



## Media Release

### **SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business debuts in Financial Times' EMBA Ranking 2015**

*Ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in Asia, 36<sup>th</sup> in the world and the highest-ranked new entrant in 2015*

**Singapore, 19 October 2015 (Monday)** – For the first time, the Singapore Management University (SMU) Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) has been ranked in the Financial Times (FT) Executive MBA Ranking. In its debut, the business school's Executive MBA (EMBA) programme set up four years ago achieved a good standing of 10<sup>th</sup> position among Asian institutions, and 36<sup>th</sup> globally this year. It is also the highest-ranked new entrant in 2015.

The findings of the FT Executive MBA Ranking 2015 reveal that SMU's EMBA graduates commanded the highest salary compared to those from other Singaporean institutions. They are also among the better paid in Asia and the world.

Being ranked highly for pre-EMBA work experiences (6<sup>th</sup> globally and 4<sup>th</sup> in Asia) and the international course experience (21<sup>st</sup> globally and 5<sup>th</sup> in Asia), the SMU EMBA provides outstanding exposure through its senior student profile and global exposure. It is also notable that LKCSB made the top 100 on the first year of qualifying for FT's EMBA rankings.

**Professor Gerard George, Dean of SMU's Lee Kong Chian School of Business, and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship**, said, "I'm delighted that yet another programme from our School has been recognised by *Financial Times* as among the best in the world. Taught interactively in a dynamic city campus in Singapore with study stints in China, India and the USA, the SMU EMBA offers a truly global education that prepares the modern leader for top leadership roles in Asia. In a relatively short span of four years, we have been successful in attracting senior leaders from a wide variety of industries across Asia, Europe and the Middle East, with more than 75 per cent of the class comprising C-suite and Director-level executives with an average of 20 years of working experience. This accolade is a strong testimony to the high-quality education that we offer; it also reaffirms our journey towards being the best among Asian business schools."

The SMU EMBA, which was first introduced in 2011, is an innovative programme designed to provide the modern leader with both Asian and global business perspectives. Delivered in a combination of intense one to two week-long sessions and concentrated three-day weekends, the 12-month modular programme offers overseas study segments held in renowned partner universities, namely the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University in China, the Indian School of Business in India, and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in the USA. This offers participants the unique opportunity to learn from four world-class institutions.

Notably, its curriculum has been designed in consultation with more than 100 corporate leaders from Asia, resulting in first-of-its-kind or customised modules such as "Agile and Disruptive Strategy", "Network and Alliance Building" etc. Professors with vast international research and

consultancy experiences teach in small-size classes comprising a very senior profile of students who are industry leaders from diverse backgrounds, to offer participants an enriching experience. The programme, which received its fifth cohort in May 2015, has graduated more than 130 graduates from 20 countries in the past four years.

This is FT's 15<sup>th</sup> annual ranking of EMBA degrees. EMBA programmes must meet strict criteria in order to be considered for the ranking – schools must be accredited by either the American AACSB or the European EQUIS accreditation bodies, and the programmes must have run for at least four consecutive years. This year, 129 programmes from across six regions, namely Africa, Asia/Oceania, Europe, Middle East, North America and South America, took part in the ranking process.

In June this year, SMU LKCSB ranked third in the world in the *Financial Times (FT) Global Masters in Finance Post-experience Ranking 2015* for its Master of Science in Wealth Management (MWM) programme. The School is the only institution in Asia to make it to the top five positions globally, placing just after London Business School and University of Cambridge's Judge Business School. The business school also emerged second in Asia and 34<sup>th</sup> in the world in the *FT Global Masters in Finance Pre-experience Ranking 2015* for its Master of Science in Applied Finance (MAF) programme. According to FT, LKCSB is the first school to have ever been featured in both the Pre-experience and Post-experience rankings, and is the highest-positioned new entrant.

For full results and more details, please refer to the following:

- FT EMBA Rankings 2015: <http://rankings.ft.com/exportranking/executive-mba-ranking-2015/pdf>
- FT EMBA Rankings 2015 Methodology: <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/86fa3b0a-570f-11e5-9846-de406ccb37f2.html#axzz3oyOQyXer>

Enclosure:

- Images of SMU LKCSB and SMU

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### **About Lee Kong Chian School of Business**

SMU commenced its curriculum in 2000 with the School of Business, which welcomed its pioneer cohort of students in August 2000. In 2004, the Lee Foundation contributed S\$50 million to SMU in honour of the late Dr Lee Kong Chian, a well-known Southeast Asian businessman, philanthropist and community leader. In recognition of the Lee Foundation's generosity, SMU named in perpetuity the School of Business, the building and the university-wide scholars programme after Dr Lee Kong Chian.

Today, Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) is a dynamic Asian business school with about 3,500 students and over a hundred full-time faculty members with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities such as Cornell, Harvard, INSEAD, Oxford, Stanford and Yale. The school offers undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes and is affiliated with a number of research centres such as the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics and the Centre for Marketing Excellence.

In 2011, LKCSB received both the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation and a five-year EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) accreditation. For both accreditations, the School has the distinction of being one of the youngest schools in the world to be accredited. In June 2012, LKCSB also gained admission into the EMBA Council to join the ranks of other internationally-renowned business schools. SMU LKCSB is currently ranked fourth in Asia and

58th worldwide in the University of Texas, Dallas rankings for research contributions for the period 2010 – 2014. [www.business.smu.edu.sg](http://www.business.smu.edu.sg)

### **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. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 8,800 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. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors, masters and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant 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, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

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