NEWS RELEASE

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NTU TO RAISE EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG SINGAPOREANS
- Organises Singapore’s first ever earthquake-themed competition for tertiary students

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is organising Singapore’s first ever earthquake-themed competition for tertiary students – the NTU Earthquake Challenge 2006. The competition will impress upon engineering students the considerations involved in structural design by getting them to construct models which will then be put through a simulated earthquake.

Recent devastating earthquakes in Pakistan on 8 October 2005 and Sumatra-Andaman Islands in December 2004 brought into focus the importance of building structures that can withstand earthquakes. The aim of this competition, organized by NTU’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), is to provide students an opportunity to develop insight into the important factors that can influence the dynamic behaviour and performance of a building structure during an earthquake. With such knowledge, students will gain an appreciation of structural considerations of buildings, factors that affect the stability of buildings and the different modes of structural failure. [see attached Fact Sheet for programme details of competition]

The participating students will be briefed on earthquake engineering and will learn about issues such as: common types of building failure during earthquakes, various types of building elements which can increase the resistance of a building to earthquakes, etc.
Each student will be given hands-on opportunity to construct a building model for testing under a simulated earthquake using a Shake Table at CEE’s Protective Engineering Laboratory – the largest area of strong floor among laboratories involved in earthquake simulation research outside of Japan. The teams’ models will be assessed based on how well and efficient they have withstood the earthquakes.

The participating students will come from first year Engineering students of NTU and final year students of Singapore Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. All participating students will be working in four-member teams.

Says Professor Pan Tso-Chien, Dean CEE, NTU: “The NTU Earthquake Challenge 2006 is a Singapore first in the realm of earthquake awareness education. The earthquake-related research under CEE is one of the most extensive and cutting-edge in Asia, and we are very excited to organise such a competition for tertiary students to create awareness of the nature of earthquake and its engineering considerations. This is yet another example of how NTU provides a world-class engineering education as part of its broad-based comprehensive education.” Professor Pan is also the Director (Executive Committee) of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering.

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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 ranked 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 http://www.ntu.edu.sg/