NTU to launch new degree programme in data science and AI

By **TOH EE MING**

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SINGAPORE – Starting from the new academic year in August, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will be introducing a new undergraduate degree programme in data science and artificial intelligence.

Jointly developed by the School of Computer Science and Engineering and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, it will take in some 20 to 30 students for a start.

Professor Ling San, provost and vice-president (Academic), said the new degree programme would be "rigorous and demanding". Students will be taught the basics of computer science, mathematics and statistics, and application-based areas.

The number of places in the degree programme will "grow organically", said Prof Ling at a press conference on Tuesday (Jan 9).

NTU is ranked the top university in the world for Artificial Intelligence (AI), according to a ranking jointly compiled by Nikkei and Elsevier that measured research citations between 2012 and 2016.

NTU's new president Subra Suresh said the world is in a state of rapid transformation and technological change.

With NTU's "unique intellectual portfolio" that spans engineering and the humanities and social sciences, he said digital literacy is imperative in grooming students to be "productive citizens in the digital world."

The university will also introduce new core educational modules to enhance students' digital literacy. They will cover the Internet of Things, cybersecurity and issues like ethics.

"We're not trying to make everyone an expert in IT, but what we hope to achieve is to make sure that even when a humanities major leaves the university, he or she is aware of the possibilities of digital technologies, and (is) also aware of the risks, pitfalls, and constraints," said Prof Ling.