



Press Release

**SMU International Trading Institute documents leadership stories
and life lessons of industry leaders in a new book entitled '*Leadership*'**

Commemorative book aims to be a repository of resources and inspiration for future generations of Singaporeans in the trading and maritime industry

Singapore, 25 November 2015 (Wednesday) – Singapore Management University's International Trading Institute, or ITI@SMU, has unveiled a book entitled '*Leadership*' as its gift to the nation, particularly to Singapore's trade and maritime sector. The book, which took the Institute one year to develop, comprises more than 30 in-depth interviews with industry leaders, ITI lecturers and SMU graduates, and encapsulates personal stories which convey important life lessons in leadership, many of which are being shared publicly for the first time.

Launching the book at the Institute's SG50/SMU15 Celebrations was Guest-of-honour Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Advisor to Singapore Business Federation Business Groups, and former Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, and National Development. The event held today at Raffles Hotel served to commemorate the significant contributions that the trading and maritime sector have made to the country and to the success of ITI@SMU, established in 2007 as a result of a tripartite partnership between SMU, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and leading industry partners.

Over the years, ITI@SMU has focused its efforts on grooming Singapore's very own pool of competent local talent through the specialised 'International Trading Concentration' (ITC) and 'Maritime Economic Concentration' (MEC) which equip undergraduates with industry-relevant and hands-on knowledge and skills to 'hit the ground running' when they graduate to join the workforce. From a humble inaugural intake of 22 students, ITI's alumni and current student numbers currently stand at more than 400 in total.

In congratulating ITI for the meaningful book project, Mr Lee Yi Shyan said, "It is indeed a commendable effort to capture the important lessons in leadership, told from the perspectives of the captains of our industry, and at a time when our nation takes stock of our achievements in the past 50 years, and we look towards the next leg of our journey together."

Professor Gerard George, Dean of SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business, said, "There are many powerful learning points in the book. In fact, a common theme runs through the stories, that is, having deep conviction and integrity, perseverance and passion, being bold and decisive, believing in one's team, leading by example and possessing a 'never-say-die' attitude – all these attributes make for a great leader in the trading and maritime sector. I am confident that this book will be a priceless legacy for future generations of Singaporeans, and that of the country's trading and maritime industry."

The celebratory event also included a discussion between industry experts on the topic '*Singapore as a thriving and sustainable trading hub: what is needed for the next 50 years?*' moderated by Professor Annie Koh, SMU's Vice President for Business Develop and Academic Director of ITI@SMU.

The panelists discussed the many challenges that Singapore faces as a global trading hub, as it is confronted with a diverse range of dynamic forces which are shaping the global trading landscape, such as the rise of new contenders, the shifting of trade patterns, as well as new economic, social and political realities. To this, ITI@SMU iterated its commitment to continue to work with IE Singapore and the industry to enhance the sector's capabilities to further strengthen the nation's position as a premier international trading hub. Professor Gerard George also thanked partners for their generous and unwavering support and contributions through the years.

He said, "We are grateful to the industry for their generous support towards ITI@SMU's programmes, study missions, scholarships and internship opportunities. Collectively, our partners have contributed immensely to the knowledge and development of our young undergraduates, and have enabled ITI@SMU to offer a learning experience that is insightful, unique, industry-relevant, and simply not available anywhere else in the world."

On the Institute's future plans, Professor Annie Koh said, "ITI has begun discussions with relevant agencies on our participation in the national SkillsFuture movement. We look forward to playing our part in the co-development of upgrading and re-skilling programmes for the existing pool of trading professionals, so as to support a future-ready trading and maritime industry. Going forward, in addition to teaching and programme development, ITI@SMU will also embark on knowledge development and research, and contribute to the sector in a new dimension."

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Enclosure:

- Annex 1 – List of personalities featured in commemorative book – '*Leadership*'

About 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, 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

About ITI@SMU

SMU's International Trading Institute, or ITI@SMU, was formed in 2007 as the result of a collaborative effort between SMU, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and leading industry players in the trading sector. The first trading institute in the world to be set up within a university, ITI@SMU boasts a specialist focus on international trading and is supported by a unique public-private partnership. ITI@SMU is Singapore's premier industry platform for thought leadership and talent development in the arena of international trading.

The Institute launched the International Trading Concentration (ITC) in 2007 with the primary aim of providing in-depth knowledge on the trading sector to prepare SMU undergraduates for careers with companies operating in the trading value chain, through various experiential learning opportunities. The programme is offered to SMU students who have opted for Finance as a major in SMU's Bachelor of Business Management (BBM) programme.

From 2013, the Maritime Economics Concentration (MEC), a multidisciplinary programme, was offered by the SMU School of Economics in partnership with ITI@SMU. Supported by the Singapore Maritime Institute and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, MEC aims to produce SMU graduates who are equipped to meet the talent needs of Singapore's growing maritime industry. The MEC is designed to ensure that students establish a firm foundation in economics and develop essential knowledge and contextualised skills relevant for maritime related roles.

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Annex 1**Personalities featured in commemorative book – ‘Leadership’**

	Name	Title and Organisation
1.	Ms Maureen DeRooij	Country Executive for Greater China, ABN AMRO
2.	Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla	Chairman, Aditya Birla Group
3.	Mr Frederik Groth	CEO, ADM Asia-Pacific Trading Pte. Ltd.
4.	Mr Joel Lou	CEO, JustCommodity Software Solutions Pte Ltd
5.	Mr Marcelo Martins	Managing Director, Concordia Agritrading
6.	Mr Moiz Saleem	CEO, Emirates National Oil Company (Singapore) Pte Ltd
7.	Mr Ben Quek	Head of Markets , globalORE Pte Ltd
8.	Mr Rob Langstraat	CEO, InterChem Pte Ltd
9.	Mr Ramesh Parasuraman	CEO & Managing Director, KCTEX International Ltd
10.	Mr Gonzalo Ramírez Martiarena	Global CEO, Louis Dreyfus Commodities Asia Pte Ltd
11.	Mr Neal Sahni	Managing Director, Midstar (Singapore) Pte Ltd
12.	Mr Jakob Bergholdt	Group Vice President, NORDEN Shipping (Singapore) Pte Ltd
13.	Mr Sunny George Verghese	Group MD & CEO, Olam International Limited
14.	Mr Seah Moon Ming	Executive Director and Group CEO, Pavilion Gas Pte Ltd
15.	Mr Glenn Simpson	Asia Supply Manager and Commercial Lead, Phillips 66 International Trading Pte Ltd
16.	Mr Teo Siong Seng	Managing Director, Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd
17.	Mr Dinesh Shahra	Founder and Managing Director, Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd
18.	Dr Philip Choi	President, SIETCO, Shell International Eastern Trading Company
19.	Mr Gerry Craggs	Managing Director, Stemcor (S.E.A) Pte Ltd
20.	Mr Simon Bennett	General Manager, Swire Pacific Offshore Operations (Pte) Ltd
21.	Mr Pierre Lorinet	Managing Director for Asia and Group CFO, Trafigura Pte Ltd
22.	Dato’ Kho Hui Meng	President, Vitol Asia Pte Ltd
23.	Ms Deborah Lim	Lecturer at ITI@SMU
24.	Mr Ganesh Ramchandani	Lecturer at ITI@SMU
25.	Dato Jude Benny	Lecturer at ITI@SMU
26.	Mr Khalid Moinuddin Hashim	Lecturer at ITI@SMU

27.	Mr Olivier Pierre Henry Simottel	Lecturer at ITI@SMU, and Managing Director, Total Trading Asia Pte Ltd
28.	Mr Renato Paladino	Lecturer at ITI@SMU
29.	Cpt Subhangshu Dutt	Lecturer at ITI@SMU
30.	Mr Yong Meng	Lecturer at ITI@SMU
31.	Shaikha Firyal Mahfutz Mattar	SMU Alumna, Class of 2011
32.	Geraldine Cheang	SMU Alumna, Class of 2012
33.	Ng Tien Sung Leon	SMU Alumnus, Class of 2008
34.	Thaddeus Low	SMU Alumnus, Class of 2011
