

President's Office

Opening Address by

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NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

**LAUNCH OF THE NTU-JTC INDUSTRIAL
INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION CENTRE**

Wednesday, 3 August 2011, 1.00pm
Nanyang Executive Centre

Mr Manohar Khiatani, CEO, JTC Corporation,

Distinguished Guests

Colleagues, Friends,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us at today's launch of the new NTU-JTC Industrial Infrastructure Innovation Centre.

We are living in a time of increasing urbanisation, which brings with it various challenges – climate change and the need for resilient and sustainable infrastructure development. In a small country like Singapore, the latter is becoming an increasingly important aspect of our economic development.

It is therefore timely and strategically important for NTU and JTC to initiate new joint efforts to promote and champion innovation in industrial infrastructure.

JTC is the biggest industrial infrastructure provider in Singapore and NTU is a university with recognised strengths in science and technology. NTU and JTC share many common goals in developing new knowledge and cutting edge technologies in the areas of sustainability and infrastructural development.

We have a long history of close collaboration on numerous projects. These range from land reclamation to the more recent Jurong Rock Caverns project to store underground liquid hydrocarbons and the \$10-million Competitive Research Programme on “Underwater Infrastructure and Underwater City of the Future”, funded by the National Research Foundation.

Today opens a new chapter in the strategic partnership between NTU and JTC, as we seal a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a new NTU-JTC Industrial Infrastructure Innovation Centre. It has been proven by many examples that close collaboration between university and industry is one of the most effective ways to drive innovation and new solutions in the industrial sector.

I am confident that with the establishment of the new Centre, both NTU and JTC will be able to strengthen the technological capabilities of our industry partners and contribute more to the education and

R&D of sustainable infrastructure development for Singapore and beyond.

One key research thrust of the new Centre, for instance, is underground infrastructure. By moving less productive surface facilities underground, it frees up the land for higher value added activities. Having worked successfully together on the Jurong Rock Caverns project, NTU can help JTC to further build up its technical competencies on rock cavern development, such as how to build new caverns deeper underground and look into more efficient cavern space design and construction methods.

About a year ago, NTU announced its five-year strategic blueprint for the university that includes the development of Five Peaks of Excellence. NTU aims to make its mark globally in five areas – Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare, New Media, New Silk Road, and Innovation Asia.

The highest of these five peaks is Sustainable Earth. With more than \$830 million of research funding in the area of sustainability, NTU is a global leader in this area. The direction of the new NTU-JTC research Centre is thus closely in line with NTU's vision of excellence in sustainability research.

This new Centre will be based in the College of Engineering and hosted by the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE for short). This is a perfect match as the vision of the School is to be a leading School for Sustainable Built Environment, and at CEE, "Urban Systems" is one of its key strategic directions for research.

I am sure with the strengths of the School within the College of Engineering, this new research centre will achieve its goals and become a leader in the area of industrial infrastructure innovations. At the University level, I will also ensure that the Centre has the needed support to achieve its goals.

In closing, I would like to thank JTC Corporation for your continuous support over the years, in particular, Mr Manohar Khiatani, for his vision and leadership in building up Singapore's innovative capabilities in infrastructure development. I would also like to thank my colleagues at NTU and JTC for working to make this Centre a reality. I wish the NTU-JTC Industrial Infrastructure Innovation Centre great success in the years ahead!

Thank you.