



Press Release

SMU is first Asian university to offer master's degree accredited by international professional HR body CIPD

Singapore, 3 November 2016 (Thursday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) has become the first university in Asia to offer a master's degree accredited by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). SMU joins prestigious universities such as the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Kings College London to deliver the CIPD's premier level accredited qualifications.

The CIPD is the professional body for HR and people development. Founded more than 100 years ago, and constituted by Royal Charter, the CIPD is independent and not-for-profit and the voice of a worldwide community of over 140,000 members committed to championing better work and working lives.

SMU's Master of Human Capital Leadership (MHCL) has been designed in partnership with **the CIPD, the Human Capital Leadership Institute (HCLI), and the Wharton Centre for Human Resources (USA)**, resulting in a market-leading study programme that provides unparalleled professional qualifications, business acumen and academic knowledge.

SMU MHCL graduates will earn a **master's degree** and the top-level **CIPD Level 7 Advanced Qualifications Diploma**, the most sought-after internationally-recognised professional qualification in human capital leadership, which starts their journey towards Chartered Status of the CIPD. In addition, SMU's partnership with the CIPD will facilitate the offering of new **continuing education courses** in the field of human resources management.

SMU is partnering the CIPD and HCLI with the aim of advancing the HR profession and developing more local and regional talents and leaders, who not only meet but also elevate global standards and lead the future of HR. This comes at a critical time in the evolution of the HR profession.

Prof Gerry George, Dean of SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business said, "The CIPD's collaboration is significant recognition of SMU's business education excellence. The leading-edge programme blending the best industry knowledge drawn from our strong partners has set a new, unparalleled industry benchmark. It also strongly resonates with SMU's mission of providing transformative education and producing global leaders with an Asian perspective. The unique MHCL programme, together with upcoming continuing education



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courses, will offer distinctive advantages for HR leaders and organisations seeking innovation and business results through human capital leadership.

He added, “We are also very honoured to earn another major global accolade – being Asia’s first university accredited by the CIPD adds to SMU’s distinction of being one of the few institutions to be recognised by top accreditation bodies worldwide, including AACSB and EQUIS.”

Mr Peter Cheese, CEO of CIPD said, “We are proud to partner with SMU and accredit the new Master of Human Capital Leadership programme – the first of its kind in Asia. SMU’s vision to equip senior leaders with the know-how and acumen to meet strategic human capital challenges aligns with the CIPD’s purpose of championing better work and working lives, and is an important milestone in the process of raising the standards of the HR profession in Asia and internationally.”

Ms Wong Su-Yen, CEO of HCLI said, “We are pleased to partner with SMU on the MHCL and look forward to seeing the graduates of the programme take on the reins of leadership and impact the human capital ecosystem in Asia and beyond. We heartily congratulate SMU on being the first university in Asia to achieve accreditation from the CIPD.”

In conjunction with the official award ceremony where SMU was bestowed the status of Level 7 Centre by the CIPD, SMU also hosted an evening seminar event entitled “The HR Profession – A Global Perspective” jointly held with CIPD and HCLI.

An audience of 100 comprising HR professionals, business leaders, academic specialists and students, were engaged on the topic of the impact of the partnership and that of globalisation on HR strategies and management. They heard from an **esteemed panel of international thought leaders**, comprising globally renowned thought leader Mr Peter Cheese, CEO of CIPD (London); regional HR practice leader Ms Wong Su-Yen, CEO of HCLI; business and innovation knowledge driver Prof Gerry George, Dean of SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business; and management and human capital expert Dr Richard Smith, SMU Associate Dean (General Management Programmes), and Academic Director of MHCL.

For more information about the [SMU Master of Human Capital Leadership](#), please visit [here](#).

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About Singapore Management University (SMU)

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 around 9,300 undergraduate and postgraduate students, SMU comprises 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 Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB)

SMU commenced its curriculum in 2000 with the School of Business, which welcomed its pioneer cohort of students in August 2000. In 2004, the Lee Foundation contributed S\$50 million to SMU in honour of the late Dr Lee Kong Chian, a well-known Southeast Asian businessman, philanthropist and community leader. In recognition of the Lee Foundation's generosity, SMU named in perpetuity the School of Business, the building and the university-wide scholars programme after Dr Lee Kong Chian. Today, LKCSB is a dynamic Asian business school with about 3,500 students and over a hundred full-time faculty members with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities such as Cornell, Harvard, INSEAD, Oxford, Stanford and Yale. The school offers undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes and is affiliated with a number of research centres such as the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics, the Centre for Marketing Excellence and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

In 2011, LKCSB received both the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation and a five-year EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) accreditation. For both accreditations, the School has the distinction of being one of the youngest schools in the world to be accredited. In April 2016, LKCSB earned re-accreditation from AACSB for another five years. LKCSB also joined the ranks of other internationally-renowned business schools by becoming a member of the EMBA Council since 2012. The School is currently ranked fourth in Asia and 49th worldwide in the University of Texas, Dallas rankings for research contributions for the period 2011 – 2015.

www.business.smu.edu.sg

About the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD)

The CIPD is the professional body of HR and people development. Headquartered in the UK with offices in Ireland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The not-for-profit organisation champions better work and working lives and has been setting the benchmark for excellence in people and organisation development for more than 100 years. It has more than 140,000 members across the world, provides thought leadership through independent research on the world of work, and offers professional training and accreditation for those working in HR and L&D.

About the Human Capital Leadership Institute (HCLI)

The Human Capital Leadership Institute (HCLI) is an aggregator and neutral player in the human capital ecosystem. HCLI offers the unique ability to bring together multiple perspectives and voices from business, government and academia, offering thought leadership and insights on understanding Asia, successfully doing business in Asia and its implications on leadership and human capital strategies for Asia. Through its efforts, the Institute aims to develop global leaders with a strong understanding of leading in Asia, as well as to build Asian leaders with the ability to lead on the global stage.

HCLI is a strategic alliance between the Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM), Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) and Singapore Management University (SMU).

For more information, please visit www.hcli.org



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