



NEWS RELEASE

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Indonesia and Singapore launch Research Collaboration in Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Indonesia's Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (MOECRT), through the Directorate General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology, in collaboration with **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)**, has launched a five-year collaborative research programme focusing on climate change and sustainable development named **INSPIRASI** (Indonesia–NTU Singapore Institute of Research for Sustainability and Innovation), funded by the Indonesia Endowment Funds for Education (LPDP) of the Ministry of Finance.

The launch of this five-year research collaboration was marked by the signing of a research collaboration agreement today between the Directorate General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology and the founding universities, namely NTU Singapore, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universitas Indonesia, Institut Teknologi Bandung, and Institute Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember.

Mr Nadiem Anwar Makarim, Indonesia's Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, stated that this launch marks a significant moment for Indonesia and Singapore, both committed to collaborating in developing a research ecosystem, especially in strategic areas like climate change and sustainable development.

"I hope the collaboration we undertake in INSPIRASI programme in the next five years is not just a research initiative but an effort to accelerate the quality of education, encourage more innovation, and have a significant impact on society. Moreover, I believe that the results we will gain from INSPIRASI programme will drive global recognition for campuses in Indonesia," said Mr Nadiem during the INSPIRASI programme launch at the MOECRT building, Jakarta, today.

In his pre-recorded message at the launch, **Singapore's Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing**, said the launch of INSPIRASI marked a crucial step in the bilateral cooperation between the two countries on climate change, and reflected the

importance of working together to innovate and accelerate the transition to green energy through cross-institutional collaborations

Mr Chan said: “Climate change is a real and existential threat. As countries with low lying coastal areas, Singapore and Indonesia are especially vulnerable to extreme weather and rising sea levels. The launch of the Indonesia–NTU Singapore Institute of Research for Sustainability and Innovation (INSPIRASI) represents a timely and important milestone in our countries’ bilateral cooperation on climate change mitigation and sustainability research. I am confident that INSPIRASI will make important strides towards a sustainable future.”

At the same event, the **Director-General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology, Professor Nizam**, stated that the research collaboration of INSPIRASI will be a milestone in the joint efforts of the two countries to achieve sustainable development goals.

“More than a research collaboration, INSPIRASI will serve as a catalyst for the advancement of research and higher education, propelling Indonesian universities onto the global stage. The Directorate General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology supports the pursuit of research and innovation excellence in higher education to deliver significant positive impacts for society. Organisations, governments, and institutions worldwide are currently collaborating to address climate change. In alignment with this initiative, INSPIRASI will be a valuable contributor to our collective efforts to tackle climate change and achieve sustainable development goals,” stated Professor Nizam.

NTU President Professor Ho Teck Hua said: “The long-term partnership between NTU, the Indonesian government and Indonesian universities through the Indonesia–NTU Singapore Institute of Research for Sustainability and Innovation (INSPIRASI) marks an important milestone for all parties in sustainability research and education. INSPIRASI’s vision of becoming a hub of world-class research, education and innovation in sustainability, namely in renewable energy, circular economy and smart cities, is in strong alignment with NTU’s firm commitment to sustainability. The opportunities for student exchange and knowledge-sharing will help build up competencies for the research and development ecosystems in Singapore and Indonesia. We expect the frequent exchanges between our professors, researchers, and students will lead to the creation of a multidisciplinary talent pipeline for the next generation of sustainability leaders.”

NTU Vice President (Industry) and Co-Chair of the INSPIRASI Governing Board Professor Lam Khin Yong said: “The launch of the Indonesia–NTU Singapore Institute of Research for Sustainability and Innovation (INSPIRASI) will further facilitate collaborative research and innovation between NTU and Indonesia’s top four leading research institutions. INSPIRASI stands poised to tackle key challenges in mitigating

climate change, serving as a catalyst for collaboration and translational research between the Universities, research institutes, industry partners, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from Singapore and Indonesia. Its flagship project, the Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator Indonesia (REIDI), serves as a hub to bring together faculty and students from both countries in renewable energy power management, and in conducting cutting-edge research in testing sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions.”

Cross-Institutional, Cross-Sector, and Cross-Border Collaboration

The INSPIRASI launch event was also attended by key stakeholders from various ministries and industry partners. On top of being a bilateral collaboration between Indonesia and Singapore, INSPIRASI marks the first cross-institutional collaboration between NTU Singapore and four universities in Indonesia. The programme will not only establish a centre of excellence but will also open the door for knowledge and innovation exchange that can enrich both countries.

The first phase of INSPIRASI will run for five years, and is expected to have a tangible impact on society, as well as improve the quality of higher education and sustainable development initiatives. The three main pillars of INSPIRASI’s research collaboration target strategic issues in climate change and sustainable development, namely Renewable Energy, Circular Economy, and Smart Cities. The flagship programme of INSPIRASI, the Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator Indonesia (REIDI), that will be built on ITS Surabaya campus in collaboration with NTU is modeled after the REIDS in Semakau, Singapore.

Cross-sector collaboration is also at the core of INSPIRASI. By involving industrial partners and stakeholders from within and outside the country, INSPIRASI is not just an academic project but a concrete effort to align research with real industry needs. The results of this research collaboration are expected to be meaningful not only academically but also practically for society and the industrial sector. INSPIRASI is expected to be a bridge between the academic, industrial, and societal worlds in achieving sustainable development solutions.

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About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Medicine, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building projects. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

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