



NEWS RELEASE

Singapore, 19 July 2023

NTU Singapore's Class of 2023 celebrates graduation milestone

- *Professor Ho Teck Hua inaugurated as fifth NTU President*

From today till 28 July, 10,678 graduands from **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's (NTU Singapore)** Class of 2023 will commemorate their accomplishments, achievements and friendships as they graduate in 23 Convocation ceremonies.

The first convocation ceremony held today marked the inauguration of **Professor Ho Teck Hua** as the fifth President of NTU.

Professor Ho, a prominent behavioural scientist and academic leader, was appointed NTU President on 24 April this year. In recognition of his exceptional scholarly accomplishments, he was also conferred the title of Distinguished University Professor.

In her address for Professor Ho's inauguration, **NTU Board Chair Ms Goh Swee Chen** said: "Professor Ho was carefully selected after an extensive international search that encompassed the pool of talent within NTU, as well as exceptional academics from Singapore and abroad."

"Professor Ho brings with him an impressive international academic profile, coupled with remarkable leadership qualities and a profound dedication to advancing excellence in higher education, research, and innovation."

Professor Ho's inauguration was witnessed by **Mdm Halimah Yacob President of the Republic of Singapore**, as **Chancellor of NTU**, who presided over the ceremony. Also in attendance was **Education Minister Mr Chan Chun Sing**, who presented Professor Ho with his Certificate of Appointment.

Three new interdisciplinary programmes welcome inaugural batch of graduates

The first ceremony also saw the presentation of degree scrolls to the inaugural batches of three degree programmes: Master of Science (Science of Learning); Bachelor of

Science in Biomedical Sciences and Biobusiness; and Bachelor of Science in Mathematical and Computer Sciences.

These new degrees are amongst the University's many interdisciplinary programmes implemented to meet its goals outlined in the **NTU 2025 strategic plan**. They equip graduates with vital cross-training skills to meet the demands of a rapidly-developing, fast-changing and complex world, while instilling in them the relevance of lifelong learning.

In his address to the Class of 2023, **NTU President Professor Ho** called on the graduates to be bold and take risks, be adaptable and pursue their passions, and to be curious and keep learning – while always seeking to make a positive impact in the world and society at large.

Professor Ho said: “An NTU education is more than just acquiring knowledge and skills. It expands your horizons and connects you to a world of opportunities. With so many opportunities come a great responsibility to pay it forward. After all, education should never solely be for personal gain. I urge you to think about how you can uplift those around you. Lend your time and expertise to help people in need. Inspire and guide the next generation. Create opportunities for others to give them a better chance to succeed.”

“Your connection to NTU is lifelong. I look forward to learning about the positive impact you will have on our community while pursuing your dream, whatever it may be,” said Professor Ho.

Tan Zhe Jun, who is graduating from the first cohort of **Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and Biobusiness**, said: “My time at NTU has allowed me the best of both worlds - knowledge of biotechnology and business acumen of the industry. This ability to understand an innovation comprehensively from a scientific viewpoint and evaluating it from a business position has been crucial in landing my current role as an Investment Analyst. I look forward to the opportunity to bring new biotechnologies from lab to the market, benefitting mankind.”

Adeline Yee, who is joining JP Morgan as a software engineer following her graduation from the inaugural batch of **Bachelor of Science in Mathematical and Computer Sciences**, shared that her university experience in working with projects and solving problems taught her there is no end to learning.

She said: “The programme offered academic depth and breadth that allowed me to explore various applications of this degree. Its versatility is one of the main reasons I was attracted to it, in addition to allowing me to pursue my interests in mathematics and computer science. It also equipped me with the foundational knowledge required in my internships and projects, which led me to my current job.”

NTU confers honorary doctorates to exceptional individuals for contributions to society, education and research

This year, NTU conferred three honorary doctorates to individuals who have made significant contributions to the betterment of society, their country, or advanced learning and knowledge.

They are top former civil servant Mr Philip Yeo; Ms Ho Peng, ex-Director General of Education at the Ministry of Education (MOE); and Professor Dame Lynn Gladden, Shell Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

Mr Philip Yeo was Chairman of the Economic Development Board (EDB) from 1986 to 2001 and its Executive Co-Chairman from 2001 to 2006, where he grew and strengthened the manufacturing sectors in Singapore, and redirected EDB's focus from traditional fields to new business areas. He has been Chairman of the Nanyang Business School Advisory Board since 2008, providing continuous guidance and strong support amidst several leadership transitions and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters awarded to Mr Philip Yeo is befitting of his extensive and eminent contributions towards talent and economic development in Singapore, as well as his guidance of Nanyang Business School.

Ms Ho Peng is an esteemed education leader who served as MOE's Director-General of Education from 2009 to 2015, where she was a strong champion of MOE's focus on students' values and character development. In NTU, she served as Board Chair of the National Institute of Education International and the Singapore Centre for the Chinese Language, as well as Deputy Chair and Executive Committee member of the NIE Council.

For her important contributions to education in Singapore and the development of NTU's educational entities, Ms Ho was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Education.

Professor Dame Lynn Gladden is a visionary scientist and engineer, internationally recognised for her novel work on advancing magnetic resonance imaging techniques and applying them in engineering research.

Prof Gladden helped shape Singapore's research and innovation ecosystem through her involvement in the Scientific Advisory Board and the International Evaluation Panel for Competitive Research Programmes at the Singapore National Research Foundation.

She was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science for her significant leadership and contributions to scientific research, the development of research and innovation in Singapore, and her contributions to collaborative research with NTU in

carbon reduction and sustainability.

At its first convocation ceremony today, NTU also conferred the title of President Emeritus and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus to NTU's fourth President, **Professor Subra Suresh**.

During his tenure as NTU President, Professor Suresh oversaw a number of key University initiatives, including a university-wide consultation and development of the NTU 2025 strategic plan and the establishment of the NTU Sustainability Manifesto.

Recognising top graduates

The first ceremony of NTU Convocation 2023 also recognises top students with academic excellence through the **Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal**; as well as the **Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Awards** where exemplary students honour both an NTU faculty member and a teacher from their previous schools or institutions.

As an undergraduate, **Divya Nanthakumaran**, a **Koh Boon Hwee Scholar** from the **School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology**, started a ground-up initiative, Forte360, to support vulnerable children aged 6 to 12 in their holistic development, prioritising mental wellbeing. Upon graduation, Divya will be devoting herself full-time to growing Forte360 with the support of Quantedge Foundation under its Philanthropreneur-in-Residence programme.

Divya said: "As a student, I took great pride in mentioning that I am from NTU. The professors, peers, and countless opportunities I encountered during my time there have shaped me into the person I am today. Without the guidance and support I received, I would not have been able to pursue entrepreneurship full-time to start and grow my ground-up initiative. I am grateful for the experiences and pathways that NTU provided me, which have been instrumental in my personal and professional growth."

NTU Convocation 2023 by the numbers:

- 10,678 graduates
- 6,167 Bachelor's degree graduates and 4,456 higher degree graduates
- 280 Bachelor's graduates receiving double degrees
- 55 graduates from the Renaissance Engineering Programme
- 3,985 graduates receiving Master's degrees
- 471 graduates receiving Doctorate degrees

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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