NEW CENTRE AT NTU TO ADVANCE RESEARCH ON SINGAPORE ECONOMY

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has set up the Economic Growth Centre to spearhead research in applied economics, which could impact the design of economic policies in Singapore.

The think tank, which will be launched by Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU, on 26 July 2005, will actively engage both public and private sectors to advance its research on global economic development, with special focus on Singapore and the region.

Professor (Prof) Lim Chong Yah, Director of the Economic Growth Centre, and Albert Winsemius Professor at NTU, shares: “Research in applied economics is fundamental to economic policy. A research focus on the Singapore economy is also a must if Singapore is to address the challenges of its maturing economy and maintain its competitive edge in the light of the rapidly-growing economies of China and India. NTU is addressing these needs by establishing the Economic Growth Centre, which it will develop as a leading research centre for applied economics.”
The Economic Growth Centre will focus on the following research areas:

- Global economic development and underdevelopment in the region, with special reference to East Asian countries
- Global poverty and affluence, with special case studies on China, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore and selected ASEAN countries
- Economic policies in areas such as education, social security and welfare, environmental management, health, housing and population
- Social policies, in both Singapore and Asian countries

The centre will tap expertise and resources from within NTU, particularly from NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences. It will also play an active role in applied economics discourse and research internationally through its Organisations, Work and Labour Network (OWL-NET).

OWL-NET provides a forum for members to work on joint research projects, particularly those involving international and comparative research. It will also be the platform upon which staff and student exchanges can be facilitated.

Prof Lim adds: "As a hotbed for applied economics research that seeks to contribute to policy-design, the Economic Growth Centre will engage key members in government, industry and academia so that relevant economic issues faced by countries and their people can be addressed."

Plans are also underway to set up three research units within the centre:

- Econometric Modelling Unit to make regular forecasts of the performance of the Singapore economy
- Survey Research Unit to conduct opinion and information surveys on interesting and important policy and economic-related issues facing Singapore and the region
- Exchange Rate Forecasting Unit to make regular forecasts of exchange rates of selected countries, including the USA, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia

The Economic Growth Centre will also share its research findings through conferences, workshops and public talks. In fact, the launch of the Centre coincides with “Singapore as a Maturing Economy: Challenges and the Way Forward”, a forum jointly organised by the Centre and the Economics Division at NTU's School of Humanities & Social Sciences.

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**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)