Singapore, 29 November 2005

NTU RECEIVES $3 MILLION GIFT TO ESTABLISH FIRST ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has received a $1.5 million donation from well-known arts patron Toh Puan Mahani Idris Daim to establish the first endowed professorship in Humanities and Social Sciences.

With the government’s dollar-for-dollar matching, the gift will result in a $3 million fund. The donation is expected to benefit students and faculty by providing them with the opportunity to learn from eminent scholars in the field of humanities and social sciences.

This donation is timely as the programmes of the new School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) went into full swing this year in July. The establishment of new programmes in English, Chinese, Sociology, Psychology and Economics symbolise a strong recognition by the University that humanities and social sciences are an integral part of the university curriculum. There are also plans to expand its undergraduate offerings to include Politics and Public Administration, Linguistics, and History.
HSS plays a key role in the New Undergraduate Experience as it complements the University’s science and technological, business and communication strengths. Students can choose to undertake in-depth and specialised majors in humanities and social sciences, or related minors and electives for broad-based multi-disciplinary learning.

Says Prof Eddie Kuo, interim dean of HSS, “We are pleased and honoured to receive this generous donation by Toh Puan Mahani Idris. This Professorship symbolises a strong recognition of the crucial contributions of the humanities and social sciences to a holistic education and its potential contribution to both higher education and public intellectual life in contemporary Asia.”

The endowment ceremony, which took place at the Istana on 29 November 2005, was presided by His Excellency, Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore, Chancellor of NTU and Patron-in-Chief of the NTU 21st Century Fund. Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, Dr Tony Tan, Chairman, National Research Foundation, Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam and NTU President Dr Su Guaning were also present at the event.

*** END ***

About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution with 12 Schools, including three new schools - the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 in the world. Our strength in science and engineering is acknowledged globally. We have a business school with an MBA programme that is among the top 100 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 & Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism.

Our New Undergraduate Experience featuring a holistic education including residential living and international experience has received external endorsement for its comprehensive curriculum featuring a rich selection of minors.

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