NG BOK ENG PROFESSORSHIP AND NG BOK ENG SCHOLARSHIP

An entrepreneur, Mr Ng Bok Eng, has donated $5 million to Nanyang Technological University to establish the Ng Bok Eng Endowment Fund.

Of the $5 million, $3.5 million will be used to establish the Ng Bok Eng Scholarship, while $1.5 million will be used to fund the Ng Bok Eng Professorship. The donation, when matched dollar for dollar by the Government, will contribute $10 million to the NTU Endowment Fund.

The Ng Bok Eng Scholarship will be endowed in perpetuity. Income generated will be used to award scholarships to needy students. Such scholarships will help NTU students pursue studies with major universities in China on an exchange programme. The immersion and exposure to the Chinese cultural, technological and economic landscape will give NTU students an advantage in their future careers and prepare them to lead Singapore businesses and concerns in China.

The Ng Bok Eng Professorship will also be endowed in perpetuity. Income generated will go towards the appointment of internationally renowned scholars. These scholars will assist in reviewing and developing the NTU curriculum, give public lectures, conduct seminars and undertake joint research projects with current academic staff members.
Annex A : Welcome address by Prof Su Guaning, President of NTU

Annex B : Speech by Mr Ng Cheong Bian, Director, Ng Bok Eng Holdings Pte Ltd

Annex C : Citation of Mr Ng Bok Eng by Assoc Prof Tan Teng Kee, Member, NTU Council

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Your Excellency Mr S R Nathan,
President of the Republic of Singapore and Chancellor,
Nanyang Technological University,

Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam,
Deputy Prime Minister and
Co-ordinating Minister for Security and Defence,

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam,
Acting Minister for Education,

Dr Ng Eng Hen,
Acting Minister for Manpower and
Minister of State for Education,

Mr Ng Bok Eng,
Chairman, Ng Bok Eng Holdings,

Mr Ng Cheong Bian,
Director, Ng Bok Eng Holdings,

Family members of Mr Ng Bok Eng,

Distinguished guests, friends and colleagues, students and professors, ladies
and gentlemen,

Fifty years ago, Mr Tan Lark Sye, a prominent Chinese businessman,
donated five million Straits Settlement dollars to found Nanyang University.
His gift was the anchor around which a popular campaign for donations arose.
All strata of society, from rich businessmen to humble trishaw riders, donated money to this new university.

Today, I am very happy to announce the donation of five million dollars by Mr Ng Bok Eng, Chairman of Ng Bok Eng Holdings, towards the establishment of the Ng Bok Eng Scholarship and Ng Bok Eng Professorship at the Nanyang Technological University. Mr Ng Bok Eng’s donation helps us drive our university forward as a Global University of Excellence for the people of Singapore and the Nanyang region, i.e. South East Asia. Such a vision was the ultimate aspiration of the original Nanyang University.

NTU has been very fortunate to inherit the Yunnan Garden campus from Nanyang University. Although the beginning of Nanyang Technological Institute was quite different than that of Nanyang University, NTU began to move towards a comprehensive university since becoming a full fledged university awarding its own degrees in 1991. On our journey to become a Global University of Excellence, we shall bring back the pioneering spirit of those who founded Nanyang University and to develop the resilience and entrepreneurship necessary for the future of Singapore, the Nanyang region and beyond.

The Committee to Review the Higher Education Sector, Chaired by Dr Ng Eng Hen, had recommended in 2002 to expand the university going cohort from 21% to 25%, and for NTU to increase undergraduate enrolment from 16,000 to 22,300 to account for most of the increase. The report also recommended, *inter alia*, that NTU expands to become a comprehensive university with the establishment of three new schools, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical Sciences, and the School of Design and Media.

These recommendations had been discussed and endorsed by the International Academic Advisory Panel in January 2003, and accepted by the government in May 2003. We have been hard at work on the implementation since last year.
Nanyang University was set up in the colonial era so that the best and brightest of the Chinese speaking community would be able to stay here for their university education and subsequently contribute to society.

Today, Singapore has been independent for nearly forty years. The future direction of NTU is to take in the best and brightest of Singaporeans and develop their fullest potentials as future leaders of society regardless of race, language or religion. As a major research intensive university, we must also play a key role in generating knowledge and intellectual property for the nation as Singapore transforms to become an innovation driven economy.

