

Press release

**Singapore-India Business Dialogue 2014:
Business and academic communities discuss the *Changing Financial Landscapes
in Singapore and India***

Singapore, 21 May 2014 (Wednesday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) held the second Singapore-India Business Dialogue (SIBD) today following a very successful inaugural Dialogue in 2012. This forward-looking conversation and exchange brings together academics and businessmen from Singapore and India, and facilitates the sharing of insights and knowledge. Held shortly after the conclusion of the historic Indian elections, and themed '*The Changing Financial Landscapes in Singapore and India*', the event attracted some 350 business leaders, academic experts and finance professionals with a keen interest on the outlook of India's and Singapore's financial climate.

Mr S. Iswaran, Minister (Prime Minister's Office) and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour. Apart from sharing with the audience on the challenges and opportunities in India, Mr Iswaran also encouraged Singaporeans and local companies to venture into India to seize the opportunities that arise from India's economic growth.

The keynote speaker, Mr Prashant Saran, Whole-Time Member, Securities & Exchange Board of India, spoke about challenges and prospects for India's economy. Stating that India's growth story had suffered a setback in the recent years, Mr Saran added that the new government will need to meet various challenges. These included economic, social, market, institutional, environment and infrastructure issues, among others. Mr Saran also touched on prospects for India in each of these areas and ended with the positive note that the India story is still being written.

Four distinguished business leaders, each possessing a wealth of knowledge about investing and doing business in India, shared their views and experiences as panellists at the Dialogue. They were:

- Mr Manish Kejriwal, Managing Partner, Kedaara Capital Advisors LLP;
- Mr Soumen Mitra, Chief Executive Officer of TATA Capital Pte Ltd;
- Mr Ronald Tan, Director, Listings, Singapore Exchange Limited; and
- Mr Sandeep Sharma, Co-Head, HSBC Private Bank Southeast Asia.

Professor David Lee, Director of Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics, who is also a Professor of Quantitative Finance at the SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business, chaired the panel discussion, which focused on global trends, as well as the key changes to the financial climate in the two countries following the recent India elections, and the implications on businessmen and investors on both sides.

SMU Provost and Deputy President (Academic Affairs), Professor Rajendra K Srivastava, said, “Under SMU’s India Initiatives, we are working towards creating knowledge networks in partnership with leading educational institutions, and by working closely with business organisations and international conglomerates which offer us useful perspectives on how to operate successfully in both markets.”

“Through developing case studies and executive programmes focusing on Asia, and organising forums and high-level dialogue sessions like today’s, we want to generate fresh and forward-looking management understanding of India and the rest of Asia through focused market insights, with SMU fielding the academic content, and our partners providing industry perspectives. In doing so, SMU hopes to contribute to the further deepening of the excellent bilateral relationship and understanding between India and Singapore that the two countries currently enjoy,” he added.

Enclosures:

- Welcome address by Professor Rajendra K Srivastava
- Speech by Minister S. Iswaran
- Keynote address by Mr Prashant Saran
- Annex 1: Fact sheet – About SMU’s India Initiatives

- End -

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. It is known for its interactive and technologically-enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to about 8,000 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, offering a wide range of bachelor’s, master’s and PhD degree programmes in various disciplines.

With an emphasis on generating rigorous, high impact 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 and centres. SMU’s city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with the business and wider community. www.smu.edu.sg

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Annex 1

Fact Sheet – About SMU’s India Initiatives

As Singapore Management University (SMU) shifts from building our undergraduate programmes to building our global reputation as a social science university focused on the world of business and management, we are also cognisant of the fact that the most valuable perspectives that we can offer to both our corporate and academic partners are Asian knowledge and insights. Consequently, our research and education focus is on insights that we can garner from our own region – Singapore, ASEAN, China and India.

We launched the India Initiatives, in conjunction with the inaugural Singapore-India Business Dialogue, on 19 October 2012. Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, was the Guest-of-Honour at the event. SMU’s India initiatives are aimed at creating a knowledge network in collaboration with leading Indian educational institutions and business organisations.

We have, thus far, signed seven Memoranda of Understanding with highly reputed institutions in India, namely, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur; Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi; Bombay Stock Exchange Institute, Mumbai; Birla Institute of Management Technology, Noida; Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak; and Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow.

Besides these academic partnerships, SMU is also actively involved in connecting business communities in Singapore and India. Our initiatives in India also facilitate the forging of ties between business and academia, thereby providing opportunities for business executives and our faculty to work together to enhance the relevance of SMU research to business and society.

For further information on SMU’s India Initiatives, please contact Mr Hernaikh Singh, Associate Director, India Desk, at hernaikhs@smu.edu.sg or 682821950 (DID).