

German Institute of Science and Technology - TUM Asia Pte Ltd
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News Release

Singapore, 24 July, 2015

First German Academic Venture Abroad Sees 12th Cohort Graduate From Degree Programmes

Unique Study Experience with German and Asian Influences

Over 125 students from seven programmes donned their graduation robes at Technische Universität München Asia's graduation, as the institute – first of its kind in Germany's academic landscape – saw the 12th cohort of graduates successfully complete their courses.

Dr. Markus Wächter, managing director of TUM Asia, aligned the significance of this year's graduation with the upcoming celebrations for Singapore's 50th year of independence. "You are the next generation that will take this nation even further in the next 50 years, to make it the Smart Nation it can be. Or you can take what you have learnt in your time in Singapore and apply it on the global economy, because this is the pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit of Singapore."

Dr. Wächter was addressing graduates, their families, and many distinguished guests at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)'s Auditorium. The celebration marked the conferral of approximately 175 Bachelor and Master degrees, out of which over 80 Master degrees are double conferred together with the National University of Singapore or Nanyang Technological University. TUM Asia also partners SIT in the administration of the TUM Bachelor degrees here in Singapore.

The Guest of Honour, His Excellency Dr Michael Witter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Singapore, was present to support TUM Asia in its ambition to educate and equip young individuals from all over the world. The vision to bring German education to Asia has been a huge success, with TUM Asia conferring degrees to graduates from Singapore and also China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand and Russia at the ceremony.

TUM Asia, the first German academic venture abroad, was established by Technische Universität München (TUM), one of Europe's top engineering universities, to bring German engineering to Asia. Students who successfully complete their Bachelor or Master programmes locally are awarded the same degrees as their German counterparts in TUM, with no differentiation since they are taught by the same professors.

Approximately 500 guests were present to witness this milestone, including guests from TUM Asia's educational and industrial partnerships. Graduates from TUM Asia have received starting salaries on par or higher than their peers from the local universities, equipping them with a strong head start on a path towards a successful career.

This day was extremely significant for some, one being Aaron Jeremiah De Silva, Valedictorian from the Class of 2015 in the Bachelor of Science degrees. Aaron recalls his difficult start to

the undergraduate programme, citing how he contemplated to drop out of the course after a failure to pass his first exams. But with encouragement and help from his classmates, Aaron passed on his retake and decided to develop a new attitude towards learning. On this amazing turnaround, he said, “The resilience we apply to conquer the adversities is the true attitude that prepares us for our life after school.” Aaron has also been offered the opportunity to continue his studies with TUM Asia’s Master of Science in Industrial Chemistry, jointly offered by TUM and NUS, which he will start next month.

This occasion was also graced by some of the TUM professors, some of whom made special arrangements to be in town. Professor Ulf Schlichtmann, Programme Director of the Electrical Engineering & Information Technology programme at TUM Asia, said, “Today is a special day for us at TUM too. We are proud of the graduates and wish them well as they take the next step in their careers, whether in industry or academia.”

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About Technische Universität München (TUM) and TUM Asia

Technische Universität München (TUM) was founded in 1868 and is considered as one of Europe’s leading technical universities. TUM has produced 13 Nobel Laureates to date and has consistently played an important role in technological advancements across Europe. TUM strives to create lasting value for society through excellence in education and research, the active promotion of next-generation talent with a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

Following the same vision, TUM Asia was set up in 2002 to bring German academic excellence to Asia. Offering degrees in partnership with top Asian universities, students at TUM Asia have the opportunity to combine German engineering with Asian relevance in the thriving economic landscape of Singapore.

For more information, visit www.tum-asia.edu.sg or contact us at marketing@tum-asia.edu.sg.

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