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NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN PROMOTING CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN SINGAPORE

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is set to put its expertise and in-depth knowledge of the Chinese language and culture to good use. The university is planning to set up a Confucius Institute (孔子学院) in Singapore next year.

Confucius Institute, NTU will be a joint venture between the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (汉办) and NTU. The institute aims to promote and develop Chinese language, culture, studies and business in Singapore and the region. The institute will organise activities to enable more people to experience and appreciate Chinese art and culture, feel the charm of ancient China and admire the elegance of contemporary China.
Some of the programmes that will be rolled out by *Confucius Institute, NTU* include:

- Training courses for primary and secondary school Chinese language teachers
- Chinese education and enrichment programmes
- Workshops and pre-examination training for *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) or the Chinese Proficiency Test
- Chinese language and cultural activities and
- International conferences tailored for public and corporate executives

To mark the establishment, NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, will attend the Confucius Institute Trademark Presentation Ceremony (*孔子学院授牌仪式*) at The Great Hall of the People (*人民大会堂*) in Beijing on 20 July 2005.

The establishment of *Confucius Institute, NTU* will be part of the Agreement that NTU is signing with Shandong University to promote academic, scientific and cultural collaboration between the two universities.

Under this agreement, both universities will also undertake the following:

- Develop joint educational programs at undergraduate and postgraduate level
- Promote long- or short-term student exchange programs, with the purpose of enhancing the overseas study experience of the students
- Foster opportunities for collaborative research
- Develop frameworks for the exchange of scholars and teachers

Mr Chan Soo Sen (曾士生), Minister of State (Education), is particularly pleased that this project has had the strong support of PRC Ministry of Education and the National Office of Chinese as a Foreign Language in China. He shares: "I am confident that with the credentials and commitment of NTU and Shandong University, this will be one of the strongest Confucius Institutes. *Confucius Institute, NTU* can offer Chinese Language and Humanity Subjects modules for NTU students, NIE trainees, mid-career MBA participants, as well as the general public. The institute can be an important addition to our institutes producing bi-cultural elites."

Assistant Professor Koh Hock Kiat (许福吉), Director-Designate (署理院长) of *Confucius Institute, NTU*, adds: “NTU has extensive collaboration in education and research with the West, particularly the United States, but we also have special strengths in Asia. Many of our academia from the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, National Institute of Education and Centre for Chinese Language and Culture are bilingual and multi-cultural and have an in-depth knowledge and appreciation of Asia, especially China.

We are pleased that we will be playing a part in Singapore’s first Confucius Institute and will have the opportunity to lend our expertise towards promoting Chinese language and culture in Singapore and beyond. Our vision is to be a world-class Confucius Institute."
The Agreement will be signed by Dr Su Guaning and Dr Zhan Tao (展涛), President of Shandong University on 20 July. Mr Chan Soo Sen will also be present to witness the signing of the Agreement.

**About Nanyang Technological University**

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

Our university has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. We began as Nanyang University, a private university set up with donations from people of all walks of life, from Singapore and the region. The university grounds, Yunnan Garden Campus, was donated by the Hokkien Clan Association as part of this campaign.

We were reborn as Nanyang Technological Institute, established on the same campus in 1981 with government funding to educate practice-oriented engineers for the burgeoning Singapore economy. In 1991 we became Nanyang Technological University with the absorption of the National Institute of Education.

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.

Undergraduate enrolment will swell from 17,500 to 22,300 with the establishment of three new schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

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 realising 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 [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

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