Welcome to the Lee Wee Nam Library!

Official Launch of the Lee Wee Nam Library @ NTU

Dexterine Ho Soo Miang
smho@ntu.edu.sg

Launch of the Lee Wee Nam Library

In recognition of the generous donation on 19 June 2001 of $10 million from Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd for the Lee Wee Nam Endowment Fund in Life Sciences, Nanyang Technological University renamed one of its libraries, Library 1, after the late Mr Lee Wee Nam, founder of the company.

2 November 2001 marked the University’s first naming of a major building, the Lee Wee Nam Library, since NTU’s establishment of the endowment fund in 1991. The state-of-the-art library has just completed an upgrading facelift of $2.5 million and the renaming ceremony was timely. The ceremony was officiated by NTU Pro-Chancellor Mr Hsuan Owyang, and NTU President Dr Cham Tao Soon. Members of the Lee family including Dr Lee Hiok Huang and Mr Lee Hiok Woon, executive directors of Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd, were in attendance to witness the ceremony.

In his opening speech, Mr Hsuan Owyang highlighted to the guests on the history of the late Mr Lee Wee Nam and his many contributions and achievements. Mr Hsuan
said, “The spirit of philanthropy was very much his (Mr Lee Wee Nam) personal value and the spirit of giving to education is upheld passionately by the Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd, the company Mr Lee has founded.” Dr Cham Tao Soon, in his welcome speech, spoke of the many facilities available in the Lee Wee Nam Library and thanked Dr Lee Hiok Huang and members of the Lee family for making this occasion possible.

Dr Lee Hiok Huang spoke of his father’s lifelong hobby of reading. As Dr Lee said, “On behalf of the Lee family, I wish to thank NTU for naming this magnificent building and state-of-the-art library in honour of our father, the late Mr Lee Wee Nam, founder of Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd. The choice is most appropriate as reading was my father’s lifelong hobby and we, in our young days, have learned a lot from his story-telling of famous Chinese fables.”

NTU is grateful to the late Mr Lee Wee Nam and his family for their support and contribution to education and research. The university hopes that the launching of the Lee Wee Nam Library will epitomise the values and philanthropy of the late Mr Lee, and instil the value of education in our future generations.

The Exhibition

The launch ceremony on 2 November also featured an exhibition of the Lee’s family collection of artifacts. Exhibits included a rare display of old photographs, calligraphy scrolls and paintings, porcelain and silver artifacts, news clippings and seals.

Some of the photographs dated as far back as the 1930s, depicting the late Mr Lee in his various roles as a banker in the Sze Hai Tong Bank (the oldest Chinese bank in Singapore in the 1930s) and as a well-respected community leader serving the Teochew Huay Kuan for 18 years. This exhibition was opened to the public for three weeks, from 2 to 24 November 2001.

Unveiling of Bronze Sculpture

A bronze sculpture of the late Mr Lee was unveiled at the launch ceremony. The sculpture is now permanently displayed at the library lobby in respect of Mr Lee’s valuable contributions as a community leader, philanthropist and entrepreneur, and for his strong support for education.

Famous sculptor Mr Chern Lian Shan and renowned Chinese calligrapher Mr Tan Siah Kwee were both commissioned by NTU to sculpture the bronze bust for the respectable Mr Lee Wee Nam. The bust was moulded in Singapore and cast in Taiwan. It took 3 months for Mr Chern to complete the making of it. Mr Tan, who is president of the Singapore Chinese Calligraphy Society, calligraphed the inscriptions on the bust stand. He also calligraphed the new name of the Library located at the library entrance.
Earlier Launch of the Lee Wee Nam Endowment Fund in Life Sciences on 19 June 2001

Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd donated a sum of $10 million to the NTU Endowment Fund at a ceremony held at the Istana on Tuesday 19 June 2001. President S R Nathan, Chancellor of Nanyang Technological University and Patron-in-Chief of the NTU Fund received the benefaction. The benefaction was made in memory of the late Mr Lee Wee Nam, founder of Lee Hiok Kee Pte Ltd, and also in recognition of Mr Lee’s strong support for education.

The donation was made to establish an endowment in the field of life sciences. The Lee Wee Nam Endowment Fund is earmarked with $7.5 million for Research in Life Sciences and $2.5 million for a Professorship in Life Sciences; both funds endowed in the name of Mr Lee. This is the largest donation received so far by NTU from a company in the private sector since the NTU Endowment Fund was established in 1991. The donation was matched by the Government dollar-for-dollar and the NTU Endowment Fund thus received a financial boost of $20 million.

