FACT SHEET

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NTU students lead kayaking expedition with the less privileged

About Project Curl 2006
Nanyang Technological University (NTU) students are bringing together 160 students from the university and some junior colleges to befriend the less-privileged from four social services groups through a kayaking expedition. The beneficiaries are Beyond Social Services, MINDS Youth Group, Special Olympics Singapore and Handicaps Welfare Association.

The journey will be flagged off by Mr Teo Ser Luck, Parliament Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, at Pasir Ris Sea Sports Club on Sunday 25 June 06. The participants will travel to Punggol Jetty and back to Pasir Ris on a journey that is estimated to take five hours.

Volunteers and beneficiaries have been undergoing kayaking training since May 06 to prepare for the expedition. Not only does this venture provide an opportunity for friendly interaction, it also fosters better understanding of some of the limitations beneficiaries face, and how difficulties can be overcome.

Titled Project CURL for “Challenge Your Limits”, this annual community service initiative is organised by students from NTU’s Welfare Services Club (WSC). Currently in its fourth year, it aims to introduce and promote unconventional methods of volunteerism and redefine the notion of community service. It also seeks to establish a deeper understanding between the less fortunate and society-at-large. This year’s expedition is jointly organised by WSC and People’s Association.

About previous projects
The inaugural Project CURL (2003) was a five-km canoeing expedition involving over 100 participants including canoeists from junior colleges, youths-at-risk and the hearing-impaired.

CURL ‘04 saw some 400 upper secondary school students befriending 200 less-privileged children from six welfare centres through a pedal-kart relay race around Marina City Park on 20 June 2004. Beneficiaries included the Children’s Cancer Foundation, Children’s Society and Club Rainbow. For over a month, the volunteers worked with the less-privileged children to build and decorate the three-wheel pedal-karts from scratch.
In 2005, participants of CURL set a Guinness record for the world’s longest "poh-pia" and took part in a raft relay marathon. It involved the participation of some 650 volunteers from NTU, secondary schools, junior colleges and corporate companies; and beneficiaries such as the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped and Singapore Association for the Deaf. Volunteers and beneficiaries worked jointly for a month, designing and building their own rafts. The event was held at Siloso Beach, Sentosa.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university has a beautiful garden campus and a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955.

NTU’s 12 schools span diverse disciplines – from engineering and the sciences to art, design and media. The university has a strong engineering college focused on innovation, 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. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism issues.

Ranked among the top 50 universities in the world, NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives, many established through its strategic alliances with 300 institutions in more than 45 countries, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Cambridge University, and Beijing University.

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