Yale-NUS set to be different

YALE-NUS, Singapore’s first residential liberal arts college, held its groundbreaking ceremony at the National University of Singapore yesterday.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who officiated at the ceremony, said in his speech that the government has expanded and diversified the university sector and will continue to do so.

“Not by doing more of the same, but by diversifying the tertiary landscape,” he said.

Mr Lee said the government is fully committed to the college’s success and is glad that Yale has also given strong backing to the project.

Classes for the first batch of Yale-NUS students will begin in August next year.

Mr Lee said that Yale-NUS takes the best of US liberal arts education from Yale while adding the distinctive global and Asian strengths of NUS.

These would create an experience more relevant to students from Singapore and elsewhere in Asia, he said.

Yale-NUS College president Pericles Lewis, who spoke at the event, said the college would kick-start the growth of liberal arts and science education in Asia.

It is designed to combine academic, intellectual, social, athletic and artistic life.

Professor Lewis, who will live on campus with his family, looks forward to extending interaction beyond the classroom to create a unified cohesive, Yale-NUS culture.

The College will operate at the NUS University Town before its own new campus officially opens in 2015.