



## **Media release**

### **SMU and Tsinghua University co-organised forum to foster sharing of research and knowledge on the common challenges facing Singapore and China**

***Forum also signified the launch of the SMU Global Forum Series with renowned universities in China and beyond***

**Beijing, 11 April 2014 (Friday)** – The Singapore Management University (SMU) has launched its Global Forum Series in China through a forum jointly organised with Fudan University in Shanghai on 8 April 2014, and with Tsinghua University in Beijing today.

The SMU Global Forum Series is a collaborative initiative between SMU and leading Chinese universities to provide a high-level dialogue platform for leaders from the business, government and academic communities to come together to discuss and debate the key challenges and opportunities arising from China's development, as well as to share Singapore's experiences in transforming its economy and building a harmonious society.

The SMU-Tsinghua Global Forum on Urbanisation and Urban Governance ('Forum') focuses on urbanisation which the new Chinese leadership has identified as a key driver of the Chinese economy at the Third Plenum in November 2013. The new policy will lead to significant challenges and opportunities in areas such as housing, transportation, social integration, employment and poverty.

Dr Liu Thai Ker, Singapore's renowned architect, urban planner and a global thinker on issues related to urban change and development delivered the Keynote Address on 'Singapore as Urban Laboratory', while Dean of Tsinghua University's School of Social Sciences Professor Li Qiang spoke about 'Urbanisation and Integrated Development of Urban and Rural Areas'. SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, Tsinghua University Vice President Professor Xie Wei He, and Mr Eric Teo, Deputy Chief of Mission & Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Singapore to China, were among the dignitaries present at the Forum, which attracted about 100 business leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers and academics.

SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, said "SMU is committed to broadening and deepening our ties with China through research collaboration, exchange programmes, as well as training and development. We believe this will help

contribute to knowledge creation and talent development for both Singapore and China.

“It is our hope that this Forum with Tsinghua University will facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned by both countries in the areas of Urbanisation and Urban Governance, germinate good ideas and offer possible solutions to the common challenges faced by both countries.”

The Forum brought together leading experts from the two universities who shared the findings of their research, as well as senior government officials and business leaders to address the common challenges facing both countries on urbanisation-related issues.

The topics presented and discussed at the Forum today were Managing Urban Transformations, Social Housing and Social Integration & Poverty. There was also a panel discussion during lunch on “Corporate Social Responsibility”. Mr Goh Toh Sim Keppel Corporation’s Chief Representative in China, Ms Dorothy Seet, Chairperson of Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China, Mr Wang Changyong, President of Hebei Guang Cai Investment Co., Ltd, as well as faculty members from SMU and Tsinghua University shared their insights at the panel discussion moderated by Professor Li Qiang, Dean of School of Social Sciences at Tsinghua University.

The SMU Global Forum Series is an integral part of SMU’s China Initiatives which was established in the second quarter of 2012 to raise SMU’s profile in China as a research university in the broad field of social sciences. By doing so, SMU aims to contribute to the Singapore-China collaboration in business, government and civic society by nurturing China-ready and bicultural graduates who are able to function effectively in the business and financial environment in China.

In April 2013, a senior SMU delegation led by President Professor Arnoud De Meyer visited and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Tsinghua University to improve academic education and research, and annual exchange of students.

In November 2013, SMU launched its China Forum in Singapore to foster a deeper understanding of the trends and influences shaping the growth and development of China. Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam was the Guest-of-Honour. Prominent Chinese scholars from leading universities including Peking University, Fudan University and Southwest University of Finance and Economics participated in the high-profile one-day event.

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**For more information, please contact**

Teo Chang Ching (Mr)  
Assistant Director, Corporate Communications  
Office of Corporate Communications & Marketing  
DID: 6828 0451/ 94318353

Fax: 6828 0456  
Email: [ccte@smu.edu.sg](mailto:ccte@smu.edu.sg)

### **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 over 8,300 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, 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 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](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

### **About SMU China Initiatives**

China plays an important role in SMU's next phase of growth and international reputation building. The SMU China Initiatives was launched in late 2012 to focus on enhancing collaboration with existing universities as well as extending our network of partners in China.

SMU's long-term strategy in China is to:

- Raise the international profile, brand name and reputation of SMU in China;
- Improve the quality of students from China admitted into SMU's undergraduate, postgraduate and executive programmes;
- Broaden the engagement between SMU faculty members and their counterparts at leading Chinese universities in joint research and PhD co-supervision;
- Enhance student exchange programmes and internships in China for SMU students.