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PRESS RELEASE

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ADOPTION OF KENT RIDGE PARK BY ASCENDAS AND NUS

Business space solutions provider Ascendas Land (S) Pte Ltd and the National University of Singapore (NUS) will jointly adopt Kent Ridge Park, a 47-hectare public park located adjacent to NUS and Singapore Science Park, on Wednesday 5 June 2002 under the National Parks Board (NParks) Adopt-A-Park scheme. The Guest-of-Honour gracing the Joint Adoption Ceremony of Kent Ridge Park is Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Mayor of South West Community Development Council District.

The joint adoption of Kent Ridge Park will contribute to the observation of World Environment Day which falls on 5 June 2002. This is the first adoption of a public park by both Ascendas and NUS, attesting to their commitment to responsible corporate citizenship and contribution to natural heritage conservation as well as to synergise beyond research and development.

The Adopt-a-Park Scheme by NParks was initiated in February 1997 as a community outreach programme, aimed at nurturing a sense of public ownership and responsibility amongst the community towards Singapore's public parks. It is also hoped that the Adopt-a-Park Scheme will help forge closer ties with the community in the management of parks and create a greater awareness and appreciation for greenery and nature. Under this Scheme, Kent Ridge Park has also been adopted by the Army and Nan Hua Secondary School.

Following the adoption, Ascendas and NUS plan to organise activities and interpretative programming to create a more vibrant environment at Kent Ridge Park for the visitor. Their initiatives include:

- **Creating a living diorama of Singapore's vegetation history** – NUS will work with NParks to rehabilitate and reforest a section of the park to the original rainforest. The living diorama will profile the area's vegetation history comprising the original forest-type vegetation; early agricultural and commercial crops and current vegetation. This will support and enhance outdoor classroom teaching of historical and biological vegetation in our schools and junior colleges.
- **Nature trail off Stockport Road** – To facilitate access and exploration of the Park's vegetation, Ascendas and NUS will work with NParks to identify and build another nature trail off Stockport Road.
- **Mapping and identification of pitcher plants** – NUS will provide scientific knowledge and expertise to inventory, map and conserve the rare heritage of native species of pitcher plants and their hybrids.
- **Adopters of Kent Ridge Park** – Staff, student volunteers and the Singapore Science Park community will help in park conservation activity and provide guided walks through the park.
- **Poetry or other artistic efforts** – Ascendas will extend existing arts and entertainment programmes organised at the Singapore Science Park to the Kent Ridge Park. NUS will extend its literary and artistic creativity to Kent Ridge Park. NUS will also bring performances by NUS Centre for the Arts and student groups to Kent Ridge Park.
- **Activities in the Park** – Ascendas and NUS will incorporate Kent Ridge Park as a location for nature walks and other sports activities organized for Science Park tenants, NUS staff and students to encourage greater use and appreciation of the park.

Ascendas Pte Ltd President and CEO, Ms Chong Siak Ching, said: “The adoption signifies the integration of two parks, both of which provide conducive environments – the Singapore Science Park providing a lush and green environment for creativity to bloom within its R&D community and Kent Ridge Park with its lush green heritage, for the leisurely appreciation of nature’s wonders. This collaboration with NUS is another initiative to enhance the sense of community and belonging amongst good neighbours and creating a work-live-play environment in the Kent Ridge vicinity.”

NUS will endeavour to nurture an environmentally conscious and proactive campus community. To that end, NUS has formulated the NUS Environmental Policy. NUS, as an educational institution, will harness its intellectual resources to take the lead in exemplifying an environmentally responsible community. “The adoption of Kent Ridge Park by NUS demonstrates our commitment to stewardship of our living environment,” said Dr N. Varaprasad, Deputy President of NUS. “It is our way of sharing with the community that commitment. One unique aspect of the adoption is the cooperation and coordination among neighbours to deal with environmental issues in an integrated manner.”

For more information, please contact:

*Ms Khoo Bee Hoon
Administrative Officer
Corporate Communications/Media
National University of Singapore
Tel: (65) 6874-1526/email: uprkbh@nus.edu.sg*

*Ms Jennifer Wong
Executive
Corporate & Marketing Communications
Ascendas Pte Ltd
Tel: (65) 6774 9026
Hp: (65) 97950859
Email: JENNIFER.wong@ascendas.com*