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CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE, NTU OFFERS TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is extending a hand to teachers who are gearing up for the imminent task of grooming bicultural talent for Singapore and the region. The Confucius Institute, NTU has launched two training programmes to provide them with opportunities to immerse in Chinese language and culture.

The first training programme offered by the Institute has just commenced. Called Introduction to Contemporary China, it offers insights into areas such as:

• China: Structure and transformation pattern of its ideology
• The Chinese psychological, cultural and social structure
• China’s cultural resources and dilemmas
• Transformation of contemporary China’s economic institutions
• Efficiency of contemporary China’s social development
• Contemporary China’s current regional disparity

Some 20 participants, including secondary and junior college teachers, are currently attending
the three-day programme. Ms Yeo Buay Kee (杨梅枝), Chinese teacher at Nanyang Girls’ High School, shares: “With the establishment of Confucius Institute at NTU, there are now more options available for teachers who wish to learn more about the Chinese language and culture. I believe this programme will enable me to gain a deeper insight and better understanding about China, and the knowledge will also come in useful when I conduct my lessons.”

The programme, jointly organised by Confucius Institute, NTU and the College of International Education of Shandong University, is conducted by eminent professors from Shandong University (SDU): Professor Chen Yan (陈炎), Vice-President of SDU and Director of Faculty of Arts, and Professor Huang Shao An (黄少安), Director of The Centre for Economics Research and Property Rights Research Institute.

Besides the Introduction to Contemporary China, Confucius Institute, NTU will also conduct cultural immersion programmes. The first immersion programme will see some 40 junior college teachers and students travelling to China later this month on a “Confucius' Hometown Cultural Tour.”

The 14-day tour is specially-tailored to enable the participants to immerse themselves in the richness of the Chinese culture. The itinerary includes:

- Learning more about the origin of Chinese characters
- An appreciation of Chinese calligraphy and Peking Opera
- Visits to Qufu (Confucius’ birth place) and Mount Tai (the place where 72 emperors used to worship)
- Talks and hands-on cultural activities such as kite-making and New Year painting sessions.

Associate Professor Koh Hock Kiat (许福吉), Director-Designate of Confucius Institute, NTU, says: “NTU has extensive collaboration with top institutions in China. We’re pleased to be able to expand our links with our Chinese counterparts, and play a key role in promoting and developing Chinese language, culture, studies and business in Singapore and the region.

“Launching Introduction to Contemporary China and organising the cultural immersion tour are just the beginning for Confucius Institute, NTU. We plan to continue our close collaboration...”
with Shandong University and roll out more programmes, including the development of materials and teaching curriculum/plan for Chinese teachers in Singapore and the region.”

The *Introduction to Contemporary China* will be launched by Minister of State for Education and Trade and Industry, Mr Chan Soo Sen (曾士生) at NTU on 10 Nov 05. The President of Shandong University, Dr Zhan Tao (展涛) and NTU President, Dr Su Guaning (徐冠林) will also be present to mark the occasion.

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*About Nanyang Technological University*

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution with 12 Schools, including three new schools -the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 in the world. Our strength in science and engineering is acknowledged globally. We have a business school with an MBA programme that is among the top 100 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. The Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism.

Our New Undergraduate Experience featuring a holistic education including residential living and international experience has received external endorsement for its comprehensive curriculum featuring a rich selection of minors.

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