

NRF hands out \$50m worth of grants

SINGAPORE —The National Research Foundation (NRF) has awarded \$50 million worth of grants to five research programmes on sustainable development, with the lion's share going to Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Four NTU proposals won up to \$40 million of funds from NRF's Competitive Research Programme (CRP) Funding Scheme.

They were for proposals involving the development of new biofuels, the development of an underwater city, sustainable urban waste management, and the harvesting of sunlight to create chemical energy.

The other award went to the National University of Singapore for a proposal to convert urban organic wastes into value-added products.

This is NRF's fifth call for proposals under the CRP Funding Scheme — launched in April 2007 — which awards up to \$10 million for each successful research proposal, over three to five years. The theme this year was

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Sustainable Urban Systems.

The NRF also awarded research fellowships to 11 young top scientists to conduct cutting-edge research in Singapore. They were selected out of 221 applications received from around the world, and bring the total number of NRF Research Fellows to 29.

Each of the research fellowship — started in 2007 — provides the recipient with up to US\$1.5 million (\$2.06 million) in research funding support over three years, with the possibility of a second round of three-year funding. These scientists are currently doing research as post-doctoral fellows in top universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, Caltech and Keio.