

AUGUST 2010

# Knowledge Enterprise

A Publication of National University of Singapore

**Congratulations, Class of 2010!**





# NUS celebrates commencement of Class of 2010

**SOUNDS** of joy, laughter and cheer rang through the NUS University Cultural Centre last month as the University celebrated the commencement of its new graduates. The graduation of the Class of 2010 took place over 21 ceremonies held from 5 to 13 July 2010, with 9,008 graduates being conferred their degrees, 6,052 of whom received bachelor degrees and 2,956 received higher degrees. This year's commencement also saw the first batch of graduates for 13 new degrees offered at NUS.

for us." Finally, on valuing one's community, Prof Tan said: "If we value our community, we will take an active interest in it, and will contribute through ideas and action, to the advancement of the peoples that make up the community."

Speaking of valuing one's community, Prof Tan cited the example of The Honourable the Chief Justice of the Republic of Singapore Chan Sek Keong, who stood out for his "deep empathy and concern for the community" and who had shown through his work that it was by valuing one's society that one could really serve it well.

Chief Justice Chan was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the main commencement ceremony. He was recognised for his leadership of the Singapore judiciary, his outstanding contribution to the development of Singapore's criminal justice system and constitutional law, distinguished service to the nation, and long-standing and continuing support to the Faculty of Law of NUS. ■



**COMMENCEMENT SPEECH:** NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan urged the new graduates to stay curious, pursue their passion and value the community around them

The main commencement ceremony on 5 July celebrated the graduation of more than 400 students. The graduates were from a range of joint, concurrent and double degree programmes conducted in collaboration with top overseas universities as well as from various programmes at the Faculty of Engineering. Presiding over the ceremony was President of Singapore and NUS Chancellor His Excellency Mr S R Nathan.

Congratulating the graduates, NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan said the day of graduation "does not mark the end of your association with our University, but the commencement of a new phase as our valued alumni." Raising the fine examples set by three highly successful alumni, he gave this advice to the new graduates: "stay curious; pursue your passion; and value our community".

"Curiosity is crucial for life-long learning which, in turn, is essential for us to keep pace with the rapid changes in knowledge and technology," he said. As for pursuing one's passion, he noted that "most of us are more likely to succeed and to make a difference, if the goals and paths we pursue hold a deep and real significance



**MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY:** Presiding over the ceremony was President of Singapore and NUS Chancellor Mr S R Nathan



**CELEBRATORY MOOD:** The new graduates posed for pictures after their commencement ceremony

# Chief Justice of Singapore conferred Honorary Doctor of Laws

IN recognition of his distinguished service to Singapore and the legal field, The Honourable the Chief Justice of the Republic of Singapore Chan Sek Keong was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the main NUS commencement ceremony.

The Honorary Degree is one of the University's highest forms of recognition for outstanding individuals who have rendered distinguished service of significant impact on the University and country.

In his acceptance speech, Chief Justice Chan said: "I wish to thank the Law Faculty for its extremely positive assessment of my legal work, which may in part be attributed to my abiding interest in what the law academics from the Law Faculty write on the law. Their articles, especially the critical ones, have helped me to look at the law from different perspectives. The Law Faculty has played a valuable role in the development of Singapore

law and its influence will continue to be greatly felt in the years to come."



**CHIEF JUSTICE CHAN:** He blazed a trail of firsts for an alumnus of the NUS Law Faculty – the first Judicial Commissioner in 1986, then Judge of the Supreme Court in 1988, the first Attorney-General in 1992, and the first Chief Justice in 2006

Chief Justice Chan was from the first graduating class of 1961 of the law school at the University of Malaya in Singapore, which later became the Faculty of Law at NUS. He obtained a Second Upper degree, which was very sparingly granted at that time. He went on to blaze a trail of firsts for an alumnus of the NUS Law Faculty – the first Judicial Commissioner in 1986, then Judge of the Supreme Court in 1988, the first Attorney-General in 1992, and the first Chief Justice of Singapore in 2006.

Among the many honours he received, more recently, he was the first local law graduate to become an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, England, in 2008; and the first Asian jurist to receive the International Jurists Award by the International Council of Jurists in 2009. ■

## Celebrating the NUS Spirit

AS customary, a dinner celebration was held on 16 July 2010 following the completion of all 21 commencement ceremonies this year. Gracing the occasion were Singapore's Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen and his wife.

