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NTU’S NANYANG RESEARCH PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO INSPIRE YOUNG MINDS
- Secondary school students participate for the first time

The annual NTU Nanyang Research Programme (NRP), formerly known as the Technology and Engineering Research Programme, came to yet another successful conclusion on Saturday, with participating students presenting their projects at a symposium.

Previously targeted at JC 1 students, NRP extended its reach to secondary 4 students for the first time this year, and was very well received. The unique programme allows students as young as 16 to fully participate in a PhD-level project. This year’s programme attracted more than 100 participants from 15 Junior Colleges and secondary schools.

The successful programme was started in 1994 by a group of enthusiastic professors and researchers with the aim of cultivating interest in research in young students. It was renamed this year to reflect NTU’s expanded scope with the start-up of its new schools.

Participating students have the opportunity of experiencing the full spectrum of a research environment. They are attached to faculty members who act as mentors.
Along the way, participants discuss their ideas with academic staff members and, in the process, sharpen their investigative, analytical and experimental skills.

Cheryl and Nicole Quah, 16 year-old twins from Raffles Girls School, enthused: “What was most memorable was how our mentor, A/P Stuart Springham, would make use of various opportunities to share his knowledge and place our project within a relevant context. He infused us with his enthusiasm and greatly heightened our interest in our project.” (Please refer to attached factsheet for further details on Cheryl and Nicole.)

NRP Chairman, Dr Paul Lee, NIE’s Deputy Head (Research and Post Graduate Matters) is glad that the participants have enjoyed the research journey. He said: “Research is something to be experienced. There are many things which one needs to do to achieve a project’s objectives. We hope that the young students, through this programme, learn to question accepted “facts”. I believe that the skills acquired through this programme will be helpful in whatever careers the students embark on in future.”

He also noted that as a comprehensive university, NTU is now able to offer expert mentors in a large variety of topics, as can be seen in the projects offered to students this year. Diverse projects undertaken by the young students this year include: feasibility study for a tsunami warning system, Aerospace Non-Destructive Testing, Feasibility study of solar energy and its implementation techniques in Singapore and Forming of nano-materials for biomedical applications. (Please refer to attached factsheet for details on these projects.)

Hong Fei, from Raffles Junior College, said: “When we started on our project, Carbon nanotubes, we knew nothing about the semi-conductor industry. With the help of our mentor, we are proud to report that we have successfully completed our project.”

His team mate, Yu Yibo of Hwa Chong Institution, added: “Our learning experience at NTU has widened our horizon and given us a pleasant insight into the world of scientific research”.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution.

Our university has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 universities in the world. We have a strong engineering college ranked among the best globally, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programmes in the world, an internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best communication and information schools in Asia, and a biological sciences school at the forefront of Singapore’s life sciences initiative.
NTU has established three new schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. With the comprehensive curriculum, vibrant campus life and international experience, the university is in the process of realising its New Undergraduate Experience initiative.

A traditional strength of the university is the high employment rate and high remuneration received by its graduates. Strong international relationships are also a hallmark of NTU. We have collaborations with more than 250 institutions worldwide, including MIT, Stanford University and Cornell University in the US, Peking University, Tsinghua University and Shanghai Jiaotong University in China, Waseda University in Japan and many others in Europe and Asia.

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