



## **JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Chen Yidan Foundation gifts NTU Singapore S\$6 million to advance AI education and research, attract top talent**

The **Chen Yidan Foundation**, started by Dr Charles Chen Yidan, a Core Founder of Tencent, one of Asia's largest internet companies, has pledged a gift of S\$6 million to **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)**.

The gift aims to attract the world's top talents in AI to NTU to push the boundaries of AI education and research, and drive thought leadership in AI.

NTU will set up the **Yidan Professorship in AI** to launch an endowed Professorship to help shape and drive the University's academic and research programmes within the fields of AI and AI in education.

The Chen Yidan Foundation is a philanthropic organisation dedicated to advancing education development, research, and innovation worldwide. Dr Chen also established the Yidan Prize, one of the world's largest education prizes that recognises changemakers who inspire progress in education.

Beyond the Professorship, the gift also supports the advancement of research and education through curriculum development, research grants for NTU faculty to pursue AI-focused projects, and global collaborative initiatives.

It will also be used to set up a global education forum which brings together thought leaders across the world to share insights on cutting-edge research findings.

The gift was formalised today in a cheque presentation ceremony held on the NTU campus. Following the ceremony, Dr Chen Yidan participated in a fireside chat which discussed AI's unrelenting impact on education, moderated by Professor Luke Ong, NTU Vice President (AI & Digital Economy) and Dean of CCDS.

**NTU President Professor Ho Teck Hua** said: "NTU deeply appreciates the gift from the Chen Yidan Foundation to establish the Professorship in AI. It will help to attract

top talent to pioneer groundbreaking research and educational models in the rapidly evolving field of AI. The gift exemplifies the Foundation's steadfast commitment to create a better world through education. This commitment aligns with NTU's mission to nurture future-ready graduates and be a leader in the AI revolution. Together, we aim to shape the future of AI and its applications in education."

**Dr Charles Chen Yidan** said: "Chen Yidan Foundation is committed to fostering a diversified education ecosystem through interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, cross-regional, and cross-group collaboration. Looking ahead, we believe that AI will play a transformative role in shaping the future of learning. NTU has always been at the forefront of multidisciplinary innovation, and its open attitude toward AI education, research, and innovative applications has facilitated this collaboration. We hope that this partnership will lead to breakthroughs and effectively advance educational research and cooperation between Singapore and China, particularly with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area."

### **Advancing research in AI and education**

The **Yidan Professorship in AI**, administered by NTU's College of Computing and Data Science (CCDS), will bolster NTU's ability to attract internationally recognised AI academics to drive transformative innovations in this rapidly evolving field.

The Professorship will drive groundbreaking advancements in AI research and education and bring together top talents from around the world to collaborate on solutions that benefit Singapore and the global community.

**Professor Luke Ong, NTU Vice President (AI & Digital Economy) and Dean of CCDS**, said: "AI is one of NTU's top priorities, as the technology promises to reshape the world to come. The Yidan Professorship in AI strengthens NTU's leadership in the field, enabling us to attract top talent and advance education and multidisciplinary research at the forefront of AI innovation."

The gift drives cross-border efforts to advance education development and research, particularly fostering collaborations within Asia.

In addition to promoting curriculum development and research collaborations between universities, it will provide research grants for projects focused on AI in education. For example, the gift will fund opportunities for students from NTU, Shenzhen and other parts of China to undertake exchanges, internships and joint research programmes.

Additionally, NTU will organise the NTU Global Forum in Education, to be held in China starting in 2027.

The two-day conference, expected to be held every 18 months, will convene world-class researchers and thought leaders to share innovative and groundbreaking research insights at the intersection of AI and education.

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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 and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute 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, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building

projects. 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](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

### ***About Chen Yidan Foundation***

Founded in 2013, Chen Yidan Foundation (CYDF) strives to diversify the education ecosystem and make a concerted contribution to achieving sustainable development.

CYDF actively promotes education research, and explore research topics that contain both insight and foresight. With the principle of exploring the essence of education and seeing the future of education in a long-term view, CYDF provides effective guidance for educational development based on solid research results. The goal is to ensure that education can move on steadily.

At the same time, CYDF pragmatically explores educational innovation and promotes the "family-school-society" trinity collaborative cultivation project. With educators as the main body of innovation and sustainable practices, CYDF is dedicated to collaborating and building a healthy ecosystem where education is more flexible and resilient, so as to cope with the uncertain future and make a concerted contribution to global sustainable development. CYDF has offices in Shenzhen and Hong Kong, China.

For more information, visit <http://www.cydfoundation.org>