NEWS RELEASE

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NTU SETS UP REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON ASIAN ECONOMIES, BUSINESS TRENDS AND PUBLIC POLICIES

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has set up the Asia Research Centre (ARC). Recognising Asia as an important source of growth for the 21st century, with China and India emerging as regional economic powerhouses, this think-tank serves to carry out in-depth, policy-oriented research, with specific focus on Asian economies, business trends and public policy issues.

The ARC is officially launched by Mr Raymond Lim, Minister in Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Finance & Foreign Affairs, in the Lianhe Zaobao-NTU Annual Conference on the Competitiveness Ranking of Mainland Chinese Economies, held at Suntec Ballroom this morning, Friday, 3 June, 2005.

The ARC will tap research expertise and resources from NTU to carry out the following core activities/projects:

a. Annual updates on competitiveness ranking of Asian economies and individual country analysis covering ASEAN-10, Greater China and South Asian economies.

b. Annual conferences jointly organized with international institutes/think-tanks with specific focus on topical issues.
c. Research studies, including those on the impact of Greater China and South Asian economies on ASEAN; regional economic, financial and monetary integration; and the potential and impact of China and India on international trade, strategic global shifts in economic balance and business implications.

d. Development of case studies to enhance teaching quality and curriculum contents of NTU’s Executive MBA, Masters in Public Administration and MBA programmes, with specialization on Asian economies.

The ARC, initiated by NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, is part of the university’s overall strategy to advance knowledge and contribute to the development of Asia. Research will be conducted by Dr Chen Kang (陈抗), Dr Tan Khee Giap (陈企业) and Dr Tan Kong Yam (陈光炎), three principal economists from NTU who have done extensive research on economic development and public policies in Asia. Their expertise and experience will provide different perspectives on pertinent development policies and issues pertaining to Asian economies.

Dr Tan Kong Yam, Director of ARC shares, “With globalization, many countries, including China and India, are fast becoming economic powerhouses. It is thus imperative to understand and appreciate the different economies and their impact on the region and the world. NTU has taken proactive steps to provide insights into these economies with the establishment of the new Asia Research Centre. The endorsement that we have received to date is testament of NTU’s research capabilities and our ability to identify and address real world needs.”

The ARC aims to forge collaboration with established international agencies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund as well as local and global policy think-tanks. Plans are also underway to establish links with official agencies and research institutes in China, India and ASEAN so that the centre will have in-depth knowledge and first-hand information on the various economies.

Future plans for the ARC include attracting international agencies, regional Asian governments including Singapore and multinational corporations to work together on consultancy projects, as well as to provide high-level executive training for senior government officials and top management of corporations.

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About Nanyang Technological University

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

Our university has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. We began as Nanyang University, a private university set up with donations from people of all walks of life, from Singapore and the region. The university grounds, Yunnan Garden Campus, was donated by the Hokkien Clan Association as part of this campaign.

We were reborn as Nanyang Technological Institute, established on the same campus in 1981 with government funding to educate practice-oriented engineers for the burgeoning Singapore economy. In 1991 we became Nanyang Technological University with the absorption of the National Institute of Education.

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.

Undergraduate enrolment will swell from 17,500 to 23,500 with the establishment of three new schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

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 realising 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.

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