



NEWS RELEASE

Singapore, 12 August 2022

NTU Singapore alumna and well-known author, and husband make S\$500,000 donation to start endowment fund for humanities students

Accomplished author and **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** alumna Madam Tham Yew Chin – better known by her pen name You Jin – and her husband have made a gift to nurture future generations of humanities students at NTU Singapore.

Her husband, Mr James Lim, will donate S\$500,000 to start the **You Jin Education Endowment Fund**. With government matching, the total amount raised is S\$1.25 million.

The endowment fund will go towards the establishment of merit awards, a scholarship, and a bursary for NTU humanities students.

Madam Tham, who won the Cultural Medallion for Literature in 2009, will also donate her full collection of 206 books – including novels, travelogues, essays, and biographies published in Singapore and China – to the NTU Chinese Library.

The gift signing and book donation ceremony was witnessed today by **Ms Low Yen Ling, Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth** and **Ministry of Trade and Industry**.

Likening NTU's collection of books in the library to vitamins that nourished her mind as a student in Nanyang University's Chinese programme, **Madam Tham Yew Chin** said: "We should always be grateful for our blessings, and never forget one's roots. During my four years of studying in Nanyang University, I could access a vast collection of books and literature in the library, which helped me build a strong foundation for my writing career. I hope these books that I have donated can now nourish and enhance the learning experience of all students."

NTU Vice President (University Advancement) Ms Lien Siaou-Sze said: "NTU is very grateful for this gift of education from our alumna Madam Tham Yew Chin and

her husband Mr James Lim. Their contributions will help to inspire future generations of students to pursue academic excellence and spur an interest in Chinese and other humanities subjects.”

Education as a social leveller

The **You Jin Education Endowment Fund** will go towards funding two awards, a scholarship, and a bursary every academic year. It will also support the creation of a creative writing publication run by NTU faculty and students.

Mr James Lim said: “The endowment fund is set up in honour of my wife’s achievements, and with my firm belief that poverty alleviation is best achieved through education. I sincerely hope that this fund will help to support and encourage more young people to pursue Chinese studies and make valuable contributions to Singapore and the region.”

Mr Lim is a firm believer in the power of education as a social leveller. Born into a family of 11 who lived on his father’s monthly income of RM180, Mr Lim was able to go to New Zealand for his degree only through the support of his elder brother, who was awarded a scholarship to study overseas. After graduation, Mr Lim then supported his younger brother and sister’s university education.

Awards to be funded under the You Jin Education Endowment Fund

The **You Jin Gold Medal** will be awarded to the top student graduating from the Chinese programme or the Double Major programme with the following subject combinations:

- Chinese and Linguistics & Multilingual Studies
- Philosophy and Chinese
- History and Chinese
- Chinese and English

The **You Jin Creative Writing Award** is reserved for a top student writer whose writing submission is done exclusively in the Chinese language. It is open to second, third or final year students. The award recipient will be selected based on his/ her academic results in creative writing courses, and/or an annual creative writing submission.

The **You Jin Creative Writing Endowment** will support efforts to produce a biennial anthology of creative works written in Chinese by NTU students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

The endowment fund will also support the **You Jin Freshman Scholarship**, awarded to an incoming student pursuing an undergraduate course in any Chinese-related degree programme at the NTU School of Humanities, and the **You Jin Bursary Award**, which will support two needy students enrolling in Chinese-related degree programmes at the NTU School of Humanities.

END

Media contact:

Foo Jie Ying
Manager, Corporate Communications Office
Nanyang Technological University
Email: jieying@ntu.edu.sg

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, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the 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, over 95% of its building projects are certified Green Mark Platinum. 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