, business community and civil society, providing insights into the workings of Singapore and its future challenges.

"Wherever in Asia the Fellows come from, we can be sure that Singapore will strike them as very different, despite the shared Asian heritage," said Associate Professor Benjamin Detenber, Chair of the Wee Kim Wee School. "There'll be opportunities for them to discover more about this city state."

This Temasek Foundation and Nanyang Technological University Asia Journalism Fellowship programme is made possible through a grant of about S\$350,000 by

Temasek Foundation. The programme will run from February through April 2009. Details of the programme, including application instructions, can be found on the web at www.ajf.sg. Applications are due by 10 November 2008.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 25 technological universities in the world. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU's main campus, is located in the south-western part of Singapore and will be the Youth Olympic Village of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore's biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new engineering and physical sciences hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four colleges, namely:

- The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), the first and only Singapore business school to be ranked in the top 50 of the Financial Times Global MBA 2008 rankings
- The College of Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world
- The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, home to 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 College of Science, with award-winning faculty and world class laboratories, offers Singapore's only direct-honours bachelor's degree programme

The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, one of two autonomous institutes of NTU, is a world authority on strategic studies and security research. NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute.

As Singapore's main science and technology university, NTU makes significant contributions to the nation's renewed drive for research and innovation spearheaded by the Singapore National Research Foundation (NRF). NTU's strengths in biomedical sciences, environmental and water technologies, and interactive and digital media mirror the NRF's research focus.

NTU has a strong and broad international reach covering academic and research partnerships with top institutions in the US, Europe and Asia, such as MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University; Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; and Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, and Indian Institute of Technology.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, NTU

The Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information is one of the leading schools of its kind in Asia. It has an enrollment of around 1,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in fields such as journalism, public relations and knowledge management. Its more than 40 full-time faculty are engaged in diverse research, ranging from media law and censorship, public opinion and health communication, to video game culture and Asian film. The Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information is also the home of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), an NGO that spearheads the development of media and communication expertise in Asia within the broad framework of economic, social and cultural development. For more than 30 years, its programmes and publications have crossed the boundaries between academia, media professions and policy makers, allowing those with an interest in communication in Asia to share perspectives, challenges, and best practices.

About Temasek Foundation

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that develop people through health care, education and research, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through good governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.

The foundation has partnered with Nanyang Technological University to fund other programmes such as the Leadership Enrichment and Regional Networking Programme (LEaRN) - an exchange programme for Asian student leaders, executive programmes and specialised courses for trade policy officials and administrators in Asia through the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and the transfer of expertise by the Lien Institute For the Environment (LIFE) to train masons in earthquake-prone areas in the region on disaster mitigation methodologies to prevent and delay structural collapse.