NEWS RELEASE
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New NTU Graduate School to be the Premier Professional Graduate School of Security Studies and International Affairs in the Asia Pacific Region.

A $40-million endowment fund has been set up for a new NTU graduate school -- the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

The School, which will be inaugurated on 1 January 2007, will develop a new generation of leaders in diplomacy and security matters, and produce a body of research that will help shape policies that safeguard the Asia-Pacific region.

RSIS is named after the late Mr S Rajaratnam, one of Singapore’s founding fathers and a well-respected visionary diplomat and strategic thinker. It is the second school that NTU is naming in honour of great individuals in Singapore’s history. On 5 December 2006, NTU named its School of Communication and Information after the late Dr Wee Kim Wee, the fourth President of Singapore.

Distinguished local and foreign representatives from the Government, the business and academic communities, and practitioners in diplomacy and national security affairs will sit on the Board of Governors of RSIS, NTU. The Board will be chaired by Dr Andrew Chew.

Income earned from the $40-million S Rajaratnam School of International Studies Endowment Fund -- which includes dollar-for-dollar matching from the government – will be used to establish two professorships, one in international relations and the other in international economics. These prestigious chairs would enable RSIS, NTU, to bring in top-notch professors to teach and conduct research. Scholarships for talented students will also be provided.
The President of the Republic of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan, is the patron of the fund while Mr S Chandra Das, a former Member of Parliament, is its Chairman. The advisers of the fund-raising committee are Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Wong Kan Seng, and former ministers, Mr S Dhanabalan and Mr Othman Wok.

Upon its inauguration on 1 January 2007, RSIS, NTU, will incorporate the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) and its two centres:

- Centre of Excellence for National Security
- International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research

In addition, RSIS will be inaugurating two more centres in the early part of 2007. They are:

- Centre for the Advanced Study of Regionalism and Multiculturalism
- Asian Non-Traditional Security Consortium.

To add breadth to its scope of expertise and to keep abreast of new dimensions in international affairs and security matters, RSIS, NTU is looking to establish three new centres in the near future. They are:

- Centre for Diplomacy and International Affairs
- Centre for Science, Technology and Security
- Asian Centre for Negotiation and Conflict Management

The School will offer PhD and Masters programmes while IDSS and the centres will focus on research that serves national needs.

The School will administer the three Master of Science Programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations and International Political Economy formerly offered by IDSS. In addition, it will offer two new Master of Science programmes in International Studies and Defence Administration, bringing the total number of masters programmes to five.

RSIS, NTU, will also expand on IDSS’ range of executive and external teaching programmes.

Says NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, "NTU is proud to have a role in diplomacy and security affairs in the Asia-Pacific region through the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. The intellectual ballast the School provides will help shape policies that safeguard the interests of Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region, while the rigorous graduate education the School provides will develop a new generation of leaders who will play important roles in diplomacy, politics and security and hence influence the future of the Asia-Pacific region."
President S R Nathan will unveil a plaque to formally launch the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU, at IDSS’ 10th Anniversary celebrations on 11 December 2006. Also present will be NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, IDSS Chairman, Dr Andrew Chew, and IDSS Director, Mr Barry Desker.

Dr Chew will also present HE President S R Nathan with the book ‘S Rajaratnam on Singapore: From Ideas to Reality’. The book commemorates the life of the late Mr S Rajaratnam and carries a foreword by President S R Nathan. The book was edited by IDSS, NTU, and contains essays by its senior staff members.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.

NTU has 4 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 and Arts 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, will be inaugurated in 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.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) was established in 1996 by the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tan Keng Yam. It was an autonomous institute within the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. IDSS existed to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of Asia-Pacific security studies and international affairs. Its research, teaching and networking objectives are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia-Pacific and their implications for Singapore. The faculty and research staff at IDSS comprises local and international specialists in the fields of strategic studies, terrorism studies, international relations, political economy, foreign policy analysis and defence technology, amongst others.