



NEWS RELEASE

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Subra Suresh to step down as President of NTU Singapore

Professor Subra Suresh today announced that he will step down as President of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) at the end of December 2022 after five years at the helm of NTU.

In his email message to the campus community, Professor Suresh said: “The lingering effects of a global pandemic have precluded my immediate and close-knit family, like so many others separated across continents, from coming together over a protracted time, even for significant family life events. The much-anticipated recent news of the arrival of our first grandchild later this year and a strong desire to be in closer geographical proximity as a family have convinced my wife Mary and me to return to the United States sooner than we had originally envisioned.”

“At this time of reflection, there have been so many accomplishments by all of you, our faculty, staff, students, and our leadership team, during the past few years in which I take great pride. I will leave knowing that NTU is a world leader taking its rightful place among the top Universities of the world. Together we have strengthened NTU’s foundation which my successor will be able to build on.”

In her university-wide message, Ms Goh Swee Chen, Chair of the NTU Board of Trustees, thanked Professor Suresh for his contributions and achievements. She said: “During Subra’s tenure, he further established NTU as a top global University, broadening affiliations and expanding collaborations with major academic institutions and industry players internationally. Under his leadership, Subra and his team introduced curriculum innovations and digital technologies, offering a top quality

education to our students. NTU has made progress over the last three decades and Subra's vision for higher learning will continue this momentum."

She announced that a search committee will be launched shortly to identify Professor Suresh's successor.

Professor Suresh is the fourth President of NTU Singapore since its founding in 1991 and the inaugural holder of the Distinguished University Professorship, the highest faculty rank at NTU.

Professor Suresh's personal touch warmed the hearts of many students during the Covid-19 pandemic as he and the senior team rolled up their sleeves, distributing welfare packs to the students living in the residential halls during the lockdown. He and his wife Mary made a personal gift of S\$100,000 in 2020 to seed the NTU Priorities Fund which has now grown to S\$8.9 million in support of students with urgent financial needs.

Since beginning his tenure at NTU in January 2018, Professor Suresh oversaw a number of key University initiatives. These included:

- a university-wide consultation and development of the NTU 2025 Strategic Plan to chart NTU's next phase of growth and identifying three major goals for NTU – uniformity of excellence; growing impact; and nurturing greater interdisciplinarity;
- the establishment of the NTU Sustainability Manifesto and a Sustainability-Linked Bond which successfully raised S\$650 million;
- the creation of numerous postdoctoral fellowships and Chair professorships;
- the establishment of various corporate labs with global industry leaders such as HP, Alibaba, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, Hyundai, Continental, SMRT and Surbana Jurong;
- the introduction of a unique interdisciplinary core curriculum and formation of NTU's first interdisciplinary school of engineering and science;

- a major endowment to support the NTU-Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, which was matched by the Singapore government.

Building on NTU's momentum of progress, the University attained global top positions in four subject rankings, and moved into the Top 50 of the three major global indices by QS, Times Higher Education and US News & World Report from 2019. Earlier this month, NTU Singapore received the Leadership and Management Team of the Year accolade at the Times Higher Education Awards 2022. Recently, the UK government affirmed the quality of an NTU education when it announced that NTU graduates join those from other top global universities to receive a special visa for employment in the UK.

Professor Suresh raised NTU's academic profile internationally. The University joined the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF), an intellectual community within the World Economic Forum (WEF), in 2018. Next month, Professor Suresh will host the annual meeting of the Presidents of the Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), to which NTU was admitted in 2018.

Professor Suresh joined NTU Singapore from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), USA, where he was President from 2013 to 2017. Prior to CMU, he served as Director of the National Science Foundation, a role to which he was nominated by President Barack Obama, and as Dean of the School of Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As the Inaugural Distinguished University Professor, President Suresh has also remained active in research, maintaining his strong academic scholarship, publishing a number of papers with NTU researchers and Singapore and global collaborators in top international journals. His work has also led to a number of NTU patent applications and an NTU-affiliated technology start-up. Professor Suresh has been awarded 19 honorary doctorates, seven of which were conferred on him during his tenure as NTU President.

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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