German Institute of Science and Technology – TUM Asia Pte Ltd

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News Release

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German University In Singapore Celebrates Its 11th And Largest Graduating Cohort

Successful career paths ahead for TUM Asia graduates – Over 150 students from 7 programmes graduate, including pioneer graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering programme.

"Don't ever stop asking questions and keep pushing against the boundaries set for you," said Managing Director of TUM Asia, Dr. Markus Wächter.

He was addressing graduands, their families, and many distinguished guests at the TUM Asia 2014 Graduation Ceremony, held at the Stephen Riady Centre on 23 July 2014. The celebration marked the conferral of approximately 100 Bachelor and Master degrees, including the commencement of the pioneer cohort from the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering programme, at the branch university's 11th and largest graduation since its establishment in 2002.

The Guest of Honour, Dr Steffan Koch, the Acting Head of Mission from the German Embassy Singapore, was present to support TUM Asia in its ambition to educate and equip young individuals with German engineering excellence. 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 400 guests were present to witness this milestone, including guests from TUM Asia's educational and industrial partnerships. Notable guests present included representatives of industry partners such as Airbus Group Innovations South Asia, BASF South East Asia, Continental Automotive, Rohde & Schwarz and SDV Logistics. The partnerships with local institutions such as Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), along with the alliances with industrial partners, have allowed TUM Asia graduates to carve out a successful niche in the industry. Most graduates 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 year's graduation was extremely significant for some, one being Lee Poh Sein, the Valectorian from the Class of 2014. Poh Sein, who was initially uninterested in pursuing a higher education, succeeded in TUM Asia's programme. He credits his outstanding results and a developed public speaking skill to the university. "Our professors inspired us, ignited our imagination and instilled a love of learning in us" he noted during his speech.

The pedagogy at TUM Asia resulted in most of the graduates successfully moving forward to be employed in world renowned businesses. The majority of those graduates are employed in Singapore and the surrounding developing countries, with the remainder being employed in Europe.

Professor Kai-Olaf Hinrichsen, Programme Director of the Chemical Engineering programme at TUM Asia, specially flew to Singapore to celebrate this momentous occasion with his graduating students. "We are very proud of the graduates and are excited to see them go on and make a mark in this world".

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About Technische Universität München (TUM)

Technische Universität München (TUM), founded in 1868, is one of Europe's leading international research universities, with around 500 professors, 10,000 academic and non-academic staff, and 36,000 students. Its focus areas are the engineering sciences, natural sciences, life sciences and medicine, reinforced by schools of management and education. TUM acts as an entrepreneurial university that promotes talents and creates value for society. In that it benefits from having strong partners in science and industry. It is represented worldwide with a campus in Singapore as well as offices in Beijing, Brussels, Cairo, Mumbai, and São Paulo. A large number of Nobel Prize winners and inventors such as Rudolf Mössbauer, Rudolf Diesel and Carl von Linde have done research at TUM. In 2006 and 2012 it won special recognition as a German "Excellence University." In international rankings, it regularly places at the top among the universities in Germany. www.tum.de

About TUM Asia

As the first German academic venture abroad, TUM Asia opened its doors in Singapore in 2002. Though situated in an Asian country, the academic model employed by TUM Asia is nevertheless German in its roots, with an emphasis on industry readiness and innovation. Having celebrated its 10th year anniversary in 2012, TUM Asia has seen more than 400 graduates come through its Master programmes, including graduates from various countries in Asia and Europe such as China, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nigeria, France, Germany, Poland etc.

TUM Asia currently offers 5 Master of Science programmes, MSc in Industrial Chemistry; MSc in Integrated Circuit Design; MSc in Microelectronics; MSc in Aerospace Engineering; and MSc in Transport and Logistics. The former four programmes are run jointly with either Nanyang Technological University (NTU) or National University of Singapore (NUS) – two of Asia's top universities, and the latter programme is a pure TUM programme. Lecturers and professors hail from as far as Germany and their wealth of knowledge from various fields provide a spectrum of experience for the students to glean from.

Recognizing the demand for engineering excellence, TUM Asia partnered Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to offer Bachelor of Science programmes in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and Chemical Engineering in 2010. Applicants have to be stringently assessed in order to secure places in a 2 ½ year programme that includes a 10-week overseas exchange at the Munich campus. In addition, Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) has launched a series of Executive Education programmes with TUM Asia, tapping on TUM's engineering expertise in various industrial sectors to develop professionals in the workforce.