



Joint News Release

Singapore, 23 July 2015

Budding ITE student entrepreneurs turn their dreams into reality with NTU's entrepreneurship programme, #startable

Aspiring student entrepreneurs stand a chance to kick-start their business ideas with a grant of up to \$10,000 as part of an entrepreneurship programme called **#startable**. The programme is jointly organised by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

Six teams comprising 19 ITE student entrepreneurs with fresh and innovative ideas have been selected for the finals to be held today at ITE HQ & College Central, where the top three teams will win the coveted prize.

One of the finalists, *Eco-Nation* has come up with an innovative solution to significantly reduce waste by integrating food packaging design with detachable and perforated cutlery.

Another team, *Koolzer*, created a safety vest with detachable inner fan units, which helps keep workers cool under the hot and humid weather. The vest still retains its functionality after the fans are detached.

Team *Anto* has developed a footpad device that makes rehabilitation easier and helps to strengthen patients' calf muscles in the comfort of their homes.

The innovations were the result of a month-long entrepreneurship programme which places emphasis on challenging and refining students' business ideas, and equips them with the knowledge to kick-start their creative ideas into flourishing businesses.

The students attended a five-day camp which gave them a rare opportunity to engage with entrepreneurs through workshops, hands-on activities, and mentorship sessions.

The programme is sponsored by the Chua Thian Poh Entrepreneurship Education Fund and managed by NTU's Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre (NTC).

Mr Chua Thian Poh, Chairman and CEO of Ho Bee Group said, "Entrepreneurs play a vital role in society by keeping our economy vibrant, spearheading innovation and productivity. From alleviating poverty or addressing climate change, the work of eager entrepreneurs will benefit society not just through the jobs they create or the sleek products they deliver, but by the people they help."

The finalists will present their ideas to veteran local entrepreneurs such as Mr Roger Lee, Director of Singapore Institute of Materials Management and Mentor to the ITE Alumni Association, as well as Dr Rex Yeap, Partner of Invention Capital LLP, who creates and even helps small companies excel.

Mr Heng Guan Teck, Deputy CEO (Academic), ITE, is delighted that the programme provides students an avenue to nurture their entrepreneurial spirit. He said, "Through the programme, the students will realise how they can systematically develop and refine an interesting idea into a business proposition and the importance of good values and attitude that undergirds a successful entrepreneur."

Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan, Director, NTC, said, "NTU's popular #startable programme aims to cultivate and enhance students' entrepreneurial skills, and it continues to attract a large number of promising entrepreneurs."

“This highlights the ever-growing entrepreneurial landscape in Singapore, and together with Mr Chua Thian Poh’s valuable sponsorship, NTU will continue to groom aspiring entrepreneurs into bold and confident industry leaders.”

For details of the finalists, see Annex A.

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About the Chua Thian Poh Entrepreneurship Education Fund

NTU is the proud beneficiary of the S\$5 million Entrepreneurship Education Fund, made possible by a gift from business leader Mr Chua Thian Poh, Chairman & CEO of Ho Bee Group.

Together with a dollar-to-dollar matching by the government, Mr Chua Thian Poh’s philanthropic contribution has been endowed to Nanyang Technological University to foster entrepreneurship and innovation education.

The fund is mainly used to run annual #startable entrepreneurship programme, along with a series of train-the-trainer programmes for Polytechnic, Junior College and Secondary School teachers who are involved in managing entrepreneurship education for students.

As part of its reachout to the greater community, the Chua Thian Poh Entrepreneurship Education Fund is being extended to benefit ITE students as well, with its inaugural entrepreneurship training camp launched on 1 July 2013. A pioneer batch of 28 students with keen entrepreneurship interest went through a 5-day camp and workshop to enhance their business knowledge and skills edge through the camp.

About ITE

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) is a post-secondary education institution established in **1992** under the Ministry of Education. As a principal provider of career and technical education, and a key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards, ITE's Mission is to create opportunities for students and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for employability and lifelong learning. ITE's Vision is to be A Trailblazer in Career and Technical Education. Our Values are Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence and Care. ITE comprises the ITE Headquarters and three ITE Colleges - College Central, College East and College West. For more information, visit www.ite.edu.sg.

About Nanyang Technological University

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the colleges of Engineering, Business, Science, and Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences. It has a new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, set up jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N) and the Institute on Asian Consumer Insight (ACI).

A fast-growing university with an international outlook, NTU is putting its global stamp on Five Peaks of Excellence: Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare, New Media, New Silk Road, and Innovation Asia.

NTU's main campus at Yunnan Garden has been named one of Top 15 Most Beautiful in the World. It also has a campus in Novena, Singapore's medical district.

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

Annex A

Finalists of #startable 2015

| No | Team | Synopsis of Business Proposal |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Koolzer | Addressing the agony of working in harsh weather conditions, <i>Koolzer</i> is an integrated safety vest that aims to alleviate construction workers' discomfort. The integrated system will significantly bring down the body temperature of the user. It is a dual functional vest that comes with detachable inner fan units and still maintains its functionality. |
| 2 | SG Engravers | <i>SG Engravers</i> consists of a team of creative craftspeople, who are able to display art and style onto almost any surfaces. They are able to transform plain surfaces into sophisticated display pieces that are ideal concepts for corporate gifts. Some of the products they offer are beautifully engraved wooden plaques and even metal pieces. An array of designs will be possible to be imprinted on any desired surface. This group of ITE College Central students not only have a creative mind, but also a charitable heart. <i>SG Engravers</i> aspires to be a social enterprise and has pledged that a portion of their proceeds will go to the Singapore Cancer Society. |
| 3 | Eco-Nation | Recognising that being eco-friendly is a sustainable movement and not just a growing trend, <i>Eco-Nation</i> aims to create a product that supports their belief. The team presented the <i>Utenbox</i> that incorporates utensils and takeaway lunch boxes into one which is made fully from recycled paper. <i>Eco-nation</i> is passionate about their product, and is positive to come up with more designs of similar products for other applications and usage. |
| 4 | Glassland | <i>Glassland</i> is an artistic bunch of artists that adore the art of glass slumping. The whole idea of glass slumping is to allow the glass to soften, then gently sink, or <i>slump</i> , into a mould. The team specialises in plate slumping projects using recycled glass bottles. They will create beautifully slumped plates that seem more like art pieces and will definitely appeal to the masses. |

| No | Team | Synopsis of Business Proposal |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 5 | Anto | <p>Recognising the increasing trend of people engaging physical therapists at home, <i>Anto</i> has developed a Footpad device that makes rehabilitation easier and helps to strengthen patients' calf muscles. This product is targeted at patients, who have challenges travelling to the physical therapy clinics. In time to come, <i>Anto</i> believes that their targeted users will be able to engage physical therapy in the comfort and ease of their homes. <i>Anto</i> strives to provide further modification and enhancement to their product to better benefit users.</p> |
| 6 | Fruitsicle | <p>The team has developed an interesting healthy dessert - <i>Fruitsicle</i>. It is a 100% preservatives- and colouring-free fruit popsicle. It aims to promote healthy living among students through the consumption of fruits in an exciting manner. The element of surprise comes in with the random selection of fruits that comes in each <i>Fruitsicle</i>.</p> |