NEWS RELEASE

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Trailer of anime series co-produced by NTU and Japanese anime studio premières at Asia Television Forum
- produced with NTU-developed technology

The trailer of an anime series to be co-produced by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Japanese animation studio Anime International Company (AIC) premières to an international audience at the Asia Television Forum (ATF) today.

Television programme buyers from around the world will get to watch the trailer for ‘Justeen’, a 13-part sci-fi anime series, which was produced using revolutionary animation software, developed by NTU’s School of Computer Engineering. The series is scheduled to be completed next year and will be aired in Japan.

The trailer included snapshots of Justeen’s production and a presentation on the software, called CACAni. The screening of the trailer at ATF is expected to heighten interest in Justeen and CACAni worldwide.

The production of Justeen is the result of an MOU between NTU and AIC, signed in June this year. AIC is the studio behind anime hits such as ‘Tenchi Muyo’. The tie-up leverages NTU’s digital media capability and AIC’s anime expertise. The success of the trailer is a milestone for the collaboration.

NTU brings to the partnership its revolutionary animation software, CACAni, believed to be the first of its kind in the market. The software saves animators drawing and painting time by automatically generating in-between frames and colouring sequences. This cuts the time and cost of production by up to 40% and frees up the animators to focus on higher-end creative work.
NTU's CACAni software has attracted interest from other animation companies eager to tap its time-saving and quality-enhancing technology. NTU is currently in talks with a few animation companies and expects more tie-ups in the next year.

NTU is also developing a 'student version' of the software with an education technology company. With this new tool, students can learn the basics of drawing, painting and storytelling. They will be able to create their own movies in minutes.

Says Associate Professor Seah Hock Soon, Chair, NTU School of Computer Engineering, "The tie-up between NTU and AIC is significant as it helps speed up Singapore's entry into the US$7 billion worldwide animation outsource market. The completion of the trailer is indeed a milestone. The screening of the trailer at ATF will demonstrate just how NTU's innovative technology can translate into cost benefits and enhanced quality for animation studios. The success of Justeen will show that our technological advantage may yet give Singapore an advantage in attracting animation production companies here. Our tie-up with AIC is also extremely beneficial to our developers and animators, who will get the exceptional opportunity to learn from anime masters who will be in Singapore to guide and oversee the production."

"We are delighted that the joint partnership between AIC and NTU has reached another exciting stage of development", says Dr Christopher Chia, Chief Executive Officer, the Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA). "The successful completion of the trailer for the anime TV series - Justeen within a short period of time by the joint team is testimony to the quality talents of both parties as well as the effectiveness of the CACAni technology by NTU. We look forward to seeing the completion and broadcast of Justeen in 2007", he added.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.

NTU has 4 colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore's life sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world's top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities and Arts boasts Singapore's first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.
The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, will be inaugurated in 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism.

NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore’s only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Carnegie Mellon University in USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

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