Dear Alumni,

Spring is a season of change, rejuvenation and life. In this vibrant season, we would like to greet you with a message that will warm your heart and also to let you know that though we might be miles away, the teachers and staff at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) are still thinking about you and the many wonderful memories that we have shared. At the start of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you the latest developments and progress of NTU and Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) this quarter.

First of all, it is worth mentioning that NTU has jumped to 47th in the 2013 world university ranking published by the renowned QS organisation, marking the university’s foray into the top 50. The university ranked second amongst the young universities featured on the top 50 list. In addition, NTU was also one of the top ten universities in Asia.

Secondly, NCPA leaped into a new realm with the appointment of Professor Liu Hong by NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson, as the Director of the Centre with effect from 1 January 2014. Professor Liu is also the Chair of NTU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences and recipient of Tan Kah Kee Professorship. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Xiamen University, a master’s degree from Fudan University and a doctorate from Ohio University.

He is also a renowned researcher on topics such as global migration of Chinese and world talent strategies. Before joining NTU in 2010, Professor Liu received tenure from the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences of the National University of Singapore in 2000 and has served as the Assistant Dean and Director of the Chinese Minor Programme. From 2006 to 2010, Professor Liu served as the Inaugural Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies, Chair Professor of East Asian Studies and Founding Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Manchester, UK.

A winner of the Eminent Yangtze Scholar Award by the Ministry of Education of China and a member of the expert advisory committee of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, Professor Liu also took part in the discussion and consultation for the national talent planning of the 12th five-year plan which was chaired by Minister Li Yuanchao himself.

Professor Liu has authored/edited more than 12 books in Chinese, English and Indonesian and nearly a hundred articles in Chinese, English, Japanese and Dutch. Since January 2011, he has been a member of the Academic Board of NCPA and has helped to develop courses for its graduate programmes and executive training programmes.

Professor Liu would like to thank former director Associate Professor Wu Wei for his outstanding contributions made to NCPA over the last four years and is looking forward to developing NCPA further together with the staff and alumni.

For the past two months, Professor Liu has made numerous trips to visit the Centre’s alumni in Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Xiamen and Nanchang in China. He also intends to speak to more
alumni at the NTU China Convocation being held later this year. You are most welcome to contact Professor Liu and provide your valuable feedback on the future development of the Centre (D-NCPA@ntu.edu.sg).

On 13 January, NCPA organised a closing dinner for 46 students of the 2013 Master of Science (Managerial Economics) and Master of Public Administration programmes at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore. In his welcome speech, Professor Andersson said that “the Mayors’ Class students here will be part of the NTU alumni and part of the larger NTU Community. We value the relationship with our alumni and would like to continuously add value to this ongoing relationship. We encourage you to stay connected with us through the 30 alumni chapters in various parts of China.”

On 27 February, Professor Liu met with Liu Yanguo, Deputy Director of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs in Beijing, China. On the same day, Professor Liu also met with Xia Mingjiu, Director of Overseas Training Management Division of the Foreign Experts Bureau; Wei Dawei, Director of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Expert Division; Gao Xiang, Director of the Policy and Regulation Department; and Su Guangming, Director of China International Talent Exchange Foundation, to introduce the training developmental strategies and directives of NTU and to discuss further collaboration between the university and the Foreign Experts Bureau.

On 19 March, NCPA welcomed 50 new students from Guangxi, Fujian, Shanghai and Beijing to its two graduate programmes. Gan Lili, the class representative, said passionately at the opening ceremony that “although the 50 of us come from different industries and appointments, I believe that our goals are the same, and that is to nurture, better and excel within ourselves.”

NCPA is on a constant pursuit for excellence and innovation. Leveraging on the successes of Singapore’s experience and NTU’s excellence teaching resources, NCPA has conducted executive training programmes for senior officials from Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and other Asia countries. Moving forward, the Centre will launch a new graduate programme on Master of Public Administration in English very soon. We hope you could recommend the programme to your colleagues and friends.

We urge you to keep in touch with us. At the same time, we also welcome any valuable feedback on the developmental strategies of the Centre. With NTU’s strong teaching resources and Singapore’s unique and outstanding governing ideas and success stories, NCPA is poised to become an outstanding public administration institution of the world and achieve greater excellence!

For the latest happenings of the Centre, please visit our website www.ncpa.ntu.edu.sg.
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Nanyang Technological University
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