$10 million for Lee Wee Nam Endowment Fund in Life Sciences

The donation by Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd also marks the start of fund-raising efforts for the new “NTU 21st Century Fund”

$10 million. That’s the largest private-sector donation to a university’s endowment fund to date. And the amount, received from Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd in memory of its late founder and chairman, Mr Lee Wee Nam, will boost not just NTU’s life sciences efforts, but also its fund-raising drive for the new NTU 21st Century Fund.

Mr Lee Wee Nam, an ardent supporter of education, passed away in 1964 at the age of 84. His sons and their families had always wanted to make a donation to education in his name. When news of NTU’s entrance into life sciences education surfaced last November, Dr Lee Hiok Huang, Mr Lee Wee Nam’s sixth son, confirmed they found the perfect opportunity to do so.

“The income generated from the invested fund will enable NTU to annually appoint visiting professors of international eminence to teach, give public lectures and to undertake research in the field of life sciences,” said NTU President Dr Cham Tao Soon, addressing guests at the Istana Banquet Hall on 19 June 2001. Of the $10 million, three-quarters will be used for research in the life sciences, while one quarter will fund a new professorship – the Lee Wee Nam Professorship in Life Sciences. Library 1 will also be renamed the Lee Wee Nam Library.

Distinguished guests at the Istana: (from bottom left) Prof Brian Lee, Mr Tan Soo Khoon, Dr Cham Tao Soon, Dr Lee Hiok Huang, President Nathan, Mr Lee Hiok Woon, Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Mr Ch’ng Jit Koon, Dr Vijiaratnam and Prof Chua Nam Hai

New fund-raising target: $200 million by 2010

Mr Ch’ng Jit Koon will chair the Fund Raising Committee for the new NTU 21st Century Fund launched on 19 June 2001. With the Government’s support of matching donations, dollar for dollar, up to a cap of $100 million, NTU aims to raise $200 million by the year 2010. Speaking at the Istana, President Nathan said: “I am sure I speak for the University when I say that we will strive hard to reach the fund-raising target of $200 million for the new Fund, well before the decade is out. With all your generous support, from benefactors and alumni alike, I am sure we can do it.”

At the launch, President SR Nathan, Chancellor of NTU and Patron-in-Chief of the NTU Endowment Fund, revealed that NTU had hit its target of $500 million for the NTU Endowment Fund. The Government’s contribution of $250 million in seed grant and $167 million in matching grant over the last ten years had helped the University meet its target one and a half years ahead of schedule.

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e-Learning catches on campus-wide

Physical lectures are no longer in vogue. The new learning modus operandi? Online – meaning anytime, anywhere, and at any pace

It’s an all-new edveNTUre at NTU – and judging by the enthusiastic response from students and professors so far, it’s one that’s really catching on. The first day it went online, in July last year, edveNTUre received an average of 19,000 hits a day. Today, it receives up to 80,000 hits a day.

And from 0% less than a year ago, the number of courses available online has jumped to 51% today. The new Academic Year 2001/2002 has started off with a bang — with over 2,000 online courses. It is expected that 80% of courses will be online by 2002.

Launched at an estimated cost of $1.1 million, NTU’s new e-learning platform offers innovative e-learning, e-teaching and e-assessment tools, dispensing with the one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and learning. Among these are online discussion forums generating active learning communities, customised self-paced learning opportunities, dynamic content delivery such as the use of interactive 3-D illustrations and simulations in e-lessons, and high-tech teaching tools such as automated online tests with progress-tracking functions.

But what does all of this mean for the NTU student? He can now learn at a pace tailored to suit his specific needs, review lecture notes anytime and anywhere through the campus wired and wireless network, participate in online discussions with classmates, and review thread discussions that have been archived. For the professor, the use of timesaving tools such as auto marking of online tests and class management tools results in more timely learner support.

“What students find most valuable about edveNTUre are the online discussions they can have and the fact that they can access the system anytime, anywhere, even at 2am,” said Assoc Prof Daniel Tan, Director of the Centre for Educational Development.

NTU plans to retain tutorial lessons but phase out physical lectures by 2003. For now, its own brand of e-learning is already a big hit, spawning new hubs of active learning communities, and engendering a fundamental shift in learning paradigm from a teacher-centric mode of education to a learner-centric one.

NTU holds first online career fair

Career eFair@NTU – new recruitment platform for graduating students and alumni

NTU has broken away from tradition yet again – this time, by taking its annual career fair online. And it is the first tertiary institution in Singapore to do so. Held for two weeks from 2 – 15 July 2001, the event was a resounding networking success. NTU hopes to make the e-fair an annual event.

Career eFair@NTU benefited not just job seekers but also employers with an eye on NTU’s graduating students and alumni. Some 4,700 fresh graduates and alumni logged on to the portal to conduct company research and make job applications, under secure conditions, to 69 well-known employers, including ministries, statutory boards, MNCs, GLCs and SMEs. The job seekers also communicated with their prospective employers in a live chatroom and received job alert notifications based on their desired job profiles.

The event was co-organised by the Office of Professional Attachments (OPA) and the Alumni and Endowment Office. “We have decided to embark on the event as both offices have frequently received requests from employers wanting to relay information on positions available to not just the graduating class but also previous batches of graduates,” said Mr Ng Boon Hwang, Director of OPA, speaking at the soft launch of the career portal on 8 June 2001.

NTU appointed a leading Internet-based recruitment solutions provider, Jobsfactory, to market and provide technical support for the event. The URL for the website is http://www.ntu.edu.sg/opawww/careerfair.
The University is pleased to announce that Prof James P Tam has been appointed the Dean of NTU’s new School of Biological Sciences.

After obtaining his PhD degree in Medicinal Chemistry in 1976 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Prof Tam served as a Postdoctoral Fellow and, later, a faculty member at The Rockefeller University until 1982, when he joined Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, as Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Over the past 25 years, Prof Tam, 53, has established himself as a renowned scientist in the fields of Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry. He holds several patents and his expertise has been sought after by major pharmaceutical companies.

In the earlier part of his career, he won the Vincent du Vigneaud Award for Young Investigators in Peptide Research. Today, he serves as advisor/reviewer for various scientific bodies such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health in the United States, and the Network Centres of Excellence of the Medical Research Council of Canada. He is presently the Associate Editor of The Journal of Peptide Research.

With his excellent track record, expertise and leadership qualities, Prof Tam is well placed to take on the challenging deanship of the new School of Biological Sciences. The School, for undergraduate and higher degree studies, has set a clear vision of offering, inter alia, academic programmes with a strong multidisciplinary orientation to provide cross-functional skills for the life sciences industries. It will admit its first batch of 60 students to its BSc (Honours) degree programme next July.