More than fine food, great music and delightful company, the NUS Commencement Dinner 2010 celebrated the graduation of this year's cohort with reflections on how they had exemplified the NUS spirit.

Describing the true spirit of NUS at the dinner, NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan highlighted



**IN CONVERSATION:** (Second from right) Singapore Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen conversing with valedictorians. Beside him was NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye



**COMMENCEMENT DINNER:** An evening of great conversation and camaraderie among the dinner guests

three distinctive characteristics: "an unrelenting, fierce determination to excel, despite the odds; the courage to be intelligently different, while keeping true to what we really are; and the boldness to break new ground."

He saw these qualities being demonstrated by NUS students and staff in recent events where they set high standards; pushed themselves beyond ordinary limits; and were bold, innovative and persevering despite all odds. So, to the graduating class of 2010, he said: "I hope you will carry forward the Spirit of NUS as you pursue the paths of your future. It will stand you in good stead, even as you propagate the rich traditions of our history." ■



## New ambassadors call on NUS President

**FOUR** new ambassadors paid courtesy calls on NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan in recent months – Korea Ambassador to Singapore His Excellency Oh Joon (on 12 May); United States Ambassador to Singapore His Excellency David

Adelman (on 18 May); Israel Ambassador to Singapore Her Excellency Amira Arnon (on 26 May); and China Ambassador to Singapore His Excellency Wei Wei (on 29 June). ■



AT NUS: China Ambassador to Singapore H E Wei Wei (in left picture) and US Ambassador to Singapore H E David Adelman (in right picture) meeting with NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan

## UN leader in human settlements visits NUS

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL** of the United Nations (UN) and Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Dr Anna Tibaijuka visited NUS on 28 June 2010.

Dr Tibaijuka is the first African woman elected as Under-Secretary-General of a UN programme. She is currently serving a second four-year term as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

Commissioned by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities ensuring adequate shelter for all, UN-HABITAT spearheads initiatives and programmes to help policymakers and local communities deal with human settlements and urban issues and find effective sustainable solutions. ■



WELCOME: Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Dr Anna Tibaijuka received by NUS Vice President (University and Global Relations) Prof Lily Kong

### AT A GLANCE

- The Institute for Mathematical Sciences at NUS announced the set-up of the Asian Initiative for Infinity (AII) at its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on 24 June 2010. The AII is funded through an endowed gift of S\$1.4 million from the John Templeton Foundation, and is eligible for the dollar-for-dollar matching fund from the Singapore Government. The AII seeks to establish in Asia a robust and self-sustaining programme in Mathematical Logic with emphasis on the subject of Infinity, by promoting and facilitating research and training.
- For two consecutive years, NUS has hosted the Association of Pacific Rim Universities

(APRU) Undergraduate Summer Programme. This is the final year. Held from 5 to 16 July 2010, the fifth APRU Undergraduate Summer Programme saw 49 student participants from 12 countries. Besides touring landmark attractions in Singapore, the students visited PSA International, the second largest port operator in the world; NEWater Visitor Centre where they learnt about Singapore's water reclamation technology; and FusionWorld, a showcase gallery of cutting-edge technologies developed by researchers in Singapore. They were also involved in talks, dialogue sessions and workshops covering various aspects of leadership, entrepreneurship and the Singapore experience.

## Risk Management Institute presents new credit rating system

**THE** NUS Risk Management Institute (RMI) unveiled the results of a new credit rating system of firms in 12 Asian economies at its fourth annual conference held from 15 to 17 July 2010. Themed "The Risk Management Paradigm in the Post-Crisis Era", the conference was attended by some 200 local and international participants from government agencies, the academia and

industry. The Guest-of-Honour was Deputy Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) Mr Ong Chong Tee.

"RMI launched its own not-for-profit credit rating initiative, using a unique and distinctively scientific methodology it developed. This research initiative has attracted attention and wide support, with nine partner teams across the globe and three from NUS itself to take on the challenge of modelling credit risk for several hundred firms from 12 Asian economies. This initiative has indeed helped thrust RMI as a research centre of excellence on credit risk at a global level," said NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan at the conference.

