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**NTU and USM leverage mutual strengths for excellence in education and research**

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) will leverage mutual strengths for excellence in education and research.

The two universities will put in place an arrangement for the exchange of academic staff. This academic exchange will see academic staff members from either side teach and conduct joint research. A likely research focus is pharmaceutical engineering. USM is one of only three Malaysian universities designated to be a research-intensive university.

The NTU-USM academic exchange will complement an existing arrangement established in 1997 by the two universities for the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students for study and research.

Pockets of collaboration already exist between the two. For example, the collaboration between the two universities' schools of communication to study the media's role in Singapore-Malaysian relations.

Says Prof Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Vice-Chancellor, USM, “We look forward to exploring new ideas of collaboration between USM and NTU given the various academic and cultural experiences that the two institutions have developed over time. In a globalised environment, educational institutions especially universities have a lead role to play in enhancing diversity as part of the education experience that students and faculty members can look forward to enrich themselves.”

Adds Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU, “We are pleased for this opportunity to broaden and deepen our relationship with USM and are confident that, together,
we will be able to forge a formidable relationship to harness our mutual strengths and resources for joint research and education.”

Dr Su and Prof Dato’ Dzulkifli signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 18 November 2004 to formally acknowledge their commitment for joint research and education. Alluding to cordial ties between the two universities, the MOU also caters for a social exchange between the two tertiary institutions through inter-varsity games.

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About Universiti Sains Malaysia

The university has been developing and expanding since its inception, which started with the enrolment of 57 science based students. Now, USM offers courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to approximately 25,000 students. USM has also become a well-known university locally and internationally. Of late, USM has made its entrance into the Global 200 best universities, making it among the top 15 in Asia.

Its success in a variety of fields, particularly research, is worth mentioning. The most recent achievement was when USM won six research medals (two gold, three silver, one bronze) in the Nuremberg International Invention Exhibition this month. It is now redesignated as a research-intensive university with a forte in biotechnology.

USM was founded after an agreement made on a resolution approved by the Penang State Legislative Council in 1962, which suggested that a university college be established in the state. An area in Sungai Ara was identified and later the foundation stone was placed by the then Prime Minister, Y.T.M Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj on the 7th of August 1967.

In 1969, the University of Penang was established in response to the need for a larger campus with a more conducive environment, appropriate to the needs of the future of the country.

In April 1969, Professor Hamzah Sendut was appointed the Vice-Chancellor. Two months later, a group of 57 students was accepted to begin their studies. Since the area of Sungai Ara could not be developed as fast as required, the group was placed at the Malayan Teachers’ Training College at Bukit Gelugor on loan from the Education Ministry. In 1971, the campus, which was originally planned to be situated in Sungai Ara, moved to its present site, Minden, a beautiful location with an area measuring 500 acres. The green and hilly scenery facing the sea is truly captivating, now dubbed as “The University in a Garden”.

Since its beginning, USM has implemented a school system, as opposed to the traditional faculty system. What is unique about this system is that each school
could fulfil the needs of a more focused degree in the chosen area of study and at the same time, students could have the opportunity to explore other areas of study offered by another school.

The interdisciplinary approach could ensure that USM, the first in the country to adopt this system, would produce trained, multi-skilled graduates. Enhancing this is the formation of seven research clusters that are also multi-disciplinary in nature.

For more information, visit [http://www.usm.my/en/](http://www.usm.my/en/).

**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/](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/).