Singapore, 9 December 2004

NTU designs Vietnam’s first virtual reality laboratory

Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) School of Computer Engineering (SCE) is helping to design Vietnam’s first virtual reality (VR) laboratory.

The laboratory will be set up at the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology’s (VAST) Institute of Information Technology (IOIT), which is a national research institute of Vietnam.

A team of 10 NTU professors and researchers has been working with the IOIT since January 2004 to design and set up the laboratory. The effort included a week-long technical workshop in March 2004 in Hanoi, during which NTU professors shared their research findings in VR technology. NTU will continue to have a role in the laboratory even after it is set up as it would still be providing human resource training and technical support to the IOIT.

Dr Le Hai Khoi, the Director of IOIT, says that the IOIT Virtual Reality Laboratory is part of Vietnam’s National Key Lab on Network Technology and Multimedia, and represents a major thrust for Vietnam in IT research. Says Dr Le, “We are impressed with NTU’s reputation for and expertise in virtual reality and augmented virtual reality, and more so with their willingness to share their expertise.”

The IOIT Virtual Reality Laboratory will be equipped with VR technology and applications that are designed by the NTU team. Equipped with such capabilities, the laboratory will also be able to employ virtual reality as a tool for teaching and education. For instance, VAST will capitalize on the laboratory’s virtual reality capabilities to showcase Vietnam’s rich cultural and oceanographic heritage.
Says Assoc Prof Seah Hock Soon, Dean of NTU’s SCE, “Our school is pleased to share our expertise in virtual reality research and development with IOIT, whom we value as a research partner.”

“The working relationship between SCE and IOIT has been excellent and we are now finalizing details for a long-term collaboration between SCE and the IOIT, which will take off after the opening of the virtual reality laboratory. Such a partnership will further pave the way for our school to collaborate with IT institutions in Vietnam.”

The IOIT Virtual Reality Laboratory will be opened in April 2005.

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**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.

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/.