FACT SHEET

Singapore, 5 January 2011

About Nanyang Centre for Public Administration

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) set up the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) in December 2009 under the College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences. The centre provides executive training to Chinese officials and public administrators and spearheads China-related research on public administration and economic management.

Building on NTU's strengths and expertise in delivering high quality education programmes for Chinese officials and senior administrators, NCPA taps on the university's rich interdisciplinary resources by bringing together eminent scholars from the different colleges and schools within NTU for programme development, teaching and research.

The centre also engages acclaimed public administration industry practitioners, who specialise in the research and teaching of China's sociology, economy, politics, public administration and environmental issues, to share their valuable insights on Singapore's model of public governance.

The Mayors' Class

The Nanyang Centre for Public Administration offers two Master's programmes targeted at Chinese government officials, namely the Master of Science in Managerial Economics and the Master of Public Administration programmes. Together they are commonly known as "The Mayors' Class" due to the number of high-level officials who attend these two programmes.

Launched in 1998, the Master in Science in Managerial Economics programme targets high-potential mainland Chinese mayors and senior executives of large state-owned enterprises. The success of the programme encouraged NTU to start the Master of Public Administration programme in March 2005 with an inaugural batch of 55 students, who were senior government officials groomed to be the next generation of leaders.

To date, more than 1,000 local and international government leaders from China have graduated from both master's programmes. Many of these graduates have been promoted from mayor to governor or from deputy heads to heads of their organisations.

Some alumni of the Mayors' Class include the Deputy Governor of Shandong, Cai Li Ming; the Party Secretary of Shijiazhuang City, Wu Xiangdu; the Mayor of Hulunbeier City, Luo Zhihu and the Mayor of Hechi City, Lan Tianli. They form an influential group of decision-makers, gatekeepers and key officials in China.
Besides the Master’s programmes, NCPA also offers short-term executive training programmes in public administration, economic management, urban planning, human resource management and community management. Over the last 18 years, more than 10,000 officials have been trained.

Focus on research

In addition to offering courses, the centre conducts and facilitates interdisciplinary research focusing on China’s public administration, economic policies, environmental issues, health care and social welfare policies, economic development and new media politics. It also seeks to promote interdisciplinary collaborations in social sciences, engineering, business, and humanities within NTU.

To further promote research activities, the centre collaborates with other institutions on research projects and hosts outreach events including seminars, industry visits and conferences. It has also developed a case-writing programme on public administration and published a series of research papers.

To strengthen NTU’s ties with its China-based alumni, NCPA organises networking activities such as alumni forums and convocation ceremonies in different parts of China.

Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship

The prestigious Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship was jointly launched in 2007 by NTU and Lien Foundation, to honour and cherish the legacy of Dr Lien Ying Chow, who had made significant contributions to the growth of Singapore.

The programme is modelled after the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship. It aims to facilitate the professional development of rising leaders in Singapore and China, as well as broaden their horizons by focusing on the cultural, business and communal aspects of the two countries. The Fellowship is targeted at high profile senior government officials as well as established professionals from the private sector and academic circles who can make a difference in their respective fields.

Lien Fellows from the two countries will have the opportunity to be exposed to each other’s unique environment and culture. They will also help to forge viable partnerships and foster positive changes that will have a lasting impact on both countries.

Leveraging NTU’s extensive global network, Lien Fellows can develop their research topics with the help of their mentors from NTU and other participating institutions in Singapore and China. The duration of a fellowship term is about a year, with its core programme lasting about three months.

The Fellows will carry out a research project that spells out concrete and actionable solutions which will help to alleviate some of the more intractable issues of our time. The true measure of the programme lies not in academic theorising but the tangible benefits it can bring to the community at large.

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