The School has also attracted faculty applications from other top-notch candidates in their respective fields, from institutions locally as well as from USA, Europe, Australia, Hong Kong and other parts of the world. As of 1 July 2001, a total of 344 applications were received.

Overwhelming response to MSc (Information Studies) programme

The Division of Information Studies, previously a Division of the School of Computer Engineering, had an overwhelming number of applicants for its highly sought-after MSc (Information Studies) programme – a total of 720 for the programme starting this July. This programme is one of NTU’s most popular Master’s degree programmes by coursework, with an annual intake of approximately 100 full- and part-time students. Conducted since 1993, it offers two main concentrations in the areas of Library and Information Services and Information Management and Systems.

The Division is currently reviewing and analysing the survey carried out as part of the admission process to elicit trends and applicants’ interests. The survey findings will be used to further improve the programme by taking into account the students’ aspirations and the needs of the industry. If need be, the Division, which belongs to the School of Communication Studies from July 2001, would consider offering new postgraduate courses.
NTU helping National Heritage Board develop online exhibitions

Preservation arm, National Archives of Singapore, will leverage on NTU’s expertise to create interactive online exhibitions on Singapore’s history and heritage.

Internet and multimedia technologies can be a positive social force to empower communities to create, capture and share cultural heritage. This is the view of the National Heritage Board (NHB) and the Singapore National Archives (NAS), an institution of NHB, has been organising physical exhibitions at various schools, as part of its cultural heritage initiative for community outreach. Under the MOU, the Division of Information Studies will help NAS to develop Web-based online versions of these exhibitions. Aided by the latest streaming technologies and broadband networks, Singaporeans will be able to enjoy vivid images, video and high quality sound as they learn more about their cultural heritage and deepen their understanding and appreciation of Singapore history.

The MOU also paves the way for both institutions to pursue joint R&D activities on the rich collection of heritage materials held by NAS. The Division of Information Studies has already begun assembling a team of researchers with complementary expertise to conduct research and develop the online system. Areas of research include multimedia human-computer interaction, interface design, user studies, organisation and retrieval of multimedia information, online learning and authoring, and Web and multimedia technologies.

Broader educational options, as NTU students study at NUS and SMU

Cross-disciplinary and inter-campus study takes off under the Singapore Universities Student Exchange Programme

From July 2001, 20 NTU students will benefit from one of two new study options available to them – spending one entire semester at another local university or taking modules conducted there.

The selected exchange students must propose an appropriate programme of study at the host university – either the National University of Singapore (NUS) or the Singapore Management University (SMU) – which should also fulfil their degree requirements at NTU. No additional tuition fees need be paid, and a selected number of students doing a full semester at NUS can even enjoy full immersion by living on campus. The same perks are extended to NUS and SMU students who do study stints at NTU.

NTU contributed three exhibits to Asia’s first Assistive Technology (AT) Exhibition – one for the visually impaired and two for the hearing impaired.

The 60-exhibit showcase, the first of its kind in the region to feature assistive technology and innovative applications of computer technology for people with special needs, was organised by the National Council of Social Services and the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore from 7 – 8 April 2001 at the Civic Plaza, Ngee Ann City.

The three homegrown inventions featured were an Electronic Travel Aid (ETA) for the visually impaired by Assoc Prof Lee Peng Hin, Ho Siong Teck and Philip Quek from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering; an Audio Warning Alert for the hearing impaired by Asst Prof Ian McLoughlin, Li Guangya and Ting Chan Wai from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Three great inventions for the disabled

From 7 – 8 April 2001, the National Archives of Singapore, in collaboration with the National Heritage Board (NHB) and NTU, held an interactive exhibition of Singapore’s cultural heritage, featuring three homegrown inventions. The exhibition was a part of the National Archives Festival 2001, which was held by NAS in conjunction with Singapore National Heritage Board’s Heritage Week 2001.

The three great inventions were:

1. **Audio Warning Alert** – developed by Asst Prof Ian McLoughlin, Li Guangya and Ting Chan Wai from NTU. This invention uses a combination of audio and visual alerts to assist visually impaired individuals in navigating their environment.

2. **Electronic Travel Aid (ETA)** – developed by Assoc Prof Lee Peng Hin, Ho Siong Teck and Philip Quek from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The ETA uses a combination of audio, visual and tactile feedback to assist visually impaired individuals in navigating public transport and urban environments.

3. **Digital Noise Reduction Hearing Aid** – developed by Assoc Prof Joseph Chang and Tong YC from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. This hearing aid is designed to reduce background noise and improve speech clarity.

The exhibition featured interactive multimedia presentations and hands-on demonstrations of these inventions, allowing visitors to experience their functionality firsthand. It was well-received by the public, with over 5,000 visitors attending the event.

The exhibition was part of a broader initiative by NAS and NHB to raise awareness about Singapore’s cultural heritage and the importance of preserving it. The three inventions demonstrated the potential of technology to assist individuals with disabilities in accessing and enjoying cultural heritage.

The exhibition drew significant media attention, with reports and articles highlighting the innovative nature of the inventions and their potential impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities. It also served as a platform for promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration between academia and industry, with NTU and the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering working closely with NAS and NHB to develop and demonstrate these inventions.

The success of the exhibition and the positive feedback received encouraged further collaboration between NAS, NHB and NTU, leading to the development of future initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting Singapore’s cultural heritage in innovative and accessible ways.
New NTU start-up RFNet plugs into wireless broadband market

The six-member start-up will design and develop cutting-edge wired and wireless broadband networking products that give “total connectivity”

The slow and steady nurture of an early interest in radio frequency and all things wireless has born fruit – with the co-founding of RFNet by three research staff of the Network Technology Research Centre, Mr Deric Lee Chyan, Mr Gan Tia Seng and Mr Dai Shao Wei, two professors of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), Assoc Prof Law Choi Look and Cheng Tee Hiang, and a system analyst at the Centre for IT Services, Mr Tan Chin Thong.

“RFNet aims to design world-class LAN products for the regional market and from there, grow to become a key player in the global broadband device marketplace,” said Mr Lee, a 1993 EEE graduate who leads the new start-up as its Managing Director. Mr Gan, Mr Dai and Mr Tan hold other key appointments in the company.

Located at the University’s Innovation Centre, the start-up company founded in February this year will commercialise wireless LAN technologies and solutions developed over the last two years. The first of these, to be launched in August 2001, is the RFNet Wireless LAN Access Point AP-1002, a product enabling companies and service providers to supply 11 Mbps wireless networking services (IEEE 802.11b standard), and up to 54 Mbps wireless networking services in the near future (IEEE 802.11a standard).

