Singapore, 27 February 2005

**NTU STUDENTS’ UNION HELP YOUTHS DEFINE IDEAL EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR SINGAPORE**

The NTU Students’ Union (NTUSU) is giving youths in Singapore a role in shaping educational policy.

The Worldview Youth Conference 2005, a joint collaboration between NTUSU and the Southwest CDC will see students from international schools, junior colleges and polytechnics explore the theme “The Ideal Singapore Education System: Dream or Possibility?” over a nine-day period before presenting their views in a vision paper today to:

- Education Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Dr Amy Khor, Mayor, South West District and MP, Hong Kah GRC
- Mdm Ho Geok Choo, MP, West Coast GRC
- Ms Eunice Olsen, Nominated Member of Parliament

Visits to international schools to learn more about the education systems of other countries, team-building sessions and group discussions on the theme of the conference, led by NTU undergraduates, made up the conference programme.

Says Mr Shadab Ahmad Taiyabi, President, NTU Students' Union, "As students of a university that promotes global education, NTU undergraduates are in a good position to encourage and facilitate discussions to define an ideal education system for Singapore. It was exciting helping the youths acquire a global and
more in-depth outlook on and understanding of national educational policy, and watching them play a role in shaping it through a conference such as this."

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University was recently ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement at the 50th place globally and 7th in Asia, in its ranking of the 200 best universities in the world. The campus was originally developed for a Chinese language university, Nanyang University in 1955. In 1981, Nanyang Technological Institute was established on this campus to educate engineers for the rapidly developing Singapore economy. In 1991 Nanyang Technological University was inaugurated.

The university has a strong engineering school ranked among the best in the Commonwealth, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programs in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best Schools of Communications and Information in Asia, and a new (2001) School of Biological Sciences playing a leading role in Singapore’s Life Sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is an international authority on terrorism. The university is in a major expansion from 16,000 to 22,300 undergraduate students. During this expansion three new schools are being built – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Art, Design and Media.

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 realizing 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.