

## Prof Lily Kong to be Provost of SMU

**The Singapore Management University will welcome its new Provost on Sep 1, 2015. It says she brings on board 24 years of solid experiences as a distinguished educator, prolific research and senior academic leader.**

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Professor Lily Kong, who will be the new Provost at the Singapore Management University from Sep 1, 2015 (Photo: SMU)

SINGAPORE: From Sep 1, the Singapore Management University (SMU) will have Professor Lily Kong as its new Provost, the university announced in a news release on Monday (May 25). She takes over from Professor Rajendra Srivastava who has been Provost for the last seven years.

Prof Kong is currently Vice Provost (Academic Personnel) at the National University of Singapore, and also holds the Provost's Chair Professorship.

At SMU, Prof Kong will hold the Lee Kong Chian Chair Professorship of Social Sciences. "Professor Kong brings to SMU 24 years of solid experiences as a distinguished educator, prolific research and senior academic leader," SMU said.

It said the award-winning researcher is "widely regarded as a thought leader in religion, cultural policy and creative economy, heritage and conservation, and national identity". Prof Kong was previously the Dean of NUS' Faculty of Arts and Social Science and the Dean of the University Scholars Programme. She has received five international fellowship awards, including the Commonwealth Fellowship Award and the Fulbright Fellowship Award.

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In her new role as Provost of SMU, Prof Kong will be the university's Chief Academic Officer.

Meantime, Prof Srivastava steps down on Aug 31. SMU President, Professor Arnoud De Meyer, thanked him for "effective leadership" that saw the faculty of SMU grow by 30 per cent over his time at the helm. He noted that Prof Srivastava has been a strong advocate for the integration of theory and practice and was the driving force behind SMU's India Desk. He will remain as Senior Vice President of SMU's International Office, to enhance the university's global partnerships.

- CNA/ly