



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Bengaluru, 21 August 2022**

### **NTU Singapore hosts dialogue with India to foster new collaborations in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship**

To facilitate an exchange of ideas for collaboration, **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** today hosted the **NTU Singapore-India Dialogue** session, which was attended by over 200 dignitaries, including prominent business and government leaders, academics, and distinguished alumni.

Held at The Leela Palace Hotel, Bengaluru, the event aims to strengthen and build upon NTU Singapore's existing partnerships with India's leading universities and research institutes forged during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to NTU in 2018.

NTU Singapore-India Dialogue explored the critical themes of the transformation of education, research, and innovation in a post-pandemic world, and how Singapore and India could further strengthen the collaboration in the area of technopreneurship.

**NTU Singapore President Professor Subra Suresh** said: "The visit of PM Modi to NTU Singapore in 2018 led to the establishment of agreements between the University and several premier institutions in India. The NTU Singapore-India Partnership Dialogue in Bengaluru seeks to encourage the exchange of ideas that would potentially lead to multi-disciplinary and multi-sector collaborations in education, research, and translation of scientific discoveries to practice. The NTU leadership team looks forward to exploring opportunities to work closely with academic collaborators, Indian industry partners, and entrepreneurs in areas and activities that are aligned with the NTU 2025 Strategic Plan."

### **NTU - India Partnerships**

NTU signed five agreements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in 2018 to strengthen academic and industry partnerships with leading Indian universities and institutions which included Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for Research Attachment and Joint Supervision opportunities; IIT Bombay and IIT Madras for Joint

Ph.D. programmes. NTU also has academic collaborations with the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology for joint satellite projects; and with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) to leverage NTU's excellence in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics.

**NTU Senior Vice President (Research), Professor Lam Khin Yong** said: "International collaborations are crucial to bolster Singapore's research landscape and develop impactful and commercially viable solutions as the world seeks solutions to increasingly complex challenges. NTU has an established track record of collaborations with global industry leaders such as Volvo Bus, Rolls Royce, HP Inc, GlobalFoundries, Ecotech Mobility, and more. We are now in India to seek collaborations with institutions and industry in India and grateful for the support of the Confederation of Indian Industries."

Notable speakers at the NTU Singapore-India Dialogue were **Mr Shekhar Kapur**, Oscar-nominated film director and Chairman of the Indian Film & Television Institute; **Mr S Somnath**, Chairman of Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO), and **Mr Hemang Jani**, Secretary, Capacity Building Mission, Government of India.

The dialogue session also saw the participation of prominent figures with links to the University, including representatives from NTU partners, **Mr Govindan Rangarajan**, Director of Indian Institute of Science, and **Professor Rishikesa T. Krishnan**, Director of IIM Bangalore.

The NTU Singapore-India Dialogue provided an opportunity for NTU to reconnect with its alumni community, which is made up of more than 275, 600 graduates in over 160 countries. There are over 7,800 NTU alumni in India.

Among the NTU alumni in India who attended or spoke at the session were **Mr Vinod Kannan**, CEO of Vistara, **Ms Suman Mishra**, CEO of Mahindra Electric Mobility, and **Mr Ajit Mohan**, VP & Managing Director of India-Meta.

Also speaking at the session was NTU donor **Mr "Kris" Gopalakrishnan**, chairman of Axilor Ventures and co-founder of Infosys. In 2018, during PM Modi's visit to NTU, Mr Gopalakrishnan made a gift of S\$2 million to establish the Gopalakrishnan-NTU Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship to attract promising early-career scientists and engineers to NTU and fund cutting-edge research collaborations between students at NTU and renowned Indian institutes.

Together with the dialogue session, the **NTU Singapore Graduate Programme Recruitment Roadshow** was held, with information sessions on NTU's graduate programmes.

## **NTU Rankings**

NTU Singapore is ranked amongst the top 20 universities globally by the QS World University Rankings 2022.

In the QS global ranking by subjects, NTU Materials Science is ranked #3, Electrical & Electronic Engineering #4; Communication & Media Studies #5; Mechanical, Aeronautical, & Manufacturing Engineering #7; Chemical Engineering #7; Civil & Structural Engineering # 8; Computer Science & Information Systems #11; Education #11; Environmental Sciences #14 globally.

