NEWS RELEASE

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Nanyang Technological University launches new Assessment Centre at NTU Career Fair 2008

NTU is the first educational institution in Asia to provide a full-fledge assessment centre service

Students can look forward to a wider selection of jobs at Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) Career Fair 2008. With the buoyant job market, this year's career fair will see some 108 employers participating – a 45% increase from last year's event which attracted 74 companies. A new Assessment Centre (AC) will also be launched during this 2-day job exhibition which lasts from 30th to 31st January 2008.

Launch of Assessment Centre

NTU is the first educational institute in Singapore and the region to provide a full-fledge Assessment Centre service to its students and the industry partners. Equipped with the latest technology and facilities on campus, this assessment service will help to assess and develop students' behavioural competencies.

Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Associate Provost explains the concept behind an Assessment Centre, "It is a psychologically proven concept for measuring human potential by predicting future behaviours through the use of behavioural simulations that measure a candidate’s ability to handle future job responsibilities. Candidates are put through a day in the life of the position they are considered for. The wonders of AC are such that it is not just a means for management to spot future talents. It is also a very good and safe way for candidates to taste what life is like in the future job position."

Mr Royston Thong, a fourth-year NTU engineering student who was one of the 26 students involved in the pilot-run of the AC early September last year, shares his experience, “While I was going through the AC simulator exercise, I felt as if I was brought back to the time when I was working as an Assistant Engineer before I entered
university. The simulations in AC truly allowed me to gauge my competencies as an Engineer. It is definitely an experience not to be missed!"

In conjunction with the launch of the Assessment Centre, a new programme called the World of Work (WOW) programme will also be implemented this month. Developed based on the AC concept, this programme is specially designed to provide students with diagnostic tests against selected job positions as well as offering them post-assessment feedback for the development of their competencies. WOW participants will undergo an AC experience for their selected job position and receive feedback and coaching to help them appreciate the demands of the workplace. Through this one and a half day programme, participants will be able to gauge their current competencies and explore ways to further develop them so they can contribute the moment they join the world of work.

Professor Er adds, “Students who participate in the WOW programme would be put through realistic situations of a job position. They would need to handle work-related emails, interact with trained role-players who act as their peers, customers or subordinates in a given job context. Besides experiencing first-hand what this future job position is like, the students would be able to gauge their current competencies vis-à-vis the required job competencies and explore ways to further develop those competencies that they fall short in. We are confident that this would provide our students a head start in preparing them for the world of work.”

**More visitors to NTU Career Fair 2008**

While more job employers have participated in the event to seek out talents this year, NTU is also expecting the number of visitors to rise. Compared to last year’s job fair which attracted some 12,000 job seekers, about 15,000 job-seekers are expected to be at the fair to look for suitable job openings upon graduation this time round. The event venue has also been expanded to accommodate this rise in number.

Ms Sandy Ng, HR Manager, Siemens Pte Ltd explains why employers like Siemens have chosen to participate in this annual event, “Through our participation in the NTU Career Fair, we hope to brand ourselves as an employer of choice for NTU graduates. Besides being trained well academically, NTU graduates have proven themselves to be well-rounded with good soft skills and most importantly, they have the right attitude and we are looking to recruit more of them into our Graduate Management Programme.”

Mr Tan Guo Xian, a current NTU PhD student says, “The NTU Career Fair provides me with the platform to get to know my prospective employers further. Lively engagements with the staff are good ways to gain insightful perspectives into the organisation culture. With over 100 employers participating in the career fair, I am truly spoilt for choice. I strongly believe that this event will enable me to secure a suitable job even before I graduate.”
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About Nanyang Technological University
Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 25 technological universities in the world. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU’s main campus, is located in the south-western 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 namely:
• The College of Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world.
• The College of Science, a key driver of Singapore’s life sciences initiatives.
• The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), offering one of the world’s top 100 MBA programmes.
• The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, which 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 S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, one of two autonomous institutes of NTU, is 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.

As Singapore’s main science and technology university, NTU makes significant contributions to the nation’s renewed drive for research and innovation spearheaded by the Singapore National Research Foundation (NRF). NTU’s strengths in biomedical sciences, environmental and water technologies, and interactive and digital media mirror the NRF’s research focus.

NTU has a strong and broad international reach covering academic and research partnerships with top institutions in the US, Europe and Asia, such as MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University; Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; and Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, and Indian Institute of Technology.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg