We must have competition in order for universities to always think of how best to give students an edge when they graduate. It is the students themselves who gain most as their 'marketability' increases when they can proudly say they are graduates of Singaporean universities. Competition exists on many levels. Locally, we compete to get students and, at NTU, we groom them to be global professionals. Another level of competition is the university's ability to establish a name for itself globally. NTU is attracting world-class talent from all over the world to come share their expertise and do cutting-edge research. Singaporean universities such as NTU can definitely help position Singapore to be a global education hub by differentiating themselves through their established strengths.

**DR SU GUANING**  
President, Nanyang Technological University

Singapore is positioning itself as a global education hub with plans to generate economic spin-offs from education service. Will the move ultimately benefit education service providers more than students?

As education becomes increasingly global, students will benefit by studying for their undergraduate or postgraduate degrees in more than one country. We are already planning to offer students the option of spending a semester, or even a year or two, of their undergraduate studies at one of our international campuses. Students will therefore have the ability to study in India in 2005 and China by 2006. This will enable them to gain international exposure and increase their market value, making them more attractive to both local employers and MNCs. We believe that students will increasingly look to take advantage of the benefits of this borderless world.

**PROF HOWARD HUNTER**  
President, Singapore Management University

Universities such as SMU are not-for-profit institutions that are investment centres for a society. Drawing upon the best talents — local or overseas — a university educates new generations of leaders and produces new knowledge for the betterment of society. Recent changes in Singapore's higher education sector will encourage both collaboration and healthy competition for the betterment of the universities and other institutions of tertiary education. As Singapore positions itself to be a major global hub for education, local universities will benefit from an influx of talent and resources and, in turn, provide Singapore with substantial returns through the development of new pedagogies, creation of new technologies, basic research, and support for a wide range of community programmes. The collaboration among researchers, government and industry will grow and serve corporate development in Singapore.

**DR MICHAEL COPE**  
Academic Vice-President, Stansfield College