

## NUS-GAI launches 5 research projects

THE National University of Singapore's (NUS) Global Asia Institute (GAI) yesterday launched five research projects that will address issues significant to Asia.

The multi-disciplinary projects will cover a range of topics such as public health, urbanisation, emergence of centres of global modernity, and innovation in Asia.

Professor Seetharam Kallidaikurichi, founding director of NUS-GAI, said: "By taking a multi-disciplinary approach, we plan to combine depth of study with a rigorous examination of the complex interconnections between issues that are central to Asia's future, with a particular emphasis on China and India."

The projects – which will receive total research funding of more than \$1 million – will commence in the second half of this year. They are expected to be completed in 2-3 years.

NUS president Professor Tan Chorh Chuan said that he hoped GAI will make "impact research findings that will also contribute to finding solutions to real-world problems in Asia".

One of the projects looks into developing a multi-sectoral programme to tackle Type 2 diabetes mellitus in Asia. The disease has been recognised as an impending crisis by the World Health Organisation.

NUS-GAI was set up last September to bring together expertise from NUS and other leading universities to bring about an integrated understanding of critical issues within Asia, as well as to provide solutions for those issues.