Knowledge and talent recognizes no borders. It is therefore important that NTU takes in a significant number of foreign students who are keen to further their education in Singapore. They may then contribute directly to the Singapore economy, or indirectly through their own national development and regional prosperity. As future leaders of their own countries, they would also develop a strong network with our own Singaporean leaders.

Hence our new mission statement “Educating Leaders, and Creating Knowledge, for Singapore and beyond”.

Mr Ng Bok Eng comes from a humble background. Through sheer determination and hard work, he has built up a remarkable enterprise. With his wife, he was able also to raise a family of two sons and three daughters, the envy of many others. Like generations of Chinese community leaders, he recognizes the value of education. His gift today is a strong endorsement of our new directions while Singapore develops into a premier hub of higher education in South East Asia and the Asia Pacific.

Mr Ng Cheong Bian, the son of Mr Ng Bok Eng and my classmate in Catholic High School, approached me with the idea of the donation. Together, we developed the concept for the use of Mr Ng Bok Eng’s donation for the benefit of the future generations of students.
When Cheong Bian approached me, the university had already conceptualized one key element of the education of future leaders in Nanyang. We want to make it possible for a large number of our students to acquire international exposure even during their university education. In other words, we want to provide an international education in a Singapore university. As a first step, we had contacted and sealed agreements with universities in China to send significant numbers of students to Beijing and Shanghai, starting with Peking University, Tsinghua University, and Shanghai Jiaotong university. Just last week, I led a mission to the United States to establish such links and agreements with leading US universities. Details of the agreements will be announced in forthcoming events.

Such international experience may be beyond the reach of students without financial assistance. Mr Ng Bok Eng’s gift provides a source of financial support that will enable them to realize their dreams.

Another part of Mr Ng Bok Eng’s gift provides for a chaired professorship in his name. We intend to apply income from his gift towards realization of his wish to develop teachers who inspire their students to greater heights. Together, the two parts of Mr Ng Bok Eng’s gift helps us realize our Student Centric and Professor Centric philosophy in the university.

Just like Mr Tan Lark Sye did with Nanyang University, Mr Ng Bok Eng's generous gift has enabled our university to start on a new strategic direction – a Global University of Excellence located in Singapore, hub of the Nanyang region. It is our fervent hope that with the new directions towards a comprehensive university and the rekindling of the pioneering Nantah spirit that belongs to all Singaporeans and people of Nanyang, more and more people like Mr Ng will step forward and support this worthy cause, for the benefit for our nation, our region, and the world.

Our salute and deepest gratitude goes to Mr. Ng Bok Eng and his family for their generous endowment. Thank you, President Nathan Sir, for gracing this occasion to mark the extraordinary gift from an extraordinary man.
Thank you very much.
SPEECH BY MR NG CHEONG BIAN, DIRECTOR, NG BOK ENG HOLDINGS PTE LTD

Your Excellency President S R Nathan,
Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam,
Acting Minister for Education Tharman Shanmugaratnam,
Acting Minister for Manpower and Minister of State, Education,
Dr Ng Eng Hen,
President of NTU, Professor Su Guaning,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning! Allow me first to thank the organizers, the university and especially Professor Su Guaning for this opportunity for me to greet all our distinguished guests on behalf of my father. Because my father is advancing in age, he has asked me to speak on his behalf to mark this ceremony.

This is a memorable day for our entire family. NTU has established today a scholarship fund and a professorship named after my father, Mr Ng Bok Eng. We are greatly honoured by the presence of President Nathan, DPM Tan, Ministers and distinguished guests gathered here at the ceremony to mark the occasion.

Nanyang University has left a deep and indelible impression on our whole family. I can still remember when Nantah was being built, that my brothers, sisters and I saved our breakfast money, just a few tens of cents, to contribute towards the building of the university. Today, we are gratified and very happy to see the success of NTU, a worthy successor, which we shall also refer to as Nantah.

My father comes from a very poor family in Jinmen, Fujian, China. He has never received any formal education. Armed with just his two hands and his will and perseverance, he built up a strong and successful enterprise. Even
though he had to contend with wars, economic depression and recessions, he never lost heart. Again and again, setbacks and difficulties were transformed into energy for striving ahead. His success was hard earned and a testimony to the strength of his spirit and character.

