



## **Media Release**

### **MERCU Learning Point and friends establish first scholarship for Malay Singaporean undergraduates at SMU**

**Singapore, 12 November 2015 (Thursday)** – MERCU Learning Point, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), together with a senior Singaporean investment professional and a senior Singaporean banker, have come together to contribute \$600,000 to establish the MERCU-SMU Excellence Scholarship (Scholarship) for full-time Malay Singaporean undergraduates who are in year two to year four and enrolled in any of the six schools at Singapore Management University (SMU).

The Scholarship aims to inspire needy SMU Malay students with outstanding academic results as well as commendable record of co-curricular activity and/or community service involvement to scale greater heights of excellence.

Guest-of-Honour Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information, Minister-In-Charge of Cyber Security & Minister-In-Charge of Muslim Affairs, launched the Scholarship with SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer and the three donors at a ceremony in SMU today.

Minister Yaacob Ibrahim presented the inaugural recipients with the Scholarship at the ceremony. They are Ms Nur Amalina Binte Saparin (final-year student, School of Law), Mr Khairul Ashraf Bin Khairul Anwar (third-year student, School of Law), and Mr Muhammad Hafiz Bin Kasman (third-year student, Lee Kong Chian School of Business).

Speaking on behalf of the donors, Mr Azmi Muslimin, Chairman of MERCU Learning Point, said “SMU’s broad-based and rigorous curriculum delivers both depth and breadth, and equips students with a total skill-set consisting of hard knowledge skills, soft people skills and the 'heart' skills. Its emphasis on giving back to society where all students have to complete 80 hours of community service and take a class in Ethics and Social Responsibility, together with the global exposure and internship opportunities that it offers its students, resonate with our beliefs of the qualities an excellent university should possess.”

SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer said, “We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the three donors for establishing this first-of-its-kind scholarship at SMU. The MERCU-SMU Excellence Scholarship will help us ensure that no deserving Malay student misses out on the opportunity of an SMU education because of financial need. I hope this gift will inspire other community and industry

leaders to similarly contribute to building a richer and more vibrant educational environment for all SMU students.”

With 1-to-1 government matching, the total sum of \$1.2 million will fund three annual scholarships of \$12,000 each, commencing this academic year. The Scholarship will offer financial support for the recipients’ school fees and other study-related expenses. Special consideration will be given to candidates with evidence of financial need.

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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 around 8,800 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time 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](http://www.smu.edu.sg)