

**SMU Commencement for Class of 2025,
Opening Ceremony
SMU Hall, Tuesday 29 July 2025, 1pm
Speech by SMU Chairman Mr Piyush Gupta**

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Ron Sim, Founder and Executive Chairman of V3 Group;

Chancellor of Singapore Management University, Mr Lim Chee Onn;

Pro-Chancellors Mr Eddie Teo and Mr Kuok Khoon Ean;

Members of SMU Board of Trustees;

SMU President, Professor Lily Kong;

Faculty, staff, and the Class of 2025;

Parents and guests.

Welcome to this very special Commencement ceremony.

Today, we gather to celebrate your individual achievements and graduation during a significant year which is not only the 25th anniversary of the Singapore Management University, but also Singapore's 60th year of independence.

This serendipitous co-incidence reminds us of how far we've come — as a university and as a nation — and of how your generation will write the next chapter in both these stories.

[Reflections on SMU's Journey]

When SMU was founded in 2000, it was envisioned as a bold experiment — one that would rethink higher education for a new era.

Twenty-five years on, that vision has taken root and flourished. SMU has produced over 40,000 graduates who are now leaders and changemakers across business, government, social impact, and the arts. We've championed interactive, interdisciplinary, and global learning. And we've built a university community defined not only by excellence, but by purpose and heart.

This is not just a moment to look back with pride — but to look forward with confidence. You, our graduates, are entering a world that is more complex and fast-changing than ever. But you are also uniquely equipped to thrive in it — with an SMU education, a strong sense of values, and a global mindset.

[Looking Ahead – A Broader Context]

As Singapore celebrates its 60th year, it too is at a point of reflection and renewal.

Our society and economy will continue to evolve — and much like SMU, Singapore must keep reimagining what excellence and relevance mean.

In that sense, your journey mirrors the country's. We hope you'll go on to create positive impact and contribute boldly to Singapore's story — not only with success, but with significance.

[Introduction of Guest of Honour – Mr Ron Sim]

It is now my honour to introduce someone who embodies that very idea — of building success with significance: our Guest of Honour, Mr Ron Sim, Founder and Executive Chairman of V3 Group.

Mr Sim is one of Singapore's most recognised entrepreneurs — having built OSIM into a global wellness brand and led V3 Group to new heights in lifestyle and consumer innovation.

But what truly distinguishes Ron is not just his business acumen, but his commitment to community and legacy.

At SMU, we are fortunate to count Ron as a cherished partner.

- He is a Founding Family Member of the SMU Business Families Institute (BFI), which supports business families across generations.
- His company, V3 Group, donated \$3 million to establish the V3 Group Professorship in Family Entrepreneurship at SMU.
- And this generous gift supports cutting-edge research and programmes focused on best practices in family entrepreneurship — a key area for Singapore and Asia.

Through this partnership, Ron has reinforced a powerful idea: that entrepreneurs from family businesses are not only builders of wealth but also stewards of community — with a responsibility to give back, to uplift, and to create lasting value.

We are honoured to have him with us today — and I know his story and insights will inspire all of you as you embark on your own journeys.

Thank you, and may your lives, like his, be filled with purpose, success, and fulfilment.

Please join me in welcoming Mr Ron Sim.

END.