Address by Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman, NTU Board of Trustees at the NTU Alumni Get-together Dinner, Donghaitan Garden Restaurant Beidaihe, China on Saturday, 17 June 2006, at 7.35pm

Mr Song Changrui, Party Secretary of Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province
NTU President Dr Su Guaning
Alumni and friends of the University
Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you to the NTU Alumni Get-together Dinner, a wonderful occasion to celebrate the achievements of our China-based graduates.

And this morning, we marked, with great joy, another milestone, with the convocation of some 190 graduands who completed their Masters degree programmes at NTU in the last academic year. We celebrate the successes of past graduates of our key China programmes.

These include the Master of Science in Managerial Economics programme, Nanyang EMBA programme, and the Master of Public Administration programme.

We believe, you now hold a much sought-after degree from one of the world's finest universities. My heartiest congratulations!

You are also now officially, an alumnus of NTU. We are proud to have such a prominent group of alumni. Many of you are mayors, deputy mayors, and senior directors, as well as leading businessmen.

Today, NTU is well on its way to becoming a global university of excellence, known for its strengths in science and technology. We are committed to grooming top talent for Singapore, for China, for Asia and beyond. The university has recently been granted autonomy, and we are ever more committed to the pursuit of excellence.

This new autonomous NTU will not only build on its deep capabilities in engineering and science, but will also develop peaks of excellence in accountancy, business, communication, education, art and humanities. We will ensure all our students, including those steeped in science and technology, receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in the fast-paced, high-tech global economy of the 21st Century.

In this context, I believe that no country will have a bigger impact on the 21st century than China. NTU has moved ahead early in China, the world's fastest-growing economy, and elsewhere in the world, to form many fruitful partnerships in global education.
Last June, NTU opened offices in Zhongguancun, China’s largest business incubator, and Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park, Shanghai’s hotbed for high-tech companies. This has widened educational and business opportunities for our students and alumni. A new Chinese version of our highly successful Master’s programme in Technopreneurship & Innovation will also help train talent for start-up companies in China.

In 2005, NTU expanded ties with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry to enhance Sino-Singapore cooperation and develop new executive programmes for senior China government officials. In a joint venture with the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, NTU also established Singapore’s first Confucius Institute to promote and develop Chinese language, culture, and business in Singapore and the region.

We are proud of our global alumni, many of whom are high-achievers. They stay connected with the university in various ways. Some sit on admission interview panels; others on School Advisory Boards; and still others organise class activities to help fellow alumni stay in touch with the university.

I hope you will continue to stay connected with NTU and your fellow alumni, and build on the close-knit network you have established. The Alumni Affairs Office has launched alumni associations in Beijing and Shanghai, so do stay in touch.

Together, we will continue to enhance the international reputation of NTU and build NTU into a global university of excellence in science and technology.

I wish you an enjoyable evening.

Thank you.

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