Singapore, 13 August 2004

NTU LAUNCHES NEW ENGINEERING SPECIALISATION TO BOOST COMPETITIVENESS OF LOCAL MARINE AND OFFSHORE INDUSTRY
- Industry commits over half a million dollars in scholarships

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has launched a new undergraduate specialization in marine and offshore engineering that will help provide talent to meet the evolving technological and operational needs of the marine and offshore engineering industry. The first of its kind in Singapore, the specialization is expected to boost the global competitiveness of the growing industry in Singapore, which currently employs more than 33,000 staff and produced turnover of S$3.8 billion last year.

The new specialization, jointly developed by NTU and the marine and offshore industry to provide talented manpower for the booming sector, is supported by the Economic Development Board (EDB).

Says Mr Teo Ming Kian, Chairman of EDB: “We believe in the growth prospects of this industry. World-class shipyards and marine equipment companies here are engaging in higher value-added activities such as R&D and manufacturing, in addition to their headquarters and regional distribution centre activities in Singapore.”
The new specialization has received strong endorsement from industry. Six leading marine and offshore companies have pledged over half a million dollars worth of scholarships for students over the next three years. Five of these companies - Keppel Offshore & Marine, SembCorp Marine, Pan United Marine, Singapore Technologies Marine and Hoo Huat Engineering - are from the Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI). The sixth sponsoring company is MTU Asia.

So far, 13 undergraduates have been awarded scholarships. These scholarship recipients will embark on a rewarding career with their sponsor companies upon graduation.

Mr Heng Chiang Gnee, President of ASMI, adds, “The marine and offshore industry is expected to do well for the next few years in view of the strong oil and gas industry and the buoyant shipping market. To support this growth, the industry needs to recruit more talent to ensure that the growth can be sustained. The robustness of the industry is also supported by our ability to develop and adopt new technologies.”

37 final-year undergraduates from the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering have opted for the specialization, which took effect this semester (26 July 2004). The students can choose to read four prescribed electives from a pool of six electives, including Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, a compulsory fundamental elective.

Professor Yue Chee Yoon, Dean of the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering, shares, “NTU has core competencies in disciplines such as marine engineering, logistic transportation as well as marine and offshore technology. Many of our faculty are trained in these areas and are also actively involved in R&D activities and collaboration with the industry. Coupled with our strong links with industry, we are well-placed to play our part in contributing to the growth of Singapore’s marine and offshore engineering industry.”

The introduction of the new specialization in marine and offshore engineering is part of NTU’s initiatives to become an education and research hub for marine and maritime matters. Previous initiatives include the new Bachelor and Master of Science programmes in Maritime Studies (Shipping) as well as the Master of Science in Offshore Engineering.
NTU is also home to the 3-year-old Maritime Research Centre, which conducts and co-ordinates R&D in port and maritime technology. The university has also established a professorship in shipping management, where prominent practitioners and academics are invited to teach, advise on R&D work and conduct seminars/workshops at NTU.

A special ceremony to mark the launch of the new marine and offshore engineering specialization and scholarship programme is held at NTU today, 13 August 2004. The event is graced by the presence of NTU President, Dr Su Guaning and the Chairman of EDB, Mr Teo Ming Kian. Management and faculty of the university and industry leaders from the marine and offshore sector are present as well.

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About Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission in Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond. NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
   - Civil and Environmental Engineering
   - Computer Engineering
   - Electrical and Electronic Engineering
   - Materials Engineering
   - Mechanical and Production Engineering
2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media (to be established by 2005)
7. School of Physical Sciences (to be established by 2005)

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