Dear Alumni,

In the blink of an eye, we are almost half way through 2014. We are pleased to share with you that the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) has been developing and progressing very well.

On 5 May 2014, NCPA held an opening ceremony at Cambodia’s capital city, Phnom Penh, to mark the Centre’s first training programme for senior government officials from Cambodia. The training programme is a joint effort between Nanyang Technological University (NTU), the Temasek Foundation and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia.

The two-week programme, conducted in Cambodia and Singapore, will train a total of 80 officials who are handpicked by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia. These participants are holding important appointments, such as Deputy Minister, Assistant Minister and other state-level positions.

The programme is another training programme targeted at senior government officials of an ASEAN country following the centre’s earlier efforts in Vietnam and Myanmar. The opening ceremony was attended by Mah Bow Tan, NCPA Adjunct Professor and former Singapore Transport and National Development minister, as well as Benedict Cheong, CEO of Temasek Foundation.

Assoc Prof Kwok Kian Woon, NTU Associate Provost, said at the opening ceremony that "Drawing on its deep engagements with China, India and Southeast Asia, and a strong alumni network spanning these regions, NTU aims to be a vital knowledge hub on the New Silk Road. The New Silk Road is a metaphor for the unceasing flow of ideas and knowledge between Asia and the West that will help shape the course of the 21st Century."

A group photo of the first batch of 32 Cambodian senior government officials who participated in the training programme and NCPA staff.
On 9 May, NCPA organised a closing ceremony and dinner at Raffles Marina for 31 students of the 17th intake of the Master of Science (Managerial Economics) programme. Speaking at the dinner, Prof Er Meng Hwa, NTU Vice President (International Affairs), said that “to promote close interaction between alumni and enhance communication between the alumni and the university, NTU has set up 30 alumni associations in China. From tonight onwards, you will become one of our alumni and become a member of the NTU family. NTU will be proud of your future success and achievements.”

Guests at the ceremony included Mr Zheng Chao, Minister Counsellor, and Mr Yu Yunfeng, Counsellor (Education), of the China Embassy in Singapore, Mr Xu Qiang, member of the Fangchenggang Municipal Organisation Committee in China, and Dr Chen Enyi, General Manager of Singapore’s EnGro Corporation. The 31 students will attend the NTU China Convocation 2014 held in Beijing in September this year.

In June this year, NCPA Director, Professor Liu Hong, was invited as keynote speaker at numerous international academic conferences held in China. These include Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (organised by the Guangdong Development and Reform Commission and Zhongshan University), World Cool City Expert Seminar (organised by the Xining municipal government and the Charhar Institute), 9th International Symposium on Overseas Talent and China’s Development (organised by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council and Hubei provincial government) and International Symposium on Talent Exchange and Technology Migration Policies (organised by the Talent Office of the Central Organization Department and State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs).

Professor Liu also took the opportunity to visit the Centre’s alumni during the trip and updated them of the latest developments and future plans of the Centre. The alumni were very concerned about the development of the university and provided much constructive feedback and suggestions.

During his stay in Beijing, Professor Liu also met with key personnel from China’s Talent Office of the Central Organisation Department, State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, Personnel Division and Center for International Cooperation of the State Development and Reform Commission, China Aerospace Science & Industry Corporation,
China Scholarship Council, and Chaoyang municipal government to discuss possible partnerships and exchanges with NCPA.

Professor Er Meng Hwa and Professor Liu Hong met with alumni from Guangdong at the annual alumni meeting held in Nansha, Guangdong in China.

Professor Liu with alumni of the Mayors' Class, Liu Mingde (class of 2008, first from right, Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Committee of Qinghai, Dedicated Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of Qinghai), Zhang Xiaojun (class of 2006, first from left, Chief Team Leader of the Investigation Team of the National Bureau of Statistics), and Ma Zhiwei (second from right), member of the CPPCC Standing Committee and Vice Chairman of Qinghai Province.
On 10 June, NCPA officially launched a new website with content in both Chinese and English. The new website features more information and has a more dynamic design. Public find details on the Centre's graduate and executive training programmes, research projects, as well as the recent published 2013 NCPA annual report and the student publication “Nanda Hupan”. Welcome you to visit our new website www.ncpa.ntu.edu.sg and provide your valuable feedback.

Building on our success of the two Chinese graduate programmes, NCPA will start a new English Master in Public Administration programme in August 2015. We welcome any interested parties from China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, India and other Asia Pacific countries to apply for the programme. Please feel free to recommend the programme to any of your friends and colleagues. Details on the programme and admissions can be found in the Centre’s website.

Finally, we would like to wish you all the best in your work! May your careers continue to prosper! The NTU China Convocation will be held in Beijing soon. We will also take this opportunity to organise a NCPA Alumni Tea Session on 14 September morning at the Beijing National Convention Center. Please watch out for our convocation invitation and more information on the tea session.

We look forward to seeing you in Beijing!

Nanyang Centre for Public Administration
Nanyang Technological University
30 June 2014