

Citation for the Conferral of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa)

on Ms Yip Pin Xiu

Singapore Management University wishes to confer upon Ms Yip Pin Xiu the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), in tribute to her remarkable accomplishments and the positive impact she has made through her service and example.

Ms Yip Pin Xiu is Singapore's most decorated Paralympian and Southeast Asia's most accomplished swimming Paralympian. A seven-time Paralympic gold medallist and eight-time World Champion, she holds multiple world records in the S2 backstroke events. Across successive Paralympic Games, she has achieved the rare and remarkable distinction of retaining her gold medals, setting new benchmarks of excellence on the global stage. Through her extraordinary performances, Ms Yip has brought honour and distinction to Singapore, elevating the nation's standing in elite sport while redefining what is possible in the face of adversity.

Diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth syndrome, Ms Yip has surmounted significant physical challenges with quiet determination, discipline, and resilience. From a young athlete competing in international meets to a world-renowned champion, her journey has been marked by steadfast commitment and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. Her achievements are not only measured in medals and records, but also in the inspiration she offers to people from all walks of life — demonstrating that limitations can transcend through courage, perseverance, and hard work.

Beyond the pool, Ms Yip has been a dedicated and influential advocate for greater inclusivity and accessibility. She has worked actively with governmental and community organisations to advance opportunities and support for persons with disabilities, and has contributed meaningfully to shaping a more equitable and compassionate society. During her tenure as a Nominated Member of Parliament, she spoke with clarity and conviction on issues of social importance, championing causes such as accessibility, inclusion, and the well-being of vulnerable groups. Her advocacy has helped to deepen public awareness and foster a more inclusive national conversation on disability and social equity.

An alumna of Singapore Management University, Ms Yip graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science and exemplifies the University's values of leadership, resilience, and service. Her enduring connection with SMU is reflected in the establishment of the Yip Pin Xiu Scholarship, which recognises and supports student-athletes who demonstrate excellence in both sports and character. Her journey continues to inspire our students to pursue their aspirations with determination, to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and to contribute meaningfully to society.

Ms Yip Pin Xiu's life and achievements stand as a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, courage, and purpose. She has not only excelled at the highest levels of sport, but has also enriched society through her advocacy and leadership, embodying the ideals of excellence, inclusivity, and service.

In recognition of her exceptional achievements and her outstanding contributions to society, Singapore Management University is honoured to confer upon Ms Yip Pin Xiu the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa).

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