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By Alice Chia

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The Singapore Management University. (Photo: Calvin Oh)

SINGAPORE: The Singapore Management University (SMU) has launched a new intellectual property research centre, the first in the region to focus on Asia-centric and cross-disciplinary research.

The Applied Research Centre for Intellectual Assets and the Law in Asia aims to promote interest, research and cooperation in intellectual assets and the law in Asian economies.

It will survey and measure the intellectual property and innovation landscape in Singapore and Asia, starting with leading cases within and outside Singapore. It will also organise talks and seminars to update the community and provide new insights to practitioners and decision-makers in the public and business sectors.

SMU students stand to benefit as the centre will provide new intellectual property related courses with a cross-disciplinary perspective.

The centre is headed by Professor of Law Liu Kung-Chung, whose teaching and research interests include intellectual property law, antitrust and unfair competition law.

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Professor Liu said: "To date, research and commentary on intellectual property issues thrown up by the latest digital developments are primarily from North America, Europe and Australia. Except for some efforts in India, Asia has contributed surprisingly little research and debate on the topic."

"Asia needs to engage more in the ongoing debate that will shape much of business and trade in the decades to come. I see our centre contributing significantly in this sphere by surveying Asian developments and crystalising Asian insight," he added.

- CNA/eg