Singapore's NTU unveils social robot that 'could be like Star Wars' C-3PO' (VIDEO)

SINGAPORE, Dec 30 — Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has unveiled Nadine, a newly developed social robot which can recognise people she has met and remember the conversations she had with people who had spoken to her.

Made to resemble its creator, Director of NTU's Institute of Media Innovation Prof Nadia Thalmann, Nadine the humanoid is powered by a software similar to Apple's Siri or Microsoft's Cortana. It can function as a personal assistant in offices and homes or as social companions for the young and the elderly, NTU said yesterday in a news release.

Humanoid Nadine with Director of NTU's Institute of Media Innovation Prof Nadia Thalmann. — TODAY pic

"This is somewhat like a real companion that is always with you and conscious of what is happening. So in future, these socially intelligent robots could be like C-3PO, the iconic golden droid from Star Wars, with knowledge of language and etiquette," said Prof Thalmann, an expert in virtual humans and a faculty from NTU's Computer Engineering.

She added that social robots can be one solution to address the shrinking workforce as countries worldwide face challenges of an ageing population. It can serve as a platform for healthcare services in future, as an example. — TODAY pic

Nadine can recognise people she has met and remember her conversations with them. — TODAY pic