Speech by Mr Ch’ng Jit Koon, Chairman, Fundraising Committee,
21st Century Fund at the Appreciation Gala, 13 March, 2008,
Shangri La Hotel

Guest-of-Honour, President SR Nathan, and Mrs Nathan,
Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman, NTU Board of Trustees,
Dr Su Guaning, President, NTU
Benefactors,
Distinguished guests,
Students, alumni, colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is truly my pleasure to be here with you this evening to celebrate
the success of the 21st Century Fund and to give thanks to our donors
and the many people who have made this possible.

The 21st Century Fund has truly paved the way for the future for NTU.
Already, it has had a broad and deep impact on NTU, making a
significant difference at numerous levels right where it matters the
most – the quality of education we offer, how we motivate talented
students, the extent to which we help the financially disadvantaged
and even how we prepare our students for the demands of the global marketplace.

Without a doubt, we can attribute the tremendous success of the campaign to the enormous support of our donors and friends. Thank you, for sharing so generously in our vision of what NTU can achieve as a university, for investing in the future of the bright young minds that come to NTU, and for being our partner on our journey towards excellence.

Your gifts speak of your confidence in NTU and we are deeply moved by your support. Even more importantly, the many programmes that your gifts have made possible at NTU will have a long and lasting impact on the lives of many of our undergraduates and graduates well into the future.

The funds will bring some of the best global minds in technology and research, including Nobel Laureates, to the faculty of NTU, to share their experience, insights and thoughts. Our faculty and students will benefit immeasurably through the years.
Some of your gifts will provide valuable opportunities for our graduates to acquire entrepreneurial skills for the global economy, combining the best of theoretical learning with practical business world skills.

Some of these will go towards programmes to meet environmental challenges in Asia, combining technology and scientific effort with field work and application to deliver sustainable development for a lasting impact on developing communities. Examples include portable water treatment plants, low-cost sanitation facilities and emergency shelters for disaster zones and poverty-stricken rural areas.

The scholarships will open doors to opportunities for the best and brightest among our students to pursue knowledge and learning in their chosen fields and pursue careers that will benefit their organisations, and ultimately, society at large.

Every bursary provided means that one able student will have his financial worries lifted, and he or she can concentrate on being his or her best as a student.
In fact, it is very heartening to note that our graduate students, many of whom have benefited from the generosity of our donors, are themselves giving back to their alma mater in increasing numbers.

As chair of the Fundraising Committee, it has been my privilege to work with passionate and hardworking people. Without them – their dedication, their focus on success, and their energy – the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Fund would not have met its target four years ahead of schedule. This is a tremendous achievement. I am deeply grateful to each of them. It was truly a pleasure working with you.

As we celebrate the resounding success of the campaign, we renew our pledge to keep students at the heart of what we do. They will be the future workers, leaders and, movers and shakers of tomorrow. Though the campaign has come to a successful conclusion, let us continue to support NTU in its various endeavours to prepare our students for the ever evolving future, so that they will be assets to the community and country.
现在，让我以华语说几句话。

我今天感到很荣幸能够在这里，与各位一起庆祝 21 世纪基金募款活动的美满完成；并向所有的捐款人，以及支持我们的各界人士，表达由衷的谢意。

我们感谢您们热心捐献，支持南大实现愿景。我们也感谢您们捐资兴学，对正在南大受教育的青年才俊的未来，作出无私的投资。您们的捐献，体现了对南大的坚定信心；您们的支持，也让我们深受感动并铭记于心。更重要的是，因为有您们的支持，更多优质的教育项目才得以开展，这对南大本科生及研究生的学习前景，影响深远。
21 世纪基金，将把全球各个科技及研究领域，最出类拔萃的顶尖人物，包括诺贝尔奖得主，带入南大的知识殿堂。您们捐赠的部分款项，将应用于协助南大毕业生掌握结合理论学习与实践演练的创业技能，促进环球经济。另一部分，则应用于帮助亚洲应对环境课题所带来的挑战，为发展中地区的可持续发展作出贡献。

您们的部分捐款，也将被用作为南大在籍的同学提供更多的奖学金及助学金。

令人欣慰的是，近年来有越来越多的南大毕业生，尤其是那些从社会人士的慷慨捐款中受惠的学生，对于捐款人所给予的帮助，怀抱感恩之心。为了报答每一位关心和帮助过他们的人，他们积极向母校及社会作出回馈，发扬自强不息及饮水思源的精神。
作为筹款委员会主席，能与一群满怀热情、认真勤奋的社会贤达一起工作，我深感荣幸。如果没有他们的全情投入、专注，以及热忱，21世纪基金，不可能提早四年达成筹款目标。这是了不起的成就。我要向他们各位，表达深切的感激。

在庆祝募款活动取得圆满成功的时刻，让我们再次郑重承诺，我们所做的一切都以学生作为出发点。因为他们将成为我们未来的生力军、领袖，甚至是对明日的社会最具影响力的人物。尽管募款活动已经取得成功，让我们继续支持南大，帮助有才华的年轻人为将来做好准备，为国家、为社会，培养更多品学兼优的栋梁之才。