Today, Singapore is facing a more complex and difficult future. Some Singaporeans lose heart in the face of difficulties. They lack the determination and drive to press ahead in choppy waters. As soon as they face difficulties, they sink into depression and despair, afraid to come out of their shell and comfort zone. My father, who achieved much with very little in difficult and turbulent times is a good example for Singaporeans to take heart, regroup, rekindle the spirit that has brought us this far and to strive ahead.

Thanks to a far sighted and pragmatic government, Singapore has achieved success and development that is the envy of the world. We have a stable economic climate and a world class infrastructure and public service, a source of pride for all Singaporeans. But many of us worry about our society becoming increasingly westernized and Americanized. We worry that Singapore may lose our special qualities and our competitive edge. While we maintain and build up our talent pool well schooled in the west, we must also develop among them core leadership for our fundamentally Asian society. This is the only way for us to continue to be the meeting point of the economies and cultures of East and West, and to sustain the prominent role of Singapore as a hub.

Mr Liang Qi Chao, a prominent Chinese scholar of the late 19th and early 20th century, said that the strength of a nation and the success of a nation hinges on the strength and success of its young people. As a key Singaporean university, Nantah must develop a liberal and open academic and research environment, where scholars can explore deeply our values and our views of the world. In this way, Nantah can develop multi-faceted young talent who can synthesize external inputs and develop a strong set of internal values; talents who are far sighted and visionary, critical in leading Singapore forward. It is our family’s fervent wish that through the Ng Bok Eng Scholarship and
Professorship, Nantah shall develop more talent for Singapore combing the best of East and West. They shall interact closely with fast rising economies such as China and India at a young age, they shall learn from their society and culture, and absorb their best qualities for the benefit of Singapore.

It is a traditional Chinese value for those who have achieved success to contribute to society. We believe the best way to contribute to society is through education. Mr Tan Kah Kee, Mr Tan Lark Sye, Mr Lee Kong Chian from the Chinese community in Singapore are prominent examples. Their contribution to education has been respected and venerated by generations. Education, especially university education, is the source of strength and foundation of success for Singapore’s future development. The university shapes the future of the nation. It shall be a great source of pride for Singapore to see Nantah become a first rate global comprehensive university.

As the Chinese saying goes, the ancestors grow the trees and the heirs gain the benefit of the shade. Our generation has the duty and responsibility to contribute to the future development of Nantah for the benefit of our future generations. My father and members of my family are very pleased to be able to do our part for the future development of Nantah. We hope others shall do the same to contribute towards future developments of Nantah.

Please allow me to once again, on behalf of my father and our family, and Ng Bok Eng Holdings Privated Limited, to express our most sincere gratitude to President Nathan, DPM Tan, Ministers and honoured guests for their presence. May I wish you health and success in the future. Thank you.
尊敬的总统阁下，
副总理陈庆炎博士
教育部部长尚达曼先生
人力部长兼教育部政务部长黄永宏医生
南洋理工大学校长徐冠林教授
以及各位来宾、女士们、先生们，

d=”大家好，首先感谢主办单位，尤其是徐冠林教授，让我有机会代表家父向各位致意。由于家父年事已高，嘱咐我代表他向大家致谢。

对我们一家来讲，这将是我们十分值得纪念的一天。今天南大成立以我的父亲黄木生命名的奖学金和教授基金。同时，承蒙总统阁下、及各位贵宾的莅临和支持，这让我们感到无比的荣幸。

南大对我们一家人的印象是十分深刻的。我还依稀记得当年南大筹建时，我们兄弟姐妹如何把不吃早餐省下来的钱现捐出来的情形。现在，能够看到南大的成功，我们一家人都感到欣慰不已。

我的父亲来自一个贫苦的家庭，他没有机会接受正式教育，但他用他的双手、不屈不挠的精神把事业建立起来。虽然经历过战乱、经济低潮等困难环境，他始终勇往直前，把一次又一次的困难化成前进的动力，并终于取得了成功。新加坡现在正处于一个较困难的局面，一些国人缺乏坚定的进取心，受到挫折而意志消沉、畏缩不前，我也希望我父亲勇于奋斗的精神能给人们一个榜样。

