

NEWS RELEASE

UNSW ASIA OFFICIALLY OPENS TANGLIN CAMPUS

Dissolving Boundaries, Building Global Networks

SINGAPORE, 20 January 2007 – The University of New South Wales (UNSW) Asia, Singapore's first comprehensive international university, today officially opened its Tanglin campus.

Established by invitation of the Singapore Government, UNSW Asia is the first offshore campus of the Sydney-based tertiary institution but more significantly, it is the inaugural wholly-owned teaching and research campus set up by an Australian university overseas.

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Finance, officiated at the opening ceremony. His Excellency Mr Miles Kupa, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, also graced the event.

UNSW Asia is offering a comprehensive range of undergraduate courses, including double degrees aimed at preparing students for career opportunities in a global economy. These range from the Bachelor of Engineering (Computer, Chemical, Electrical and Telecommunications, Mechanical, Mechatronics) and Bachelor of Advanced Science (Computer Science, Mathematics) under the Division of Engineering Science and Technology to the Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting, Finance, Services Marketing and Management) and Bachelor of International Studies under the Business and Humanities Division.

Professor Greg Whittred, President of UNSW Asia, said: "UNSW is recognised for outstanding research and teaching. To add to its first-place ranking in Engineering and Accounting in Asia and Australia, the Australian Federal Government recently recognised UNSW as the tertiary education leader in business and law. UNSW Asia is set up to offer the same high quality teaching and international learning experience in an Asian context. UNSW Asia will offer students an international educational experience delivered by a highly qualified and internationally diverse faculty in classes with a majority of overseas students. Our faculty

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have been selected for their research distinction and their proven track records as quality teachers.”

Leveraging the strengths of UNSW as a research-intensive university, UNSW Asia will focus on research that is significant to the Asian region with research centres of excellence in its core capabilities of Interactive and Digital Media, Photovoltaics (solar energy) as well as Membrane and Water Technologies.

With pandemics such as bird flu and potential bioterrorism threatening the Asia Pacific region, UNSW Asia has also set up a cross-disciplinary Asia Pacific ubiquitous Healthcare Research Centre (APuHC) that leverages broadband communication technologies to enhance disaster and public health threat responsiveness. This Centre is a collaboration between UNSW Asia and its industry partners - Netstar and CAL2CAL - in Singapore with the support of the World Health Organisation.

To foster outstanding research and teaching, UNSW Asia boasts a faculty of prominent academics from diverse nationalities, disciplines and backgrounds. They include Organisational Behaviour and Human Resources Professor Bruce Stening from the National Graduate School of Management at the Australian National University; Computer Engineering & Information Technology Professor Graham Leedham who was Head of the Division of Computing Systems and Director of the Forensics and Security Research Laboratory at the Nanyang Technological University; and Associate Professor for International Studies Andrew Tan, a prolific academic and writer on regional security issues who is consulted by a number of governments.

Come March this year, the very first intake of 300 students will commence their academic semester at the Tanglin site (former campus of Republic Polytechnic and premises of the Ministry of Education). UNSW Asia is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities in its laboratories to cater for teaching and research and a new library.

UNSW Asia expects another 500 students to enrol at the university in August 2007. By mid-2008, the university will boast more than 1,600 students with enrolment expected to grow to 15,000 after 2020 with a majority of the students hailing from overseas. The university's new 20-ha tropical garden campus is currently being built in Changi and is slated to open in late 2008. The campus is Australia's single largest investment in Singapore in terms of land space.

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Professor Greg Whittred, President of UNSW Asia, said, “UNSW Asia is committed to helping Singapore realise its vision of becoming an education hub. Drawing on UNSW’s credentials and capabilities, we will nurture talents and advance research to contribute to Singapore’s economic growth and meet new challenges in the fast-growing Asian region.”

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