

**Welcome Remarks by SMU Chairman Piyush Gupta
at the Official Launch of SMU China
22 October 2026, 6.40pm, Raffles Hotel Shenzhen**

Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State Low Yen Ling;
Singapore Consul-General in Guangdong, Ms Cindy Wee;
SMU Board of Trustees;
Council Chair, Mr Daryl Ng, and members of the SMU International Advisory Council China;
SMU university and industry partners, donors, alumni, colleagues, students and friends:

大家晚上好！

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the launch of SMU China — Singapore Management University's first overseas centre in China, right here in Shenzhen. Today, we are not simply opening a new office. We are opening a new chapter in SMU's relationship with China — and in our contribution to Asia.

This is a significant moment for SMU because it brings to life a vision that has guided our institution from the very beginning.

From the start, SMU was designed to look outward: to connect Singapore with the world through education, impactful research, and meaningful collaboration.

The opening of SMU China here in Shenzhen is a natural expression of that founding purpose.

Why Shenzhen, and why now?

Asia is not simply participating in the next phase of global growth. It is helping to shape it. Across the region, economies and societies are being transformed by technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, changing consumer behaviour, and increasingly integrated supply chains. Universities that aspire to understand and contribute to Asia's future must be present where these transformations are taking place.

Shenzhen is one such place. It is a city defined by innovation, enterprise, ambition, and speed. It brings together world-class technology companies, pioneering research, dynamic entrepreneurs and a remarkable spirit of experimentation.

Shenzhen is also deeply connected to the Greater Bay Area, China, and the global economy. For SMU, this makes Shenzhen a natural base for our continued engagement with China.

Our presence here builds on real momentum. Today, we mark this commitment through the signing of key memoranda of understanding with our strategic partners: ‘Go Global’ Global Service Centre; Shenzhen Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation, CIIC International Business Development Co. Ltd.; and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen). Together, these partnerships will drive joint research, academic exchanges, student internships and career pathways, leadership development, and cross-border expansion for enterprises across Shenzhen and Southeast Asia.

Physical presence matters. Universities cannot fully understand changing economies and evolving societies from a distance. Being on the ground allows us to engage directly with the companies, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, students, alumni, and communities who are shaping the future.

It allows us to listen more closely, learn more deeply, and contribute more meaningfully.

A bridge between China and Southeast Asia

We see Shenzhen as our launchpad for deepening SMU’s engagement across China. But we do not view Shenzhen in isolation.

The distinctive opportunity before us is to create a vibrant corridor connecting the Shenzhen–Greater Bay Area ecosystem with Singapore and Southeast Asia. SMU China will be a gateway into China and a bridge to Southeast Asia. It will create new opportunities for students and alumni, faculty, researchers, businesses, and partners to collaborate across borders and generate lasting value for our societies.

This is what internationalisation means to SMU.

It is not simply about expanding our physical footprint. It is about being meaningfully present where we can contribute, and where our partnerships can create genuine, long-term impact.

We are also conscious that we are operating in an increasingly complex global environment. Universities must remain open to international exchange while being thoughtful and purposeful about the partnerships we build.

At SMU, our approach is grounded in trust, mutual respect, institutional responsibility, and a shared commitment to positive impact. That is the spirit in which we are opening SMU China.

Looking ahead

The launch of SMU China is an important pillar in SMU's journey as a premier, Asia-focused university. But the opening of this centre is only the beginning.

The true measure of our success will be what this centre enables: deeper exchanges, ambitious research collaborations, stronger industry partnerships, richer learning opportunities, and tangible benefits for Singapore, China, Southeast Asia, and beyond. To our partners, colleagues, alumni, friends, and supporters gathered here tonight: thank you. This centre has been made possible by your vision, generosity, and commitment.

The true character and impact of this centre will be shaped by the people it connects, the ideas it advances and the partnerships it builds. Together, we can make it a place where Singapore and China meet, where Southeast Asia connects with the world, and where knowledge is translated into meaningful impact.

On behalf of SMU, I extend my deepest appreciation to everyone who has helped bring us to this moment.

And now, it is my distinct pleasure to invite our President, Professor Lily Kong, to share how this vision will come to life through our students, our partnerships, and our work across China and Southeast Asia.

Thank you very much, and welcome once again to SMU China.

