Singapore, 15 April 2004

NTU STUDENTS TO HAVE MORE CHOICES IN OVERSEAS WORK ATTACHMENTS

More than 3,500 Nanyang Technological University (NTU) students are placed each year with more than 1,000 local and overseas companies and organizations in more than 24 countries for work attachments.

NTU students are required to complete a work attachment programme lasting 8 to 24 weeks as part of their course requirements.

The number of overseas companies and organizations to which NTU students may be attached looks set to increase, giving NTU students more choice. This is the expected outcome from a bid the university has won to host the 15th World conference of the World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE) from 8 to 15 July 2007.

The biennial conference will bring more than 700 leading work-integrated learning experts from more than 300 universities from 55 countries to Singapore.

The Office for Professional Attachment (OPA) at NTU will lead the conference and explore yet more opportunities for further cross-border internship exchanges.

The main objectives of the conference are:

1) To promote the cause of integrating learning and work through internship programmes between universities and industry;
2) To share best practices in the management and execution of these programmes; and
3) To showcase the latest trends and developments in the areas of work integrated learning from research carried out by universities and industry.

Says Mr Ng Boon Hwang, Director, OPA, “NTU has always strived to provide a rigorous undergraduate experience that meets real world needs. The international exposure contributed by working overseas will not only give our graduates a distinct competitive advantage but also help globalise the Singapore workforce.”
He added that hosting the world conference would also thrust NTU into a leadership position in the global network of work-integrated education. As NTU expands its network of partner companies and organizations throughout the world, its next move, says Mr Ng, would be to join hands with WACE to promote work-integrated learning in Asia.

**About WACE**
The World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE) is an international non-profit organization that promotes cooperative or work-integrated learning. It helps interested individuals and institutions build close ties between the classroom and the workplace by providing technical information and assistance. It actively advocates cooperative education (also known as work-integrated learning or co-op) around the world. It also provides technical information and assistance to schools, businesses, and governments that want to establish or strengthen cooperative education programs.

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