NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 15 March 2007, 6.00pm

Singapore, 15 March 2007

NTU’s new institute to be centre of excellence in research, education and technology development in environmental and water technologies

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is developing a new research, development and education centre in environment and water technology, called the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI).

NEWRI will coordinate various centres and programmes, and provide opportunities for Singapore’s researchers to work together with top international experts to conduct cutting-edge research in environmental and water technologies (EWT). Such R&D work will tap on the expertise of NTU’s current EWT Cluster as well as NTU’s spin-off company, IESE Pte. Ltd.

At the same time, NEWRI will nurture the necessary talent needed to support the EWT industry through its postgraduate programmes. These programmes will expand on NTU’s current postgraduate programmes in EWT, including a collaboration with Stanford University – the Singapore-Stanford Partnership. Over the next five years, NEWRI aims to produce 400 Master and 120 PhD graduates.

By providing a total environment that builds research excellence and developmental capabilities while training high-value manpower for the growing industry, NEWRI will help provide further push to Singapore’s efforts to become a global hub for environment and water for business, investment, research and technology.
The first of NEWRI’s affiliated centres, the Singapore Membrane Technology Centre (SMTC), will be officially launched later this year. SMTC will have an investment of $27 million over 5 years and will focus on an important aspect of water technology – the membrane technology. Research at the Centre is expected to begin very soon.

The SMTC is a collaboration between NTU and UNSW-Asia and will be led by globally-renowned membrane expert, Professor Tony Fane. Professor Fane was NTU’s Temasek Professor and has led NTU’s Temasek programme on Membrane Technology for Sustainable Water for the past 4 years. Professor Fane will now hold concurrent faculty appointments at both NTU and UNSW.

Associate Professor Edmond Lo, Head, Division of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, NTU, says, “The establishment of NEWRI further builds on NTU’s strengths in EWT. NEWRI will bring together different initiatives and programmes, and provide a coordinated platform from which Singapore’s researchers and other top international experts can work together on developing cutting-edge technologies and applications. Another crucial aspect of NEWRI is its focus on training post-graduates, to ensure that there will be sufficient high-value manpower to support the continued growth of the industry. By developing a total ‘eco-system’ to build research and education excellence, NEWRI will provide further push to Singapore’s efforts to be a global hub in EWT.”

He adds, “SMTC is an exciting start for NEWRI. It rightly focuses on developing membrane technology, an area that is critical in Singapore’s efforts towards self-sufficiency in water. We are excited that research at SMTC will begin soon, and we believe that the projects we work on will further contribute to Singapore’s membrane technology development.”

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.
NTU has 4 colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore's life sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world's top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities and Arts boasts Singapore's first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, will be inaugurated in 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism.

NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University in USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

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