得益于我们务实的政府，我国的成功快速发展，为世界所瞩目。我们拥有稳定的经济环境，有令人称羡的基础设施和公共服务，这是值得骄傲的。但同时，很多人也感受到我们的社会日益西方化、美国化。长期下去，这将使新加坡失去自己的特色。新加坡拥有西方化人才的同时，有必要培养出属于我们自己的、适合亚洲社会的精英和骨干，这样才能成为东西方的经济文化交汇点，使我们屹立不倒。梁启超先生说过："少年胜则国胜，少年强则国强"。作为新加坡的高等教育学府，南大应提供一个自由与开放的学术研究环境，让学者有机会深入的探讨我们的价值观和世界观，这样才能培养出多层次的、具有综合性素养、有志向、有抱负的年轻一代。他们将成为国家不可欠缺的人才，将成为社会发展的原动力。我们希望通过这个奖学金和教授基金，可以造就更多的人才以尽早的同各地
进行交流，尤其是中国、印度等未来的经济大国，学习他们的社会和文化，将其中的精华融入我们已有的现代化的知训当中，在社会的各个方面形成一批学贯东西的优秀人才。

华人是讲究回馈社会的。回馈社会最好的方式莫过于教育。就像先贤陈嘉庚先生、陈六使先生和李光前先生，他们为教育所作的贡献至今都为世人所推崇尊敬。教育，尤其是大学教育是新加坡能够继续发展的力量源泉和成功的基石，是国家的未来。把南大建设成为世界上一流的综合性大学，将会成为新加坡的骄傲。前人种树，后人乘凉。我们这一代人有责任和义务为南大的发展献出力量，这将会使我们的后代受益无穷。为了这个目的，家父和我们家庭成员尽可能为南大的发展做绵薄之力。同时我们也希望同其他的志士仁人一道继续为南大的进步献出力量。

请允许我在此再次代表我的父亲和家庭成员，以及黄木发控股有限公司向各位贵宾表示诚挚的谢意，并祝大家身体健康，事业顺利，谢谢！
CITATION OF MR NG BOK ENG BY ASSOC PROF TAN TENG KEE, MEMBER OF NTU COUNCIL

Your Excellency Mr S R Nathan,
President of the Republic of Singapore and Chancellor,
Nanyang Technological University,

Dr Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and
Co-ordinating Minister for Security & Defence,

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam,
Acting Minister for Education,

Dr Ng Eng Hen,
Acting Minister for Manpower and
Minister of State for Education,

Dr Su Guaning, President of Nanyang Technological University,

Mr Ng Bok Eng, Chairman, Ng Bok Eng Holdings,

Mr Ng Cheong Bian, Director, Ng Bok Eng Holdings,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

The University is most grateful of the benefaction by Mr Ng Bok Eng. The new generation of students and graduates would benefit from the Scholarship and Professorship programme through Mr Ng’s magnificent gift for the NTU Endowment. It is my privilege that I am appointed to read the citation of the achievements of Mr Ng Bok Eng.
In 1929, a boy who was barely 12 years old, together with his mother and two siblings left their hometown in Jinmen, China. Sailing by boat, they arrived in Bagan Siapi-api, Indonesia six weeks later to be reunited with the boy’s father. The arduous journey and stormy seas left a deep impression on the boy, who would later rise to prominence through trading.

This boy who would become a business mogul is Mr Ng Bok Eng. Mr Ng was born to a humble family on 28 September 1917 in Hou Pu Tou District, Jinmen of Fujian Province, China. His dire living conditions necessitated his family’s move to Indonesia, in hope of a brighter future. He began to develop an enterprising spirit and sharp business acumen at an early age through his struggles to make a living.

Life in Bagan Siapi-api was not much better than life in his hometown. He worked as a general worker on a plantation where his father was employed and also helped out in his father’s provision store on the plantation. However, rubber prices plunged during the Great Depression causing the plantation to shut down in 1931 leaving both father and son jobless.

With the help of his mother, he set up a roadside stall selling peanut soup. At one cent a bowl, he felt the stall was not making any returns. He closed the stall and started working as a coolie. This job required him to perform hard labour for more than 10 hours a day, including serving his employer’s family. For all his effort, he earned a measly $6 a month. The then 15-year-old concluded that this was not bringing in much income either and decided to give in to the lure of the sea to become a merchant.

