



NEWS RELEASE

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\$200m Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N) signs partnership agreements with six top European universities at its opening

Six top European universities today signed partnership agreements with Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N for short) to do joint research in clean energy at the official opening of the \$200m institute by Mr S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Education.

The six universities are University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, Technical University Munich, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Austrian Institute of Technology and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne Switzerland.

Besides academic collaborations, ERI@N has also forged close partnership with leading industry players including Robert Bosch, Vestas, Rolls-Royce, and Det Norske Veritas.

With the global importance of energy research, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) formed ERI@N last year to spearhead the university's research efforts in this area.

The institute will advance research aimed at improving efficiency of current energy systems while maximising synergistic effects of alternative energy sources. Its seven-member international Advisory Board is chaired by Professor Michael Grätzel, who has just won the 2010 Millennium Technology Prize in Finland. Prof Gratzel developed dye-sensitized solar cells or "Gratzel cells" which provides a more affordable way of harnessing solar energy, a boon to the large-scale use of renewable energy.

Supported by the National Research Foundation, A*STAR, the Economic Development Board (EDB), the Maritime & Port Authority, other agencies and the industry, ERI@N has already secured funding of S\$200 million. More than 60 researchers are tackling the most challenging questions in sustainable energies and energy efficiency and this will grow to about 250 scientists by 2013.

The keen interest by the six world ranking universities to jointly conduct clean energy research is a testimony of NTU's global standing in sustainability research, one of the university's key focus areas.

Under the collaborations, ERI@N and the six partner universities will jointly conduct research and development (R&D) in clean technology and environmental sustainability and nurture manpower capabilities for the clean energy industry.

The research will focus on the areas of Energy Materials, Smart Grids, Solar Energy, Sustainable Buildings, Wind Energy, and Electromobility and will enable ERI@N to establish a global footprint of research excellence and value creation.

“Sustainability and energy research are key thrusts for NTU. ERI@N serves as the pan-university strategic platform that brings together all of NTU’s energy research activities into a coherent whole. Besides looking into technological solutions, ERI@N also studies the environmental impact, as well as business and economic models, legislation and societal acceptance for its projects. It is truly a multi-disciplinary centre that links all the Colleges within NTU in energy research,” said NTU Provost, Professor Bertil Andersson.

“I am pleased that although ERI@N is so new, it is able to attract the world’s top universities as research partners. With our combined strengths, I am confident that we will make much progress in the field and fuel the growth in this sector, adding to Singapore’s economy,” added Professor Andersson.

Commenting on the significance of these partnerships for Singapore, Dr Beh Swan Gin, EDB Managing Director, one of the supporting institutions of ERI@N said: “The establishment of ERI@N will boost our efforts to develop the Cleantech cluster as a key growth area for Singapore. It will harness existing strengths in electronics, mechanical engineering and materials, to develop new energy-related R&D capabilities. Through partnerships with companies and academic institutions, ERI@N will serve as an important multiplier for clean energy research, innovation and commercialisation in Singapore.”

Singapore has identified the Cleantech industry as a strategic growth area for its economy. The government has committed nearly S\$700m to build a clean technology ecosystem over the five years as part of the nation’s plan to become a global research and development hub. By 2015, the Cleantech industry is expected to contribute S\$3.4 billion to Singapore’s gross domestic product with up to 18,000 jobs.

Professor Subodh Mhaisalkar, Executive Director of ERI@N, said: “Partnering with global leaders in energy research enables ERI@N to accelerate research in areas that contribute significantly to our sustainable development. More importantly, these projects will allow Singapore to be a test-bed to develop export-ready solutions. As a research-based university, our students will have the opportunity to hone their skills in sustainability and adopt a life-long mindset to prioritise the sustainable earth ideal throughout their careers.”

Just last week, the National Research Foundation signed a partnership with Germany’s top engineering university, Technical University Munich, to conduct research on electromobility in megacities. The German university will be working with ERI@N to carry out research on energy storage, electric-car technology and electric vehicle systems analysis. In addition, the 85 PhD students jointly trained between TUM and NTU as part of the joint-PHD programme will generate unique electromobility solutions for tropical megacities and will groom future leaders and talents able to exploit e-car technologies in Singapore and beyond.

In conjunction with the official opening of ERI@N, the Second Annual Workshop on Energy Research will be held from 15 to 16 June 2010. The event provides a platform for researchers to exchange ideas and explore collaborative opportunities.

Renowned speakers such as Professor James Barber FRS and Professor Bill Lee from Imperial College London, United Kingdom; Professor Gehan Amaratunga from University of Cambridge; Professor Jong Hyun Kim from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology; and

Professor Ashok Gadgil from University of California, Berkeley will be addressing the local and international audience during the workshop.

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About Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

One of the fastest-growing research universities in the world, NTU is ranked among the world's top 100 universities and has been cited as a model for science and technology education. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU's main campus, is located in the south-western part of Singapore and will be the Youth Olympic Village of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in August 2010. The NTU@one-north campus, in Singapore's science and tech hub, is home to educational facilities, including a graduate school, and alumni clubhouse facilities. These campuses house more than 33,000 students and 5,500 faculty and staff from over 70 countries.

NTU has four colleges, namely:

- The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), the first and only Singapore business school to be ranked in the top 25 of the Financial Times Global MBA 2008 rankings,
- The College of Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world,
- The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, which offers degree programmes in communications, under the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia; as well as art, design and interactive digital media; and humanities and social sciences.
- The College of Science, home to award-winning faculty, world-class laboratories, and Olympiad medal winners.

The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, an autonomous graduate school, is a world authority on strategic studies and security research. NTU has two other autonomous institutes – the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute, and the S\$150m state-funded Earth Observatory of Singapore, a national research centre of excellence dedicated to hazards-related earth science. NTU has been awarded another \$120 million to set up a second research centre of excellence – the Singapore Centre on Life Sciences Engineering, which aims to combine the life sciences with environmental engineering and apply life sciences engineering to critical water and environmental challenges.

As Singapore's main science and technology university, NTU makes key contributions to a national research and innovation drive, particularly in the high-investment areas of biomedical sciences, environmental and water technologies, and interactive and digital media. In 2008, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, one of the world's largest foundations for entrepreneurship, selected NTU as the first Kauffman campus outside of the US.

NTU builds strong linkages across the globe and counts among its academic partners MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, Carnegie Mellon University, and Georgia Institute of Technology in the US; Cambridge University, Imperial College London and Technische Universität München in Europe; and Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, and Indian Institute of Technology in Asia.

NTU works with many global industry and research leaders, and has developed joint laboratories with Thales, Rolls-Royce, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Robert Bosch and Toray Industries Inc.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg