NEWS RELEASE

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NTU receives $250,000 from global Buddhist order to nurture future communication leaders

Shinnyo-en Singapore, the Singapore chapter of the global Shinnyo-en Buddhist Order, is donating S$250,000 towards the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund.

Part of the income from the endowed sum of S$500,000 after government-matching will go towards establishing the Shinnyo-en Singapore Wee Kim Wee SCI Scholarships worth S$8,000. One scholarship per year will be awarded to an NTU undergraduate enrolled in NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

The rest of the income from the endowed sum will go to support the school’s Going Overseas For Advanced Reporting (GO-FAR) programme, which allows NTU’s communication students to experience life as foreign correspondents. The GO-FAR programme resonates with Dr Wee’s pioneering spirit as he traveled to various countries and was a bridge between Singapore and these countries in his illustrious career as a journalist.

Chair of NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Prof Ang Peng Hwa, says, “We are grateful for the contribution of Shinnyo-en Singapore, which will allow us to continue rolling out bold and innovative programmes such as GO-FAR, and to ensure that able and talented students are not denied a quality education for lack of resources.”

This is the first major donation from Shinnyo-en to an education institution in Singapore. Prior acts of endowments from Shinnyo-en to institutions of higher learning include Columbia University, Princeton University and Stanford University in the United States.

The Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund was set up in memory of the late Dr Wee Kim Wee, to benefit programmes and students of the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information in perpetuity through excellence in areas of research, interaction with top faculty, access to more scholarships and bursaries, and innovative academic programmes. To date $28 million, inclusive of government-matching, has been raised.
Shinnyo-en hopes to cherish and honour the memory of Dr Wee through this endowment. Dr Wee had impressed with his integrity and dignity when he was Singapore’s Ambassador to Japan from 1980 to 1984, and later President of Singapore. In his later years, the bridge of kinship was borne when Dr Wee extended a personal and warm hand of friendship and hospitality to Shinnyo-en members during festive occasions such as Vesak Day and Chinese New Year.

Director of Shinnyo-en, Reverend Kawabata Shogo, says, “We hope that the students, besides being academically outstanding, will also be nurtured to share Dr Wee’s passion for socially responsible journalism and become individuals who embody human goodness, graciousness, compassion and love for fellow citizens of the world.”

In recognition of the contribution, NTU will name the Audio Suites in the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information after Shinnyo-en Singapore.

Reverend Kawabata Shogo is flying in to officiate the launch of the Shinnyo-en Singapore Wee Kim Wee SCI Scholarships. Prof Ang and Chairman of the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund, Mr Kwee Liong Keng will also be gracing the ceremony. Also present at the ceremony are Ms Wee Eng Hwa, daughter of Dr Wee, and six other representatives from Shinnyo-en.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.

NTU has 4 colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore’s life sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world’s top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences boasts Singapore’s first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, was inaugurated on 1 January 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism.
NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore’s only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University in USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

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