The decision turned out to be a pivotal point in Mr Ng’s life as it provided the basis of his business empire. While sailing from port to port, Mr Ng came across a hilltop village which was perpetually short of daily provisions. Despite not having any capital, Mr Ng’s enterprising spirit drove him to collaborate with the ship’s owner to deliver goods to the village. As war broke out in 1942, Mr Ng seized the opportunity to start an import-export business along with a few friends. Within two years, his business has already expanded to a fleet of seven chartered ships, establishing himself as a prominent merchant in the Straits of Malacca.
Mr Ng migrated to Singapore in 1947 where he continued to be successful due to his entrepreneurial spirit and business foresight. In the 1960s, Mr Ng expanded his businesses into Hong Kong and also developed trading ties with China. In 1969, Ng Bok Eng Holdings Pte Ltd was founded to concentrate on property and securities investment.

Besides Mr Ng’s innate business sense, his upright character was another factor in his success. He was known as a trustworthy, honest and respectable businessman and was highly commended in the international political and business arena. While Mr Ng is thrifty, he has been generous and compassionate with others.

Despite being a successful businessman, Mr Ng regrets having had merely four years of informal education and deeply appreciates the need and importance of education. As such, he has decided to donate $5 million to the NTU Endowment Fund.

Mr Ng has been industrious, thrifty and is ever-mindful of his ethical conduct. Although he finds himself lacking in education, his honesty and trustworthiness have gained him international political and business recognition. These plaudits have been hard-won and are examples for the younger generation.
1929年，一个未满2岁的小男孩，跟着姐弟，随母亲由家乡经厦门、香港、新加坡，历时一个月半，终于抵达印尼的峇眼阿比，与父亲团聚。这一路局促船上的摇荡，在男孩心中泛起圈圈涟漪，不知今后的命运已和船紧密相连。

这个十来岁就开始凭灵敏的商业触觉，勇闯商机并成功创业的人，就是黄木荣。

黄木荣1917年9月28日生于福建金门后浦。少时就学，长途跋涉到印尼随父谋生。家乡生活是困苦的，印尼巴干阿比也不是天堂。初到印尼，黄木荣在父亲工作的胶园当什工，太阳没升起就开始工作，同时协助父亲打理杂货店。1931年，经济不景气，橡胶无价，胶园倒闭，父子同时失业。在母亲安排下，黄木荣跟做豆汤。一分钱一碗，豆汤并非好生意。于是，他转作苦力，每天起早摸黑，苦干十多个小时，还得加熬煮茶和服侍老板，尝尽辛酸苦涩。意识到这不是出路，年方十五的黄木荣作了个重大的决定，去跑船。

航港的决定可以说是黄氏白手起家的重大转点，可是水上生活当然必须经得起风浪。第一场重大磨炼就是疟疾。其后跟随的日子里，黄木荣留意到沿途的山村部落缺乏日常物资，兴起供应的念头，却苦于没有本钱，于是和船主商量合作，从峇眼阿比市采办，利用船主所租的方便运货前去售卖，遂开辟商之路。1942年在时局告急的情况下，黄木荣抓住机会，连同几个朋友租船自己跑码头。从吉隆坡巴生港来回峇眼阿比，苏岛和新加坡，两年内更已包租了7艘船只，在马六甲海峡占一席之地。

见证了1945年8月17日印尼独立的黄木荣，于1947年决定移居新加坡。黄木荣此成功在于眼光独到，勇于冒险；总是先人一步。进入1960年代，黄木荣把业务扩展到香港。除了新加坡与印尼两者的贸易业务，他也在国内发展新加坡和中国之间的贸易业务。1969年，他创立黄木荣实业控股私人有限公司，专门从事房地产和证券投资业务。

黄木荣的另一个成功要素是他品格高尚，诚实、守信、重义，使他赢得政界、商界的信赖。黄木荣待人宽厚，一生不吝助人。
做事严谨，要求完美的黄木荣，事业有成。如果说此生有什么憾事，那就是幼时失学，只念得四年私塾。因此，黄木荣十分重视教育，决定捐出500万元予南洋理工大学。

尽管他常说自己念得少，但是他以诚立品，赢得国际政商的信赖与敬重。这份荣誉，却不是人人能望其项背的。他的成功故事值得年轻一辈深思学习。