Singapore, 11 January 2005

TOUCHING MORE LIVES THROUGH ART

Nanyang Technological University’s students are aiming to touch more lives through their annual Festival of Arts.

The NTU Cultural Activities Club (NTU CAC), the organizer of the three-month long festival, will raise funds and conduct a donation drive as part of NTU’s Operation Moving Hearts, a campaign in aid of tsunami victims.

The Opening Carnival, which kicks off the Festival of Arts, will see charitable organizations such as the Asian Women’s Welfare Association and the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped selling handicrafts to raise funds.

NTU CAC students will also be staging ‘Arts from the Hearts’ on 12 March 2005 at Suntec City to raise funds for the ST School Pocket Money Fund and Very Special Arts. This charitable event will see the piecing together of more than 10,000 origami pieces to form a gigantic picture that symbolises the art of giving.

Another first for the festival, besides the strong charity element, is the start of not one but two arts publications by students from NTU CAC.

Art Jam is a monthly magazine, featuring arts and cultural events in NTU. It will carry a listing of major cultural events happening in the Singapore arts scene. Jeune, on the other hand, is an annual publication which focuses on the major events organised by NTU CAC.
The two arts publications aim to increase awareness of arts and cultural events in NTU as well as in Singapore. From editorial to advertising and marketing, the two magazines will be wholly managed by NTU CAC students.

These charity events and the publication of Art Jam and Jeune are over and above the wide array of arts events NTU CAC has lined up for this year’s festival. This year’s festival offerings range from music to dance to martial arts and they involve some 1,000 NTU students from NTU CAC and other arts-related clubs at NTU. The festival event list is provided in the attached fact sheet.

Says Mr Raymond Tan, a final-year Accountancy undergraduate from the Nanyang Business School and Vice President (Events Management), NTU CAC, “By injecting the spirit of giving in this year’s art festival, we hope that this year’s art festival will not only nourish the soul but our hearts as well.”

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About Nanyang Technological University
Nanyang Technological University was recently ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement at the 50th place globally and 7th in Asia, in its ranking of the 200 best universities in the world. The campus was originally developed for a Chinese language university, Nanyang University in 1955. In 1981, Nanyang Technological Institute was established on this campus to educate engineers for the rapidly developing Singapore economy. In 1991 Nanyang Technological University was inaugurated.

The university has a strong engineering school ranked among the best in the Commonwealth, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programs in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best Schools of Communications and Information in Asia, and a new (2001) School of Biological Sciences playing a leading role in Singapore’s Life Sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is an international authority on terrorism. The university is in a major expansion from 16,000 to 22,300 undergraduate students. During this expansion three new schools are being built – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Art, Design and Media.

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 realizing 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.