

NEWS RELEASE

Singapore, 9 December 2021

NTU Singapore celebrates 30 years of momentous achievements

- ***Commemorative book captures perspectives from 30 inspiring individuals***
- ***New public exhibition showcases NTU's transformative journey***
- ***Digital time capsule holds 30 key NTU moments***

To commemorate its achievements and rapid rise in stature in the past three decades to become the world's top young university, **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** launched a new public exhibition and limited-edition book as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations.

Titled ***Thirty Years of Momentum, 30 Perspectives***, the book shares insights and reflections of individuals who have been a part of NTU's transformative journey, and highlights the achievements of the OneNTU Community.

A copy of the commemorative book was presented to **Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education**, who graced the launch of the celebrations as the Guest-of-Honour.

Together with **NTU President Professor Subra Suresh**, Mr Chan also sealed NTU's digital time capsule at the launch event. The time capsule contains a collection of 30 past and present memories contributed by members of the NTU community, and will be opened in 2041.

These 30 artefacts are also featured in the **NTU 30th anniversary exhibition**, which was jointly opened today by Mr Chan, Prof Suresh, and **Ms Goh Swee Chen, Chair of the NTU Board of Trustees**.

Prof Subra Suresh said: "As we mark 30 years as Nanyang Technological University, we have much to celebrate – three decades of sparking ideas, exceeding expectations, and creating impactful innovation. NTU has achieved spectacular growth in its reach and stature, from a training institute serving Singapore's local manpower needs to becoming a leading global research university helping to solve the world's most challenging problems. The University's ground-breaking innovations over the years have had a positive impact on industry and society."

He added: “The history and heritage of NTU tell a most remarkable tale of humanity, philanthropy and community. It is a university built on the collective power of people. It proves that great, seemingly impossible feats can be achieved when everyone comes together to work towards a common goal.”

Tracing NTU’s transformative journey

At 30 years old – and building on the foundations of its predecessors Nanyang University and Nanyang Technological Institute – NTU has made a name for itself in a short span of time. The University has established itself as a leader in education, research, and innovation, and is globally recognised for its strengths in diverse disciplines, from engineering, science, business, the arts and social sciences, to international studies and medicine.

NTU’s journey and continual efforts to shape a better world for the future is charted out in its commemorative book, through the perspectives of 30 key individuals who have participated in the University’s growth and development.

One such individual is **Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies**. As the Minister for Education from 2011 to 2015, Mr Heng played an important role in supporting NTU’s direction and initiatives, such as the drive to intensify research and partner industry leaders. Today, he frequently visits NTU as the chairman of the National Research Foundation, where he is apprised of the University’s latest progress in research, innovation, and enterprise.

Mr Heng said: “NTU is grooming a new generation of scientific talents, while contributing to science and technology that benefits Singapore and the world. NTU has also expanded its offerings in the humanities, arts, design and media, providing more pathways for its students. The broad range of opportunities better prepares our young to be pioneers and leaders in an era of rapid change.

“As NTU celebrates its 30th anniversary, I look forward to NTU pioneering new ways for its graduates and all of us, to learn and innovate, to treasure our roots and give back, so that the future can be brighter than the past!”

Looking ahead to the future, **Ms Goh Swee Chen, NTU Board Chair**, said: “A strong culture undergirds a successful university. I hope that as NTU matures, it retains its pioneering spirit to solve problems for a better world. I also hope NTU is a place where multigenerational learning happens, and that its alumni will return throughout every phase of their lives to seek new knowledge.”

Copies of the commemorative book will be made available in public libraries after the event.

Remembering NTU's inspiring moments

Aside from tracing the University's journey of transformation, the NTU 30th anniversary exhibition also records key moments in the University's history.

One such moment, which is also one of the 30 memories in the digital time capsule, is the establishment of a bursary fund in memory of two NTU alumni, Mr Poh Boon San and Mr Stephen Loh Soon Ann. Mr Poh and Mr Loh were among the five Singapore Dragon Boat Team members who drowned in a tragic dragon boat accident in Cambodia in 2007. The Poh Boon San and Stephen Loh Soon Ann NTU Dragon Boat Endowed Bursary Fund supports needy NTU undergraduate dragon boaters.

