Singapore, 21 November 2005

NTU President receives award in honour of his work in promoting relations with France

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) President, Dr Su Guaning, is conferred the title of Chevalier in the National Order of the Legion of Honour (荣誉团骑士级奖章) by the French government. This award is given in recognition to Dr Su’s contributions towards the promotion of ties with France in the scientific, academic, and military fields.

Instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honour is the highest distinction awarded by France for services to the nation.

As President of NTU, Dr Su has expanded the university’s partnerships with French counterparts. In February 2005, NTU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with global electronics group, Thales, to set up a joint research laboratory, Thales@NTU. Thales@NTU, the first joint venture between Thales and a non-European university, aims to harness science and technology to develop technologies for commercial and defence applications.

Another landmark agreement was with Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the French national centre for scientific research in September 2005. NTU entered a strategic partnership with CNRS, one of Europe’s largest publicly-funded research organization, which will see the sharing of scientific and academic information and publications, student exchanges, as well as mutual visits by faculty and staff.

Under Dr Su’s leadership as the founding Chief Executive of Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), a joint laboratory was set up in France in April 2004 to conduct basic research in advanced electromagnetics and radar. DSTA joined forces with France’s leading aerospace research agency, ONERA, renowned French university, Supélec, and the National University of Singapore, to set up the defence technology laboratory.
Says Dr Su, on receiving this award, “I feel very privileged and honoured to be receiving this award. France is world-renowned for her leading science and technology capabilities, excellent education standards and research prowess, and I am gratified to be able to extend NTU’s global links with our French partners to enable our students and faculty to enjoy the benefits of such interactions.”

Dr Su receives the coveted decoration from the French Ambassador to Singapore, His Excellency Jean-Paul Reau, at a ceremony held at the French embassy today, 21 November 2005. Joining in the celebrations are Dr Su’s colleagues, family and friends such as Chief Executive Officer of DSO National Laboratories, Mr Quek Gim Pew. Dr Su joins the ranks of luminaries including Mr David Marshall, Mr Tommy Koh, and Tan Sri Dr Runme Shaw, in receiving the Legion of Honour.

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