NTU is embarking on new initiatives for life sciences education and research. A new building with state-of-the-art facilities for the School of Biological Sciences will be built in NTU by the year 2003 and NTU is currently recruiting key academic staff for the new school. The income generated from the invested Lee Wee Nam Endowment Fund will enable NTU to appoint visiting professors of international eminence to teach, give public lectures and undertake research in the field of life sciences. It will contribute towards NTU’s efforts to become a centre of excellence in life sciences education and research.

Community Contributions of the late Mr Lee Wee Nam

Mr Lee Wee Nam was a hardworking and highly-respected businessman deeply committed to education and community causes. Mr Lee’s life and achievements are inspiring.

NTU Pro-Chancellor, Mr Hsuan Owyang, officiating the ceremony.
Mr Lee Wee Nam was born in China in 1880. Being the son of a coffin maker, he was an illiterate and the family was poor. In 1896, he arrived in Singapore as a young man without any formal education. In his first job here, he earned a salary of only two dollars a month. Through sheer hard work and diligence he showed his worth and capability to others. By 1932 he had become chairman of the Sze Hai Tong Banking & Insurance Company Ltd and he went on to own businesses in Singapore and Malaysia. He was elected president of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce in 1929, president of the Ngee Ann Kongsi, and president of various schools and associations in subsequent years.

Mr Lee Wee Nam was concerned about education for the young and for women. In 1940, Mr Lee was president-cum-trustee of Tuan Mong School. While still serving as president of the Ngee Ann Kongsi, Mr Lee proposed the setting up of Ngee Ann Girls’ School to meet the needs of the Teochew community as there was no girls’ school for young Teochew women at that time. His proposal received overwhelming support and he was elected the first chairman of the school. Later, Mr Lee was also invited to serve in the committee of the Chinese High School and Nan Hwa Girls’ School. He also supported Nanyang University, whose graduates today are NTU’s alumni, and was invited to the university’s first convocation ceremony held in 1960. Mr Lee Wee Nam passed away in 1964 at the age of 84.

Acknowledgement:
All artifacts, calligraphies and painting are displayed with the courtesy of the family of the late Mr Lee Wee Nam.

Source of information:
Viewing the Lee Wee Nam Exhibition:
(from L to R) Mr Lee Hiok Chuan & Mr Hsuan Owyang.

Mr Lee Hiok Chuan admiring the painting of his late father Mr Lee Wee Nam.

(from L to R) Dr Lee Hiok Huang, Mr Hsuan Owyang & Mr Lee Hiok Chuan.
Research Facilities & Reading Areas

Bloomberg Terminal
Library Instruction Room
iGEMS Workstation

Lifestyle

Study Areas

Wired & Wireless access available campus-wide

Services

Key Services:
- Reference Information
- Databases
- Location & Access
- Consultation
- Reprinting
- Instruction & Training

e-Services:
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- InterLibrary Loan
- Certified of Thesis
- Book Reservations
- Book-AV Rentals
- Book-AV Rental Information
- Publishing News & Event Information
- Online News
- Online Video

Collections

Print Resources

... available in the Library

The Nanyang Technological University Library has an excellent collection of both published and unpublished resources to support the research programmes of the University. The collection is particularly strong in computer sciences, various fields of engineering, material sciences, accountancy, business, economics, management and communication studies.

Electronic Resources

... delivered via iGEMS

NTU Publications

- Conference Articles
- Technical Papers
- Journal Articles
- Annual Reports
- Final Year Projects
- NTU President's Speeches
- IEE Lectures / Utimate Theses

Current Journals

University Calendars

Company & Institutional Profiles

Technical Standards

- American Concrete Institute Standards
- American Society for Testing and Materials Standards
- Australian Standards
- British Standards
- CSA Standards
- ISO Standards
- Metal Powder Industry Federation Standards
- Singapore Standards
- Sheet Structures Painting Council Standards

Business Reference Books

Abstracts

Engineering Reference Books

E-Journals

E-Books

Databases

Business

- International Business
- Marketing
- Finance
- Banking
- Economics
- Accounting
- Strategic Management

Engineering

- Materials Science
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

Communication Studies

- Communication
- Journalism
- Advertising
- Marketing

Wired

- Office
- Home
- Canteen

Wireless

- Office
- Home
- Canteen

HOSTEL

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