



AXA RESEARCH FUND AXA CHAIR IN CYBERSECURITY LAUNCH CEREMONY

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Please check against delivery

Dear SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong, Dear Doina, Dear Prof. Deng,

Dear All,

It is a great pleasure to be here today on this outstanding city campus and among such a prestigious crowd composed of academia, entrepreneurs, government officials & AXA experts. We are all gathered for the celebration of the AXA Professorship in Cybersecurity, a first of its kind in Asia.

Being with you today is of particular importance. I guess half of the people present here have an apple product with personal and sensitive information saved in the cloud and we can thank Prof. Deng for being among the ones contributing to protect our data privacy in these cloud servers!

Our presence today gives strong evidence to what the AXA Research Fund is about: a philanthropy initiative created 10 years ago by the global insurance leader AXA to support innovative researchers on life, socio-economic, environmental and data risks.

We are here to support researchers, not just any researcher, but those that are committed and driven to improving our lives, paving the way for progress. It is our role (and I believe this is also our strength) to identify and partner with these change agents and also to empower them in order to feed the public debate so each one of us can all contribute to this progress.

Professor Robert Deng, on behalf of the AXA Research Fund, I am pleased to tell you that you are entering this community of researchers: a club of excellence and exclusivity, but it also means you have now a decisive mission:

1. A mission to conduct cutting-edge innovative and impacting research,
2. A mission to challenge the status quo and disseminate your results in order to improve our future.
3. And a mission to contribute to Data protection and privacy related debates which more than ever, are of extreme importance and need to be on the top agenda of most, if not all countries in Asia.



Prof Deng - you are now joining a community composed of brilliant researchers. Your work already resonates with other supported research by AXA at Georgetown University with Prof. Ohm, or at EPFL with Prof. Ford – all of them are working on related topics with the same commitment.

And we wish you the same paths to success on your research!

Finally, I would like to very much thank the SMU Management and my colleagues from AXA Singapore and the Asia Region for having this opportunity to be part of this strong collaboration and again I will look forward to the next steps of this promising AXA Chair.

Thank you!