Pooling their complementary talents, the founding members of RFNet will also develop other innovative wireless networking equipment to serve the huge market for wireless communication technology that supports mobile handsets, PDAs and other portable wireless devices, most of which depend on radio frequency (RF) technology.

Special course for the technopernially-inclined

“Fire in the belly” tempered with sound business strategy – that’s the stuff of successful technopreneurs, and now you too can join the league. That’s because NTU has tied up with the top-ranking University of Washington (UW) Business School to offer a new technopreneurship postgraduate diploma course beginning next July. Up to 50 students can apply for the course, which is done on top of the undergraduate or Master’s degree programme.

The four-month course, which includes a two-month stint at the UW Business School, is being offered by a new $10 million inter-school, university-level centre – the Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre (NTC), which has also recently redesigned all the compulsory undergraduate-level entrepreneurship and innovation courses at NTU.

“We want to create an environment of entrepreneurship and innovation at NTU by creating an ecosystem, not just entrepreneurship education,” said Assoc Prof Tan Teng Kee, the Centre’s Director, a Nantah alumnus and entrepreneur who has spent 22 years in the US.

One-of-a-kind programme in the world

Students will have real hands-on experience teaming up with UW graduate students to learn how to develop business models and business plans with real emerging technology registered by UW. They will work closely with the inventors of the technology and be mentored by US technopreneurs. At the end of the course, they will enter a business plan competition judged by venture capitalists. Winning projects with high commercial viability will have the opportunity to obtain venture capital funding.
Great teachers beget great teachers
Two teachers and their former students join the ranks of “Teacher of the Year” — all at the same time, showing what real inspiration is about

Good teachers employ innovative techniques in teaching. With their passion, they inspire their students to go beyond books and academia – to develop a lifelong thirst for learning, and to become equally effective teachers, it seems.

That must be why among this year’s cream of the teaching crop are several teachers whose ties go way back. Assoc Prof Y ee Sze Onn used to teach Asst Prof

Celina Kwan Geography in St Andrew’s School, while Assoc Prof Yap Sook Fwe was Assoc Prof Tan Kang Hai’s Further Maths teacher in Hwa Chong Junior College.

The ten Teachers of the Year, from NTU’s seven Schools and the National Institute of Education (NIE), received the highest honour to be accorded any teaching staff at the annual Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony, held for the eighth time on 14 April 2001. As in previous years, the “star” teachers were selected through a stringent assessment procedure.

The event, held in LT19 and attended by the University’s teaching faculty, also saw the launching of NTU’s new e-learning initiative known as edveNTUre (see page 2). This was followed by the Annual Staff Seminar on Teaching, with five presenters from NTU and NIE touching on various aspects of e-learning. Asst Prof Daniel Lau spoke on “Being an Online Teacher”, while Asst Prof David Hung and Assoc Prof Philip Wong delved into “Pedagogical Design Principles for e-Learning”. Rounding up the instructive session were Assoc Prof Roger Debreceny and Mr Philip Towndrow with a helpful overview of “Obstacles and Hindrances to the Implementation of e-Learning”.

NTU games village for 3rd Asian Physics Olympiad in 2002

Come 6 – 14 May 2002, the best of Asia’s young physicists from 20 countries in the region will converge in Singapore at the first such gathering of its kind here. They will be locked in a fierce but friendly physics battle at NTU, which has been selected as the residential venue for the 3rd Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO). The National Institute of Education, National University of Singapore and Ministry of Education are co-hosting the event together with NTU.

The Olympiad will unfold with a theory exam, to be held at NTU, and an experimental exam, to be conducted at NUS. His Excellency Mr SR Nathan, President of Singapore, will officiate at the opening ceremony on 7 May, while Education Minister RAdm (NS) Teo Chee Hean will officially close the event on 13 May.

APhO has roots in the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), an annual event first started in Warsaw in 1967 as a premier physics competition for pre-university students from around the world. An Asian version of this high-profile event was implemented in Karawaci, Indonesia, last April in which 12 Asian countries participated. The 2nd APhO was held in Taipei earlier this year in April 2001.

New strategic research programme in thin film technology

The handover in Taiwan: Prof Lin Ming-Juey, the Executive Secretary of the 2nd APhO Organising Committee (left), with NIE’s Assoc Prof Cheah Horn Mun, who leads the organisation of the 3rd APhO.
Two new scholarship funds established

Isetan’s 20th anniversary gift of $300,000

To commemorate its 20th anniversary, Isetan Foundation has launched the Isetan Foundation Scholarships Programme with a pledge of $300,000 for the Isetan Foundation Scholarships Fund at NTU. This will enable two scholarships to be awarded each academic year to second- and final-year Accountancy and Business undergraduates from the Nanyang Business School (NBS).

The Isetan Foundation Scholarships Fund is endowed in perpetuity through the NTU Endowment Fund. The first scholarship, worth $3,000, will be awarded in July 2001.

“The setting up of the Isetan Foundation Scholarship is in tandem with Isetan’s philosophy of being part of the community in which we operate. It is our way of giving back to the society as good corporate citizens,” said Mr Hiroyuki Owada, Governor of Isetan Foundation. Isetan Foundation also donated $50,000 to the NTU Endowment Fund last year. In appreciation of its philanthropic contribution, NTU named a tutorial room at the South Spine after the Foundation.

INDECO’s $250,000 commitment to education

International Development and Consultancy Corporation (Pte) Ltd, INDECO, has been associated with NTU in the physical developments of the campus – from its earliest days up to the present.

It recently brought its association with NTU another step further, with a generous donation of $250,000 to the NTU Endowment Fund. The donation will be used to set up a fund in perpetuity, with the income generated from the invested fund enabling the award of at least two INDECO scholarships a year starting from Academic Year 2001/2002. The INDECO’s $250,000 commitment to education scholarship is open to second-year undergraduates from three engineering schools – the Schools of Civil and Structural Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Mechanical and Production Engineering.

Over the past 20 years, INDECO, a multi-disciplinary consultancy firm, has helped to bring about the spectacular growth of the campus facilities; it counts among its major achievements the North and South Teaching Complexes, Nanyang Auditorium and the National Institute of Education complex.

The School of Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE) has launched yet another Strategic Research Programme (SRP) in recognition of the need to keep pace with the technological advancements in engineering.

The new SRP is in thin film technology (TFT), which is seen in many areas of application such as substrate patterning, bump metallurgy, thin film filters, and coatings for fibre optic telecommunication systems and medical implants. TFT is also closely linked with nanotechnology, which is becoming one of the key areas in the new-generation manufacturing and precision engineering industries.

