Singapore, 13 November 2007

NTU wins up to S$20 million research grants

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has won up to S$20 million grant from the inaugural call for the Competitive Research Programme (CRP) Funding Scheme offered by the National Research Foundation.

The CRP Funding Scheme, which was launched in April this year, offers support of up to S$10 million per programme, over three to five years. The aim of the CRP Funding Scheme is to encourage broad based, high-impact research ideas in which Singapore can invest to develop new industries for the future.

NRF has received a total of 124 proposals from local universities, public sector research entities as well as private sector companies. 17 proposals have been short-listed to be developed into full proposals for international peer-review. Out of which, 8 proposals from NTU were short-listed. They were evaluated on the criteria of research excellence, manpower development potential, economic impact and industry involvement.

“NTU's College of Engineering is one of the largest engineering colleges in the world. We are very happy that out of the 17 short-listed proposals, 8 were from NTU. It is a clear indication that we are taking a strong lead in strategic and innovative research with commercial and societal impact,” says Professor Pan Tso-Chien, Dean of NTU's College of Engineering.

NTU Associate Professor Choo Fook Hoong's project on 'zero energy' green water production and recycling system using Membrane Distillation (MD) and Membrane Distillation Bioreactor (MDBR) powered by solar energy, and Associate Professor Mei Ting’s project on artificial mesoscopic structures for next generation of electronics and photonic technology are among the six research programmes that have been selected to receive the CRP funding.

The project proposed by Associate Professor Choo Fook Hoong of NTU, School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, uses the natural phenomenon and resources of our solar system to clean up wastewater without causing global warming and climate change. The solar-powered Membrane Distillation (MD) and Membrane Distillation Bioreactor (MDBR) system process works like the natural water cycle of evaporation and condensation to clean the water. This system is simpler than the Reverse Osmosis system as it requires less ‘energy’ to operate and is pollution free. As the world is moving forward against climate change, there is also a huge demand for such eco-friendly water production and recycling system.
Associate Professor Mei Ting of NTU, School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering’s winning proposal aims to investigate the artificial mesoscopic structures for the next generation of engineered artificial media which can be manufactured and integrated into functional photonic systems on a chip for biotechnology and communications applications. With this technology, a breakthrough in biotechnology may also take place with the possibility for human beings to see virus optically.

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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