Singapore, 30 April 2008

NTU welcomes inaugural batch of Lien Fellows from China

Four senior officials to develop concrete and practical solutions to address significant social and community issues

Four senior government officials from China have been selected as inaugural recipients of the prestigious Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship, a joint initiative by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Lien Foundation to groom established and emerging leaders in Singapore and China, and to provide them with the opportunity to interact and develop professionally. A welcome dinner for the Lien Fellows will be held at NTU on 30 April 2008, with Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong as the Guest-of-Honour. Among the special guests are Mrs Margaret Lien, Chairman of Lien Foundation, and Mr Hong Xiaoyong, Acting Ambassador, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China.

Established in September 2007, the fellowship is funded by a $10 million donation from the Lien Foundation and dollar-for-dollar matching from the government. It aims to strengthen ties and promote trust between Singapore and China through intellectual, cultural and social exchanges. The programme is targeted at high-profile senior government officials and established professionals and academics from Singapore and China who can make an impact on policy issues in their respective fields. Lien Fellows from the two countries will have the opportunity to be exposed to each other’s unique environment and culture. They will also help to forge viable partnerships and foster positive changes that will have a lasting impact on both countries. The programme will broaden their horizons by focusing on the cultural, business and communal aspects of the two countries.

Since the launch of the fellowship last year, the project has received strong support from the authorities in both Singapore and China. The four inaugural Lien Fellows from China were chosen through a rigorous selection process. Interview sessions were conducted in Beijing by a panel comprising key representatives from the Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship Council and China Education Association for International Exchange, a NGO supported by China’s Ministry of Education.

The Fellows are senior officials holding doctorate degrees with excellent academic qualifications and outstanding career records. They come from diverse backgrounds and will be undertaking policy research in environmental protection, governance and regulation of financial institutions, labour and social security, and sovereign wealth fund policies in Singapore. Leveraging NTU’s extensive global network, the Fellows will develop their research agenda and take an active part in designing their own programmes with the help of their mentors from NTU and other participating institutions in Singapore.

Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU, says: “Like many of the China programmes here in NTU, the spirit of the Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship programme is...
very much in line with the university’s mission of nurturing creative and entrepreneurial leaders through a broad education in diverse disciplines. Inspired by the Eisenhower Fellowship in the US, the programme aims to support leaders in Singapore and China in their personal development and professional advancement to better contribute to the needs of the people in the two countries. It also sets out to groom Fellows who will spearhead the process of change.”

The duration of the fellowship term is about a year, with its core programme lasting about three months. Administered by Programme Director Associate Professor Tan Teng Kee and Executive Director Mr Ong Lay Khiam, the true measure of the programme lies not in academic theorising but the tangible benefits it can bring to the community at large.

Mr Ngiam Tong Dow, Chairman of Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship, says: “Meanwhile, the Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship Council is also working closely with the Public Service Division of the Prime Minister’s Office to identify suitable candidates from Singapore. The target number is three or four candidates depending on the quality of the candidates and the research projects they propose to undertake in China. Language competency is an important consideration in the selection of the Lien Fellows from Singapore. The Lien Fellows chosen are expected to start the programme in China by end 2008.”

Lien Fellows 2008

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Profiles of Lien Fellows and more information on the fellowship programme can be found in the fact sheet attached.

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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 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 Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world
- 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 College of Science which offers Singapore’s only direct-honours bachelor’s degree programme

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