Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew officially opens Confucius Institute of NTU
- Over S$2 million has been raised to set up the Confucius Institute Fund to support new research projects and public programmes

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Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew (内阁资政李光耀先生) officially opens Confucius Institute, Nanyang Technological University (CI-NTU) (南洋理工大学孔圣学院) at NTU@one-north campus (南洋理工大学纬壹校区) today.

Among the special guests from China are His Excellency Xu Jialu, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of China (全国人大常委会副委员长许嘉璐阁下), Her Excellency Zhang Xiaokang, Chinese Ambassador to Singapore (中国驻新加坡特命全权大使张晓康阁下), Mr Cao Guoxing, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchange, Ministry of Education, China (中国教育部国际交流与合作司司长曹国兴先生), Mdm Xu Lin, Director-General, Office of Chinese Language Council International, China (中国国家汉语国际推广办公室主任许琳女士), and Mr Zhu Zhengchang, Secretary of the Party Committee of Shandong University (山东大学党委书记朱正昌先生).

The event will also be an occasion to thank the donors of the Confucius Institute Fund, NTU (南洋理工大学孔圣学院基金). Over S$2 million, inclusive of government-matching has been raised. The endowment fund will go towards establishing the Global Chinese Literary Award (世界华文学奖), offering the highest prize money of its kind in the world. Apart from the international award, the fund will go towards funding research projects and ongoing public events and workshops. Currently, two research projects have been identified. One will look into the conditions of Chinese language teaching in Southeast Asia while the other will study the use of motifs in Chinese literature.
In conjunction with the official opening, an international forum will be held at NTU@one-north campus on 15 July. Renowned academia and scholars from Singapore, China, Japan and Korea will share their insights on the impact and new direction of Chinese language and culture in the global age. In addition to the forum, an exhibition of "The Great Confucius" (大哉孔子展), showcasing the many facets of Confucius and his descendants, will also be held from 15 July to 17 July at CI-NTU. This is the first time these exhibits are shown outside Qufu Town, Shangdong Province. Among them are the pictorial exhibits of Confucius’ descendants, who were conferred noble titles during the Ming Dynasty. Calligraphy by local calligraphers, depicting excerpts from Analects, will also be showcased at the exhibition.

CI-NTU was set up by NTU in July 2005 as a collaboration with China’s Shandong University and the Office of Chinese Language Council International. The Institute leverages the strengths of NTU and China to offer a comprehensive range of Chinese educational programmes from the pre-school to postgraduate level.

Well-connected to other Chinese communities around the world, CI-NTU delivers a world-class curriculum. Distinguished faculty members from Shandong University’s National Institute of Education and renowned universities such as Tokyo University and Harvard University, as well as noteworthy writers and practitioners, are invited here to teach or conduct workshops, seminars and monthly forums. These provide the platform for exchange and cultural interaction among Chinese language scholars, teachers, journalists, and enthusiasts.

To provide a holistic learning experience, CI-NTU encourages effective learning beyond the classrooms by conducting immersion programmes for teachers and students. To date, more than 100 students and teachers from schools such as Raffles Junior College, Yishun Junior College, Tampines Junior College, Tampines Primary School and Poi Ching School have participated in CI-NTU’s immersion programmes to Shandong. In the pipeline are immersion trips to Beijing, Fujian and Xi’an.

In Singapore, CI-NTU is among the first 25 Confucius Institutes in the world. Currently, there are about 158 Confucius Institutes in 54 countries that are engaged in teaching Chinese as a foreign language. Since its establishment, CI-NTU has received high accolades from the Chinese government and is fast gaining stature as a leading Confucius Institute in the world.
About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 20 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.

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