Expanding into the Philippines

NTU launches its 45th overseas alumni chapter.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) officially launched its 45th overseas alumni association on 12 March 2016 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in the Philippines’ central business district. The NTU Alumni Association (Philippines) is headed by Ms Vinculado Jane Oliveros (WKWSCI/2004).

More than a hundred alumni were present at the event which was also attended by Singapore’s Ambassador to the Philippines Ms Kok Li Peng, the Philippine’s Ambassador to Singapore Mr Antonio Morales, NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson, NTU Vice President for Education Strategies and Alumni and Advancement Professor Lee Sing Kong, then Chief Alumni Officer Designate Mr Guo Sam Nan and then Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam.

“You may be far away from NTU, but this gathering clearly shows how much you value your alma mater and the friendships forged during your studies. Our alumni in the Philippines now have a contact point and networking platform to NTU in Singapore. Through this, alumni here in the Philippines can be updated regularly on latest developments at NTU in Singapore,” Prof Andersson said in his speech.

Prof Andersson also delivered a presentation on ‘NTU’s journey to become the world’s fastest rising university’ where he updated the alumni and guests on NTU’s improved positions in various university rankings as well as recent developments in research, education initiatives and campus infrastructure.

A highlight of the event was the symbolic lighting of candles, which alumni and guests did via an application on their mobile phones. Hall lights were dimmed, and the virtual candles were switched on. As the candles were being “lit” by the alumni, the guests came up to the stage to “switch on” a ceremonial button marking the official launch of NTU Alumni Association (Philippines).

“These candles represent the wisdom that we have gained from our beloved alma mater, Nanyang Technological University. This light has brought us guidance, wisdom and knowledge that we have in turn shared to others. Today, we are given the opportunity to bask once again in the warmth of our experiences, the enlightenment that our education has given us and the sense of duty that continues to burn within all of us,” the alumni jointly read during the ceremonial candle lighting.

With the launch of the NTU AA (Philippines), NTU has established a total of 80 AAs comprising 35 in Singapore and 45 overseas. Prof Andersson said this global alumni network demonstrates that the NTU alumni are truly international and that NTU’s education has equipped them to excel in the global economy.

During dinner, alumni and guests also enjoyed a performance by some 50 grade school children from an institution run by a Philippine alumna. The children performed traditional Philippine dances to the tune, “Piliin Mo ang Pilipinas (Choose Philippines),” a campaign enticing visitors to enjoy the Philippines’ unique culture and warm hospitality. NTU AA (Philippines) committee members also joined the performance towards the end.

Cheers to a wonderful alma mater-alumni friendship!