NTU's Nanyang Business School has maintained its position as the top business school in Singapore for 15 consecutive years in the the global ranking of full-time Master in Business Administration (MBA) programmes published by The Economist. NTU is also ranked first in Asia and third globally for Citations for Artificial Intelligence.

Please see the **Annex** for quotes by distinguished participants of the NTU Singapore-India Dialogue Session.

The NTU Singapore-India Dialogue is supported by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), the Singapore Global Network, and the NTU Alumni Association (Southern India).

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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](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

## **ANNEX**

### **Quotes from participants of the NTU Singapore-India Dialogue**

#### **Mr Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara Airlines**

*Electrical and Electronic Engineering, NTU Class of 2000*

“The intellectual diversity and rich socio-cultural exposure at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, has had a profound influence on my personal as well as professional life. It not only prepared me for the corporate world but also helped in developing a global sensibility which has been instrumental in my career spanning various roles across different parts of the world. I feel it was the perfect runway for my career to take flight.

“Throughout my journey from being a young executive at Singapore Airlines to becoming the CEO of India's finest airline, Vistara, I have seen Indo-Singapore relations flourish over the years. The relationship between the two countries is based on shared values and economic opportunities which have grown with time across trade, education, tourism, defense, technology, and entrepreneurship. I feel fortunate and grateful for being associated with Singapore Airlines and Vistara that are able to meaningfully contribute to this growth story.”

#### **Mr Ajit Mohan, Vice President, and Managing Director, India, Meta (formerly Facebook)**

*Computer Science and Engineering, NTU Class of 1997*

“I grew up in India, and returned to the country after 16 years around the world. NTU and Singapore were the first steps in that journey. My earliest exposure to cutting-edge technology was at NTU. I was lucky to experience the magic of Singapore and

its continuous, purposeful transformation using technology to improve lives and expand opportunities for everyone. This is the same journey that I am leading at Meta in India. Our mission is to be an ally for India's exciting economic and social transformation, and it is exciting to see the ever-expanding ties between the two countries as they pursue this shared journey.”

**Ms Suman Mishra, CEO of Mahindra Electric**

*Computer Science and Engineering, NTU Class of 2001*

“There is an increasing demand globally for sustainable transportation solutions to address the increasing fuel costs and climate change. India has been a quick adapter of electrification, particularly in the two and three-wheeler segments. We, at Mahindra Electric are creating an ecosystem that encourages the adoption of EV technology in the last mile. NTU Singapore is a leader in EV research and innovation, with the test bedding of full-size Volvo buses on its campus. We need more academic-industry collaboration to herald a new era of electric mobility.”

**Mr “Kris” Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder Infosys, and Chairman Axilor Ventures**

*NTU donor*

“For the Singapore-India partnership, the best of times are ahead of us. New areas of cooperation across various sectors in science, technology, and innovation will be a crucial pillar to this partnership. The post-pandemic world and the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be led by tech and IT companies and universities who stand at the forefront of pioneering these technologies. The education industry evolved quickly during the pandemic, digitalising their operations. NTU is a prime example of a seamless and successful transition to online teaching. It has much to offer to Indian educational institutes and industry.”

**Oscar-Nominated Director Shekhar Kapur, Chairman of Film & Television Institute of India**

“We stand at the shores of a frontier new world - the Metaverse, which is at the confluence of content and new age technology. Done right, it will redefine us. In the Metaverse, our “other selves” would become as important as our “real selves,” or what we perceive ourselves to be. And since perception is always a story - storytelling, or content, will be a crucial driver of the Metaverse if it is to succeed. Combining content with the cutting-edge technologies such as those being innovated at NTU in AI and Augmented Intelligence could democratise art and make it more accessible to better engage the tech-savvy younger global audiences. Singapore is a nation of innovation

and technology. India is the land of storytelling. We should be swimming together to shape the future of the Metaverse.”

**Hemang Jani, Secretary, Capacity Building Mission, Government of India**

“NTU Singapore is a leader in capacity building and training for many Asian governments to advance their human and economic development capabilities. Singapore is a model for impact and citizen centric e-governance. In India, we are exploring partnering with NTU to share their best practices for upgrading the technology, innovation and entrepreneurship training of the Indian civil service.”

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