The Thin Film SRP is currently involved in the processing and characterisation of thin films for MEMS applications, thin films for biomedical applications, and nano composite thin films for electronics and nano tribological applications. It welcomes collaboration with industries and institutions. Queries may be directed to Assoc Prof Sam Zhang, Director of Thin Film SRP (tel: 790-4400; email: msyzhang@ntu.edu.sg).
Happy 20th NTU!

As grand and fun as it was, NTU’s birthday gala dinner was really a time for stock-taking and aspiration-making.

“In a short span of 20 years, and without sacrificing quality and excellence, NTU has made an impressive contribution to our nation. It has more than fulfilled its goal of becoming a university of technology and industry,” said President SR Nathan, addressing some 1,500 staff, students, alumni and distinguished guests at the gala dinner held to kick off NTU’s month-long 20th anniversary celebrations in July.

The glittery affair was held at The Westin Stamford & Westin Plaza’s Raffles Ballroom exactly one month before NTU’s actual anniversary on 8 August. As the fine food, wine and music flowed, the electrifying tale of NTU unfolded in a visual feast through the cycle of The Five Elements, the evening’s multi-faceted, multi-coloured theme.

Born as Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI) in 1981, NTU has today established a transnational presence as one of Asia’s finest universities for its quality graduates, programmes, research and infrastructure. The University has worked out a game plan for the next ten years and beyond; in fact, the Beyond 20 Vision Plan launched at the dinner has begun to materialise, with some of the proposed initiatives already implemented in July 2001 (see page 10).
President’s speech at 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Dr Cham: Creativity and technopreneurship cornerstone of our future success

Four guiding principles – commitment to excellence, flexibility, balance in all areas, and people-centredness – will help NTU retain its position as “The University of Industry and Business” as it reinvents itself for tomorrow

Before a crowd of 1,500 at NTU’s 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner on 8 July 2001, Dr Cham goaded the tripartite NTU community into action: “To sustain our position of leadership, we will have to rely more than ever on the resourcefulness and creativity of the entire NTU community – staff, students and alumni.” In his wide-ranging speech covering the University’s history, current state of development and future plans, Dr Cham said that although NTU’s growth had kept pace with the rapid technological developments of the last 20 years, “history teaches us that no matter how distinguished an institution may be, its future is never guaranteed.” It was with this in mind that NTU embarked on a strategic planning exercise last year to reposition itself for the future – a move that has culminated in the Beyond 20 Vision Plan (see page 10).

Evolution of a technological revolution

Establishing NTU’s unique context of development, Dr Cham related how NTI, the forerunner of NTU, was created in 1981 to support Singapore’s ambitious industrialisation programme. “The output of engineers had to be quadrupled with a vast majority trained professionally rather than academically,” he said. NTI’s response then was a unique practice-oriented training programme for its first batch of 582 engineering students, with 10 weeks of intensive in-house practical training. The success of this pioneering approach prompted the Commonwealth Engineering Council, in October 1995, to declare NTI one of the best engineering institutions in the world, and to recommend the NTI model, combining theory with practice, to other engineering institutions. NTI soon added other technologically-oriented disciplines to its stable of three engineering specialisations, and by 1991, was ready to turn into an independent university, which it did, incorporating the National Institute of Education.

Our comparative advantage

“Right from the birth of NTI, the institute was conscious that its comparative advantage over traditional institutions would be in this niche of industrial relevance. Its vision was to be the University of Industry and Business and this vision remains valid today,” said Dr Cham, adding that despite the concentration in the early years on manpower training, NTU had quickly doubled up its research efforts to achieve, today, international eminence in many fields of expertise. The Yunnan Garden Campus, too, has gained a reputation of its own. “Judging by remarks from visitors, efforts to achieve, today, international eminence in many fields of expertise. The Yunnan Garden Campus, too, has gained a reputation of its own. “Judging by remarks from visitors, one of the greatest achievements in the last twenty years has been the painstaking development of our campus to be one of the most beautiful campuses in the world,” he said.

Into the third decade: life sciences and technopreneurship

What are our options for the future? Guided by a continued commitment to excellence, flexibility, balance and people-centredness, NTU will take a bold step forward to fuel the new engine of growth for Singapore. The host of innovative initiatives proposed by the University in consultation with its stakeholders – among them life sciences and technopreneurship education and development – would help NTU sustain its position of leadership and service to society.

Dr Cham said: “The technological focus of NTU provides a good basis for developing technologies in life sciences as exemplified by world-renowned technological universities.” On the technopreneurship front, he envisioned a movement with students taking the lead in driving the technopreneurship efforts of the University, for example, through an active student-run business association focusing on creating start-ups. The pioneering initiatives of the new Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre, including a four-month postgraduate diploma in Technopreneurship and Innovation, would further ignite the culture of innovation on campus, as would greater technology transfer through university spin-offs, licensing and joint ventures, he said.

The prime movers

“All of them have made NTU what it is today,” said Dr Cham, turning his attention to the founders and shapers of NTU. In his moving anniversary tribute, he thanked Dr Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister-in-Charge of NTI and NTU, Dr Michael Fam, first Council Chairman, Mr Lee Yock Suan, former Minister for Education, RAdm (NS) Teo Chee Hean, current Minister for Education, Mr Koh Boon Hwee, second Council Chairman, and President SR Nathan, Chancellor of NTU. He also thanked all those who had contributed, in one way or another, to NTU’s development and success.

Relevance of Columbus today

Columbus discovered America because he had the determination to set sail in a chosen direction despite strong resistance from others. Such gumption, “to pursue unwaveringly in a direction we believe in”, would help us reach our brave new world, said Dr Cham, ending with this clarion call: “The University has a great community. When we put our efforts together, I am confident we can make NTU a great university.” NTU has heard him and will rise to the occasion.
Beyond 20

A vision unveiled, a countdown begun

In less than a year’s time, a College of Life Sciences will spring to life, while further down the road, lakeside alfresco dining and a Light Rail Transit Station will transform the campus scenery.

NTU is repositioning itself for the new knowledge revolution with the following strategy, mapped out after months of planning and feedback from staff, students, alumni and the University’s stakeholders. Here’s how NTU will become a University of Global Significance and Excellence in the 21st century:

**Broad-based curriculum**

From July 2001, engineering students will undergo a two-year common curriculum (2YCC) featuring elements of life sciences, humanities, technopreneurship, and management to build versatility and leadership for new interdisciplinary work settings. The new Accountancy/Business and Communication Studies curricula will turn out IT-savvy professionals responsive to new eBusiness environments and the technology-driven media industry.

**College system**

For greater synergy in teaching and research, the five engineering schools will be reorganised into a College of Engineering from July 2001. The Nanyang Business School will adopt a “college-like” programme-driven matrix structure for greater focus and autonomy.

