NEWS RELEASE

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NTU HOSTS EMINENT SCIENTISTS AT PRESTIGIOUS ‘WORLD YEAR OF PHYSICS’ CONFERENCE

- Speakers include Nobel Laureate Robert Laughlin

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) today played host to more than a dozen eminent physicists from around the world, among them a Nobel Laureate, a Wolf Prize winner, an Imperial Prize winner and a Templeton Winner.

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education, graced the opening ceremony.

The Conference, “World Year of Physics 2005 Summer Conference – Looking to the next 100 years in Physics”, is a celebration of the centennial year of Einstein’s landmark papers of 1905. It is unique in that the presentations are designed to reach out to the non-specialists and aims to inspire young learners, especially those from the JCs and Polytechnics.

Professor Lee Soo Ying, Dean of NTU’s School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences, said: “Physics graduates are important to the economy, as physics is the foundation for all of engineering and many scientific disciplines, including the biomedical sciences, communication technologies and aerospace. We have to interest more students from the schools to continue to major in physics.”
The Conference also helps to mark the launch of NTU’s new School of Physics & Mathematical Sciences and the new Institute of Advanced Studies.

Dr Su Guaning, President, NTU, said: “As the world of physics celebrates the 100th year of Einstein’s landmark papers, NTU is celebrating our 50th anniversary. But just as Einstein did not stop at one great piece of work but went on to produce more revolutionary papers that eventually laid the foundation for modern physics, we at NTU will not rest on our laurels but will continue to build on our achievements to reach greater heights.”

At the Conference, the speakers shared their thoughts on what is shaking the world of physics today. Robert Laughlin, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1998, made a presentation on “A Different Universe”, on which he has also published a book.

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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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