Singapore, 12 April 2005

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) welcomes the government’s acceptance of the University Autonomy Governance Framework committee’s recommendations.

Dr Su Guaning, President NTU, says, “This transformation of Singaporean public universities is a landmark decision that will have long lasting impact on university education in Singapore. It is a courageous response to the common problems facing universities world-wide to release the universities to chart their own path while supporting them generously with financial resources. Of course, the onus is on the universities to act in the public interest, particularly that of the Singapore taxpayer, and to remain true to their primary purpose - educating students.”

He adds, “Autonomy will allow NTU to capitalize on our established strengths and develop our own success formula in higher education. We are the fastest-growing comprehensive university, and expect to see our undergraduate
enrolment swell to 22,300 by 2010. We will stand to gain most from autonomy as a corporatised NTU will present students with more differentiated programmes and compelling reasons to make NTU their preferred choice. Our students can look forward to a unique student-centric undergraduate experience that gives them a global perspective and grooms them to be leaders.”

In charting our new directions, NTU will be guided by the Policy and Performance Agreements to be signed with the Ministry of Education (MOE) by mid 2006. We look forward to an Agreement that allows the University space to develop its unique model of excellence while continuing to deliver on its social mission.

To prepare for the new governance relationship with MOE, NTU has started transforming our internal systems and processes since end last year. We aim to have a smooth implementation of the systems and processes in the key areas by end 2005, in time for corporatisation in mid 2006.

A key area is governance. The governance of the university is being primed for change as we prepare for broadening of the University Council from an oversight role to that of a Board of Trustees that hold the university in trust for the people of Singapore, drawing in resources and external inputs to help the university do its best for our stakeholders, most importantly, the students.

Says Chairman of NTU's university council, Mr Koh Boon Hwee, “I see a greater involvement for the Council going forward, both at the strategic level, as well as in other key areas where Council members will have particular expertise and knowledge. We will need to bring on board ever more committed and passionate people who are willing to give of their time and expertise to the University.”

In administration, new systems for human resource and finance are being set up to be more performance-based and result-oriented. Similarly, the management
and development of campus facilities are being transformed to maximize asset utilization and improve cost-efficiency.

At the undergraduate level, a broad based educational framework has been established taking advantage of the three new schools starting up – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and the School of Art Design and Media. New majors and minors are established each year. The Global Immersion Programme provides our students the opportunity of an overseas education at a Singapore university. The URECA (Undergraduate Research on Campus) programme provides opportunity for our undergraduates to excel in research at an early age. The residential nature of our university provides ideal opportunities for leadership development in student activities.

At the graduate level, our schools are competing successfully for grants from external funding agencies. Our Ph.D. graduates have found themselves in demand in research and academia.

**END**

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 17,000 to 22,300 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.

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