NTU'S NEW MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION RANKS HIGH AMONG CHINESE OFFICIALS

Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) Master of Public Administration (MPA) programme has proven a hit among high-ranking officials from China. The new programme was launched by Education Minister, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam in a ceremony held at NTU this morning, 12 April 2005.

The MPA programme follows the success of the Master of Science in Managerial Economics (ME). The ME programme, which started in 1998, was developed to meet the needs of Chinese leaders, many of whom were going beyond local shores to keep abreast of the political-economic developments in the region and the changing roles of the government in a market environment. Due to its popularity among Chinese leaders in the public sector, the programme has been dubbed the “Mayors’ Class”.

While the ME is designed to provide candidates with an understanding and appreciation of economic policy management and business strategies in East Asia, the MPA programme examines the best practices in public administration so that participants can enhance their skills in policy design and implementation, decision making and good governance.
The MPA programme, which commenced in March 2005, saw immediate interest from high-ranking Chinese officials. Among the programme’s inaugural intake of 55 participants are 6 mayors and deputy mayors and 45 senior directors and directors from various Chinese provinces and municipals.

Associate Professor Wu Wei (吴伟), Director of the MPA Programme, shares, “In this era of globalization, it is important that leaders have a thorough understanding and appreciation of the policies and strategies adopted by different countries. NTU’s MPA programme is thus specially designed to offer insights into the different approaches and experiences of governments from Asia. It will equip participants with the know-how to develop and implement strategic policies to meet the challenges in their countries, and enhance their effectiveness as public administrators.”

For a diverse educational experience, the range of lectures and seminars will be complemented by special lectures from retired government officials, renowned academics and professionals. Special visits and attachment to Singapore ministries and companies will be arranged, enabling participants to interact and network with local government officials and businessmen. Participants from the MPA programme will also be able to interact with their counterparts from other NTU graduate programmes, such as the Master of Art in Contemporary China. Such opportunities enable NTU to make the best use of the university’s unique bilingual and multi-cultural learning environment as training ground for these participants.

Says Mr Xu Cheng Cang (许成仓), Deputy Mayor of Lhasa (capital city of Tibet), “As China develops, there is a need for us to master advanced theories and learn from the best practices in public administration. NTU has special insights into China and has developed many diverse programmes for the China market. The university’s outstanding faculty members and excellent learning environment make the MPA the ideal programme where we can enhance our skills and effectiveness as public administrators.”
To boost the MPA programme, NTU plans to invite more renowned academics and professionals to be full time and adjunct professors. The university is also exploring possible collaboration with top Chinese universities.

This morning’s ceremony, which also marks the opening of the 8th Master of Science in Managerial Economics programme, was witnessed by NTU President, Dr Su Guaning as well as senior officials from NTU and the Chinese Embassy.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established international institution in tertiary education.

Our university has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. We began as Nanyang University, a private university set up with donations from people of all walks of life, from Singapore and the region. The university grounds, Yunnan Garden Campus, was donated by the Hokkien Clan Association as part of this campaign.

We were reborn as Nanyang Technological Institute, established on the same campus in 1981 with government funding to educate practice-oriented engineers for the burgeoning Singapore economy. In 1991 we became Nanyang Technological University with the absorption of the National Institute of Education.

Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 universities in the world. We have a strong engineering college ranked among the best globally, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programmes 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.

Undergraduate enrolment will swell from 17,500 to 23,500 with the establishment of three new schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.
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 realising 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.

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