RMI was established in 2006 as a university-level research arm of NUS focused on financial risk management. Headed by Cycle & Carriage Professor of Finance Duan Jin-Chuan, the Institute is supported by the MAS under its Programme on Risk Management and Financial Innovation. ■



**RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE:** It was attended by some 200 local and international participants from government agencies, academia and industry

## DHL and NUS launch Asia Pacific's first Sustainable Supply Chain Centre

**LEADING** logistics company, DHL, and The Logistics Institute-Asia Pacific (TLI-Asia Pacific), NUS, launched the first Sustainable Supply Chain Centre of Asia Pacific (SSCCAP) on 1 July 2010.

"Given the projections for supply chain logistics growth in the region, there is a need for an Asian focus on sustainability," said DHL Supply Chain Asia Pacific Chief Executive Officer Mr Paul Graham.

On the S\$3 million Centre, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye said: "It will be a premier centre for joint applied research as well as for outreach and education complementing the well-established THINK branded programmes in the Institute's portfolio of activities."

Hosted at NUS' TLI-Asia Pacific, the SSCCAP will have seven full-time employees and will be steered by a committee comprising representatives from DHL, NUS, the Singapore Economic Development Board, and industry partners.

Key outputs of SSCCAP will include a "Think Sustainability" conference series to bring key supply chain stakeholders together, as well as surveys, interviews and white papers to promote best practices. Rapid assessment tools to become industry references will be rolled out in partnership with national policy teams. ■



**SUPPLY CHAIN CENTRE LAUNCH:** (From left) NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye with DHL Chief Executive Officer (Asia Pacific) Mr Paul Graham



# Singapore, Peking and Oxford Research Enterprise to promote water eco-efficiency

**NUS**, Peking University and the University of Oxford jointly launched a S\$63 million five-year initiative to promote research, education and commercialisation of environmental and water technologies. Officiating the launch of the "Singapore, Peking and Oxford Research Enterprise (SPORE) for Water Eco-Efficiency" on 30 June 2010 was Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources Mr Tan Yong Soon.

"NUS is very pleased to establish further collaborations this time in a very significant area of global interest, water eco-efficiency, with two very prestigious universities and fellow members of the International Alliance of Research Universities," said NUS Deputy President (Research and Technology) Prof Barry Halliwell.

SPORE is also supported by the National Research Foundation's Environment and Water Industry Programme Office (EWI), as well as competitive research grants and industry partnerships. Hosted by the NUS Environmental Research Institute (NERI), SPORE is headed by Prof Sam Li from NERI and the NUS Department of Chemistry.

At least 40 research scientists and engineers are expected to be trained through SPORE's postgraduate degree programmes and executive programmes over the next five years. The three universities will research into areas such as efficient systems for safe drinking water, integrated technology based on "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3R)", and river ecological rehabilitation.

SPORE will also look into market-oriented technology exploitation, and has secured its first industry partner, Sinomem Technology Limited, which will be contributing S\$3 million funding over the next five years to study eco-efficient and green technologies for water treatment plant as well as green technological park and eco-city planning, design and construction. ■



**LAUNCH OF RESEARCH ENTERPRISE:** Key representatives of partnering organisations present were: (From left) Prof Alistair Borthwick, Deputy Head of Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford; Prof Barry Halliwell, NUS Deputy President (Research and Technology); Mr Tan Yong Soon, Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources; and Prof Wen Hai, Peking University Vice-President

## Director of the Yellow River Conservancy Commission speaks at NUS

**NUS** hosted a public lecture by Director of the Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC) Li Guoying on 30 June 2010. Jointly organised by the NUS Environmental Research Institute, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and NUS Business School, with support from PUB, Singapore's national water agency, the lecture was on YRCC's integrated water allocation programme. YRCC was presented with the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2010 during the recent Singapore International Water Week, in recognition of its landmark accomplishments in integrated river basin management. ■

## Delta Programme Commissioner visits NUS

**DELTA** Programme Commissioner Mr Wim Kuijken was at NUS on 29 June 2010 to meet up with NUS Deputy President (Research and Technology) Prof Barry Halliwell, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Engineering Prof Chan Eng Soon, and Singapore-Delft Water Alliance (SDWA) Director Assoc Prof Vladan Babovic. Also involved in the meeting were key representatives of Deltares – Managing Director Mr Harry Baayen, Director of Strategic Research and Development



**AT NUS:** Delta Programme Commissioner Mr Wim Kuijken

Prof Arthur Mynett, and Dr Nauta Tjitte, as well as SDWA researchers – Dr Carol Han, Dr Daniel Friess, Dr S K Ooi and Dr Joost Buurman.