Mr Loh's parents, Cathy and Victor, said: "We, the family of Stephen Loh Soon Ann, are appreciative of NTU's initiative to launch the digital time capsule. In particular, we are thankful that the Poh Boon San and Stephen Loh Soon Ann NTU Dragon Boat Endowed Bursary Fund will be part of the time capsule. We hope this project will spur students to take up dragon boat activities for NTU. We are also glad that the legacy of Stephen and Boon San lives on for the next two decades."

Mr Poh's family said: "We are grateful for what NTU and NTU Dragon Boat Community had done to remember Boon San in such a meaningful way. His legacy lives on in our hearts."

Experience NTU's innovations over the years

Visitors to the exhibition can also look forward to an immersive experience through augmented reality, allowing for an in-depth look at the University's innovations and achievements through the years.

One such example is the **Eden in Iraq Wastewater Garden Project**. Started by artist Meridel Rubenstein, a former professor from NTU School of Art, Design and Media, and sponsored by international partners, the 26,250-square-metre garden treats wastewater discharged by the local population to provide generations of southern Iraqis with clean water.

Other innovative solutions contributed by NTU's various schools and colleges are also on display, such as the **launch of NTU's first satellite, the X-Sat**, in 2011. The X-Sat successfully captured the first satellite image of Singapore.

Another example is the **3D-printed bathroom** developed by NTU's School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Singapore Centre for 3D Printing, in

collaboration with industry partners. Using a specially developed concrete mix incorporated with recycled material, this approach of 3D printing bathrooms reduces cost and production time by about a third, as well as cuts down on the carbon footprint of producing the bathrooms.

The University plans to rotate these schools' contributions every few months to showcase other cutting-edge research that is being done on campus.

The NTU 30th anniversary exhibition at the Nanyang Auditorium is open to members of the public from today.

###

Note to Editors:

Annex 1 – 30 individuals featured in NTU's *Thirty Years of Momentum, 30 Perspectives* book. <https://ebook.ntu.edu.sg/thirty-years-of-momentum.html>

Annex 2 – Digital time capsule items.
<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/30anniversarytimecapsule>

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, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges. It also has a medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, established jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class 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).

Ranked amongst the world’s top universities by QS, NTU has also been named the world’s top young university for the past seven years. The University’s main campus is frequently listed among the Top 15 most beautiful university campuses in the world and has 57 Green Mark-certified (equivalent to LEED-certified) buildings, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Novena, Singapore’s healthcare district.

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.

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

Annex 1

30 individuals featured in “Thirty Years of Momentum, 30 Perspectives” book

	Name	Description
1	Professor Cham Tao Soon	NTU’s first President.
2	Professor Su Guaning	NTU’s second President.
3	Professor Bertil Andersson	NTU’s third President.
4	Professor Subra Suresh	NTU’s fourth and current President.
5	Ms Goh Swee Chen	Current NTU Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair.
6	Mr Koh Boon Hwee	Former NTU Council Chair and BOT Chair. Longest-serving BOT Chair.
7	Professor Gene Block	Member of NTU BOT. Chancellor of University of California, USA.
8	Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz	Member of NTU BOT. 345 th Vice-Chancellor of University of Cambridge. Chairman of Cancer Research Centre, UK.
9	Dr Tony Tan	Minister for Education (1985 – 1991).

	Name	Description
		Deputy Prime Minister (1995 – 2005).
10	Dr Ng Eng Hen	Minister for Education (2008 – 2011).
11	Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam	Minister for Education (2003 – 2008).
12	Mr Heng Swee Keat	Minister for Education (2011 – 2015).
13	Mr Ong Ye Kung	Minister for Education (2015 – 2020).
14	Professor Shi Xu	Visiting Professor (Nanyang Professor of the Practice). Founder of Nanofilm International, NTU's first unicorn. Chairman of the Board of NTUitive, the innovation and enterprise company of NTU.
15	Professor Kris Gopalakrishnan	Initial cohort of the Nanyang Professor of the Practice. Co-founder of Indian IT giant Infosys..
16	Associate Professor Ling Xing Yi	Head, Division of Chemistry and Biochemistry, School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Led the invention of TracieX, a disposable breathalyser and portable reading device for fast and accurate COVID-19 mass screening test.
17	Ms Lien Siaou-Sze	VP (University Advancement) in NTU and former member of NTU BOT. Graduated with a Nanyang University BSc degree in Physics, Class of 1971.
18	Ms Stephanie Sun	Alumna and singer who made it to the international stage and who sold millions of records.
19	Mr Lim Chow Kiat	Member of NTU BOT since 2015. Class of 1993. CEO of GIC.

