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NTU STUDENTS CLINCH COMMONWEALTH GOLD AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY AND WELFARE WORK

Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) Welfare Services Club (WSC), a student club, has done the university and Singapore proud by clinching the 2004 Youth Development Commonwealth Gold Award for their commitment and service to the underprivileged community.

This is not the first time the 700-member student club has won a major award. In 1999, NTU WSC won the Singapore Youth Team Award for Community and Youth Services – Singapore’s highest accolade for excellent youth achievements in community service.

Neither is the Commonwealth Gold Award the first award the student club has won this year. In fact, it comes hot on the heels of the Singapore Association for the Deaf’s annual ‘I Luv You’ Diamond Award, which NTU WSC had won earlier this year for the sixth consecutive time.

Showing consistency, the student club had also received in 2001, a five-year Long Service Award from the Ministry of Community Development and Sports for their contributions to the mentoring programme at the Singapore Boys’ Home, the Singapore Boys’ Hostel and the Singapore Girls’ Home.

The annual Commonwealth Youth Gold Awards are awarded to the best youth project team from each of the four regions in the Commonwealth: Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the South Pacific. This year’s Gold Award for Asia was judged in London on 2 and 4 June by high commissioners of Commonwealth countries and leading Commonwealth civil society organizations. The judging culminated in the gold award for NTU WSC’s annual youth project for the hearing-impaired called ‘Camp Outreach’.

NTU WSC’s Camp Outreach is currently in its 11th year, and is targeted at hearing-impaired youths. It began with the objective of imparting basic computer skills to the
hearing-impaired but its mission gradually evolved and expanded to include the current objectives of encouraging:

- group bonding within the hearing-impaired community to foster peer support
- the hearing-impaired through physically challenging activities in a bid to boost their confidence and develop their leadership skills
- integration of the hearing-impaired community with society at large

The National Youth Council (NYC), who nominated NTU WSC for this international award, was much heartened by the students’ win. Says Mr Tan Foong Hin, Director of NYC, “It was our pleasure to nominate NTU WSC for the Commonwealth Youth Gold Awards. The recognition of Camp Outreach in the Commonwealth bodes well for the state of local youth development. We hope that WSC’s recent achievement will inspire more youths and youth organizations to make the leap to continued excellence.”

Like NYC, participants of Camp Outreach are also pleased with the win. The camp is popular among hearing-impaired youths such as Mr Mohammad Isham, a 17-year-old youth who had joined Camp Outreach three times. He says, “I really enjoy Camp Outreach for the chance it gives me to experience activities to which I normally have no access but mostly for the social skills I have gained and the many friendships I have formed.”

Says Mr Chia Min How, a fourth-year School of Materials Engineering student and Chairperson of NTU WSC, “It is an honour and privilege for our club to receive such international recognition. Winning the award motivates us to be more creative in designing voluntary activities and to be better volunteers for the hearing-impaired community and society as a whole.”

Come next year, NTU WSC will give a new spin to Camp Outreach by organizing a game-style race around Singapore for hearing-impaired youths. The club may also initiate exchange programmes with hearing-impaired youth organizations overseas to enable local hearing-impaired youths to interact with their counterparts from abroad.

**About Nanyang Technological University**

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission in *Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond*. NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
   - Civil and Environmental Engineering
   - Computer Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Mechanical and Production Engineering

2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media *(to be established by 2005)*
7. School of Physical Sciences *(to be established by 2005)*

For more information, visit [http://www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg).

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