



PRESS RELEASE

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S\$2 million gift from Tahir Foundation to support Indonesian students at NUS and NTU Singapore, strengthen bilateral ties, and nurture regional talent

Singapore, 12 June 2025 — The Tahir Foundation, established by prominent Indonesian philanthropist Dato' Sri Professor Dr Tahir, Chairman of Mayapada Group, has pledged S\$2 million to the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) in support of Indonesian students at the two universities. The gift was announced today at a ceremony held at NUS.

Each university will receive S\$1 million for student financial aid, enabling more Indonesian students, regardless of their financial circumstances, to benefit from a world-class education in Singapore and to reinforce the strong people-to-people ties between Indonesia and Singapore.

A shared vision for ASEAN's future

The gift reflects a broader regional ambition: nurturing future leaders, strengthening ASEAN's talent pipeline, and deepening collaboration across borders. It also affirms the universities' shared commitment to inclusive education and regional impact.

Dato' Sri Professor Dr Tahir, Chairman of Mayapada Group said: "I strongly believe that education is fundamental in uplifting society and transforming our collective future. NUS and NTU, as leading global universities, are well-positioned to contribute significantly to Singapore and the world. I hope this gift will enable Indonesian students to realise their potential and inspire them to give back to their communities."

NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye said: "At NUS, we believe education is transformative in empowering individuals and uplifting communities. This gift will open opportunities for more Indonesian students to pursue tertiary education at world-class institutions in Singapore, and help to build a more collaborative and resilient Southeast Asia region, by fostering ties, familiarity and connections between the youths of Indonesia and Singapore. We hope this gift will inspire others to also step forward to support and nurture the next generation of leaders in the region through education."

NTU President Professor Ho Teck Hua said: "Dr Tahir's gift reflects his belief in the power of education to transcend borders. It enables more talented Indonesian students to pursue their

aspirations at NTU, opening doors to life-changing opportunities that can transform not just individuals, but entire communities. The gift embodies our shared conviction that education plays a pivotal role in nurturing future-ready talent and in fostering a more connected region.”

A lifelong commitment to education

Dr Tahir has long championed education as a key driver of social mobility. He studied on a scholarship at Nanyang University, which later merged with the University of Singapore in 1980 to form NUS. He graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Commerce and is recognised as a distinguished alumnus of both NUS and NTU.

Over the past two decades, Dr Tahir has been a steadfast supporter of education, contributing to student bursaries and scholarships, as well as research and academic programmes in Singapore. In 2012, he made a landmark S\$30 million gift to the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, his largest philanthropic gift to an educational institution. The gift helped advance medical research and academic programmes.

Dr Tahir also funded key initiatives such as the Tahir NTU-Universitas Airlangga Students Exchange Programme, which strengthens academic ties between Singapore and Indonesia, as well as the NTU Priorities Fund. In 2021, Dr Tahir made a gift in support of student bursaries, providing financial assistance to deserving NTU students and enabling them to pursue their education with greater peace of mind.

Investing in regional talent and collaboration

Strategically positioned in the heart of Southeast Asia, Singapore serves as a vital hub for regional education and collaboration. As the nation’s flagship university and top-ranked institution in Southeast Asia, NUS plays a leading role in advancing research, innovation and global partnerships across the region.

Situated in Singapore’s innovation corridor, NTU is consistently ranked among the world’s top young universities and is recognised for its excellence in sustainability, engineering, and interdisciplinary research. The University plays a pivotal role in advancing technological innovation, industry collaboration and talent development, contributing to Southeast Asia’s progress and global competitiveness.

Through this latest gift from the Tahir Foundation, more Indonesian students will have the opportunity to join the vibrant, diverse and intellectually dynamic communities at NUS and NTU. This will not only shape their personal and professional growth but will also contribute to deeper regional understanding and cooperation — laying the groundwork for a stronger, more inclusive Southeast Asia.

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 16 colleges, faculties and schools across three campuses in Singapore, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established more than 20 NUS Overseas Colleges entrepreneurial hubs around the world.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, research centres of excellence, corporate labs and more than 30 university-level research institutes focus on themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit nus.edu.sg.

About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 35,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Business, Computing & Data Science, Engineering, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, Medicine, Science, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute 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, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building projects. 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.