Singapore, 11 November 2005

NTU IMBUES SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE IN NEW BREED OF GRADUATES

As a manager in SPRING Singapore’s Entrepreneurship Development Division, Ms Joy Koh manages local start-ups, provides them with networking opportunities, and evaluates seed proposals.

After two years of promoting entrepreneurship in Singapore, Joy enrolled into Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme (TIP), to gain a better understanding of how start-ups operate in today’s market.

A scholar from SPRING Singapore and alumna of the prestigious Cornell University of the United States, Joy shares, “My organisation champions the growth of SMEs in Singapore and my work in particular is in the area of facilitating start-ups. Hence when the opportunity came for me to join NTU’s TIP, I jumped in with both feet for the chance to formally understand what makes a start-up work. I’m glad I did as the NTU programme offered many valuable insights about start-ups and SMEs. Also, I benefited greatly from the interaction with my course mates who come from different countries, industries and work backgrounds. It’s been a very useful course for me and I’ll be applying much of what I’ve learnt back at work.”

The TIP Class of 2005 comprises individuals of diverse backgrounds. The 40 graduates range from 21 years to 48 years of age, with an equal representation of fresh graduates and working professionals. Seven had also obtained higher degree qualifications such as MBAs, prior to joining TIP. Besides entrepreneurs, the class also attracted engineers, senior management staff, even an education administrator.

The diversity of the class shows TIP’s relevance in other professions as the course is tailored for those who wish to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset to reach greater success in today’s ever-changing economy.

Eight graduates from the Class of 2005 have gone one step further in their pursuit of a meaningful entrepreneurship education and have enrolled in the pioneer Master of Science degree programme in Technopreneurship and Innovation. The programme,
which commences on December 2005, will take participants to Shanghai for 10 days where they will visit start-ups and fast growing companies in Shanghai Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park.

Says Associate Professor Tan Teng Kee, Director of the Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre (NTC), “TIP is more than equipping its students with holistic entrepreneurship skills and business knowledge. Its unique teaching pedagogy offers students the transformational experiences such as being entrepreneurial in thinking and action, confident to start up businesses or to help businesses grow, commitment to success and keenness to give back to society. We are now looking into how the TIP experience can be applied to the undergraduate education as a whole in NTU. TIP is also now upgraded to a Master of Science degree, providing students an added experience by going to China, and the pioneer batch will commence their classes on 5th of December 2005.”

Since its inception in 2001, TIP has seen some 50 per cent of its graduates start their own businesses. These include serial entrepreneur Mr Roderick Chia, founder and managing director of Spiral Communications Pte Ltd, who won the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventor's Award five times, as well as Ms Jan Ho, founder of Applestiz and recipient of this year’s Spirit of Enterprise Award. The recent winner of this year’s Shell LiveWire Young Business Start-Up Awards, Mr Vincent Lee, is also a TIP alumnus. He started Inflexion, a biomedical start-up which launched its flagship product that is capable of detecting nasopharyngeal cancer in 90 minutes.

The TIP Class of 2005 will receive their diplomas from NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, at NTU’s first outdoor convocation ceremony on 11 November 2005. The guest-of-honour for the ceremony is Mr Robert Chandran, President and CEO of Chemoil Corporation, one of the world’s largest independent marine fuel suppliers.

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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.

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/