WELCOME REMARKS BY NTU PROVOST PROFESSOR BERTIL ANDERSSON AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF NTU'S SCHOOL OF ART, DESIGN AND MEDIA BUILDING ON TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2009, 11.15 AM

Dear Minister RADM (Ns) Lui Tuck Yew
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Students, faculty and staff of ADM,

On behalf of the Nanyang Technological University, I thank you for the honour of your presence here today. We have a new building, in a new century, in a world that has changed greatly. This is a building to which we have come amid Singapore’s commitment to reinventing itself as a Creative Economy.

“Art, Design and Media” are the key drivers in this exciting transformation. We have a new building that will be the envy of many the world over. The building’s organic form blends the landscape and structure, nature and high technology; symbolizing the creativity it houses. The dynamic green roofs serve as informal gathering spaces challenging linear ideas and stirring perception. The green roofs also insulate the building, cool the surrounding air and harvest rainwater for landscaping irrigation.

The glass façade of the building allows full exterior views, again providing visual connectivity with the surrounding lush landscape. The changing character of the façade lends dynamism, life and interest to the building as day transform into night. At night, the building glows like a lantern. It’s indeed an iconic building and can be compared to another iconic building on campus which is the Chinese Heritage Centre.
This magnificent building can inspire admiration for its design and its detail, but it cannot by its mere existence influence and change the creative landscape; if it is not for the young Singaporeans who aspire to be here, and we have our first batch of students to show for it. Our students have an impressive confidence and ambition seldom seen in recent generations. These young adventurers will be inventing and creating the 21st century Singapore. They will stretch our imagination and expand our potentials.

From an interdisciplinary point of view, it is fantastic to have the School of Art, Design and Media in the midst of an engineering based school. This building is a place that will shape the future. Today we celebrate a new confidence in our endeavor, and it is with great pleasure that I announce our collaboration with Domus Academy in Milan, the prestigious Italian school that will join hands with ADM and offer their first joint master outside Italy, in this very building next year. This is the kind of high level ambition that NTU has today.

Your support for this University has been appreciated. We are grateful for your good wishes, and we wish you well in all you do to create Singapore into a vibrant cultural hub, a city that will blossom into world art, design and media capital.

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