The first Delta Programme Commissioner, Mr Kuijken was appointed on 1 February 2010 for a term of seven years. His mission is to draw up, update and implement the Delta Programme, which involves the long-term safety of the Netherlands and its freshwater supply, on behalf of his country's cabinet.

SDWA is distinguished by its multinational, interdisciplinary research on water topics. An initiative of the National Research Foundation in Singapore, SDWA is a collaborative effort involving PUB Singapore's national water agency, NUS and Deltares. It is hosted by NUS which provides scientists and engineers involved with a base for research. ■

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# Bold project to improve liveability of global cities

**FOUR** eminent researchers from NUS, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) and University of Fribourg produced "An Empirical Study on Ranking of Global Liveable Cities and Policy Simulations", commissioned by Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), Singapore. The study centred on a Global Liveable Cities Index (GLCI) developed by the team which reflects the characteristics of an ideal liveable city and suggests how cities in different parts of the world can progress to become more liveable.

The GLCI is more comprehensive and balanced than other existing frameworks due its wide range of indicators which are grouped under five categories: economic vibrancy and competitiveness, environmental friendliness and sustainability, domestic security and stability, quality of life and diversity, and good governance and effective leadership.

Using the GLCI, the team evaluated and ranked 64 global cities and 35 Asian cities. However, they disclosed only the position of the top 35 global cities and 20 Asian cities at the recent World Cities

Summit 2010. "This shows that our objective is not just a pure beauty contest, but to be constructive, to help those who are not ranked among the top, especially the emerging cities. Hopefully these cities would come to us – to the CLC or the Global Policy Research Unit (GPRU) of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSchool) – which quite a number of cities and ministers on behalf of cities have done. They want to know how their cities can improve, and we would work with them," explained Assoc Prof Tan Khee Giap who heads the GLCI study.

His team's greater interest was to benefit the ordinary stakeholder in emerging cities. Hence their methodology included "what-if" simulations which showed potentially better results that could be achieved upon improvements made in certain weaker areas.

Each of the four researchers in the team brings to the project a wealth of experience and expertise. Both Assoc Prof Tan and his co-author Assoc Prof Chen Kang, founders of NUS' LKY School's GPRU, are well-known for their knowledge of the Chinese economy. Their Asian expertise complements the understanding of Europe and North America of their other two collaborators: University of Fribourg Prof Hans Wolfgang Brachinger, an expert statistician; and ETH Zurich Prof Renate Schubert, a prominent environmentalist. Renowned economist Prof Wing Thye Woo, who holds concurrent portfolios in Brookings Institution, University of California and Columbia University, is a discussant to this study.

Moving on to the next phase of the study, the research team hopes to enhance the relevance and accuracy of the GLCI by including more cities, gathering more data and working more closely with forthcoming institutions and cities, as well as acquiring adequate funding to enable these endeavours. The final report is targeted for release at the World Cities Summit 2012. ■

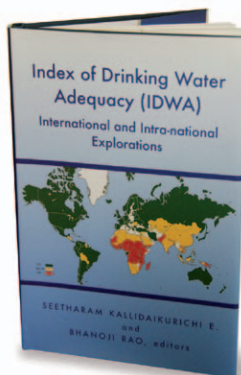


**RANKING OF GLOBAL LIVEABLE CITIES:** Heading the study is Assoc Prof Tan Khee Giap at the Global Policy Research Unit of NUS' LKY School

# Crucial index measuring adequacy of drinking water in over 144 countries

**THE** lack of a good measuring tool for monitoring access to drinking water prompted four researchers from the Institute of Water Policy (IWP) of NUS' Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSchool) to come up with a first-of-its-kind Index of Drinking Water Adequacy (IDWA). The IDWA measures and compares countries' performances in providing adequate drinking water to citizens using the following indicators: resource availability, access to improved drinking water sources, capacity to buy water, water usage and quality.

