Singapore, 17 December 2004

NTU GROOMS INTERNATIONAL TALENT
- 1st batch of undergraduates to undergo multi-country Global Immersion Programme

Students from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will now have the opportunity to immerse themselves in fast-growing economies overseas. Under the university’s flagship Global Immersion Programme (GIP), over 180 students have been selected to study and/or work in the US and China for up to six months.

The GIP is part of NTU’s initiatives to develop leaders for Singapore and beyond. Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU, explains the rationale for such a programme, “The GIP is an integral part of our New Undergraduate Experience. It is designed to groom future leaders to excel in a global environment by offering them a multi-country education and experience, right from their undergraduate days.

“The GIP is more than the regular student exchanges and overseas attachments. It is specially tailored to maximize the immersion potential so that our students can acquire the experience of an overseas education.”

The GIP has proven to be very popular among NTU students. To cater to this demand, NTU plans to expand the programme – it hopes to send up to 20% of its undergraduate cohort overseas in five years’ time. The university is also assessing the feasibility of
sending its students to other fast-growing economies such as India and other neighbouring countries as well as selected countries in Europe.

Song Jing, a third-year Materials Engineering student, shares her excitement, “The GIP is a great programme as it allows me to study and work overseas while earning my degree at NTU. I am very glad that NTU has provided me with this opportunity and I look forward to immersing myself fully in a new and different environment.

“It is exhilarating to be able to live overseas for an extended period of time though many of us are also a little apprehensive to be away from family and friends. We are very heartened that the Singapore societies in several US and Chinese universities are planning welcome parties for us. It’d be fun to see familiar faces when we’re there.”

The pioneer batch of students, who will leave for China and the US in Jan 05, has established a club to enable all GIP participants to network with one another. They also plan to set up a mentoring system where they can share their experiences with future GIP participants.

To commemorate the occasion, a send-off ceremony is held at the Nanyang Technological University this morning, 17 Dec 04 for the students. The event is attended by Minister of State for Education, Mr Chan Soo Sen, representatives of the Chinese and US embassies, representatives of some of the companies which are participating in GIP, NTU senior management and faculty members as well as students.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University was recently ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement at the 50th place globally and 7th in Asia, in its ranking of the 200 best universities in the world.

The campus was originally developed for a Chinese language university, Nanyang University in 1955. In 1981, Nanyang Technological Institute was established on this campus to educate engineers for the rapidly developing Singapore economy. In 1991 Nanyang Technological University was inaugurated.

The university has a strong engineering school ranked among the best in the Commonwealth, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programs in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best Schools of Communications and Information in Asia, and a new (2001) School of Biological Sciences playing a leading role in Singapore’s Life Sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is an international authority on terrorism.

The university is in a major expansion from 16,000 to 22,300 undergraduate students. During this expansion three new schools are being built – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Art, Design and Media.

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 realizing 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 http://www.ntu.edu.sg