NTU and Waseda University signed agreement to create a focal point for academia-industry alliance in life sciences

The life sciences scene in the Asia Pacific region will be boosted by the signing of a new agreement, between the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Japan’s prestigious Waseda University, to create a focal point for academia-industry research alliance.

This new model of academia-industry alliance aims to open up more possibilities of commercializing intellectual properties created by academic research, by linking up intellectual networks of Singapore, Japan and the Asia Pacific region. The new agreement will see researchers from NTU and Waseda University collaborating on advanced scientific research in the field of life sciences. At the same time, both universities will tap research talent and respective networks and ties with industry to advance the development of bioscience technologies, as well as explore the applications of these technologies.

The first phase of the new agreement focuses on research cooperation between NTU’s School of Biological Sciences and Waseda-Olympus Bioscience Research Institute in Singapore. Researchers will work together in the area of neurobiology to explore functions of the brain such as perception. Other possible areas of
collaboration include neurological diseases and the therapeutics to such diseases, and ageing.

Under the agreement, both universities will also look into creating projects to train students and researchers to be competent in handling global challenges.

NTU and Waseda University are well-positioned to be key drivers of the academia-industry alliance due to their strength and growth potential in Biological Sciences, Engineering, as well as their strong ties with the industry.

The signing of this agreement marked an important milestone in the existing cooperation between NTU and Waseda University. In January 2002, the two universities signed their first Cooperative Agreement. The scopes of collaboration included encouraging visits by faculty for research purposes, and exchanging academic information. The new agreement brings this cooperation to a higher dimension.

Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU and Dr Katsuhiko Shirai, President of Waseda signed the agreement at a ceremony held at NTU’s newly-completed School of Biological Sciences building on 13 July 2004. Both Presidents and guests toured the state-of-the-art facilities housed in the School of Biological Sciences.

**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)*

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

**About Waseda University**

Established in 1882, Waseda University’s mission is to uphold the independence of learning, to promote the practical utilization of knowledge, and to foster good citizenship.

Waseda University, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding in 2007, is promoting various educational and research enterprises in Asia, under the motto: Co-creation of knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region.

As one of the top Universities in Japan, Waseda University has built strong connection with the industrial sector. The amount of external funding Waseda has successfully acquired from industries was the highest among Japanese universities in 2003. In addition, many of its academicians have their career origins in the industries, reinforcing this connection even further.

Waseda University has 11 undergraduate school, 16 graduate institutes, and a student body of 50,000, including 1,700 international students of over 60 nationalities. The current 490,000 strength of Waseda alumni are contributing in diverse sectors around the world.

*** END ***