



Joint Press Release

SMU and SmartPort Institute collaborate to promote education, teaching and research

MOU covers partnership in the domains of international commodity trading, maritime and port economics, port management and strategy

Singapore and Rotterdam, 25 June 2015 (Thursday) – Ports around the world face complex, multi-dimensional challenges, such as sustainability and congestion issues, which need to be tackled through a multi-disciplinary approach, enabled by multi-disciplinary research. It is with this in mind that the Singapore Management University (SMU) and SmartPort Institute have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together in curriculum development as well as teaching and research collaborations, covering various areas of key importance. These areas include international commodity trading, maritime and port economics, and port management and strategy.

The SmartPort Institute is a unique global institute representing the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Delft University of Technology, Port of Rotterdam Authority, Port of Rotterdam business association Deltalinqs and the City of Rotterdam. The SMU's International Trading Institute, or ITI@SMU, was established through a collaborative effort between leading industry players in Singapore's trading sector, SMU and International Enterprise (IE) Singapore in 2007, and is the first trading institute in the world to be set up within a university.

The MOU was signed on Tuesday morning, 23 June 2015, in Rotterdam by Professor Annie Koh, SMU's Vice President for Business Development and Academic Director of ITI@SMU, and Dr Michiel Jak, Managing Director of SmartPort Institute, and was witnessed by Mr Maarten Struijvenberg, Alderman, City of Rotterdam. The ceremony took place at the inaugural MARE Commodities Forum which serves to connect the commodities community with the maritime and shipping communities, and is a platform where leading players in these sectors exchange their expertise.

On the partnership, Professor Annie Koh said, "The Asia-Europe trade link is an important route connecting the global commodities supply chain, maritime and shipping industries. We are excited and honoured to partner SmartPort Institute to promote education and research between two of the world's key commodities trading and maritime centres – Rotterdam and Singapore. This MOU will certainly strengthen the synergy between our two cities, by allowing both our institutes to cooperate on innovation creation, knowledge creation, as well as to develop curriculum for the nurturing of young talents and advancement of senior leaders in these sectors. It also complements the existing MOU between the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Port of Rotterdam Authority which was inked in April 2015."

On specific benefits to future talents and existing professionals, Professor Koh said, "Currently, ITI@SMU's undergraduate programme, offered through the International Trading Concentration and Maritime Economics Concentration, already offers broad industry learning in the forms of study missions, local and overseas internships, overseas exchange and international career opportunities. I'm confident that this MOU will strengthen and expand the learning and networking opportunities that we are able to offer our students."

Additionally, SMU had, in April 2015, partnered with the MPA Academy to develop and deliver the Advanced Maritime Leaders Programme for senior maritime officials from 12 countries. "Following this partnership with SmartPort Institute, I believe that more of such customised programmes can be made available for different ports and international maritime clusters in Asia," she added.

Dr Michiel Jak said, "The international collaboration with ITI@SMU is an important contribution to the value creation that SmartPort offers the Rotterdam port community. Exchange on R&D, training and education with our Singapore counterpart will enhance the capabilities and expertise of business professionals and academics. SMU and SmartPort will combine the brainpower of two leading smart ports in order to maintain a competitive advantage."

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About SMU

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, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of 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

About ITI@SMU

SMU's International Trading Institute, or ITI@SMU, was formed in 2007 as the result of a collaborative effort between SMU, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and leading industry players in the trading sector. The first trading institute in the world to be set up within a university, ITI@SMU boasts a specialist focus on international trading and is supported by a unique public-private partnership. ITI@SMU is Singapore's premier industry platform for thought leadership and talent development in the arena of international trading.

The Institute launched the International Trading Concentration (ITC) in 2007 with the primary aim of providing in-depth knowledge on the trading sector to prepare SMU undergraduates for careers with companies operating in the trading value chain, through various experiential learning

opportunities. The programme is offered to SMU students who have opted for Finance as a major in SMU's Bachelor of Business Management (BBM) programme.

From 2013, the Maritime Economics Concentration (MEC), a multidisciplinary programme, was offered by the SMU School of Economics in partnership with ITI@SMU. Supported by the Singapore Maritime Institute and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, MEC aims to produce SMU graduates who are equipped to meet the talent needs of Singapore's growing maritime industry. The MEC is designed to ensure that students establish a firm foundation in economics and develop essential knowledge and contextualised skills relevant for maritime related roles.

About SmartPort Institute

The SmartPort Institute represents the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Delft University of Technology, Port of Rotterdam Authority, Port of Rotterdam business association Deltalinqs and the City of Rotterdam. A unique global institute, the SmartPort Institute aims to connect knowledge between universities, port-related industries and government stakeholders that develop in collaboration roadmaps for World Port City, Maritime Infrastructures, Logistics Connectivity, Energy & Chemistry and Port Strategy. www.smart-port.nl

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