MR WEE CHO YAW IS NEW PRO-CHANCELLOR OF NTU

The Chancellor of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), President S R Nathan, has appointed Mr Wee Cho Yaw as the Pro-Chancellor of the university.

As Pro-Chancellor of NTU, Mr Wee will preside at annual university convocation ceremonies and other functions as may be delegated by the Chancellor. One of Mr Wee's first duties will be in July 2004 this year where he will give out degrees to some 114 NTU graduands conferred the Masters of Science (Managerial Economics), and master degrees in Arts, Business Administration (Nanyang Fellows), Science (Financial Engineering) and Business.

Mr Wee Cho Yaw, aged 75, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of United Overseas Bank Group. He also serves as the Chairman of the following companies: Overseas Union Enterprise Ltd, United Overseas Insurance Ltd, United Overseas Land Group, Plaza Hotel, United International Securities Ltd, Haw Par Corporation Ltd, United Industrial Corporation Ltd, Singapore Land Ltd and Marina Centre Holdings Pte Ltd.

Mr Wee is currently the Honorary President of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry as well as the President of the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations and the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan. In addition, Mr Wee chairs the Board of Trustees of Chinese Development Assistance Council. He is also Governor of the Chinese Heritage Centre Board.
Throughout his career, Mr Wee has contributed actively to many government and civic organizations, including the Economic Development Board, Singapore Currency Board and Singapore Science Centre. He was conferred the Public Service Star Award (Bintang Bakit Masharakat) in 1974.

Mr Wee shares his feelings about the new appointment: “After a lapse of almost two and a half decades, I am delighted to be re-associated with the new Nantah, i.e. NTU, which is being developed into a global university of excellence. Although the University will be quite different from the Nantah that was founded in the 1950’s, I am hopeful that the new Nantah will live up to the expectations of its founding fathers to develop into an outstanding centre of learning for the region.

“I am inclined to agree with those who believe that the new Nantah will not be able to replace the emotional attachment people of my generation have for the old Nantah. The old Nantah was created in a different milieu, when Singaporeans had different hopes and aspirations. Nevertheless, I believe that the Nantah spirit of self reliance can be revived to help the university achieve a premier status not only in Singapore, but also in the region.

“There is no doubt in my mind that China will assume increasing importance in the world. This means that knowing the Chinese language and understanding the Chinese psyche will also become more important.”

Mr Wee, who was named Singapore’s Businessman of the Year in 1990 and 2001, and who won the prestigious Asean Businessman of the Year Award in 1995, adds, “To succeed in China, I believe that businessmen must have a good grasp of the social and business norms in China. If Nantah can build itself up as a centre for learning about China and its business practices, it will serve as an effective bridge between China and the rest of the world.

“Because of its unique history, the Nantah name is well-known in China. If we can build upon this reservoir of goodwill to enhance Nantah’s collaboration with reputable educational institutions in China, and thereby attract more Chinese professors, businessmen and students to the university, I believe that Nantah will develop into an important regional centre for those wanting to venture to that country.”

Mr Wee’s appointment comes into effect from 5 June 2004. NTU currently has three Pro-Chancellors - Dr A Vijiaratnam, Mr Herman R Hochstadt and Mr Hsuan Owyang.

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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