Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU,
Distinguished alumni,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good evening.

Introduction

Thank you for inviting me to this NTU Alumni Night 2007. Tonight, we celebrate and acknowledge the achievements and contributions of NTU alumni. Your presence is important to these celebrations as you are the pulse of this ever-growing family and your efforts to stay connected with your alma mater continues to add vibrancy and depth to the Nanyang Technological University community. It’s a pleasure for me to join you on this momentous occasion. And even though I am not an NTU alumnus, I feel a part of this celebration, thanks to your warm welcome.

University

NTU has come a long way since its inception as a private university in 1955. The University has grown from strength to strength and today, it is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged fortes in science and
engineering. As the main science and technology university in Singapore, it is much in synch with Singapore's efforts to develop R&D as a key driver of our knowledge-based economy.

3 As many of you may know, the education landscape in Singapore is changing. With more students performing well in school, more are aspiring to get a university education. Singapore’s manpower needs too are changing. And in response to these shifting trends, the government announced this year that it is looking to set up a fourth university. Additional places will also be created in our universities.

4 I am confident that you can and will rise to these new challenges. As a university with global influence and presence, you have attracted top academics from around the world and your graduates, well-rounded and entrepreneurial, have done well. Indeed, many are successful and many more have gone on to play significant roles in the political, social, cultural and economic sectors of Singapore, and internationally. Tonight we honour some of them with the Nanyang Alumni Awards.

Nanyang Alumni Awards
5 All these recipients have done your University proud. But allow me to mention just two who will be receiving the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award tonight.

6 One is my former colleague, mentor and friend, Mr Ch’ng Jit Koon. Jit Koon is a Justice of Peace who served illustriously as a Member of Parliament for 28 years and held diverse portfolios as Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Minister of State for Community Development and held the post of Senior Minister of State for Community Development until his retirement in 1997.

7 The other is Tan Sri Dato’ Lim Guan Teik, a highly regarded business leader, who was previously the President and currently the Honorary President of the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Malaysia. He also established the Nantah Education and Research Foundation.

8 Together with the 22 other recipients of the Nanyang Alumni Awards this evening, they exemplify the values of NTU – leadership, resilience, creativity and entrepreneurship. My heartiest congratulations to them and I wish them well.

9 To all who are here this evening, I wish to say live the dream. Not only your own, but continue to lend your support to your alma mater in its journey towards its vision of a global university of excellence.
Let me end by wishing each and every one good health, happiness and success and may you have an enjoyable evening of camaraderie and nostalgia. Thank you.