

NEWS RELEASE

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NTU STUDENTS ORGANISE FIRST ASIA-PACIFIC CHINESE DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Students from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Chinese Society are holding the inaugural Intervarsity Chinese Debate Tournament, Asia-Pacific Open. The event will see 96 debaters from 16 universities from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore come together in 15 debating matches to pit their wit and debating skills against one another from 27 June 2004 to 4 July 2004. The list of participating universities is provided in the fact sheet.

Through this tournament the student organisers hope to help promote the use and appreciation of the Chinese language in the Asia-Pacific region.

Miss Ko Ee Sim, a third-year student from NTU's School of Communications and Information and Chairperson of the 1st Intervarsity Chinese Debate Tournament, Asia-Pacific Open, says, "We hope to provide an avenue for some of the best Chinese debating teams in the region to compete against one another and share ideas and opinions on current affairs, as well as to promote multicultural interactions between the students from the various tertiary institutions in Asia-Pacific."

The last Singapore-Malaysia Chinese Debate held in 2002 saw the NTU team winning the championship. This year, the NTU Debating Society, under the coaching of Dr Xu Hailou, is eagerly awaiting the coming tournament.

The anticipation for the upcoming tournament is summed up by Mr Wang Ting, a second-year student from the School of Computer Engineering and a member of the NTU Debating Team, who says, “My team mates and I are very honoured to represent NTU in this 1st Intervarsity Chinese Debate, Asia-Pacific Open. Our training for this competition had intensified over the past two weeks, with training sessions everyday. We hope that the international exposure of this tournament will provide the opportunity for us to learn from other teams and improve our Chinese debating skills.”

Thirty-two lecturers and professionals with a wide spectrum of areas of expertise have been invited as judges for this event. Reflecting the international nature of the tournament, the NTU Chinese Society has brought in overseas judges to referee some debate matches, such as Prof You Zhi Xiang of Taiwan’s Shih Hsin University, which had a very good track record in international Chinese debating tournaments.

The Guest-of-Honour for the opening ceremony of this 1st Intervarsity Chinese Debate, Asia Pacific Open is Dr Wang Kai Yuen, Member of Parliament for Bukit Timah GRC. The tournament is co-organised by the Promote Mandarin Council and Lianhe Zaobao.

All matches are open to the public, and details of subsequent debates can be found on the website: <http://www.apchinesedebate.com/index.htm>

Opening ceremony programme

11:15am	Arrival of participants and guests
11:45am	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour, Dr Wang Kai Yuen
12:00nn	Welcome Address by Chairperson of Organising Committee
12:05pm	Address by President, NTU Chinese Society
12:20pm	Guest-of-Honour declares tournament open
	Presentation of souvenir to Guest-of-Honour
12:30pm	End of ceremony

Participating universities and institutes

Singapore

1. Nanyang Technological University
2. National University of Singapore

Malaysia

3. Malaysia HELP Institute,
4. Universiti Tenaga Nasional

5. Universiti Putra Malaysia
6. Universiti Utara Malaysia

Taiwan

7. Fu Jen Catholic University
8. Soochow University
9. Shih Hsin University

Hong Kong

10. Hong Kong Baptist University
11. University of Hong Kong

Macao

12. University of Macau
13. Macao University of Science and Technology

China

14. Shanghai University
15. Ji Nan University

Australia

16. University of Melbourne

About Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission in *Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond*. NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
 - Civil and Environmental Engineering
 - Computer Engineering
 - Electrical and Electronic Engineering
 - Materials Engineering
 - Mechanical and Production Engineering
2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information

5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media (*to be established by 2005*)
7. School of Physical Sciences (*to be established by 2005*)

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