



**Welcome Address by
Professor Rajendra K Srivastava, Provost and Deputy President
(Academic Affairs), Singapore Management University
at the SMU-Fudan Global Forum
on “*Global Governance, Global Cities, Global Innovations*”
Friday, 10 April 2015, 8.40am
Xie Xide Auditorium, Fudan University, Shanghai, China**

Mr Xu Ningsheng, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, President,
Fudan University

Mr Ong Siew Gay, Singapore Consul-General in Shanghai

Mr Zhang Jun, Dean of Economics, Fudan University

Distinguished panellists and guests

Friends of China and Singapore

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning and a very warm welcome to the SMU-Fudan Global Forum.

On behalf of SMU, we are very honoured to be holding this Forum for the second time together with our reputable partner Fudan here, following a successful one last year.

As Fudan President Mr Xu Ningsheng mentioned, Singapore has just passed a major milestone in history with the demise of our founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. And as you heard, Mr Lee not only demonstrated exceptional political leadership. He was an outstanding exemplar of lifelong learning. He mastered the Chinese language, amongst others, in adulthood to speak to the hearts of the people and build a nation.

His pioneering achievements resonate with today’s theme – building excellent governance, a city, and innovations, on the global stage. These are some of the core

qualities making Singapore a role model for many countries, and Mr Lee an inimitable leader for many individuals.

While his legacy has created profound influence transcending to the international arena, let us honour him with what we can do – forging ahead with building excellent governance, cities and innovations globally.

This year, we mark the 25th anniversary of the Sino-Singapore diplomatic relations and partnerships. The collaborations between both countries have leaped and grown tremendously in the last 25 years.

Just looking at the economics front based on 2013 figures, the Sino-Singapore trade has increased by more than 20 times in just a quarter of a century. Singapore has become China's top foreign investor country and China's No. 11 trading partner, whereas China is Singapore's largest trading partner. There have been several successful Sino-Singapore national projects, including the China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park and Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, and the Western Region Project (WRP) is currently under discussion.

But clearly, our links and ties go beyond trade figures. China and Singapore are strengthening our partnership in sustainable development, culture and economic transformation. SMU sees ourselves as a key strategic national asset to Singapore and aims to contribute in strengthening the Sino-Singapore partnership.

The year 2015 is also a significant time for both universities. On behalf of SMU, we send our heartiest congratulations to Fudan University for your 110th anniversary since establishment, and also the 30th anniversary since the restoration of the School of Management. Fudan has grown from strength to strength, becoming an internationally renowned university that has made tremendous contribution to China and the world, beyond education.

SMU, on the other hand, marks our 15th anniversary this year. Though we may be a young university, we have a pioneering spirit and culture of excellence. We are proud that we stand shoulder to shoulder with international big names and learn from the best. We are building a firm foundation step by step, to realise our bold vision of developing transformative education, performing cutting-edge research and

becoming a leading Asian university, as part of SMU's Vision 2025. After all, when SMU was conceptualised as the third university in Singapore, we were meant to be different. And that meant that innovation has always been in our DNA.

Since establishing SMU's China Initiatives at the end of 2012 to drive thought leadership that will mutually benefit Singapore and China, our long-term strategy in China has consisted of four priorities:

First, we want to raise the international profile and reputation of SMU in China. This is part of our overall strategy to build the SMU brand internationally.

Second, we aim to improve the quality of student-intake from China for SMU's undergraduate, postgraduates and executive programmes.

Third, we want to increase and broaden the engagement of faculty members in common research and PhD co-supervision with their counterparts at leading Chinese universities.

Fourth, we would like to enhance our student exchange programmes and internships in China for SMU students.

There have been many China initiatives undertaken so far. Today is a manifestation of our efforts. There are many distinguished speakers and guests today and we are privileged and excited that we can hear from them later on. I take this opportunity to also invite all of you to join us at the upcoming SMU China Forum to be held in Singapore at SMU on 16 November later this year.

Related to our theme today, I would like to share that SMU has five core Areas of Excellence underpinning our research efforts that serve to meet the globalised needs of innovation linked closely to cities' development:

- Analytics for Business, Consumer & Social Insights
- Economics of Ageing & Healthcare Management
- Finance and Financial Markets
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Urban Management & Sustainability

We look forward to sharing our expertise and insights with you and the global Chinese audience through this Forum, and many more future China initiatives with Fudan.

Thank you.