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与中国五所大学签备忘录 新大交流计划重心“东移”

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新加坡管理大学近日与清华、复旦等五所中国大学签署13份谅解备忘录，以期将学校的交流计划重心逐步从西“东移”，让师生更贴近亚洲经济发展脉搏。

率领10多名教职员到中国访问一周的新大校长迪枚晔（Arnaud De Meyer）昨早在北京记者会上指出，中国在全球事务中扮演重要角色，对世界经济发展有着巨大影响，因此学生有必要加强对中国的认识。

北京是新大访问团此行的第二站。此前在上海访问时，新大已和上海财经大学、复旦大学及上海交通大学签署谅解备忘录。昨午和清华大学会谈后，访问团便续程前往成都，与四川大学洽谈合作。

与这五所中国大学签署的13份谅解备忘录，不仅包括学生互换交流计划，也为新大和个别学府加强学术合作提供了平台。其中，新大就将和复旦大学设立一所联合研究中心，进行发展研究（development studies）。

新大目前与全球200多所大学有合作交流安排，每年出国交流的新大学生有700多人。不过，选择到中国交流的学生非常少，而新大早前和中国高等学府签下的约10个合作项目中，目前也只有四项有较频密的活动。

新大副教务长房映芬分析说，不少新加坡学生都曾到中国旅行，所以在选择交换计划的目的地时都更趋向于欧美国家。此外，有一部分学生也担心语言障碍，无法适应中国的大学以中文授课。

新大将进行扩建

但迪枚晔指出，“目前世界的经济活动中心正逐步转移到亚洲——这不单是指中国，也包括印度和东南亚国家，而我们有义务为学生提供更多机会，让他们与亚洲



新加坡管理大学校长迪枚晔带领一组教职员到访中国多所大学，并与清华、复旦等五所中国大学签署了13项合作备忘录。（黄慧敏摄）

新大将为四川培训政府官员

新大下周一也将与四川行政学院签署协议，为当地中层政府官员干部提供短期培训。四川行政学院于2001年和中共四川省委党校合并，专门负责培训党政领导干部、国家公务员和进行理论研究。

多年来，有不少中国官员干部赴新加坡国立大学和南洋理工大学接受培训或攻读学位。不过新大此次和四川行政学院的合作模式有所不同：与其让干部飞往新加坡上课，新大将安排师资赴四川，在四川行政学院里上课。

的同龄人多交流，向对方学习。”

接下来，新大还会积极地与更多中国大学洽谈新的合作项目，并将进一步巩固和现有伙伴的关系。迪枚晔希望再过几年，新大会有“显著数量”的学生拥有在中国学习的经验。

创立13年来，新大学生人数已

据新大业务开发与对外关系副校长许茵妮介绍，新大将教导干部如何建立管理“公共—私人伙伴关系”（Public-Private Partnership），而培训课程将以单元式进行，每一单元只需三至五天。

相关的收生详情，目前还有待双方进一步讨论，新大最快将于下一季度开始授课。此外，除了在四川行政学院，新大也可能借用职总恒习（NTUC Learning Hub）设于新中广州知识城的设施开课。

激增了25倍，由2000年的306人增至去年的约8000人。这给校园空间和师资带来巨大压力。

迪枚晔直言，随着新大扩展研究生课程规模，学校必然得扩建。

不过他拒绝透露具体详情，只表示“会在适当的时候公布消息”。



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Headline: SMU signs MOUs with five China universities, exchange focus shifts East

Translation:

Singapore Management University (SMU) has recently signed 13 MoUs with five Chinese universities, including Tsinghua University and Fudan University, in a move to shift its academic exchange programmes eastward, so as to bring its academics and students closer to Asia's economic pulse.

Leading a delegation of ten academic and administrative staff on a week-long visit to China, SMU President, Professor Arnoud De Meyer, said at a press conference in Beijing that China plays a pivotal role in global issues and world economics hence it is important for its students to strengthen their knowledge of China.

Beijing is the second stop of SMU's China visit. Prior to this, SMU had signed MoUs with Shanghai University of Finance and Economic, Fudan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University during the Shanghai leg. Following the meeting with Tsinghua University yesterday afternoon, the delegation proceeded to Chengdu for collaboration discussions with Sichuan University.

The 13 MoUs with these five Chinese universities will not only enhance student exchange but also provide SMU and its Chinese counterparts with a platform to strengthen academic exchange. The MoUs included the setting up of a joint research centre jointly by SMU and Fudan University for development studies.

SMU currently has student exchange agreements with over 200 universities worldwide, and sends over 700 students for exchanges annually. However, very few students chose to go on exchange programmes in China. Out of about 10 collaborations previously signed between SMU and Chinese institutions, only four are more active.

SMU Vice Provost, Professor Pang Yang Hoong, explained that because many Singapore students have been to China on their personal travel, they tend to look towards Europe and the United States for their exchange programmes. Some are also concerned about the language barrier and their ability to adapt as classes in the Chinese universities are conducted in Mandarin.

SMU to expand

Professor Arnoud De Meyer pointed out, "There is currently a shift of economic activities towards Asia – not merely in China, but also in India and the Southeast Asian countries. We have the obligation to provide students with more opportunities, to enable them to interact more with their young Asian counterparts and learn from them."

Going forward, SMU will actively engage in discussions on new collaborations with more Chinese universities, and further strengthen its ties with existing partners. Professor Arnoud De Meyer hopes that in a few years' time, SMU will see a 'significant increase' in the number of students who have experienced learning in China.

Since its establishment 13 years ago to date, the number of SMU students has increased sharply by 25 times, from 306 in the year 2000 to almost 8000 last year, putting huge pressure on the university's space and academic resources.

Professor Arnoud De Meyer shared that given the growth of its postgraduate programmes, there is a need for SMU to expand. However, he declined to reveal more, saying that more information 'will be announced at an appropriate time'.

Side story:

SMU to train Sichuan officials

Next week, SMU will also link up with Sichuan Administration Institute to provide short-term training for its mid-level government officials. Sichuan Administration Institute had merged with a Communist Party school in Chengdu in 2001, and is responsible for the training of its party cadres and state officials.

For many years, a sizeable number of China state officials have been enrolling in the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University for training or study. However, SMU's collaboration framework with Sichuan Administration Institute will be different. Instead of having the officials travel to Singapore for their study, SMU will arrange for its academic staff to teach in Sichuan Administration Institute.

According to SMU business development and external relations Vice President, Professor Annie Koh, SMU will be conducting lessons on Public-Private Partnership, with each module lasting three to five days.