NEWS RELEASE

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NTU launches institute in environment & water technologies
• Two affiliated centres set up
• EWI awards three postgraduate scholarships to NTU students in EWT

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) reinforced its leadership position in environment and water technologies (EWT) when it officially launched the Nanyang Environment and Water Research Institute (NEWRI) today.

NEWRI is an 'eco-system' of research groups, centres and institutes which provides a contiguous value chain from education and research through translation, development and application. It unifies NTU's EWT efforts and serves as a one-stop centre for industry and research partners to access NTU's EWT capabilities.

The launch of NEWRI is timely, as water and environment concerns become increasingly important internationally, and the EWT market, estimated to be worth some US$700 billion globally, is expected to continue growing.

NEWRI provides a coordinated platform for NTU researchers and other Singapore and international leaders in this field to work together to develop cutting-edge technologies and applications. It also focuses on postgraduate training to help build a critical pool of world-class technical manpower and researchers for the industry. The Institute will play an important role in Singapore's push to be a global hub for the environment and water industry.

The foundation for NEWRI was laid years ago with the launch of EDB-supported Singapore-Stanford Partnership programme at NTU and with the set up of iESE. SSP is an NTU collaboration with Stanford University to develop highly skilled manpower for the water industry, while iESE is an NTU spin-off that provides value-added research and commercialisation services in environmental technology for the industry.
NEWRI has recently added to its eco-system with the setting up of two EWI-funded R&D centres: the Singapore Membrane Technology Centre, which focuses on fundamental and applied membrane technology; and the DHI-NTU Water & Environment Research Centre and Education Hub, which focuses on urban environmental issues.

In terms of industry partnership, NTU has recently signed an MOU with Hitachi Plant Technologies of Japan, and is in discussion to collaborate with TWI in North America, and Siemens in Singapore.

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, was the Guest-of-Honour and officially opened NEWRI today. At the launch, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim also presented three new NRF (EWT) postgraduate scholarships to NTU students. The scholarships are aimed at grooming researchers and professionals for the EWT industry. (Please refer to Annex A for details of the scholarships).

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, says, “NTU has long established strengths in EWT. Over the years, NTU has also been a major participant in Singapore’s R&D efforts. NEWRI will elevate NTU’s involvement in the EWT R&D landscape to a new level. Its eco-system of research groups, centres and institutes will offer further opportunities for collaboration with both research and industry partners.”

Dr Su Guaning, President, NTU, says, “The setting up of NEWRI is testament to NTU’s strengths in EWT and signals our commitment to further build on our capabilities. With NEWRI, NTU takes another huge step forward to remain at the forefront of environmental and water technologies. We look forward to NEWRI playing its part as Singapore pushes to be a global hydrohub.”

Professor Ng Wun Jern, NEWRI’s founding Executive Director, says, “With the support of EWI and EDB, NEWRI will provide leadership in our EWT endeavours and enhance benefits from collaborations with partners within and beyond our shores. NEWRI’s ultimate goal is to encourage cutting edge research, facilitate translation of the research results, and to bring this to an industry seeking leadership in an expanding market.”

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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 which offers Singapore's only direct-honours bachelor's degree programme
• The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), the first and only Singapore business school to be ranked in the top 50 of the Financial Times Global MBA 2008 rankings
• The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, home to 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.

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