Welcome Address by

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Nanyang Scholarship 2009 Award Ceremony
Opening Address
Auditorium, School of Art, Design and Media
Friday, 28 August 2009, 5.10 pm

Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU,
Prof Bertil Andersson, Provost
Prof Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost
NTU College Deans, School Chairs
Distinguished guests,
Parents and Nanyang Scholars,
Ladies and gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to the Nanyang Scholarships Award Ceremony 2009.

Today marks an important milestone in the lives of the young Nanyang Scholars, as we have come together to share the joy of these recipients of the Nanyang Scholarship. To this fresh batch of Nanyang Scholarship recipients, I am extremely proud to share this day with you, your parents, teachers and all those who have contributed to your success in one way or another.

The Nanyang Scholarship is one of the most sought-after scholarships in Singapore. It is a sign of recognition of academic excellence, talent, leadership, and a passion to contribute to the society. With talents abound, stellar academic results no longer serve as the ultimate mark of a scholar. Our wish for you Nanyang Scholars would be to go beyond academic excellence. In order to distinguish you from others, we have put in place a leadership training programme and overseas exchange programme to sharpen
your leadership, communication and other soft skills. These programmes will groom you to become ambassadors of NTU, so that the world can see for themselves what the University can offer her undergraduates.

As scholars and leaders of the future, it is equally important that we nurture the heart and the mind. Ultimately, I hope our Nanyang Scholars will become altruistic leaders who influence others to contribute to society in meaningful ways. Our graduate Scholars have done us proud by making a name for themselves in Singapore and beyond, and I am confident you will also follow in their footsteps.

I believe by now all of you would know that NTU’s Yunnan Garden campus will be the Youth Olympic Village of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010, hosting some 5,000 athletes and officials from around the world. As host university, we will develop an Ambassador Programme to train our students to host these young athletes during the games. As Nanyang Scholars, you will be the ambassadors of NTU for this event, and we look forward to your participation and contributions.

Receiving the Nanyang Scholarship is but the start of an exciting journey and the beginning of an enriching and fun-filled experience for you at NTU. And with all these exciting events lined up for you, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to take the lead, both inside and outside the classroom. Do not limit your vision for the future. Be willing to explore and question. Bring forth your creativity and act as NTU ambassadors. Think out of the box, and always have that fire in your belly, and last but not least, be a role model for the younger generation. I have every bit of confidence that you will exceed our expectations, because I see in you the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow that we have envisioned.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations to you for achieving this scholarship. Thank you and have an enjoyable evening!