The thinking, methodology and application of IDWA are elucidated in a monograph entitled *Index of*



**MONOGRAPH:** It shows the Index of Drinking Water Adequacy (IDWA) for 23 Asian economies and the IDWA-Global for 144 economies of the world

*Drinking Water Adequacy (IDWA): International and Intra-national Explorations.* The monograph was launched at IWP's Second Global Water Policy Dialogue on 30 June 2010. Co-edited by Visiting Professor at the IWP Bhanoji Rao and founding Director of both IWP and the NUS Global Asia Institute Prof Seetharam Kallidaikurichi E, the monograph also includes contributions from IWP Research Associates Ms Fan Mingxuan and Mr Ngo Quang Vinh. It shows the IDWA for 23 Asian economies and the IDWA-Global for 144 economies of the world, and covers intra-country studies across Indian states, Chinese provinces and Vietnam. ■

# Rekindling memories and renewing ties at Homecoming 2010

**FOND** memories and joyous reunions make every homecoming at NUS an occasion to look forward to. More than 1,000 alumni participated in this year's Homecoming @ Bukit Timah Campus (BTC) and Homecoming @ Kent Ridge Campus (KRC). For the Class of 1960, Homecoming @ BTC on 8 July 2010 was extra special because it marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation.

Speaking at the Homecoming dinner at BTC, NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan said: "it is wonderful that today and throughout these past few years we are seeing our alumni coming

together, bonding with the rest of the university, being part of the wider community, enriching our community; and I hope the community, too, is bringing joy and enriching our alumni's lives."

He also took the opportunity to encourage the alumni present at the dinner to participate in some of NUS' many events occurring throughout the year, and added that "we very much like to build further on the NUS community, particularly to draw upon the talent, expertise and energies of our alumni, including all of you here."

Besides entertaining speeches, other highlights of the two homecoming events included campus tours, musical performances, sumptuous buffet spreads, a wine appreciation workshop, and a fascinating lecture on forensic science given by NUS Alumni Advisory Board Member and Adjunct Assoc Prof Stella Tan.

Homecoming @ KRC on 10 July 2010 also saw 12 students being presented with the NUS Alumni Student Exchange Award and 185 new alumni from the Class of 2010 being appointed as Class Ambassadors, that is, alumni leaders who will be encouraging their cohort of friends to stay connected with one another and with their alma mater. ■



**CAKE-CUTTING CEREMONY:** Class of 1960 celebrating the golden anniversary of their graduation with dinner guests

## IMPACT OF GIVING

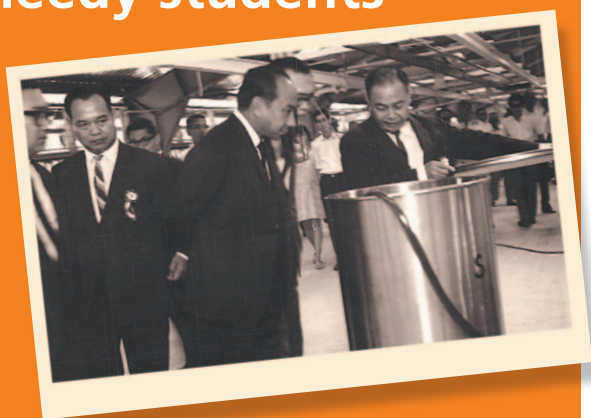
### Family's gift to help needy students

**THE** Wan Boo Sow Charity Fund Limited, set up by the children of the late Mr Wan Boo Sow and wife Mdm Annie Tan, has made a gift to NUS to help students in financial need.

The Fund was established to honour the memory of Mr Wan (a Pharmacy graduate of NUS' predecessor institution, King Edward VII College of Medicine, Class of 1948) and Mdm Tan.

Despite being born into poverty, Mr Wan went on to complete his education and created a successful business manufacturing insecticide under the brand name of "Ridsect". He is remembered by his children – five of whom are also NUS alumni – as a humble and kind man who lived according to his maxim: "If you always think only of yourself, you will always be unhappy", and as someone who was always ready to help the less fortunate.

The Wan Boo Sow and Annie Tan Bursary will support NUS students from its Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, Department of Pharmacy,



Mr Wan Boo Sow (right) showing former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Dr Goh Keng Swee (middle) around the Ridsect factory at its official opening

Department of Social Work and the Faculty of Law, who face financial difficulties.

*To find out how you can make a tribute gift to NUS to honour the memory of your loved ones, please contact Ms Clara Lim at [clara.lim@nus.edu.sg](mailto:clara.lim@nus.edu.sg) or telephone 6516-7489. ■*