NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Singapore, 5 January 2005

NTU’S ‘OPERATION MOVING HEARTS’

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) community is coming together in a concerted and coordinated effort to raise funds and collect goods for those affected by the recent tsunami, entitled ‘Operation Moving Hearts’.

Since news of the disaster broke on Boxing Day, the NTU community has been moved to do their bit for survivors. The volunteering efforts are:

- Eight students from the Red Cross Humanitarian Network (RCHN) – NTU Chapter have been manning tsunami hotlines and performing shift duties at the Red Cross headquarters since their holidays.
- A second-year Nanyang Business School student, Mr Elisha Peterson Teo Soon Kwan, 22, will be the youngest member, and only student of the Singapore Red Cross Medical Mission to Sri Lanka. The mission will leave for Sri Lanka on 5 January, and will be there until 17 January 2005 to assist in humanitarian efforts.
- On 29 December 2004, a group of Indian graduate students sent some 200 kg worth of clothing and food items to tsunami victims in India and Sri Lanka.
- The RCHN – NTU Chapter launched a campus-wide fund-raising campaign yesterday to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami. Booths were set up in prominent areas around NTU for donations by staff and students.
• The NTU Students' Union and the NTU Welfare Services Club are jointly conducting a campus-wide donation drive for items-in-kind, including food items, medication, and other necessities, to complement RCHN – NTU Chapter’s fund-raiser.
• The NTU administration and faculty are giving full support to the students' fund-raising and donation drives. All staff members are encouraged to volunteer at the various fund-raising and items-collection points on campus. As of 4 January 2005, over 60 NTU staff members have stepped forward to volunteer their services, eager to do their bit to help out.
• An NTU staff is volunteering at the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, to help set up and maintain a one-stop website containing useful information regarding the tsunami disaster.
• Many NTU canteen stall operators have donated some 30 cartons of mineral water, 20 cartons of Milo, and 10 cartons of milk to tsunami-hit areas.

Says Dr Su Guaning, President, NTU, “We want to do what we can to offer some help to the tsunami victims and their families. I am very much heartened by the warm and giving spirit of the NTU community, from the students who rushed back from their holidays to do their bit, to our canteen operators and of course, our staff members who gave of their time and money, and also supported the students’ efforts.”

Says Mr Teo, who is joining the Singapore Red Cross Mission to Sri Lanka, “The many humanitarian events and activities organised by the NTU Chapter of the Red Cross Humanitarian Network in the past have prepared me well for my upcoming trip to Sri Lanka. I am looking forward to doing what I can to aid in the relief efforts there.”

About Nanyang Technological University
Nanyang Technological University was recently ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement at the 50th place globally and 7th in Asia, in its ranking of the 200 best universities in the world. The campus was originally developed for a Chinese language university, Nanyang University in 1955. In 1981, Nanyang Technological Institute was established on this campus to educate engineers for the rapidly developing Singapore economy. In 1991 Nanyang Technological University was inaugurated.

The university has a strong engineering school ranked among the best in the Commonwealth, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programs in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best Schools of Communications and Information in Asia, and a new (2001) School of Biological Sciences playing a leading role in Singapore’s Life Sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is an international authority on terrorism. The university is in a major expansion from 16,000 to 22,300 undergraduate students. During this expansion three new schools are being built – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Art, Design and Media.
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 realizing 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.