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NTU AND UniSIM SIGN MOU TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC TIES

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and SIM University (UniSIM) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish academic ties between the two universities on 21 Oct 05. This is the first MOU for UniSIM since its formation this year. The two universities will collaborate on advisory services of an academic, professional or technical nature.

NTU has an established position as a university that produces graduates in great demand by business and industry. The NTU-UniSIM collaboration will bring to the working adults the strengths of NTU, as well as the dedication of UniSIM to make such programmes available.

This would be to the advantage of UniSIM and their students. The demand from UniSIM would create greater demand for NTU’s programmes, reducing costs for NTU and benefiting NTU students.

Prior to the MOU, Professor Daniel Tan, Director of the Centre for Educational Development at NTU, had already been engaged to determine an e-learning framework for UniSIM to support up to 20,000 adult learners. The study will provide the basis for the appropriate technology and system to be deployed in a holistic manner at UniSIM to allow its students, adult learners who mostly hold full-time jobs in the day, to learn effectively anywhere and anytime. Completion of the study is expected by end 2005.
Discussions are underway to explore a mutually-beneficial way of allowing UniSIM students to gain access to NTU's digital library, which is a rich repository of research papers, audio-visual materials, databases, examination papers, journals, NTU publications, among many others. In addition to the mutual use of e-resources, both universities are also keen to explore the joint organisation of academic talks, seminars and conferences.

“I'm happy that NTU is in a position to avail resources to help adult learners achieve their tertiary education goals. NTU has an established reputation in science and technology, business, education, and communication studies. We have a good existing continuing education programme. That is one area UniSIM could tap and where the two universities could work together for the benefit of those interested in continuing their education," says Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU.

Professor Cheong Hee Kiat is no stranger to NTU as he had served NTU for 19 years prior to joining SIM University as President. Prof Cheong was one of NTU’s Deputy Presidents and Dean of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. “The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between NTU and SIM University affirms the commitment by both universities to strengthen co-operation for the mutual benefit of our students. Greater co-operation and resource sharing between our local universities will enrich our students’ experience, widen opportunities for their development, and provide further impetus for Singapore to establish itself as a world-class education hub that is internationally renowned for its breadth of opportunities, intellectual capital and creative energy.”

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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/

About SIM University
SIM University (UniSIM), Singapore’s 4th university, is approved by the Ministry of Education, Singapore, to award its own degrees. At the outset, the new university will take over the functions of SIM Open University Centre whose current enrolment of more than 6,500 students, comprising mainly adult learners in Singapore, are pursuing part-time degrees, diplomas and certificates through more than 40 academic programmes. UniSIM will commence with the first intake of its own students in 2006. It will offer a range of programmes in Arts & Social Sciences, Business, Human Development & Social Services, and Science & Technology.