NTU and Japanese company to develop anime episodes for Japanese market

By Julia Ng, Channel NewsAsia

SINGAPORE: The Nanyang Technological University on Tuesday signed an agreement with Japan's Anime International Company Inc (AIC) to jointly develop anime episodes for the Japanese market.

This marks the first time Singapore and Japan are working together in the anime industry - estimated to be worth US$7b worldwide.

Anime - which is among Japan's most recognisable cultural exports - is a Japanese art form that uses distinctive animation in the telling of science fiction and fantasy.

Anime can come in various forms - TV serials, feature films and computer games.

A typical anime TV series would take more than 50 animators some 6 months to complete a half-an-hour episode.

But with NTU's School of Computer Engineering's technology, production cost and time could be cut by up to 40 percent.

The quality of the animation is also much improved.

"The process of anime production is very labour intensive and time consuming so today AIC spends about 60% of their time doing the in-between inking, which is colouring. The software that we develop at NTU will be able to create the in-between and also auto-colour the sequence; that means we can reduce the time spent in doing the production and save money," said Associate Prof Seah Hock Soon, Dean, School of Computing Engineering at Nanyang Technological University.

The 13 anime episodes will be broadcast in Japan and possibly in Singapore too.

The collaboration also paves the way for more joint anime productions. - CNA /dt
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