Singapore, 27 November 2004

NTU Alumni Day 2004 – Ties that bind

University alumni, students, staff and South West District residents celebrate closer ties

More than 2,500 university alumni, together with their families, returned to Yunnan Garden campus to celebrate the annual Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Alumni Day 2004 on Saturday, 27 November 2004. The alumni are from as early as 1955, given NTU’s roots date back to the founding of Nanyang University.

For the first time, NTU and South West Community Development Council (CDC) collaborated on a tree planting ceremony, held in conjunction with the Alumni Day celebrations. Guest of honour and an alumna of the university, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports and MP for Jurong GRC, together with South
West District Mayor, Dr Amy Khor and Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU, planted Saga trees in NTU’s Yunnan Garden. These trees are known for their bright red seeds, ‘Xiang Si Dou’ and will add yet more romantic touches to the already lovely landscape of Yunnan Garden.

In total, 59 trees were planted by more than 100 alumni, students, staff, as well as grassroots leaders from South West District constituencies, symbolising a strong and united community spirit shared by all.

In addition to the tree planting ceremony, NTU and South West CDC organised a fun-filled carnival to reinforce the importance of family ties. Close to 5,000 participants were treated to an afternoon of fun with the various games stalls, children’s workshops, nature walks, belly-dancing, wine-tasting, music performances and even speed dating.

Tours around the NTU campus were also conducted, allowing alumni and residents to discover more of NTU. It was a good opportunity for a group of 20 current NTU students, who were guides for these tours, to point out interesting sights and share first-hand, the NTU New Undergraduate Experience of a broad-based education and a vibrant campus life.

As part of the day’s celebratory events, the 2004 Alumni Service Awards were also presented by Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU to six deserving recipients – Mr Allan Ng Wai Yee (Class of 1985), Mr Roger Tan Kay Chia (Class of 1985), Mr Simon Lee Zee Sye (Class of 1989), Mr Simon Wong Kee Siang (Class of 1991), Dr Nicholas G Aplin (Class of 1999) and Mr Ng Siau Yong (Class of 2001). These alumni have rendered outstanding service and contributed in fostering interests of the University and its alumni. Some of their contributions include fundraising and organising events – wine appreciation and networking sessions – to foster closer ties among the alumni, students and staff.

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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.

About South West Community Development Council (CDC)

Formed on 24 November 2001, the South West Community Development Council (SWCDC) is led by Dr Amy Khor, who was appointed as the Mayor of South West District on 12 August 2004.

Through its 13 functional committees, the SWCDC organises projects and programmes to achieve its vision of "Owning Your Community". The SWCDC also provides services to help the community such as job-matching and the administration of social assistance schemes.

The South West district spans the south-western region of Singapore, covering a third of Singapore’s land area. The District has about 252,000 households with about 720,000 residents, across Hong Kah GRC, Jurong GRC, West Coast GRC, Ayer Rajah SMC, Bukit Timah SMC and Chua Chu Kang SMC.