Singapore, 23 July 2007

Wharton professor appointed as NTU business school dean

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Jitendra V. Singh as Dean of its Nanyang Business School. Professor Singh was the former Vice-Dean of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He has a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

Professor Singh will assume office on 1 September 2007, taking over from Professor Hong Hai.

Professor Singh, 53, brings to NTU an impressive set of experiences and accomplishments in business management and education. Professor Singh specializes in the field of management, and has broad interests in strategy and organization, corporate governance, high technology entrepreneurship and organizational change. He has taught at Wharton for the last 20 years where he is currently the Saul P. Steinberg Professor in the Department of Management. He served as Wharton's Vice Dean (International Academic Affairs) from 1998 to 2001, playing a significant role in the school’s global efforts. Professor Singh also has extensive links in India and China with the business and academic communities. He has advised and served on the boards of several corporations, from well established firms like Infosys Technologies in India, where he was a board member, to startups in Silicon Valley.

NTU started its global search for a business dean in January 2006. Professor Singh was chosen from a pool of highly qualified international candidates.

On his thoughts about coming to Nanyang Business School, Professor Singh says, “It is a great privilege to be invited to lead a reputable institution like Nanyang Business School, and I feel humbled by this honour. I have been fortunate during my career to have spent time at several of the best business schools in North America, and to learn about what makes them great.”
I believe that leadership of a high quality academic institution like Nanyang Business School resembles sailing more than it does driving a powerboat. Sailing a large yacht, like those that compete in the America’s Cup, depends crucially upon a well functioning, well integrated team. While there is inevitably a skipper in place, the race is won by the efforts of the team. Unlike steering the motorboat in the right direction, success in sailing depends on many contextual conditions: the strength of the wind, the direction of the current, and the size of waves. While the destination may be clear, one often needs to tack one way, then another, in order to get to that goal.

Nanyang Business School already has impressive strengths as reflected in its rankings and reputation. I intend to immerse myself and learn more about the school in the period ahead. Through a consultative process with the faculty and administration leaders at Nanyang, we will arrive at a strategy for Nanyang Business School that builds upon the successes of the past, while strengthening weaker areas.

As I envision the role Nanyang Business School can play within NTU and in Singapore and the region more broadly, some thoughts are clear to me. At this next stage of its development, Singapore is positioning itself as a regional hub for the development of human talent. I believe Nanyang Business School has an important role to play here. The mission of Nanyang Business School should seek to balance scholarly rigour with relevance, a strategy that has served the leading N. American schools well. Whereas Nanyang Business School must continue to pursue research of the highest quality, greater relevance can result, for example, from a sustained engagement in Singapore with the emerging emphasis in biotechnology and life sciences or the needs of the small and medium enterprise sector.

Building upon the success of Nanyang Business School in the region, I believe a sensible, longer term collective aspiration is to become a leading global business school. As part of these global efforts, I believe a strong, substantive engagement with India and China is a natural strategic direction for Nanyang Business School to pursue.

I look forward with much enthusiasm to being at Nanyang Business School in the near future."

Says Dr Su Guaning, President, NTU, “We are very pleased at the appointment of Professor Singh as our Dean of Nanyang Business School. He comes to us with an outstanding academic reputation and extensive administrative experience. Under Professor Singh, the Nanyang Business School, already the number one business school in Singapore, number two in Asia and number three in Asia Pacific, is poised to make a strong global push to the top tier of the world’s best business schools.”

*Enclosed: photograph and curriculum vitae of Professor Singh*
About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 20 technological universities. The university has two campuses in Singapore. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU’s main campus, is located in the southwestern part of Singapore. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore’s biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new infocomm and media hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four 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.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg
Jitendra V. Singh

Jitendra Singh is the Saul P. Steinberg Professor, Department of Management at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. During 1998-2001, he was Vice Dean, International Academic Affairs. In his Vice Dean role, he was charged with shaping and implementing the global strategy of Wharton and was a member of Wharton’s core administrative leadership team. These efforts culminated, in part, in the worldwide alliance between Wharton and INSEAD. Earlier, he was Director of the Emerging Economies Program at Wharton from 1996-98. From 1991-1995, he was Research Director, Entrepreneurship at the Sol C. Snider Entrepreneurial Center at Wharton, the leading research center in entrepreneurship at any US business school.

He has been a faculty member at Wharton since 1987 and moved there from University of Toronto, Canada where he was an Associate Professor in the (now) Rotman School of Business. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford Business School in 1983. In 1991, he received an M.A.(h.c.) from University of Pennsylvania. His earliest education was in natural and mathematical sciences and he received his B.Sc. (Physics, Mathematics, Statistics) from Lucknow University, India in 1972. Subsequently, he received his MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India in 1975 (notably, a survey done by the Economist has rated IIMA as the most difficult business school in the world to gain admission to; Which MBA Survey, 13th ed., October 2001.) He worked as a line manager at Voltas Ltd. in India for three years before coming to the US for his Ph.D. in 1978.

His research and teaching interests center around strategy and organization, with a specific current focus on emerging global business models and business process outsourcing, and corporate governance. He has published over forty papers in most of the leading management journals and currently serves on the editorial boards of Organization Science, Strategic Management Journal and Strategic Organization! Earlier, he also served on the editorial boards of Academy of Management Journal and Administrative Science Quarterly. He has edited two books - Organizational Evolution: New Directions (Sage Publications, 1990), and Evolutionary Dynamics of Organizations (co-authored with Joel Baum, Oxford University Press, 1994).

He was a co-founder of the Emerging Technologies Management Research Program, now housed within the Mack Center for Technological Innovation at Wharton. This is a successful research program that involves participation from leading academics at Wharton and partnerships with blue chip firms across multiple industries. Some current and past partner firms are IBM, Reliance Industries, HP, Charles Schwab, Infosys, SmithKline Beecham, Proctor & Gamble, Bank of Montreal, 3M, McKinsey & Co., Knight Ridder, Cigna, Sprint, Xerox, and Dupont, among others. Recently, the Mack Center has also launched the Biosciences Crossroads initiative.

Jitendra Singh has lectured worldwide (N. America, Europe, Asia, and S. America) to both executive and academic audiences. He is also active in advising firms and
serving on boards. He served recently (2004-2007) on the Board of Directors of Fedders Corporation (FJCC), a global firm in the air treatment business and Emcure Pharmaceuticals (2003-2006), a privately owned biopharmaceuticals company based in Pune, India. Earlier, from 2000-2003, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Bangalore, India based Infosys Technologies Ltd. (NASDAQ: INFY) a world-class firm in the business of software services. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Mercatrix, a Silicon Valley based Web2.0 startup firm offering business intelligence as an online service. He is also on the advisory board of EurIndia, a London, U.K. based venture capital firm which has investments in several software and business process outsourcing companies with back ends in India.

Jitendra Singh was earlier elected to membership in two leading professional organizations-- MOBS, a society of leading scholars in organization design and theory, and MESO, a society of scholars engaged in research linking individual and organizational issues. During 1994-96, he served an elected two-year term on the Senate Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, University of Pennsylvania.

He lives in Bryn Mawr, PA with his wife and two daughters.