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Professor Bertil Andersson, President, NTU,
Professor Freddy Boey, Provost, NTU
Professor Alexander Zehnder, Chair of Sustainable Earth Peak
Students and Friends,

1. A very good evening to all of you. I am extremely happy to be part of NTU's Sustainable Earth Peak launch event and party.
2. Earlier today, I visited the exhibition booths at the foyer and was very heartened to see the initiatives and projects that faculty and students have undertaken. I think it is clear that the community here in NTU are well aware of the acute environmental challenges that we face in the world and in Singapore today. More importantly, it is encouraging to know that you are taking a proactive approach to seek out innovative and implementable solutions to help Singapore continue growing in a sustainable manner in the future.
3. As the world grapples with the risks and implications of climate change, Singapore, together with the rest of the world, has to deal with increasingly complex issues. It takes commitment on both the international and domestic level to deal with these challenges effectively. During the Rio+20 conference in June this year, countries came together to reaffirm the political will toward environmental protection and conservation. Countries again acknowledged that this is one of the key factors that affect human development, alongside economic development and social equity. This is good news, even though much remains to be done.
4. Back home in Singapore, organisations, companies and academic institutions such as NTU also have important roles to play. One way to do so is to incorporate “green” principles into their corporate culture and allow it to pervade everything they do. Another way is to conduct research to discover new opportunities in the form of breakthrough technologies, sustainable products, as well as new insights, policy ideas and management solutions. Besides their intrinsic value, these efforts can also create excellent economic opportunities and contribute towards making Singapore one of the forerunners in sustainable solutions.
5. Here at NTU, I hear that there are exciting plans to conserve the environment. I was told that three landmark sustainability projects had been launched recently. One of them is to include energy efficiency features in all new NTU buildings and establish them as sustainability icons. I hope that your innovations here will pave the way for similar projects around the island, and even around the world.
6. In addition, students and faculty, alike, can also benefit from the sustainability courses being developed, as well as the creation of an accessible interactive Virtual Reality Campus which shows all sustainability metrics in real time.
7. The environmental challenges that lie ahead for Singapore and the world are real.

To the students, I encourage you to read widely and engage in deep discussions with people you meet from different disciplines, as sustainability issues cut across many fields. Participate actively in projects which not only give you opportunities to think creatively about sustainability solutions, but also equip you with the necessary tools, knowledge and desire to become leaders and innovators in the field in future.

8. To the leaders and educators in NTU, your support and guidance will make a big difference in nurturing a younger generation that does not just have the capability but also the passion to create a sustainable Singapore. Your continuing efforts in this are greatly appreciated and supported by us, and I look forward to sharing in and celebrating the fruits of NTU's achievements.

9. Finally, I wish everyone a very pleasant evening, and every success in your future endeavours. Thank you.

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