**New learning paradigm**

**State-of-the-art IT infrastructure and methodologies will be used to promote e-learning and lifelong learning, with “Anywhere Anytime Computing”, “Digital Media Everywhere” and a digital library portal (iGEMS) facilitating the shift to a learner-centric mode of education.**

**Interdisciplinary research and technopreneurship development**

Research talent will be strengthened, springing new multidisciplinary research centres to life. NTU will leverage on its research strengths in Life Sciences and Bio-engineering, Nanotechnology, and Wireless and Broadband Communication, among others, piloting more landmark innovations. As students take the lead in driving the University’s technopreneurship efforts, the new Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre will spearhead technopreneurship education and development in the region.

**New niche in life sciences**

In 2002, a $465 million College of Life Sciences will be established. Its two components – the School of Biological Sciences and BioSciences Research Centre – may be complemented by a Graduate School of Medicine in 2005 to produce a new breed of mature doctors for hospitals and medical research institutes.

**A vibrant new town**

In addition to 10 new blocks of laboratories and lecture theatres, NTU will uncover a Research TechnoPlaza and a one-stop Executive Centre in 2002. The arrival of Nanyang Point will centralise all essential services including trendy facilities for dining, shopping and entertainment near Nanyang Lake, with a Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station just a stone’s throw away. A city campus will meet the needs of busy city professionals.

**People-oriented**

NTU will build upon its strengths and progress in its management of its greatest asset – its staff, students and alumni. It will continue to review HR policies and strategies to meet new challenges. Links with alumni will be fortified through a host of alumni privileges, including scholarships for NTU postgraduate courses. Alumni international associations will also be set up in major cities.

**An international hub and global knowledge resource for industry and business**

To internationalise its services, NTU will transfer technology and provide specialised manpower training beyond Singapore. The University’s academic programmes and consultancy services will also go global.

The area around Nanyang Lake will soon come alive with trendy restaurants and chic shops
No dearth of young inventors, as Tan Kah Kee award sweep shows

Creative and young: two requirements to fulfil before attempting to win the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Award

Launched in 1986, the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Award is an annual event co-organised by the Tan Kah Kee Foundation and the National Science & Technology Board to promote creativity in science and technology among the young in Singapore. The NTU teams did very well in the Open Section (for those aged 18 to 35), garnering six out of a total of 20 awards.

Here’s more about three of the winning inventions:

**The Endocrawler, for easier observation and diagnosis of colon disease**

The Endocrawler has changed the face of Robotic Colonoscopy – a procedure in which a long and flexible snake-like medical instrument carrying a miniature camera (a colonoscope) is manoeuvred inside the large intestine (colon) of a patient through the anus. In the conventional procedure, the surgeon manipulates the scope as it advances into the colon – a difficult task as the colon loops and bends. The Endocrawler removes the need for physical manipulation as a robotic element at the far end of the scope allows it to crawl and flip its head over during screening. A propulsion mechanism at the distal end of the scope also makes manoeuvring through the loops and bends easier.

**Video object motion trajectory generation for search engine and monitoring**

Using *keywords* on an Internet search engine to find identical and relevant items has become almost a daily necessity. Rather than *keywords*, it would be much more powerful if we could utilise the *content* of the query, such as the colour, texture, and/or shape of a colour object of interest. By generating a video object’s “motion trajectory” as the essential feature to be indexed, we can now more accurately search and retrieve the relevant digital video clips. Unlike current techniques, this approach is fully automatic and takes up much less storage space and processing time. A generic solution in line with MPEG-7 standards, it can be applied to, among others, traffic monitoring, security surveillance, and digital library searches.

**Total visibility for total safety on the roads**

Every motorist’s essential companion – the 3D Breakdown Triangle

When your car breaks down in the middle of the road, what you need is a 3D Breakdown Triangle, which looks like a pyramid with four sloping sides. Built like a collapsible food cover or tent, the Triangle can be quickly opened up and folded away neatly. It is made of a material that is highly visible both day and night, with mounted omnidirectional red blinking lights adding to its visibility. Its simplicity of design and choice of material make it suitable for low-cost manufacture and production. A clear winner!

**Silver Award**

Robotic Colonoscopy
(Md Irwan B Md Kassim and Phee Soo Jay, School of Mechanical and Production Engineering. Supervisor: Dr Ng Wan Sing)

Content-based Video Indexing and Retrieval Over Compressed Bitstreams
(Ng How Lung, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Supervisor: Assoc Prof Ma Kai-Kuang)

**Merit Award**

3D Shape Measuring Using Optic Grating
(Kuek Hong Wee, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Supervisor: Dr Shum Ping)

**Commendation Award**

3D Breakdown Triangle
(Ng Chong Herng, Ong Yin Khai and Wong Lin Fong, School of Mechanical and Production Engineering. Supervisors: Mr Avram Grant and Assoc Prof John Heng)

**Special Silver**

Microphone Array System for Video-conference
(Yu Zhuliang, Zou Qiyue and Zou Xiaoxin, Centre for Signal Processing. Supervisor: Prof Ser Wee)

**Special Commendation**

A Multiple-parameter Fibre Optic System for Cardiac Output Measurement
(Yang Ye and Xu Lijun, School of Mechanical and Production Engineering. Supervisor: Assoc Prof Yeo Joon Hock)
World authority on service quality visits Nanyang Business School

Service quality guru Professor A Parasuraman recently spent two weeks, from 13 – 26 May 2001, in the Marketing and International Business Division of the Nanyang Business School as Canon Visiting Professor. He conducted a Research Seminar for faculty as well as a Customer Service Seminar for non-academic staff.

A Parasuraman is a Professor and Holder of the James W McLamore Chair in Marketing (endowed by the Burger King Corporation) at the University of Miami. In 1988, he was selected as one of the “Ten Most Influential Figures in Quality” by the editorial board of The Quality Review, co-published by the American Quality Foundation and the American Society for Quality Control. The other winners included the President of Argentina and the Chairman of Philips Electronics.

In his Research Seminar, Prof Parasuraman traced the evolution of his 18-year multi-phase, multi-sector research programme on customer service and service quality, highlighting two of his most recent research phases – the role of technology in delivering services, and the conceptualisation and measurement of e-service quality.

With the non-academic staff, he used simple exercises to bring out the five most important qualities of customer service discovered from his research with private companies. The staff were able to relate these qualities to their daily work behaviour.

Prof Parasuraman is indeed a "service quality man" as he practices what he teaches; after all, he could successfully discuss directions and opportunities for future research with his faculty “customers” as well as translate technical research findings into something relevant and interesting for his non-academic “customers”!

