NEWS RELEASE

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BUSINESS TIMES–NTU STUDY OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO COMPETITIVENESS OF INDIAN STATES

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has collaborated with The Business Times to conduct the first independent assessment of the competitiveness of the Indian states.

This research is a timely response to the call by investors, businessmen and policymakers alike for a more in-depth understanding of India. As a fast-growing economy with one of the largest markets in the world, India is also a country of great diversity, with huge variations between its states. Knowing these variations will be critical to those who wish to do business in, or with, India.

Based on extensive field work, the Business Times-NTU Annual Competitiveness Ranking and Policy Simulations of 35 Indian states and union territories examines the government and institutions, as well as economic, business and social environments; and reviews the policy formulation and reform efforts by local Indian authorities to enhance their competitive edge. More than 100 relevant indicators are analysed from publicly available data to derive the competitiveness ranking indices of the 35 states and union territories in India.
Mr Alvin Tay (郑传敬), Editor of The Business Times says: "As Southeast Asia's leading business newspaper, we strive to provide news and analysis that is timely and relevant to our readers, many of whom are key decision makers. We are delighted to partner with NTU in producing this study, which helps cut through the complexities of doing business in an environment as dynamic, challenging and diverse as India."

NTU's Dr Nilanjan Sen, Dr Tan Kong Yam (陈光炎), Dr Tan Khee Giap (陈企昭), and Dr Wu Wei (吴伟) will unveil the findings of the Business Times-NTU Annual Competitiveness Ranking and Policy Simulations of 35 Indian states and union territories at a conference held at the Ritz Carlton this morning. The conference is sponsored by Ascendas Pte Ltd, the industry pacesetter for IT Parks in India, and supported by the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Dr Tan Kong Yam, Director of the Asia Research Centre, shares: "With globalisation, it becomes increasingly important for us to understand and appreciate the different economies and their impact on the region and the world. Hence NTU has taken proactive steps in setting up the Asia Research Centre so that we can conduct research and provide insights into economic powerhouses such as China, India as well as the emerging and fast-growing economies of ASEAN. We will continue to tap our strength in research to identify and address real world needs."

The research findings are expected to benefit the business community and policy makers in understanding the actual economic development in India at the state level, where most operational decisions are made.

Ms Chong Siak Ching, President and CEO of Ascendas, adds: "Knowing the environment in which one operates is the key to business success. As Asia's leading provider of business space solutions, and an active real estate player in India, Ascendas is keenly aware of the importance of good market knowledge. We are glad to sponsor today's conference and to play a part in making this information accessible to those looking to do business in India."

While this partnership between NTU and The Business Times is a first for both, the Business Times-NTU Annual Competitiveness Ranking and Policy Simulations of 35 Indian states and union territories is the second flagship project undertaken by the NTU Asia Research Centre. The first project – the Annual Competitiveness Ranking of Mainland Chinese Economies was unveiled at a separate conference held earlier in June this year.
Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, is the Guest-of-Honour at the conference. The event is well attended by senior executives of multinational corporations, government-linked companies and small and medium sized enterprises, key officials from government, members of the diplomatic community and academics.

A comprehensive report of the research will be on sale after the conference. Those who are interested in purchasing a copy can contact Dr Tan Khee Giap at email: atankg@ntu.edu.sg or tel: 6790 4832.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution with 12 Schools, including three new schools - the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 in the world. Our strength in science and engineering is acknowledged globally. We have a business school with an MBA programme that is among the top 100 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. The Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism.

Our New Undergraduate Experience featuring a holistic education including residential living and international experience has received external endorsement for its comprehensive curriculum featuring a rich selection of minors.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg
About The Business Times
The Business Times, a member of the Singapore Press Holdings group, was launched in October 1976 when Singapore was beginning its rapid development as a regional financial centre and business hub.

Now firmly established as South-east Asia’s leading business daily, BT brings to its readers each day a comprehensive package of corporate, financial, economic and political news, analysis and commentary. The emphasis is on Singapore and Asian news and trends, but developments elsewhere in the world are also covered in considerable depth as Singapore’s business interests are global. In June 1995, BT became the first English-language newspaper in Asia to go on the World Wide Web.

For more information, visit http://business-times.asia1.com.sg