NTU confers honorary degree on President Yudhoyono

Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (left) receives an honorary doctorate from Singapore’s President Tony Tan at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore on Monday, April 22, 2013. NTU on Monday recognised Indonesian President Yudhoyono’s outstanding leadership and public service in diverse areas, as well as his strong links to the university. -- PHOTO: AP

By Goh Chin Lian

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) on Monday recognised Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s outstanding leadership and public service in diverse areas, as well as his strong links to the university.

At a ceremony to confer on him an honorary doctorate of letters, NTU President Bertil Andersson said these areas included his advocacy for peace, democracy, moderate Islam and human rights, and his firm commitment to the modernisation and transformation of Indonesia.

President Yudhoyono also encouraged close ties between NTU’s S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and the Indonesian Defence University, as well as the Indonesian National Resilience Institute. His sons Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono and Edhie Baskoro Yudhoyono are both NTU alumni, having graduated with postgraduate degrees from RSIS.

He is the first Indonesian Head of State to receive an honorary degree from a Singapore university, NTU said in a statement on Monday. Heads of state who received an honorary degree from NTU include former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam in 2008.

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Published on
April 22, 2013
2:38 PM

(http://www.straitstimes.com/sites/straitstimes.com/files/yudsin2204e.jpg)
Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam, who is NTU Chancellor, presided over the conferment ceremony at the Shangri-La Hotel. President Yudhoyono arrived in Singapore on Monday for an annual Leaders’ Retreat with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.