NEWS RELEASE

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NTU aims to send more students abroad with the launch of REACH programme at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Students from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) can now look forward to even more overseas opportunities as NTU collaborates with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), New York, to launch the new Rensselaer Engineering Education Across Cultural Horizons (REACH) programme at the RPI campus in New York today. This highly flexible new programme, REACH, will offer students greater opportunities to participate in structured study abroad programs, as well as other international experiences such as internships, exchange programs, or other overseas opportunities.

REACH adds to the suite of global opportunities currently available through NTU's Global Immersion Programme (GIP). Under the REACH partnership, some 50 more students will get a chance to participate in student exchanges with RPI per academic year starting from AY2009 in Spring while RPI students will get a chance to experience the rich, multi-cultural environment during their stint here in Singapore.

The GIP was first launched in 2004 as NTU recognised the need to prepare students with the necessary skills, knowledge and exposure for the global challenges ahead. Since then, it has grown increasingly popular as this global education experience helps students develop their potential and widen their outlook, giving them an edge when they embark on their career.

NTU President, Dr Su Guaning reaffirms the importance of a global education, “I am very happy that NTU is one of the founding partners of this groundbreaking program at RPI. A global education is not a luxury but a requirement for the engineer of today. To be successful in this flat world of ours, our graduates need to recognize global megatrends and factor these trends into their work.”

“In today’s global economy, the demand for culturally sophisticated graduates rises. Through this new partnership with RPI, our students will have invaluable opportunities
to be exposed to different cultures and environment where they can learn and mature to become truly global leaders in their fields with multicultural experiences," Dr Su adds.

The Rensselaer community today celebrates the kick-off of the REACH programme in New York with several events, including a presidential colloquy examining the importance of international education entitled 'A Global Reach in a Shrinking World'.

"Rensselaer is proud to partner with Nanyang Technological University on such a critical endeavour," said RPI President Shirley Ann Jackson. "From global climate change and the growing global thirst for energy, to healthcare and the depletion of our natural resources, the current generation of students - our future leaders - will be charged with developing technological and societal solutions of unprecedented scope and influence. Such pursuits cannot and will not occur in a vacuum. Their resolution rests upon collaborative research and innovation, and because we live in a shrinking, interconnected world, this collaboration requires a vibrant diversity of thought and perspective to ensure that these global solutions can be successfully implemented in any given nation, region, or community."

NTU and Technical University of Denmark (DTU) are the first universities to partner Rensselaer for the REACH program. The three universities have a long-standing history of collaboration and cooperation, having participated for more than a decade through the Global Engineering Education Exchange program, a programme RPI co-founded in 1994.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 25 technological universities in the world. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU's main campus, is located in the south-western part of Singapore. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore's biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new infocomm and media hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four colleges, namely:

- The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), the first and only Singapore business school to be ranked in the top 50 of the Financial Times Global MBA 2008 rankings
- The College of Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world

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The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, home to Singapore’s first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media; the Humanities and Social Science School; and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The College of Science which offers Singapore’s only direct-honours bachelor’s degree programme in the sciences.

The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, one of two autonomous institutes of NTU, is a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism. NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore’s only teacher-training institute.

As Singapore’s main science and technology university, NTU makes significant contributions to the nation's renewed drive for research and innovation spearheaded by the Singapore National Research Foundation (NRF). NTU's strengths in biomedical sciences, environmental and water technologies, and interactive and digital media mirror the NRF's research focus.

NTU has a strong and broad international reach covering academic and research partnerships with top institutions in the US, Europe and Asia, such as MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University; Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; and Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, and Indian Institute of Technology.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, is the nation's oldest technological university. The university offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in engineering, the sciences, information technology, architecture, management, and the humanities and social sciences. Institute programs serve undergraduates, graduate students, and working professionals around the world. Rensselaer faculty are known for pre-eminence in research conducted in a wide range of fields, with particular emphasis in biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology, and the media arts and technology. The Institute is well known for its success in the transfer of technology from the laboratory to the marketplace so that new discoveries and inventions benefit human life, protect the environment, and strengthen economic development.