



Media release

Second SMU China Forum explores the ‘new normal’ in China’s next phase of economic reform

Singapore, 26 November 2014 (Wednesday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) held its second China Forum today to foster a deeper understanding of the trends and influences shaping the growth and development of China. The Forum aims to serve as a platform for the business and academic communities to come together to share, discuss and debate ideas and issues about China that are current and relevant.

Mr Yu Yunfeng, Counsellor (Education) of China’s Embassy in Singapore and SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer were among the dignitaries present at the Forum, which attracted about 250 business leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, academics and students.

Themed “*The Next Phase of Economic Reform: The New Normal*”, the Forum drew a stellar line-up of scholars and thought leaders who shared their valuable insights on various aspects of China. They include keynote speakers Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of School of International Studies at Peking University; Professor Yuan Zhigang, Dean of School of Economics & Dean of China (Shanghai) Institute for Free Trade Zone Research at Fudan University; and Professor Sun Xiaoxia, Dean of School of Law at Fudan University.

The topics presented and discussed ranged from international challenges as China enters a new phase of economic reform, China’s financial reform, the internationalisation of RMB, the rule of law in China, and the challenges under China’s ‘new normal’ conditions.

A Letter of Intent was signed between Professor James Tang, Dean of SMU School of Social Sciences, and Mr Zhao Huitian, Secretary General of China Enterprises Association (Singapore) to promote collaboration in research, education and related activities. The signing was witnessed by SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, Mr Meng Fanqiu, President of China Enterprises Association (Singapore), and Mr Zheng Chao, Minister-Counsellor, Economic & Commercial Office of the China Embassy.

Said Professor Arnoud De Meyer, “The SMU China Forum is an integral part of SMU’s China Initiatives which was established in the second quarter of 2012 to raise our profile in China as a research university in the broad field of social

sciences, and to actively drive and strengthen our collaboration with existing and new partner universities in research and postgraduate education.

“SMU is committed to broadening and deepening our ties with China through research collaboration, exchange programmes, as well as training and development. We believe this will help contribute to knowledge creation and talent development for both Singapore and China. Through these efforts, SMU will also be able to develop linkages, expertise and knowledge on China and Asia so that we become a partner of choice for universities, institutions and businesses.”

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About the Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU’s mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to over 8,300 undergraduate and postgraduate students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU’s city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community.

www.smu.edu.sg

About SMU China Initiatives

China plays an important role in SMU's next phase of growth and international reputation building. The SMU China Initiatives was launched in late 2012 to focus on enhancing collaboration with existing universities as well as extending our network of partners in China.

SMU's long-term strategy in China is to:

- Raise the international profile, brand name and reputation of SMU in China;
- Improve the quality of students from China admitted into SMU's undergraduate, postgraduate and executive programmes;
- Broaden the engagement between SMU faculty members and their counterparts at leading Chinese universities in joint research and PhD co-supervision;
- Enhance student exchange programmes and internships in China for SMU students.