	Name	Description
20	Ms Dipna Lim Prasad	NIE alumna and national sprinter who represented Singapore in the 2012 Summer Olympics. Founder of a social enterprise redistributing shoes to the needy.
21	Ms Cheah Guan Ying	Former President of NTUSU.
22	Dr Iuna Tsyulneva	Research fellow at the NTU Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity (NISTH) and former President of the Graduate Student Association.
23	Mr Thomas Heatherwick	Designer of NTU's learning hub, The Hive.
24	Professor Yang Chen-Ning (better known as CN Yang)	Contributions to Nanyang University's physics programme. Won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1957.
25	Professor Helga Nowotny	Former President of European Research Council (2010- 2013).
26	Dr Wee Cho Yaw	Chairman of Nanyang University Council in 1970. Philanthropist.
27	Mrs Margaret Lien	Philanthropist. Established the Margaret Lien Centre for Professional Success to prepare students for their careers.
28	Ms Chew Gek Kim (for Tan Chin Tuan Foundation)	Current Deputy Chairman of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, which has given more than S\$13 million to NTU. Board of Governors of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.
29	Mdm Mariam Bte A Hamid	First Head of the University Counselling Centre, University Wellbeing Office. Student well-being is a key focus under the NTU 2025 plan.
30	Dr Maya Jeitany	NTU Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow with research interests in the areas of novel therapeutic strategies in cancers.

30 NTU key moments and innovations sealed in the digital time capsule

1	Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing's letter to the Class of 2041
2	NTU's 15-year Sustainability Manifesto
3	Book on founding NTU Board Chairman Mr Koh Boon Hwee, titled <i>The Visionary Chairman: How Koh Boon Hwee Steered NTU from Fledging to Fast-Rising</i>
4	Commemorative book for NTU's 30 th anniversary, titled <i>Thirty Years of Momentum, 30 Perspectives</i>
5	HEY!, NTU's campus magazine which, in its current version, integrates augmented reality from cover to cover
6	A special edition of Lyon, NTU's mascot, as part of NTU's 30 th anniversary celebrations
7	A 10-page Straits Times editorial on NTU 2015, the University's five-year strategic blueprint
8	The establishment of a bursary fund for needy NTU undergraduate dragon boaters, in honour of two NTU students from the NTU Dragon Boat team who drowned in a tragic accident.
9	Symphony No. 1, a musical piece composed by Dr Bernard Tan and played at NTU's inauguration in 1991
10	NTU-developed COVID-19 innovations in the fight against the pandemic
11	NTU's scientific breakthrough in building next-generation solar cells
12	The launch of Singapore's space programme with the creation of the Satellite Research Centre in 1996.
13	The Rolls-Royce@NTU Corporate Laboratory, the first corporate lab on campus that paved the way for NTU's collaborations with other notable industry partners
14	NTU-developed innovations to give old batteries a new lease of life
15	The launch of the NTU-Volvo bus, the world's first full-size autonomous electric bus in 2019
16	The Nanyang Venture 8, Singapore's first 3D-printed car built by students on campus
17	An NTU-built robot that can assemble an IKEA chair in under nine minutes
18	FoodBot, a fleet of semi-autonomous pandemic-proof delivery robots developed by NTU student start-up Whizz Mobility
19	NTU's social robots Edgar and Nadine

20	The establishment of the NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in 2013
21	The debut of The Hive building in 2015
22	The launch of The Wave, built using mass engineered timber, in 2017
23	The rejuvenation of the NTU Yunnan Garden as a heritage precinct
24	NTU's Campus Art Trail
25	NTU designated as the Youth Olympic Village for the 2010 Singapore Youth Olympic Games
26	Founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's last public address at NTU in 2011
27	Then-NTU president Prof Bertil Andersson's 2016 State of the University address, in which he made an entrance by whizzing on stage on a scooter
28	Then and now photos of NTU alumna Yang Xin with her daughter from NTU's Class of 2021
29	Memories of a masked-up era
30	Celebrating diversity through frequent cultural events

###