



Media Release

SMU appoints Bilahari Kausikan as Senior Fellow for School of Social Sciences

Singapore, 9 October 2013 (Wednesday) - Ambassador-at-Large and Foreign Policy Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bilahari Kausikan will bring his extensive experience in international affairs to the Singapore Management University as a Senior Fellow in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS).

The appointment provides SMU faculty and students access to a veteran diplomat with a long and distinguished career in public service. As Senior Fellow Mr Kausikan will conduct a series of lectures on "Diplomacy in East Asia" from January 2014 which forms part of the School of Social Sciences' International and Asian Studies (IAS) programme.

In addition to the talks, he will also share his invaluable and real-world insights with the SMU community through participating in SOSS and other SMU events during his one-year appointment effective from 1 August 2013.

The IAS is a new multidisciplinary SOSS second major that examines the emerging role of Asia in the world through integrating knowledge from disciplines such as international relations, sociology, political science, economics and law. Students are expected not only to acquire in-depth knowledge on regional and global affairs, but also to gain a better understanding of complex issues concerning Asia and the world through special projects and perspectives from experienced practitioners like Mr Bilahari Kausikan.

"By interacting with and learning from a seasoned diplomat, known for his outspokenness and with the experience and stature of Mr Kausikan, who served at a senior position and played a crucial role in successfully steering Singapore's foreign relations over a period of rapid economic and political changes in the world", said SOSS Dean James Tang, "our students will develop a better appreciation of how diplomacy really works and gain valuable insights on Singapore's international challenges".

The former Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs retired from the Administrative Service in June after 34 years of service in the public sector. Mr Kausikan, who holds a Bachelor of Social Science degree in Political Science from the National University of Singapore and a Master of

Arts degree in Political Science from Columbia University, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Singapore in 1981. He held various appointments in MFA, including First Secretary in Washington, Director for Southeast Asia, Director for East Asia and the Pacific and as Deputy Secretary for Southeast Asia, before his appointment as Singapore's Ambassador to The Russian Federation in 1994. He was appointed Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 1995 and concurrently High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico, and later assumed responsibility as Deputy Secretary in MFA in 1998 and Second Permanent Secretary (Foreign Affairs) in 2001.

Serving as Permanent Secretary (Foreign Affairs) from 2010 to 2013, Mr Kausikan led the Singapore Foreign Service in managing Singapore's foreign relations in an increasingly complex and uncertain international environment. He has played a significant role in promoting Singapore's political, economic and security interests while safeguarding the country's national interests. He has led the Ministry through negotiations on various bilateral issues and was instrumental in promoting Singapore's bilateral relations with various countries. He has also strengthened Singapore's national standing in the international arena.

For his contributions, he was conferred the "Order of Bernardo O'Higgins" with the rank of "Gran Cruz" by the President of the Republic of Chile in December 2002, and "The Oman Civil Merit Order, Second Class" by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman in February 2013. He was also awarded Public Administration Medal (Gold) in August 2001, Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Meritorious Service Medal) in 2012 for his leadership and outstanding contributions to Singapore's Foreign Service.

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About 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 cross-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance, SMU faculty collaborates with leading foreign researchers as well as partners in the business community and public sector through its research institutes and centres. The University also conducts executive education programmes for working professionals. Close relationships with leading universities, including The Wharton School, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, allow SMU to draw on their academic and research strengths in various collaborations.

www.smu.edu.sg

About SMU School of Social Sciences

The School of Social Sciences at SMU was incorporated on 1 April 2007. It offers the Bachelor of Social Science, the first broad-based multidisciplinary social sciences undergraduate programme introduced in Singapore that allows students to major in the main disciplines of Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology.

The School promotes pedagogy of active learning through seminar style classes and opportunities for empirical research. Students are given flexibility to do a second major or second degree from other schools or a second major with the School of Social Sciences including new multidisciplinary second majors in International and Asian Studies and Public Policy and Public management from academic year 2012/13.

The school launched its first postgraduate programme – the PhD in Psychology, in 2010, with a focus on areas in experimental, social, personality, and organisational psychology. Social Science faculty members are active in research and have published in leading journals in their respective fields focusing particularly in cross-cultural and contemporary issues with emphasis on Asia.

www.socsc.smu.edu.sg

For media queries, please contact

Lyn Lee, FOO
Assistant Director, Corporate Communications
Singapore Management University
Email: lfoo@smu.edu.sg
DID: 6808 5328 / 9694 0842