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NTU Singapore holds commemorative dinner to cap off 30th Anniversary activities

• More than $1.1 million raised through anniversary fundraising events

To cap off Nanyang Technological University, Singapore’s (NTU Singapore) 30th anniversary activities, NTU held a commemorative dinner to thank and pay tribute to university leadership, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners who have contributed to NTU over the past 30 years.

The anniversary activities, which kicked off in September last year, included university-wide initiatives such as the launch of a digital time capsule, a public exhibition, and a limited-edition book, along with various fundraising events that have collectively raised over $1.1 million for the OneNTU community.

Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies Mr Heng Swee Keat, who was the Guest of Honour, attended the dinner virtually and delivered an address to guests, which included former Singapore President and former NTU Chancellor Dr Tony Tan, Health Minister Ong Ye Kung and Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs Dr Muhammad Tito Karnavian.

Also present were NTU alumni, including former Members of Parliament Madam Lee Bee Wah and Mr Yeo Guat Kwang.

They were joined by NTU Pro Chancellors, present and former Board Trustees and NTU leaders, major donors, partners, faculty, staff and student leaders.

Titled “30 years of Momentum. Pioneers Always”, NTU’s 30th anniversary’s theme centres on NTU’s rapid growth in the brief span of three decades and its vision for the future as it gathers pace to take on fresh challenges.

NTU President Professor Subra Suresh said: “Nanyang Technological University was officially inaugurated in 1991, but its story goes back to 1955 when Nanyang University was established through donations from people from all walks of life. In just 30 years, NTU has gone from a local and predominantly teaching university to a globally recognised research-intensive institution, viewed alongside international
universities that are centuries old. Just in the past few years, several of NTU’s academic and intellectual offerings have emerged as the best in the world, according to widely-accepted independent international assessments. It is the only university under fifty years of age that is placed among the top fifty universities in the world by three major global metrics.”

NTU Board Chair Ms Goh Swee Chen said: “On behalf of the NTU Board of Trustees, I would like to convey our appreciation to the University’s leadership, faculty, staff, students and alumni on its 30th Anniversary. As we celebrate NTU’s 30th year milestone, together with the successes that NTU has achieved, we must also acknowledge the rich history of NTU built on the foundations of Nanyang University and Nanyang Technological Institute. Whether it is through individual acts, or by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before, the community of NTU from the past and present have achieved this remarkable feat of turning NTU into a world class institution.”

Reflecting on 30 years of achievements and building on NTU’s legacy

NTU’s 30th anniversary activities began in September 2021 with the launch a digital time capsule which holds the NTU community’s most impactful memories of their time at the University.

The capsule, which contains 30 items of moments that matter, will be opened in 2041 – NTU’s golden jubilee. The first item deposited into the time capsule was a video letter from Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing. Other items include an Ikea chair-building robot, NTU’s 15-year Sustainability Manifesto launched last year, and the University’s lion mascot, Lyon.

In December, NTU launched a new public exhibition and limited-edition book. The exhibition features the 30 artefacts placed in the digital time capsule and also records key moments in the University’s history.

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

NTU also recognised its alumni during its anniversary with the NTU Alumni Awards in October. At the 30th Anniversary NTU Alumni Homecoming in December, all four NTU Presidents, including former Presidents of NTU, Professors Cham Tao Soon, Su Guaning and Bertil Andersson, were in attendance, marking a historic occasion as they took to the stage to share their respective NTU journeys.

Prof Suresh said: “NTU’s journey in just 30 short years and its remarkable current momentum are palpable. You see it wherever you go: in the academic programmes,
in the quality of student life and experience, in the community spirit to support our students during the pandemic through the NTU Priorities Fund, and in the innovations that we test here and send out into the world. I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has played a part in the University's rapid progress and growing momentum. NTU’s greatest assets are its people, and our achievements would not exist without the hard work and dedication of faculty and staff, as well as students and alumni.”

**NTU 30th anniversary activities raised $1.1m**

NTU also gave back to community through the launch of its maiden **We Belong Campaign**, which aims to pay it forward to society through volunteerism and gifting.

Over 4,000 donors and volunteers, made up of students, alumni, staff, and friends of the University came together to make a collective impact.

The campaign, which raised over $1.1 million, supports bursaries, the NTU Priorities Fund, School Advancement Funds, and the NTU Sustainability Fund. Spanning two months from 22 January to 31 March, it comprised three flagship events: NTU Service Week, Best Foot Forward and NTU Giving Day.

During NTU Service Week, which ran from 22 to 29 January 2022, almost 600 volunteers worked with over 30 community partners in service projects supporting a variety of causes.

The service projects, which included hot food distribution programme in Nanyang constituency, a community telehealth service in Bukit Gombak, and a household refurbishment project in Boon Lay, benefited some 6,000 beneficiaries.

The Best Foot Forward virtual run in February saw the fundraiser clock 37,000km cumulatively across 1,000 runners.

In March, NTU’s Giving Day brought together the entire University community to celebrate the impact of giving and support critical causes of the University. The money raised will be channelled towards students’ financial aid and support for the University’s colleges, schools and programmes on campus.

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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, 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