Singapore, 29 August 2005

NTU CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) community has come together to celebrate our 50th anniversary. The highlight of the year-long series of events is the mass festivities on 29th August, 2005, when 5000 alumni, faculty, staff and students will celebrate the colourful mosaic and tapestry that is the NTU of today.

The guest-of-honour for the event is Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Prime Minister Lee will deliver a keynote speech at the former Nanyang University Administration Building. He will also light a ceremonial torch, with the flame signifying the ever-burning Nantah spirit. As the torch is passed from one alumni representative to another, it symbolises the passing on of the Nantah spirit of passion, resolve and enlightenment - from one generation to the next.

The torch will be passed along a 400-metre walk to the new NTU Quadrangle (‘the Quad’), a new student activities hub in the heart of the campus. Together with the torch bearers, Prime Minister Lee and alumni, faculty, staff and students will make this journey, symbolising our passage into the future.

At the Quad, Dr Lee Seng Gee and Mrs Della Lee from the Lee Foundation will present a generous donation of $10 million towards the NTU Endowment Fund, to benefit the Institute of Advanced Studies.

Following that, Prime Minister Lee will dedicate the Quad and officially launch the School of Biological Sciences, a school at the forefront of Singapore’s life sciences initiative.
Says NTU President Dr Su Guaning (徐冠林), “The celebrations aim to engage all members of the university community to honour our heritage, and look forward to the next 50 years and beyond. The celebrations are held on our Yunnan Garden campus, because it is the common ground the university was first founded and has been home to close to 100,000 students.”

Among our alumni who are coming back from overseas to join in the celebrations is Dr Ong Beng Soon (王明顺) (Class of 1970), senior fellow, Research & Technology, Xerox Corporation. He says, “This is a nostalgic moment for me as a Nantah graduate to witness the historic celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Nantah by its successor, NTU. From a 3-college people’s university, Nantah’s phenomenal accomplishment as a tertiary education institution in turning out graduates who have admirably served the societies in the Southeast Asian countries has been unequalled. The Nantah spirit – simply the pursuit and delivery of excellence even under the most adverse conditions – has shone throughout the Nantah history. Times have changed, so has Nantah in its evolution. It is heart-warming to see that its successor, NTU, with a broadened objective and purpose, has transformed itself into an educational and research institution of world-class standards. This is the Nantah spirit in action.”

Lee Bee Wah (李美花) (Class of 1985), president of the Nanyang Civil & Environmental Engineering Alumni, and principal partner with LBW Consultants, and one of the torch bearers, shares her sentiments, “The memories of my three years in the beautiful campus of NTU are still vivid even though I graduated 20 years ago. Congratulations on the 50th anniversary. My success in life and career today is attributed to the training, moulding and exposure that NTU gave me.”

Taiyabi Ahmad Shadab (Class of 2005), a graduate from the School of Computer Engineering, and former student union president says, “I am very happy and honoured to be involved in the anniversary celebrations. NTU holds a special place in my heart as my experiences at NTU have been greatly enriching and have pushed me intellectually and deepened my understanding of myself. Academics aside, I also found NTU an ideal environment in which to develop oneself in co-curricular activities. These commitments are wide-ranging and one can contribute in various capacities. These activities have helped me develop my management capabilities and also given me wonderful memories for many years to come.”
To bring about even greater participation and involvement from the NTU community, there are exciting performances by both alumni and students at the former Nanyang University Administration Building, along the mass walk and at the new Quad.

Local celebrities Diana Ser (Class of 2003) and Joanne Peh (current undergraduate) will be holding fort as emcees. Forty alumni members from the Nantah Choir and local artiste Rui-En (Class of 2003) will lend their voices too. Stefanie Sun (Class of 2000) will make a special appearance via a pre-recorded segment.

A highlight of the programme is a medley staged by 10 student groups under the NTU Cultural Activities Club. Project Fuzion is a visually stunning fusion mix by the Chinese Drums, Piano Ensemble, Modern Jazz, Dragon & Lion Dance groups and more. Says Shandy Kim (金秀芬), a third year student from NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering, and vice-president of Project Fuzion, “We hope to integrate the heritage of NTU with its present, and with what we see NTU as in the future. The concept behind Fuzion is to show NTU’s progress from its humble beginnings, to what it is now, and to our hopes and aspirations for it.”

2005, our 50th anniversary year, also marks our three new schools, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and Art, Design and Media, going into full swing.

More details on the celebrations can be found at http://www.ntu.edu.sg/50thAnniversary/default.htm

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution.

Our university has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. 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.

NTU has established three new schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Together with a broad, comprehensive curriculum, NTU’s New Undergraduate Experience features a vibrant campus life, residential living, undergraduate research opportunities and international experience.
A traditional strength of the university is the high employment rate and high remuneration received by its graduates. Strong international relationships are also a hallmark of NTU. We have collaborations with more than 250 institutions worldwide, including MIT, Stanford University and Cornell University in the US, Peking University, Tsinghua University and Shanghai Jiaotong University in China, Waseda University in Japan and many others in Europe and Asia.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg