



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **NUS-ISS unveils new building, fresh initiatives to boost digital talent pipeline in Singapore and beyond**

***NUS-ISS to accelerate digital transformation across industries through comprehensive partnerships with enterprises, trade associations, and professional bodies***

*Singapore, 22 November 2021* – The new building of the Institute of Systems Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS-ISS) was officially opened today by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education. The launch ceremony was also graced by Mr Tan Kiat How, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development; Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of NUS; Ms Janet Ang, Chairman of NUS-ISS; and Mr Khoong Chan Meng, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NUS-ISS.

Held at the Inspire Theatre, the event was attended by industry partners, stakeholders and distinguished guests, comprising former NUS-ISS chairmen Mr Philip Yeo, Mr Lim Swee Say and Dr Tan Chin Nam, as well as current board members including Mr Bahren Shaari, Mr Ng Kuo Pin, Mr Lew Chuen Hong and Mr Quek Siu Rui.

Said NUS-ISS CEO, Mr Khoong Chan Meng, “This expansion and transformation is our signature investment for the next generation of digital talent. We wanted our new building to be a beacon on campus, drawing in and captivating industry professionals to experience the joy of learning in NUS-ISS. We look forward to welcoming more learners and organisations at our new space and journeying with them to help them reach their digital excellence goals.”

#### **Signature investment for the next generation of digital talent**

Completed over a two-year period, the revitalised NUS-ISS building offers an inspirational, flexible and innovative environment specially designed for learning, practice, collaboration and social networking. It features a bold and dynamic building façade amid lush greenery, with additional common spaces such as an oasis-like courtyard and a rooftop garden terrace for staff, students and visitors to interact and relax.

With an expanded floorspace of up to 75 per cent, the capacity of classrooms and staff offices has been doubled. All learning spaces in the building are furnished with modular, reconfigurable furniture to enable a variety of interaction and collaboration styles. The facilities are also equipped with state-of-the-art technology to help learners and educators adopt hybrid and blended learning journeys.

#### **Fresh initiatives to enable industry partners grow their organic digital capabilities**

Since its inception in 1981, NUS-ISS has trained over 157,000 professionals, managers and executives from over 8,000 organisations in the public and private sectors. As the Institute turns 40 this year, it renews its commitment to enabling industry partners on their digital transformation journey. NUS-ISS will do so through a series of fresh initiatives that build upon its expertise in developing key competencies for the digital age.

Forging ahead, NUS-ISS will focus on driving comprehensive partnerships with enterprises, trade associations, and professional bodies to build digital capacities in the various industries in a more robust and sustainable manner. Apart from training and upskilling, NUS-ISS is assisting these partners in a myriad of ways including internships, projects collaboration, talent acquisition and retention, career development activities, consulting and research.

NUS-ISS will also co-invest and collaborate with industry partners to set up and run their own digital academies, replicating the NUS-ISS operating model, to help them to grow their organic digital capabilities. The Digital Academy by Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech Singapore) was launched in June 2021 to accelerate digital transformation of the public sector, with NUS-ISS as the Operations Partner and a Knowledge Partner.

As the working world undergoes a paradigm shift, industry professionals need to develop dynamic digital skills in a more synergistic manner, through holistic, just-in-time learning. NUS-ISS leverages a unique model of multiple learning pathways and blended learning to ensure that upskilling is a continual journey that can happen anytime, anywhere. To make its programmes more widely accessible and scalable, the Institute is working with new channel partners and facilitating new modes of delivery to reach more learners in Singapore and internationally. From stackable to certifiable pathways, online to face-to-face experiences, and formal to social learning, NUS-ISS provides an open platform for collaboration to help our learning organisations climb the next curve of digital excellence.

Minister Chan shared, “Since its establishment in 1981, NUS-ISS has shown unwavering commitment towards uplifting the digital competencies of our workforce, and thereby supporting Singapore’s economic growth and transformation. I wish NUS-ISS every success as it continues to blaze new trails in enabling our people and enterprises to be future-ready.”

Said NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye, “NUS-ISS has advanced significantly through the years, adapting to the changing needs of the workforce and industry, and developing digital talent for Singapore. We are excited about the many new opportunities the upcoming collaborations with our corporate partners will bring for industry professionals who are taking up programmes with the Institute. We are also grateful to these partners for working alongside us to build a resilient, long-term talent pipeline for Singapore and beyond.”

In a Partners Recognition Ceremony following the launch of its refurbished building, NUS-ISS acknowledged its key partners GovTech and NCS, in addition to welcoming nine new collaborative partners. The incoming partners are:

#### Technology Sector

- Certis Group
- NTT DATA Singapore
- ST Engineering Digital Systems
- Visa

#### Healthcare Sector

- Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital

#### Finance Sector

- AMTD Digital

- Bank of Singapore
- Institute of Banking & Finance

#### Logistics and Transport Sector

- The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport

Selected corporate partners also took part in an industry roundtable chaired by Mr Tan Kiat How, addressing key topics on how companies can play a more active role helping their workforce pick up new skills and enable mid-career switchers, as well as how NUS-ISS helps to address the skills gap in the ICT industry and supports the national agenda through its upcoming schemes designed to enhance digital talent development.

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### **About National University of Singapore (NUS)**

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 17 faculties across three campuses in Singapore, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established our NUS Overseas Colleges programme in more than 15 cities around the world.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, 30 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs focus on themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg).

### **About the Institute of Systems Science, NUS (NUS-ISS)**

Established in 1981, the Institute of Systems Science (ISS) at National University of Singapore (NUS) develops digital talent for the industry through graduate education, executive education programmes, consultancy, applied research and career services. NUS-ISS is widely

recognised as a champion of industry transformation, future jobs and future skills, enabling a digital economy that is always learning and always leading.

NUS-ISS has implemented a unique portfolio of multiple learning pathways, with a wide spectrum of programmes in critical industry disciplines, such as digital leadership, software development, data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, product management, smart health and digital innovation.

To date, over 157,000 infocomm & business professionals, 8,000 corporate clients organisations and 6,873 graduate programmes alumni have benefitted from NUS-ISS's suite of services. Its programmes are delivered by NUS-ISS staff with an average of more than 20 years of industry experience and supported by a network of ecosystem partners

For more information visit, [www.iss.nus.edu.sg](http://www.iss.nus.edu.sg)

## **Appendix A: Partners Recognition Segment / About the Partnership**

### **Key Partners**

#### **1. GovTech Singapore / The Digital Academy**

NUS-ISS is the appointed Operations Partner and home of The Digital Academy by Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) – a ‘Practitioner for Practitioner’ academy that aims to groom future-ready digital leaders and accelerate the public sector’s digital transformation. The new campus at NUS-ISS provides an innovative and conducive space for most of The Digital Academy classes. NUS-ISS is also a knowledge partner and works closely with The Digital Academy’s in-house team to design a curriculum and develop training roadmaps that are contextualised for the public sector while managing enrolment, logistics and training processes.

#### **2. NCS**

NCS is a leading technology services firm with presence in Asia Pacific and partners with governments and enterprises to advance communities through technology. Since 2019, NUS-ISS has collaborated with NCS in its talent development programme, Nucleus, which equips new hires with professional training to accelerate careers as they work on technology projects, while supporting the commitment to champion digital transformation for the future. NUS-ISS also works with NCS in various areas such as internships and project collaborations, accreditation of NCS subject matter experts as adjunct teaching staff to teach in NUS-ISS, and technical training for mid-career NCS employees.

### **Incoming Collaborative Partners**

#### **1. Certis Group**

Certis is a leading outsourced services partner that designs, builds and operates multi-disciplinary smart security and integrated services. Certis’ multi-service offerings leverage its strong heritage in security, and is augmented by applied AI solutions. NUS-ISS will be collaborating with Certis to deepen the technical skills capabilities of their staff, as well as their ecosystem of partners, through technical training programmes and capability development in the areas of cybersecurity, software engineering, data science and AI. Certis will provide Internships, secondments, and applied research projects opportunities to NUS-ISS learners. Certis and NUS-ISS will also work on talent acquisition and career development activities, including recruitment fairs and seminars.

#### **2. NTT DATA Singapore**

Part of NTT Group, NTT DATA’s IT service portfolio includes business consulting, design, implementation & maintenance support. NUS-ISS will be collaborating with NTT DATA Singapore in a skills-capability building initiative, where both parties have signed an agreement to train 30 to 50 trainees over 3 years. NUS-ISS will run a Trainee Java Developer Programme where NTT DATA staff will be trained in web applications development, DevOps and Agile testing. In addition, there will be internship and secondment programs, including case study development and advisory projects opportunities, to further boost tech talents. NTT DATA will also participate in Talent acquisition and career development activities, such as recruitment fairs and career advisory seminars.

#### **3. ST Engineering**

With a diverse portfolio of businesses spanning the aerospace, smart city, defence and public security segments, ST Engineering applies their technology and innovation to solve real-world problems and improve lives. ST Engineering is partnering with NUS-ISS for Technical training programmes and capability development for existing employees and new hires in Singapore and overseas. Sponsorship for the Master of Technology Software Engineering programme via stackable route has been planned for an initial 30 participants. NUS-ISS will also co-develop and deliver technical training programmes and capability development to the ST Engineering's ecosystem of partners. ST Engineering will participate in internships, secondments and applied research projects, while supporting talent acquisition and career development activities.

#### **4. Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital**

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) is one of Singapore's oldest charitable healthcare institutions in Singapore, with 600 beds spread over a 12-storey nursing home building. Staffed by more than 550 trained and professional employees, its inpatient services, rehabilitation centre and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Centre serve thousands of patients every month. Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital is partnering with NUS-ISS for a mentorship programme on automation and digitalisation projects for the community care sector. Further collaboration in the areas of contextualised NUS-ISS programmes (training, consulting and research) for the community care sector is being explored.

#### **5. Institute of Banking & Finance**

The Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore (IBF) is the national accreditation and certification agency for financial industry competency in Singapore under the Skills Framework for Financial Services, which was developed in partnership with the industry. NUS-ISS has been awarded 100 training places for the Technology in Finance Immersion Programme 2021 for Data Analytics and Software Engineering. The Institute works with IBF to train tech talents for traineeship opportunities in the Financial Institutions, enabling them to be upskilled in data analytics and software development skill sets. With a robust and structured training and practicum for trainees, NUS-ISS has trained 86 Data Analysts and 42 Fullstack Software Developers since TFIP 2019. NUS-ISS has further leveraged the IBF Skills Framework for Financial Services to contextualize NUS-ISS programmes for the financial sector's digitalisation initiatives.

#### **6. Bank of Singapore**

Bank of Singapore, a wholly owned subsidiary of OCBC Bank, is collaborating with NUS-ISS on a bank-wide digital transformation journey starting with Digital Leadership training for the leadership team and future tech-skill enablement for the staff. Future-tech skills development include training in Python, Machine Learning and Robotics Process Automation training. NUS-ISS has also been instrumental in providing the business process re-engineering training as a key module in the bank's in-house conversion programme for operations staff.

#### **7. Visa**

Visa's mission is to connect the world through the most innovative, reliable and secure digital payment network that enables individuals, businesses and economies to thrive. Through a collaboration with NUS-ISS on the Visa Technology Traineeship Programme, this multi-year initiative will train Singaporeans for roles as Test Engineers and Systems Analysts. A similar initiative with Ngee Ann Polytechnic will prepare local talent for careers as Cybersecurity Analysts.

#### **8. AMTD Digital**

AMTD Digital part of the AMTD Group, is the digital arm of the conglomerate and is headquartered in Singapore. AMTD Digital is creating digital solutions across Asia with businesses spanning multiple verticals, including digital financial services, digital media, content, marketing, and digital investments. NUS-ISS is collaborating with AMTD Digital in co-creating the cybersecurity training programme for board members, C-suite leaders, IT and cybersecurity professionals. NUS-ISS will leverage on its cybersecurity training expertise while AMTD will bring in the financial domain and other partners to create a world class the learning experience platform to bridge the ever-growing cyber-skill gap in the region.

## **9. The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport (CILT)**

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Singapore (CILTS) is the professional body for those engaged in supply chain, logistics, transport and physical distribution. It covers all sectors of the industry, namely land, sea and air, for both passengers and freight transportation. CILT's objectives are to enhance professionalism, promote continuous learning and facilitate career development amongst logistics and transport professionals. NUS-ISS is the content and training partner for the Certified Digital Logistician programme, offering Digital Transformation and Digital Business Strategy courses.

## **Appendix B: Partner Quotes and Contact Persons**

### **Key Partners**

#### **1. GovTech Singapore / The Digital Academy**

“Warm wishes on the official inauguration of the new NUS-ISS building, a key milestone in your impressive journey of developing talent for Singapore’s Tech ecosystem. We are excited about our collaboration on GovTech’s Digital Academy to raise the digital quotient in Public Service.”

- Mr Kok Ping Soon, Chief Executive, GovTech

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#### **2. NCS**

“NCS values the partnership that we have with NUS-ISS. The unique Nucleus program that we have pioneered together is one example of a learning initiative NCS is investing in. We want to create opportunities for our people to develop skill specialisation and grow their careers in a learning organisation with strong apprenticeship culture.”

- Mr Ng Kuo Pin, CEO, NCS

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## **Incoming Collaborative Partners**

### **1. Certis Group**

“To best serve our customers, Certis believes that technology and operations needs to integrate seamlessly. We are pleased to partner NUS-ISS in our journey of continuous innovation and development. As a learning organisation, we remain committed to investing in our people and building up their skills to stay future-ready.”

- Mr Ng Wai Kit, Chief Technology & Organisation Development Officer, Certis

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### **2. NTT DATA Singapore**

“At NTT DATA Singapore, we strive to bring our core values of Clients First, Foresight & Teamwork to life through the power of shared experiences. We are extremely pleased to join forces with NUS-ISS as our valued training partner. Through this partnership, we can work together to ensure a steady supply of relevant tech-trained resources for the industry. This collaborative eco-system approach will benefit companies with different capabilities and enable individuals to fulfil their learning journey through upskilling & workplace learning.”

- Mr Ramanathan Krishnappan, Managing Director, NTT DATA Singapore/Australia

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### **3. ST Engineering**

"Our collaboration with NUS-ISS signifies our commitment to build up digital talents and upskill our workforce with best-in-class digital skills through co-development of modular graduate courses, internships and joint research programmes."

- Mr Lau Thiam Beng, Chief Operating Officer, Defence & Public Security and President, Digital Systems, ST Engineering

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### **4. Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital**



"KWSH hope to leverage on NUS-ISS's best-in-class digital practices to deepen skills, support expansion of job roles and improve our standard of care through healthcare innovation, process improvement and technology adoption."

- Dr Ow Chee Chung, Chief Executive Officer, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital

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## **5. Institute of Banking & Finance**

"IBF is proud to partner NUS-ISS for our Technology in Finance Immersion Programme (TFIP). Since 2019, NUS-ISS has been equipping mid-careerists with skills in Data Analytics and Full Stack Development, enabling their transition to technology careers in Financial Services."

- Mr Ng Nam Sin, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Banking & Finance Singapore

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## **6. Bank of Singapore**

"This collaboration with NUS-ISS is an extension of our efforts in training and developing our staff's digital skills so that they can stay ahead – to be nimble and forward thinking and armed with the digital foresight to anticipate the changing times and meet the needs of our clients."

- Mr Bahren Shaari, Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Singapore

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## **7. Visa**

"Visa is partnering with NUS-ISS on an initiative to prepare and upskill technology talent. Our current collaboration, under the Visa Technology Traineeship Program, will see NUS-ISS train more than 100 Singaporeans and prepare them for roles that help shape the future of digital commerce."

- Ms Goki Muthusamy, Head of People, Asia Pacific, Visa

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## **8. AMTD Digital**

"AMTD is excited to have NUS-ISS joining us as a new member of @-WISE Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence. Together with our founding members iQ4, University of Waterloo and Singapore Fintech Association, we aim to deliver transformational development of cybersecurity talents. This is crucial in an ever increasingly digitally connected world with a rapidly changing cyber risk landscape."

- Dr Calvin Choi, Group Chairman & CEO, AMTD Group

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## **9. The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport (CILT)**

"CILT Singapore is pleased to partner NUS-ISS as part of our collaborations with the public/private sectors and academia to seek synergy and opportunities to enhance the Singaporean core skill sets."

- Mr Karmjit Singh, Chairman, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Singapore

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