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**新加坡管理大学董事会主席高博德先生
SMU 中国中心揭幕仪式欢迎辞
2026 年 10 月 22 日，深圳鹏瑞莱佛士酒店**

尊敬的主宾、新加坡能源、贸易及工业部兼文化、社区及青年部高级政务部长刘燕玲女士；

新加坡驻广州领事馆总领事黄美美女士；

SMU 董事会各位成员；

SMU 中国国际咨询委员会主席黄永光先生及各位委员；

各位高校与业界伙伴、捐赠人、校友、同仁、同学及各位朋友：

大家晚上好！欢迎各位出席 SMU 中国中心揭幕仪式。这是 SMU 首个在华海外中心，落址于深圳。此时此刻，我们不仅新设了一处办事机构，更是翻开了 SMU 与中国合作共赢的全新篇章，也为 SMU 助力亚洲发展续写了浓墨重彩的一笔。

这是 SMU 发展进程中具有里程碑意义的一步，因为它让建校之初便指引我们的愿景真正落地。

自建校之初，SMU 便确立了开放办学的定位：以优质教育、前沿研究与深度合作为纽带，推动新加坡连结世界。

SMU 中国中心落地深圳，正是这一初心的必然延续与生动实践。

为什么是深圳？为什么是现在？

如今，亚洲地区不再只是全球经济增长的参与者，更是塑造未来发展格局的重要力量。当前，技术创新、创业活力、消费升级与产业链融合，正深刻重塑亚洲各经济体与社会形态。有志于回应亚洲发展需求、贡献亚洲未来建设的大学，必须扎根于变革发生的前沿阵地。

深圳正是这样一片热土。它是一座以创新、进取、雄心与快节奏为鲜明标志的城市，汇聚了顶尖科技企业、前沿科研成果、新锐创业者，更秉持着敢为人先的探索精神。深圳同时深度融入粤港澳大湾区发展、连结中国市场与全球经济网络，自然成为 SMU 深化对华合作的理想枢纽。

落地深圳，并非从零起步。今天，SMU 通过与各战略合作伙伴签署重要合作备忘录，将这一承诺付诸行动。签约方包括：全球服务中心 Go Global、深圳市国际交流合作基金会、中智国际商务发展有限公司以及香港中文大学（深圳）。依托上述合作，各方将携手推动联合研究与学术交流、学生实习与就业、领导力发展、企业国际化，以及深圳与东南亚之间的互联互通。

但实体化运营仍不可或缺。仅靠远程对接，难以精准把握经济与社会的动态演进；扎根当地，才能与企业、创业者、政策制定者、研究人员、学生、校友及各界同仁面对面交流，共同谋划未来发展。

唯有贴近一线，我们才能更精准地倾听需求、更深入地研究问题、更务实地贡献价值。

中国与东南亚之间的桥梁

我们将以深圳为基点，全面拓展 SMU 在中国各领域的合作版图。与此同时，深圳的价值绝非单点突破。

我们更看重其独特优势，即打造粤港澳大湾区生态与新加坡及东南亚地区互联互通的活力通道。SMU 中国中心，既是了解中国的窗口，也是中国连接东南亚的桥梁。中心将为学生与校友、教职与研究人员、企业及合作伙伴搭建跨境协作平台，携手创造惠及各方的长期价值。

这正是 SMU 国际化战略的核心要义。

不是单纯增设海外中心，而是在有条件、能贡献的地方深度扎根，推动合作落地见效，形成可持续的正向影响。

我们也清楚，当前全球环境日趋复杂，大学在坚持开放交流的同时，也需审慎选择合作方向、精准设计合作模式。

SMU 始终秉持信任、尽责、相互尊重的原则开展合作，以创造积极价值为共同目标——这正是 SMU 中国中心成立与运营的根本遵循。

展望未来

SMU 中国中心的揭幕，是 SMU 建设亚洲顶尖学府进程中的重要节点，但这仅仅是起点。

SMU 中国中心的价值，最终将体现在能否促成更深入的交流、更具影响力的科研攻关、更紧密的校企协同、更优质的教育资源供给，让新加坡、中国、东南亚及更多地区切实受益。感谢今晚在座的各位伙伴、同仁、校友、朋友与支持者！正是各位的远见、支持与付出，才让 SMU 中国中心从构想成为现实。

SMU 中国中心的特质与影响力，将由它所连接的人群、所传递的理念、所促成的合作不断塑造。同心同行，这里必将成为新中交流的纽带、东南亚连结世界的枢纽，更成为知识转化为发展动能的实践高地。

我谨代表 SMU，向所有促成此事的各界朋友致以最诚挚的谢意！

接下来，有请 SMU 校长江莉莉教授发言，为我们介绍如何依托师生力量、拓展合作网络，将这一发展蓝图在中国与东南亚各地落地生根。

衷心感谢各位，再次欢迎各位来到 SMU 中国中心。

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