NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Media contact
Daphne Lye
Assistant Manager
Corporate Communications Office
Nanyang Technological University
Tel : 6790 6685
Mobile : 9436 1227
Email : xlye@ntu.edu.sg

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LEADING AUTHORITY ON DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION TO SPEAK AT NTU’S INAUGURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION WEEK FORUM

NTU celebrates 50 years of excellence and entrepreneurship

Harvard Business School Professor Clayton Christensen, considered the world's leading authority on disruptive innovation, will speak in a forum organised by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). During the forum, entitled ‘Growing with Disruptive Innovation’, Prof Christensen will expound on the importance of ‘disruptive innovations’ – products or systems that create entirely new markets, in today’s economy.

The forum, held in conjunction with the launch of NTU’s inaugural Entrepreneurship and Innovation Week, will see Prof Christensen speak alongside NTU Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre (NTC) Director, Prof Tan Teng Kee, and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Rockeby Biomed Corporation Ltd, and Nominated Member of Parliament, Dr Tan Sze Wee.

In addition to being a distinguished panellist at the forum, Prof Christensen, also an NTU visiting professor, will share his research framework with students from NTU’s Technopreneurship & Innovation Programme, and the MBA programme.

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Week, believed to be the first-of-its-kind in the region, is one of the events celebrating the university’s 50th anniversary. Spearheaded
by NTU’s NTC, this Week sees six exciting initiatives by both staff and students to celebrate the culture of entrepreneurship within the university.

Says Prof Tan, “The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Week is a fitting tribute to the Nanyang spirit of enterprise. This Week acts as an impetus to inspire the NTU community to act on their innovative ideas and talent, and produce leading companies of tomorrow. As the university celebrates its golden jubilee, this event is also an occasion to strengthen the bonds among members of the university community, in an atmosphere of excellence and entrepreneurship.’

Students have gotten into the act as well. Some 30 students are involved in the planning, development and execution of events of this week. One such project is the Entrepreneurship and Innovation High-Tea Networking Session, where 10 local entrepreneurs such as the founder of Bakerzin, Mr Daniel Tay, and founder of Banquet Mr Alan Lee, are invited to network with some 150 NTU students with entrepreneurial aspirations.

Says Mr James Yang, a second-year NTU Nanyang Business School student who is minoring in Entrepreneurship, “It has been an exciting learning process putting this event together. We deliberately chose a casual and informal setting to facilitate an open sharing session. Through the sharing of insights by these local entrepreneurs - some of whom are my personal idols, we are confident the participants will benefit from the learning, and networking opportunities.”

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Week will be officially launched by NTU President, Dr Su Guaning today, 1st Aug 2005. The same event also sees the launch of the Entrepreneurship Sketchpad, a publication which showcases NTU’s entrepreneurship ecosystem.

**THE END**

About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established international institution in tertiary education.

Our university has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. We began as Nanyang University, a private university set up with donations from people of all walks of
life, from Singapore and the region. The university grounds, Yunnan Garden Campus, was donated by the Hokkien Clan Association as part of this campaign.

We were reborn as Nanyang Technological Institute, established on the same campus in 1981 with government funding to educate practice-oriented engineers for the burgeoning Singapore economy. In 1991 we became Nanyang Technological University with the absorption of the National Institute of Education.

Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 universities in the world. We have a strong engineering college ranked among the best globally, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programmes in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best communication and information schools in Asia, and a biological sciences school at the forefront of Singapore’s life sciences initiative.

Undergraduate enrolment will swell from 17,500 to 22,300 with the establishment of three new schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

A traditional strength of the university is the high employment rate and high remuneration received by its graduates. The university is now in the process of realising its New Undergraduate Experience initiative with a comprehensive curriculum, wide choices of options for students, vibrant campus life and international experience. Strong international relationships and collaboration programmes is a hallmark of the university. This includes the Singapore-MIT Alliance, Singapore-Stanford Partnership, Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management, Singapore – University of Washington Alliance in Bioengineering, Global Immersion Programme with Peking University, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, University of Washington and Georgia Institute of Technology, among many other programmes in US, China, India, Japan and Europe.

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