Day of WITs and SSS

NTU champions of the productivity movement showcased their resourcefulness and presentation skills once again at the annual NTU In-house WITs Convention held from 21 – 22 May 2001 at LT1.

Of the 25 participating WITs (Work Improvement Teams), nine eventually earned the Gold Award for their innovative work ideas and solutions, and all received their certificates and awards from NTU President Dr Cham Tao Soon at the NTU PS21 Award Ceremony held on 28 May in LT2. Joining them were the winners of the annual Staff Suggestion Scheme (SSS) Competition and the four WITs that had won Gold in last year’s national PS21 ExCEL Convention.

This year’s event also featured The Enterprise Challenge (TEC) Exhibition and Roadshow on campus during which staff learnt about TEC and its role in sponsoring and championing innovations across the public service.

The Chief Judge of the NTU In-house WITs Convention, Captain (NS) Zainal Abidin, conducted a Debriefing Workshop on 29 May for all NTU WITs. The session has helped our WITs finetune their projects in preparation for the national PS21 ExCEL Convention this October/November. We wish them the very best!
Education of the imagination through drama

The National Arts Council (NAC) is to be congratulated for its Arts Education Programme (AEP), which this year focused on Theatre.

At the March 2001 NAC-AEP Conference “Using Drama to Boost Creativity in Your Student” opened by the Dean (Academic), Prof Koh Tai Ann, NIE drama staff and trainee teachers were again called upon to collaborate with professional theatre practitioners through NAC’s AEP. This conference and its workshops built on previous projects such as Development Through Drama done in collaboration with The Necessary Stage. Moving with confidence from theory to practice, the final-year trainee teachers of NIE also put on performances to illustrate the use of drama to touch the imagination of children and to bring out their creativity.

Children also attended special matinees, which included dialogue and interaction with the artists and visits backstage, with Act 3 playing a leading role.

Both this Conference and the Development Through Drama project may also be viewed as part of the larger national project of developing or bringing out – which is what education means – the innate potential for creativity in the child. As Prof Koh emphasised, such education of the imagination can be achieved through the practice and appreciation of the creative arts which allow a society and individuals to express themselves, explore and evaluate their own experiences, discover their self-identity, and forge a national identity.

The Secretary noted the persistence of major security challenges in the region such as the China-Taiwan conflict and weapons proliferation. Defence diplomacy, which emphasises crisis prevention and containment, could operate together with Britain’s membership in multilateral institutions like the UN Security Council, G8 and NATO to provide the international solutions that many security challenges require.

Greater integration of planning, design, construction and supply services would lead to more effective and efficient delivery of projects. This was the general consensus at the third International Conference on Construction Project Management held from 29 – 30 March 2001 at the Mandarin Hotel.

Keynote speaker Prof Roger Flanagan from the Department of Construction Management & Engineering, University of Reading, UK, noted how technology and innovation such as biomimetics and smart materials formed the basis on which the sector could face, manage and implement change. The other five keynote speakers from Singapore covered topics in arbitration, dispute in the construction industry – e-construction, design & build project procurement and delivery, and contractual terms in construction contracts.

British Defence Secretary endorses stability, multilateralism

On 28 February 2001, the Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies hosted a Distinguished Public Lecture by His Excellency Mr Geoffrey Hoon, British MP and Secretary of State for Defence, on the subject of “Defence Diplomacy in the 21st Century”.

Expressing confidence in the continuation of the strong economic and cultural relations between the UK and Singapore, Mr Hoon stated that his government would employ all available civil, diplomatic, economic and military methods to contribute actively in these areas where necessary. This friendship with Singapore is part of Britain’s wider commitment to international order, freedom, democracy and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific. Hence, defence diplomacy – the manner in which the UK increasingly seeks “to use (its) knowledge and expertise in defence to promote peace and stability around the world”.

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In many areas of the curriculum, teachers in Singapore are increasingly discovering that drama – forms of which include improvisation, mime, mask drama, puppetry, documentary drama, dance drama, play building and techniques such as role-playing and creative visualisation – can be used to enable children to learn better, more enjoyably and thus effectively.

Said Prof Koh: “Drama in Education is thus likely to meet schools’ search for innovative means of teaching to encourage not only creativity, but also thinking in children.”

Lea ner construction industry needed

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At the conference, organised by NTU’s Centre for Advanced Construction Studies and the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), developers, consultants, contractors, government agencies and academics from 17 countries debated and shared experiences on international projects. They also explored the new thrust in the construction industry – of mergers and acquisitions at the company level and integration of processes via new technologies such as e-commerce at the project level. Mr Tan Siong Leng, CEO of BCA, was the Guest-of-Honour.

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Energy experts’ field day at international conference

About 160 energy experts from 27 countries met in Singapore from 17 – 19 May 2001 to address problems and challenges in the field of electric power engineering and its impact on our society at large. They were at the 5th International Power Engineering Conference 2001 (IPEC’01) held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront, Singapore.

IPEC’01, declared open by Prof Er Meng Hwa, NTU Deputy President and Dean, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), featured two keynote presenters – Mr Don Volzka, President, IEEE Power Engineering Society (PES), USA, and Dr Tim Densem, Manager, United Energy, Australia, who spoke on topical issues regarding the supply industry in transition, and the deregulation and globalisation of the industry, respectively. The other 150 full papers, covering a broad range of topics in the field, were presented in 35 technical sessions.

IPEC’01 was jointly organised by the School of EEE, the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) Singapore Centre, Singapore Power, the Institution of Engineers, Singapore, and the National University of Singapore. IEEE PES (USA) was the technical co-sponsor of this prestigious biennial event.

Café Cartel adds to swanky eateries on campus

It used to be found only in Siglap, Serangoon and City Hall. Now this popular food haunt has made its way to Jurong – all the way to NTU’s Hall of Residence 6 (next to the Sports & Recreation Centre). Since its entrance on 16 April 2001, Café Cartel has transformed Canteen 6 into a smart, hip eatery, delighting many of our foreign staff and students with the great tastes of home. The Café is well known for its Italian-American staples, coffee, and desserts like cheesecake and chocolate fudge cake. It boasts a colourful, refreshingly upbeat décor that seems right out of Orchard Road. There’s also MTV on a flat-screen TV. Café Cartel is open from 10am – 11pm daily, Monday through Sunday.

Business school bags SAS Enterprise Computing Award

The Nanyang Business School (NBS) has won the Year 2000 SAS Enterprise Computing Award in the newly created category of Academic Applications. The SAS Enterprise Computing Awards are presented each year to outstanding corporations and academic institutions in recognition of their commitment to and competence in optimising corporate performance through the deployment of SAS (Statistical Analysis Software) solutions. The competition is organised by SAS Inc (Singapore).

