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NTU WELCOMES SETTING UP OF ASSOC OF SINGAPORE UNIVERSITIES AND AUTONOMY

Nanyang Technological University welcomes the suggestion made by DPM Tony Tan for an association of Singapore universities and looks forward to university autonomy.

The suggestion is line with NTU's vision of being a Global University of Excellence and our push to strengthen and widen our existing and extensive collaboration network with leading universities all over the world such as Stanford, MIT, Cornell, Shanghai Jiaotong, Tsinghua University and the Indian Institute of Technology.

Aside from collaborations with individual leading universities in the world, our university has begun exploring collaborations with clusters of universities, possibly on a regional basis.

NTU set up two strategic groups last year which complement the work of our International Relations Office. They are: the India Strategy Group and the China Strategy Group. Both these groups help us widen and deepen our presence in India and China to create opportunities for our students to gain the cultural intelligence needed to be global leaders.

NTU is taking such collaborations a step further. Besides links with leading universities worldwide, we are bolstering our links with leading research laboratories and with leading multinational companies as well. Such links will create opportunities that will give our students the added advantage of market and industry experience and smarts.

We will continue to seek out opportunities for collaboration with established universities and institutes worldwide so our students and faculty will gain from such global collaboration exposure.

The association Dr Tan mentioned could facilitate NTU's continual efforts to capitalize on our strengths in engineering, business, communication, and, at the same time, expand our influence in humanities, sciences, and art & design on the global front. And while the three local universities work together in the association to forge linkages, there will necessarily be areas unique to each as the universities are also competitors.
Concerning autonomy for universities, NTU feels that autonomy would give us more financial flexibility and administrative freedom to explore innovative and entrepreneurial ways of enhancing our teaching and research to educate leaders and advance knowledge. With autonomy, we can align our resources better to achieve our vision of being a global university of excellence.

Says Prof Su Guaning, President, NTU, "I see autonomy as giving us a turbo boost in the direction of a global university of excellence which we are already pursuing. We have been given some leeway to differentiate ourselves and our students are already reaping some of the benefits of a broad-based education with unique programmes like the Global immersion programme and the Undergraduate Research Experience on Campus. Autonomy can further boost our efforts to live our vision of being a global university of excellence, how we can create an environment for our students to be entrepreneurial and caring global leaders, and how we can achieve research excellence. We look forward to more benefits that autonomy would bring."