NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Singapore, 03 December 2007

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) hosts two leading scientists from UK

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will host a visit by two of the leading figures in British research policy and funding on 3 December, 2007.

Sir Keith O’Nions, the Director General of Science and Innovation and Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, the Chief Executive of the UK Medical Research Council will be visiting NTU to meet with the senior academic figures of the university, including the Provost, Professor Bertil Andersson; Associate Provost, Professor Er Meng Hwa and the Deans of the NTU Colleges.

This is an opportunity to demonstrate the exciting progress in research being made at NTU, our plans for the future and the prospect of strengthening collaboration between NTU faculty, many of whom have had earlier research careers in the UK, and their equivalent UK research collaborators.

This visit comes close after a number of other prominent visitors such as the recent visits by Sir Richard Stykes, Rector of Imperial College on 28 November 2007; the visit by Mr Lars Leijonborg, Swedish Minister for Higher Education & Research on 23 September 2007; and the EUA delegation on 3 and 4 September 2007. These visits are indications of the high level of interest shown by top level global institutions in potential collaboration and exchange with NTU and are strong reflections of the global standing of Singapore’s main science and technology university on the world stage.

Sir Keith is responsible for the Science Budget in the UK for the Research Councils and is thus the principal source of public funding for research in many leading institutes and in the universities. Sir Keith himself is an eminent Earth scientist and was previously the Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Ministry of Defence.

Sir Leszek was appointed as Chief Executive of the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) in 2007 having previously been the Deputy Rector of Imperial College London. He is a specialist in viral immunology and infectious diseases. The MRC is the oldest of the British research councils, founded in 1913, and supports biomedical research at its
own institutes and at universities. Several of the researchers at MRC institutes have received Nobel Prizes.

NTU Provost, Professor Bertil Andersson, welcomed the visit of two such eminent figures in British science. “I am delighted that Sir Keith and Sir Leszek are visiting NTU. This is a recognition that NTU is an important research institution not just in Singapore but is recognised at a World level. I am particularly pleased to be able to receive Sir Leszek, an old friend of mine. To have Sir Keith here at this time is also very pleasing when we are considering the development of earth sciences here.”

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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

ANNEX 1:
Professor Sir Keith O'Nions, Director General of Science and Innovation

Professor Sir Keith O'Nions became Director General of the Research Councils on 1 January 2004 and was appointed Director General Science and Innovation and Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser in April 2006. He was previously Chief Scientific Adviser at the MOD from January 200 to July 2004.

He was born on 26 September 1944 and educated at the University of Nottingham where he graduated in Geology, later gaining a PhD at University of Alberta and becoming a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Oslo. From 1971 to 1975 he was Demonstrator and then Lecturer in Geochemistry at University of Oxford. He became Professor of Geology at Columbia University in 1975, Royal Society Research Professor in Cambridge from 1979 and Head of Earth Sciences in Oxford from 1995.

In addition Keith O'Nions has enjoyed extensive participation in a broad range of academic and technological committees. He became a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 1979, and a Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in 1980. In 1983, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, Honorary Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences in 1998, Honorary Fellow Royal Academy of Engineering in 2005. He holds Honorary doctorates from Paris, Cardiff, Glasgow, Herriot-Watt, Royal Holloway and Bedford College.

He has been the chairman, or a member, of a number of Research Council committees over the last 25 years and a member of the Council of Science and Technology from 1998-2000. He was Trustee and Chairman of the Natural History Museum from 1996 to
2005. He received a Knighthood for services to Earth Sciences in the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours. Professor Sir Keith O'Nions is married with three daughters.

Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, CEO of the Medical Research Council (MRC), UK

Sir Leszek Borysiewicz was appointed Chief Executive of the MRC in 2007.

He was educated at Cardiff High School and attended the University of Wales. He came to London to further his medical training at Hammersmith Hospital, where he was attracted to the research environment and became an MRC training fellow to study viral immunology.

Sir Leszek was Deputy Rector at Imperial College London, having joined the College in 2001 as Principal of the Faculty of Medicine. Previously he was Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

In his role at Imperial, Sir Leszek was responsible for the overall academic and scientific direction of the college, particularly the development of inter-disciplinary research between engineering, physical sciences and biomedicine. As a physician, Sir Leszek specialises in viral immunology, infectious diseases, cell mediated immunity, virus associated malignancy and vaccine development. He is the author of reports for the World Health Organization, the MRC and the Department of Health, and was chair of the Department of Health / Medical Research Council TSE Research Advisory Group that reviewed research and coordinated the human health research strategy on Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Sir Leszek was knighted in the 2001 New Year’s Honours List for his research into developing vaccines, including a vaccine to prevent the development of cervical cancer. He was a founding fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 1996 and Chairman of HEFCE’s main Clinical Medicine panel for RAE 2008. He was a member of the Council of Cancer Research UK from 2002 to 2005, a governor of the Wellcome Trust from 2006 to 2007, a member of the MRC Council from 1995 to 2000 and chair of the MRC’s Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board from 1996 to 2000.