The award indicates that NBS has stepped out of the conventional educational stream of learning by deploying the SAS Enterprise Miner in its environment; it shows the School’s devotion to bridging the gap between academic achievements and the demands of a fast-growing knowledge-based economy.

Along with NBS, the other winners are Standard Chartered Bank (Business Applications Award) and the Ministry of Trade & Industry (Government Applications Award).

Professor initiates high-profile international standardisation meetings

On behalf of the Singapore National Body, Assoc Prof Ma Kai-Kuang (Singapore MPEG Chairman and Head of Delegation) from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) solely initiated and organised a series of seven high-profile international standardisation meetings and international seminars in the IT area.

Held from 2 – 13 March 2001, these comprised JPEG/JBIG (WG1), MPEG (WG11), MHEG (WG12), SC29, M4IF (MPEG-4 Industry Forum) and two full-day seminars, JPEG2000 and MPEG-7 Awareness Event. Prof Er Meng Hwa, Dean of EEE, was the Honorary Advisor.

The meetings attracted almost 600 international delegates, and received the highest ratings in all categories. Many milestones were also achieved from various expert groups. Of the two full-day seminars, the MPEG-7 Awareness Event showcased a record number of 14 demonstrations.

Event showcased a record number of 14 demonstrations.

Assoc Prof Ma said: “We are very pleased to see that our initial goal and whole-hearted effort to keep Singapore informed in these two most important IT standards have been achieved. Many international delegates commented that this is the best meeting of its kind that they have ever attended, and that we have set the standard on how to organise these events. It is absolutely a grand success!”

Panel discussion: Dr Ma speaking at the MPEG-7 Awareness Event

Tired of the usual canteen fare? Then head for some Italian savouries and sweets at Café Cartel in Hall 6

Mentor: Assoc Prof Ma Kai-Kuang
Staff News

Welcome

The University welcomes the following new staff members:

Nanyang Business School (NBS)
Assoc Prof Nilanjana Sen
Assoc Prof Phyllis Wachob
Assoc Prof Zhang Shaojun
Mr Chuang Tuck Tiong
Miss Lim Ngah Kiang, Elizabeth
Prof Ananthamaryanarayanan Parasuraman
Prof Kee H Jin Chung
Dr Guo Chen
Dr Robin Grieves

School of Computer Engineering (SCE)
Assoc Prof Tay Leng Phuan, Alex
Dr Zhang Yanqian
Mr Marcus Pocock
Miss Chan Meng Chee
Mr Low Boon Hean

School of Materials Engineering (SME)
Assoc Prof Subodh Gautham Mhaalsilkar
Assoc Prof Wong Chee Cheong
Dr Shi Jianghong
Dr Wang Cong
Mr Li Yuying
Mdm Huang Yuxu

School of Civil & Structural Engineering (CSE)
Assoc Prof Pathageama Gamage Ranjith Nandakumara
Dr Arvind Krishnasraj Surayavanshi
Dr Wang Zhongqi
Dr Zhou Maschin
Mr Easton Veo Foong Christopher Laval
Mr Leong Chee Lai
Mr Wu Chengqing
Mdm Zhang Yuyue

School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE)
Assoc Prof Arakiwami Alphantes
Assoc Prof Xue Ping
Assoc Prof Yang Zhonghua
Assoc Prof Huang Guangbin
Assoc Prof Luo Wenguang
Miss Pang Su Woon
Prof Peter John Wyn Rayner
Mdm Tsai Flora S

School of Mechanical & Production Engineering (MPE)
Dr Arulandam Srinivasan
Dr Jayati Ray
Dr Kam Siew Wah, Alvin Harvey
Dr Li Xuewei
Dr Li Shuijiang
Dr Ong Ec Ping
Dr Fenyasamy Thilakan
Dr Wen Guangjun
Dr Xiao Wendong
Dr Xu Aigong
Dr Ye Wei
Dr Zhang Baolin
Dr Wang Youwen
Mr Zou Qiyue
Mr Zhou Peng
Mr Guan Zhenghao
Mdm Hu Ye
Mdm Neo Wah Peng
Mdm See Chun Wee
Mr Shannamgum Ganeshkumar
Mr Wang Shijie
Mdm Yu Zhifeng
Mr Yuan Kaibing
Mr Cheong Wai Chye
Mr Luo Chee Hwa @ Wong Chee Wah
Mr Sun Rennhai
Mr Tan Yew Heng
Mdm Yang Xiaohong

School of School of Mechanical & Production Engineering (MPE)
Assoc Prof Ang Whye Teong
Assoc Prof Appa Iyer Sivakumar
Assoc Prof Jiang San Ping
Assoc Prof Zhang Chuchu Khin
Dr Au Ann San
Dr Fu Liangyu
Dr Leng Yongjun
Dr Liang Fengqiang
Dr Majumder Shenchamoy
Dr Xiao Tan
Dr Gipran Blescu
Dr Jiaying Qimi
Miss Fan Jing
Mr Hou Zujun
Mr Shee Cheng Yap
Mr Sun Mingxuan
Mdm Ong Lay Cheng
Mdm Oon Guat Ho Lilley
Mr Koh Lee Hui, Kelly
Mr Ranjan Kumar Mishra

School of Communication Studies (SCS)
Miss Cheong Fern Fern, Pauline

Registrar's Office
Miss Lee Han Neo

Student Affairs Office
Mr Chew Keng Guan
Mdm Ip Ka Yee
Mdm Wong Jack Mei
Miss Yap Tiong Heng, Royce

Library
Mdm Koh Ping Hoon

Centre for IT Services
Miss Kok Chien Yi, Louise
Alumni and Endowment Office
Mdm Tan Pik Lian
Network Technology Research Centre
Mr Zhang Shaohui

Singapore-MIT Alliance Programme
Dr King Xiquing
Dr Yao Liangqian

Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies
Prof Muhammad Rajaas Rasyid
Mr Irman Gurniam Dr Lanti Lanti

NIE

Public & International Relations
Mdm Chew Gek Teng, Lynn

Psychological Studies
Dr He Yao-Fai, David
Miss Huan Siew Leng, Vivien

Instructional Science
Mrs Shanti Divaharan
Mr Teo Yong Hwee
Mr Hiew Khe Foon

Visual & Performing Arts
Miss Charlene Delia Jeyamani Rajendran

Mathematics & Mathematics Education
Dr Dong Fengming
Dr Teong Su Kwang
Dr Teo Kok Ming

