

## **LAUNCH OF ASCENDAS-NUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

On 15 January 2004, NUS Entrepreneurship Centre, a university level centre and a unit of NUS Enterprise, had launched a new mentoring programme as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Start-Up@Singapore Business Plan Competition 2003/04 with Ascendas Land (Singapore) Pte Ltd. As a gesture of commitment to this new mentorship programme, Mr. Thomas Teo, Chief Executive Officer of Ascendas Land and Associate Professor Wong Poh Kam, Director of NUS Entrepreneurship Centre, had agreed to ink a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Science Hub, Singapore Science Park I, to begin a strategic alliance between both parties.



Left to Right: Mr. Thomas Teo, CEO of Ascendas Land (S) Pte Ltd & Prof. Wong Poh Kam, Director of NEC, signing the MOU on 15 Jan 2004

The mentorship programme will provide a wider avenue for the participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Start-Up@Singapore competition to receive professional advice and guidance from successful entrepreneurs and professionals of various industries. In addition, the programme aims to help technopreneurs to start and grow their ventures by offering value-added accelerator and market access services.

Through Start-Up@Singapore competition, NUS Entrepreneurship Centre will identify start-ups that require venture support services, while Ascendas, through its venture accelerator arm, iAxil, will provide accelerator services such as business modelling, capital structuring, fund raising and market access into foreign markets to technopreneurs. Ascendas also offers technopreneurs value-add in quick start-up space and business support services when they participate in the mentorship programme.

In addition, the parties will work together to develop and implement internship programs with Ascendas' corporate client companies for students who take entrepreneurship courses in NUS. Ascendas will act as a liaison to introduce such internship opportunities within its network of corporate clients residing in its science, technology and industrial

parks in Singapore. The students may undertake consulting work for Ascendas' clients as part of the internship or consulting practicum program.

With this new partnership and programme, NUS Entrepreneurship Centre and Ascendas can look forward to closer collaborations which will ultimately enhance the entrepreneurial culture of both organizations.

For more information about the mentoring programme, please contact Mr. Patrick Chan at [necckp@nus.edu.sg](mailto:necckp@nus.edu.sg) or you may visit [www.startup.org.sg](http://www.startup.org.sg) and [http://www.nus.edu.sg/nec/outreach/mentoring/mentoring\\_index.htm](http://www.nus.edu.sg/nec/outreach/mentoring/mentoring_index.htm) for the latest updates.