

# Stanford teams up with NTU to offer master's

**Tie-up to offer environmental engineering programmes makes the US institution the tenth prestige university to set up base here**

By **JANE LEE**

STANFORD University, famed for its engineering courses, is likely to be the tenth prestige university to set up base here.

Stanford has linked up with the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to offer graduate programmes in environmental engineering, starting in June.

Stanford was ranked No 1 last year by US News and World Report magazine for its graduate environmental engineering programmes.

This latest tie-up means the Economic Development Board has met its goal of wooing 10 world-class institutions here to create an

education hub in Singapore.

And it has done it five years ahead of the 2008 deadline.

The Singapore Stanford Partnership is like the Singapore-MIT Alliance of the National University of Singapore, NTU and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Students enrolled in the one-year master's programme offered by the new partnership will spend their first nine weeks at Stanford's campus in Palo Alto, California.

NTU will award the degrees, but professors from both universities will teach the courses. Video-conferencing will allow students taking the same courses to attend the same lectures.

Students in the four-year doctorate programme will have advisers from both universities and spend up to nine months at Stanford taking courses on such subjects as environmental planning, air pollution, water and waste-water treatment, and doing research on ways to protect the environment.

Students may apply for scholarships to cover tuition fees and airfare, as well as a monthly stipend of at least \$1,600.

The Singapore Stanford Partnership aims to take in 10 to 40 students for its master's programme and five doctoral students a year.

Most of its first master's degree students will come from China.

Stanford proved a tough bride to woo. The courtship began more than three years ago when several NTU engineering professors visited Palo Alto to explore how they could work together.

What clinched the deal was the prospect of conducting research in this region.

Said Dr Sandy Robertson,

a Stanford professor involved in the partnership: "The environmental issues in the Pacific Rim are different from those in the US. It would be an interesting challenge to do research and find solutions to them."

Responding to The Straits Times, NTU president Su Guaning said the collaboration came about in a bottom-up manner.

He said: "Basically, the faculty of one school approached the faculty of another school. It was spontaneous combustion."

Fireworks aside, it is the students who really stand to gain.

Miss Tao Yuan, 20, a third-year environmental engineering undergraduate at NTU, is thrilled that she will be able to get a Stanford education.

She said: "With lecturers from both universities, I'll get the best of both worlds — an elite Western education in an Asian environment, with local issues being tackled."

## KEY UNIVERSITY LINKS

*TEN universities that offer programmes here:*

◆ **University of Chicago Graduate School of Business:**

MBA programme

◆ **Insead:** MBA programme

◆ **Johns Hopkins Singapore:** Partners NUS in joint PhD programme in basic sciences and clinical research

◆ **The Logistics Institute-Asia Pacific:** Georgia Institute of Technology and NUS partner to offer a dual Master of Science degree in logistics

◆ **Singapore-MIT Alliance:** Joint effort between NUS, NTU and Massachusetts Institute of Technology to offer graduate engineering and computer-science programmes

◆ **University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School:**

Tie-up with Singapore Management University

◆ **Design Technology Institute:** Set up by NUS and Technische Universiteit of Eindhoven, Netherlands, to offer the Master of Technological Design

◆ **Technical University of Munich:** Tie-up with NUS to offer a joint master's in industrial chemistry

◆ **Shanghai Jiao Tong University:** Partners NTU to offer MBA programmes

◆ **Singapore Stanford Partnership:** Joint effort between Stanford University and NTU to offer graduate environmental engineering programmes