Natural Sciences
Prof Grikov Vladimir Alexeisevich
Dr Goh Pi Leong, Beverly

Human Resource Development
Miss Goh Boon Ping, Adeline

Finance
Mdm Chung Nyet Hiong

Academic Computing & Information Services
Miss Nunny Aryanti Bte Noorman

Centre for IT in Education
Mdm Chong Yi Ching

Computers Services Centre
Mr Vedayasaarar Subbarao
Ms Vijayarayanan Chitrakala

NIE Library
Miss Win Woe Ni

Appointments

New Appointments
Prof Nang Kang Ngi – Vice-Dean (Research), SCE
Assoc Prof Khoo Li Peng – Head, Division of Manufacturing Engineering, MPE
Assoc Prof Yi Sung – Head, Division of Engineering Mechanics, MPE
Assoc Prof Tan Huong Tong – Head, Division of Accounting, NBS
Assoc Prof Benjamin Detenber – Head, Division of Communication Research, SCS
Assoc Prof Sharien Liu – Acting Head, Division of Electronic & Broadcast Media, SCS
Assoc Prof Tan Soon Keat (CSE) – Deputy Director, Maritime Research Centre
Assoc Prof Hua Wen Jing (SCE) – Deputy Director, Maritime Research Centre
Assoc Prof Quek Meng Yin (MPE) – Deputy Director, Maritime Research Centre
Assoc Prof Subramian Venkataraman (SME) – Deputy Director, Biomedical Engineering Research Centre

Re-appointments
Prof Eddie Kuo Chen-Yu – Dean, SCS
Assoc Prof Hua Xiaoming – Head of Division of Journalism & Publishing, SCS
Assoc Prof Lee Chun Wah – Head, Division of Public & Promotional Communication, SCS
Prof Soh Chee Kiong – Head, Division of Structures & Mechanics, CSE
Prof Tan Soo Hwa – Head, Division of Environmental & Water Resources Engineering, CSE
Assoc Prof Teh Cee Ing – Head, Division of Geotechnical & Transportation Engineering, CSE
Assoc Prof Ting Seng Kiong – Head, Division of Construction Technology & Management, CSE

Deputy Director, Biomedical Engineering Research Centre
Assoc Prof Chua Chek Kai – Head, Division of Systems & Engineering Management, MPE
Assoc Prof Ang Soon – Head, Division of Strategy, Management & Organisation, NBS
Assoc Prof Chen Kang – Head, Division of Applied Economics, NBS
Assoc Prof Christina Soh – Head, Division of Information Technology & Operations Management, NBS
Assoc Prof David Ding – Head, Division of Banking & Finance, NBS
Assoc Prof Krishna Erramilli – Head, Division of Marketing & International Business, NBS
Assoc Prof Victor Yeo – Head, Division of Business Law, NBS
Prof Choi San Shing – Head, Division of Power Engineering, EEE
Assoc Prof Do Manh Anh – Head, Division of Circuits & Systems, EEE
Assoc Prof Koht Soo Ngee – Head, Division of Communication Engineering, EEE
Assoc Prof Alex Kot Chichung – Head, Division of Information Engineering, EEE
Assoc Prof Seng Yuen Chai – Head, Division of Control Engineering, EEE
Assoc Prof Shankar Muthu Krishnan (EEE) – Director, Biomedical Engineering Research Centre
Assoc Prof Kwoh Chee Keong (SCE) – Deputy Director, Biomedical Engineering Research Centre

President has appointed Mr Liaw Wen Chuan as Acting Director of Student Affairs wef 3 May 2001 until further notice. Mr Yeo Choo Kok has retired from the University’s service wef 3 May 2001.

Promotion

Congratulations to Assoc Prof Fan Sau Cheong, School of Civil & Structural Engineering, on his recent promotion to Full Professorship.
Prof Lim Chong Yah has his hand on the pulse of the Southeast Asian economies again. His latest book Southeast Asia: The Long Road Ahead was officially launched by President SR Nathan at the Raffles Hotel Ballroom on Friday, 11 May 2001.

About 100 guests turned up for the launch, among them, NTU President Dr Cham Tao Soon, dignitaries from embassies of Southeast Asian countries, Australia, UK and USA, eminent individuals from the industry, and faculty members from the three local universities.

President Nathan officiated the launch by receiving the first autographed copy of the book from Prof Lim. A copy of the book was also presented to Dr Cham Tao Soon. In the guest book, President Nathan wrote: “I am privileged to be given the opportunity to launch Prof Lim Chong Yah’s book. I hope it will help to enlighten all who will be engaged in the translation of Economic Theory into practice.”

The book, which spans a period of 40 years, documents and analyses several important aspects of economic growth and development of the 10 ASEAN countries. Topics covered include agriculture, industrialisation, trade, regional co-operation, fiscal and financial policies, and population. To use the words of one reviewer, “the book is to date the most comprehensive treatment of Southeast Asia as an economic region.”

Prof Lim is the Director of the School of Accountancy and Business Research Centre at NTU. A prolific writer, he has authored more than 120 journal articles, monographs, books and book chapters. Of these, 76 titles were recently displayed at a book exhibition – the first by a single author in Singapore – held at the NTU Library from 5 – 14 July 2001. Mr Koh Boon Hwee, who opened the exhibition, said: “It is heartening to know that a man wearing so many hats has found the time, and continues to find the time, to contribute so much to the academic literature.”

Southeast Asia: The Long Road Ahead is available in both hardcover ($48.00) and paperback ($28.00) editions at all leading bookshops. It is published by World Scientific Publishing.

At the book launch with President Nathan (left) and Dr Cham

Visitors

During the period April to June 2001, the University received the following distinguished visitors:

4 Apr Mr Raj Lutchmeeah, Executive Director, Tertiary Education Commission, Republic of Mauritius
5 Apr Mr Zhong Binglin, Director-General, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, PRC
8 May Dr Chui Sai On, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Macau SAR
15 May Mr Peter Ho, First Permanent Secretary for Defence
24 May Prof John Raine, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Canterbury, New Zealand
25 May Prof John Midwinter, President, Institution of Electrical Engineers, UK
27 Jun Prof Ciaran O Cathain, President, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

During this period, the University also received visiting delegations from the National Yunlin University of Science & Technology, Taiwan, ROC; Zhejiang University, PRC; Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Malaya, Malaysia; the Higher Education Institution, The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Prince of Songkla University at Pattani and Kasetsart University, Thailand; the Institute of Engineering & Management, India; Emirates Telecommunications Corporation, United Arab Emirates; Hong Kong Baptist University; The Russian Federal Council Committee, Russia; and the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Mr Peter Ho, First Permanent Secretary for Defence (centre), receiving a warm welcome at the School of Mechanical & Production Engineering