PRESS RELEASE

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JTC and NUS Launch New Centre to Drive Innovation for Industrial Infrastructure

New centre will have an annual budget of S$1 million over the next 5 years to develop innovative and sustainable solutions for the industry

Singapore, 24 November 2011 – JTC Corporation (JTC) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) today announced the establishment of the NUS-JTC Industrial Infrastructure Innovation (NUS-JTC I³) Centre, a joint research centre to promote the development of innovative and sustainable industrial infrastructure solutions in Singapore. The Centre will commence its operations from 24 November 2011.

The NUS-JTC I³ Centre is set up in line with a common vision to create a vibrant industrial infrastructure research ecosystem and will host joint research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects in industrial infrastructure. RD&D projects will also be spearheaded in conjunction with other research entities. The NUS-JTC I³ Centre will focus its research efforts in five areas. They are: industrial real estate market, land intensification, planning and design, systems integration and optimisation, and industrial construction technology and methods. It also aims to build new capabilities and to scale up technical leadership competencies and capabilities in the area of industrial infrastructure. The Centre will also provide specialised consultancy services to government services and industry.

The Centre will be funded by JTC with an annual operations budget of S$1 million over five years. A Steering Committee, comprising Mr David Tan, JTC’s Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Technical & Professional Services Group; Professor Heng Chye Kiang, Dean of the School of Design and Environment at NUS; and Professor Chan Eng Soon, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at NUS will oversee the management of the Centre. The daily operations of the Centre will be led by 3 Co-Directors, namely Professor Ong Seow Eng from the NUS Department of Real Estate, Associate Professor Chan Weng Tat from the NUS Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Ms Josephine Loke, Director of JTC’s Land Planning Division. Twelve project leaders – seven from NUS and five from JTC – have been appointed to jointly manage research projects that are carried out at the Centre.

The Centre hopes to attract NUS’ students and faculty to pursue projects and careers in this area. NUS undergraduate and graduate students will be placed on attachment to the Centre to assist in its research activities.
This new partnership leverages on the NUS' expertise in planning, design, and engineering, as well as JTC's experience as a developer of industrial land. With this new partnership, JTC and NUS can forge closer collaboration on a more structured and systematic platform in facilitating RD&D projects. This will also enable NUS to better align its research in infrastructure development with industry needs.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the NUS-JTC collaboration was inked today by Mr David Tan, JTC's Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Technical and Professional Services Group, and Professor Tan Eng Chye, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost. Today’s ceremony was also graced by JTC’s Chief Executive Officer Mr Manohar Khiatani and some 100 guests.

This initiative is in line with JTC’s efforts to expand its innovative capacity. JTC’s Chief Executive Officer Mr Manohar Khiatani said, “Over the years, research collaboration between JTC and NUS has increased and the results of our research projects have been encouraging. The initiative to set up the NUS-JTC i3 Centre is timely in formalising the partnership and bringing our collaboration to a higher level. As Singapore’s industrial infrastructure specialist, JTC is committed to pioneer projects that address the future needs of industry. The knowledge and capabilities from the NUS-JTC i3 Centre's RD&D projects will contribute to the development of leading-edge infrastructure solutions for land-constrained Singapore.”

NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost Professor Tan Eng Chye said, “We are pleased to partner JTC in the establishment of the NUS-JTC i3 Centre. The Centre, which will draw expertise from various disciplines within the University, is timely as we enter an era where complex challenges need to be addressed holistically, with problems viewed from multiple perspectives. Through our School of Design and Environment and the Faculty of Engineering’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, NUS will work closely with JTC to develop innovative solutions to address issues in infrastructure development and sustainability. The Centre will also be an important training ground to groom researchers and industry professionals who could contribute to the industrial infrastructure sector in future.”

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About JTC Corporation

JTC Corporation (JTC) is Singapore’s leading industrial infrastructure specialist spearheading the planning, promotion and development of a dynamic industrial landscape. For more than 40 years, JTC has played a key role in the growth of the economy by providing cutting-edge industrial real estate solutions. Some of its landmark projects include wafer fabrication parks, business parks, Biopolis and Fusionopolis at one-north, a chemicals hub on Jurong Island, biomedical parks as well as logistics hubs for various industries. These industrial and business parks are now home to renowned global companies and promising local enterprises.

Today, JTC spearheads pioneering projects that anticipate and address the needs of industry. The Jurong Rock Caverns look to subterranean depths to optimise land use; Seletar Aerospace Park and Tukang Innovation Park support the growth of new industry clusters in aerospace and innovation activities; CleanTech Park, Singapore’s first eco-business park, offers unique clean technology features and also serves as a ‘living lab’ for the test-bedding and development of green technologies and sustainable urban solutions; and the Jurong Island Version 2.0 initiative plans to cut carbon emissions and enhance competitiveness of the chemicals hub.

As Singapore transforms itself for the future, JTC will partner with its customers to understand their evolving needs and develop appropriate 'future-ready' infrastructure solutions. The Corporation will continue to expand its innovation capacity and offer infrastructure facilities of a calibre that sets the city state apart as an investment location.

JTC will hence position itself as an industrial infrastructure innovator that creates value for its customers by developing the optimal infrastructure solutions that they aspire. This will help differentiate Singapore and propel it to the next level of growth.

For more information on JTC and its products and services, please visit www.jtc.gov.sg.

About National University of Singapore

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore’s flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 16 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 36,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 21 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore’s 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.