NTU-Waseda Double Master's Degree Program

Launching Ceremony Address

Katsuhiko Shirai, Dr. Eng.
President, Waseda University

- Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry;
- His Excellency Mr. Takaaki Kojima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Singapore;
- Mr. Teo Ming Kian, Chairman of the Singapore Economic Development Board;
- Mr. Shigeaki Yoshikawa, President of Japanese Association, Singapore;
- Mr. Masao Tetsuya, President of Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Singapore;
- Dr. Su Guaning, President of Nanyang Technological University;
- Prof. Hong Hai, Dean of the Nanyang Business School;
- distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

1. Let me express my appreciation for your attendance at our launching ceremony of the NTU-Waseda Double Master's Degree Program. It is my great pleasure to be celebrating with you today the inauguration of our joint postgraduate degree program with Nanyang Technological University.

2. As you know, we have been developing this program since we had the honor of welcoming your Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan to Waseda University in September 2001. This being the first academic program to offer degrees overseas, not only for Waseda but among the universities in Japan, we have duly made careful preparations and endeavored to make the contents of our joint graduate program as attractive as possible, so that it will represent Japanese higher education for the international community.

3. In June 2003, Waseda University had the most honorable opportunity of inviting and conferring an Honorary Doctorate to your Minister Mentor Lee
Kuan Yew. Dr. Lee most encouragingly promised us at the Conferral Ceremony that he will kindly extend his support to establish stronger Waseda presence in Singapore. I would like to thank everyone involved in our collaborative project, especially the government officials of Singapore including those at the Singapore Economic Development Board, as well as the representatives of Nanyang Technological University, whose patience and cooperation made possible the inauguration of this worthy program.

4. Being scarce in natural resources, Japan and Singapore have promoted and enthusiastically invested in education in order to make the best of its human resources, by nurturing individuals with excellent management skills through the development of science and technology on the national level. Such efforts led to the remarkable worldwide achievements by Japanese companies in numerous industries, and their lasting success reflects the outstanding technical skills and human resource development resulting from the emphasis put upon education.

5. The new collaborative program between Waseda and NTU to be launched in Singapore involves the management of technology, or MOT. Many of today's globally successful corporations are those that succeeded in strategically combining advanced technology with business management. This program is intended to provide students with an environment offering systematic study in the theory and application of how to combine management with technology based on such corporate models.

6. Waseda University will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding in 2007. For the occasion, we intend to expand our various enterprises in Asia closely collaborating with institutions of education and research in our neighboring countries under the motto, "co-creation of academic excellence in Asia and the Pacific", at the same time contributing to regional development. My great pleasure would be to share with you the expertise of combining business management with the advanced technology and the
human resource development of the Japanese companies and Waseda's tradition and experiences of practical learning, through our efforts to provide an MBA/MOT program in partnership with NTU.

7. Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Singapore government, especially EDB, for an extraordinary support to make this program to be materialized. Also, allow me to thank NTU for your professional contribution to make this collaboration proceed as intended. In appreciation, we seek your continuous support for the success of this groundbreaking international academic venture.

8. Thank you for your attention.