

SMU celebrates its 21st birthday

Reiterated the University's three growth strategies including digital transformation

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The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the whole world and Professor Lily Kong, SMU President said that SMU is even more convinced now that its three strategic priorities of digital transformation, sustainable living, and growth in Asia for the university's next phase of growth, is a step taken in the right direction.

SMU celebrates its 21st birthday this year. Professor Lily Kong made a speech at the online ceremony the night before. In the recorded video, she said SMU has entered "adulthood" with much energy and zest, and is optimistic about the future.

With the launch of SMU Vision 2025 last year, SMU has set digital transformation, sustainable living, and growth in Asia as the three strategic priority areas for the university's next phase of growth. Professor Lily Kong pointed out that SMU hopes to contribute to the relevant fields by nurturing talents needed by the industries, while promoting thought leadership.

Digital technology has enabled SMU to continue its teaching and research work before and after the circuit breaker was imposed last year. From this year onwards, SMU's School of Information Systems has been renamed School of Computing and Information Systems, reflecting the University's hopes in helping to nurture technology professionals.

Concept of sustainable living in teaching as well

Amid the global fight against Covid-19, Professor Lily Kong said that more focus has been placed on how one is able to lead a sustainable lifestyle. SMU has been exploring ways to promote sustainable living through research on legal and regulatory frameworks. The University also implements the concept of sustainable living in its teaching.

With our economy and regional economies showing signs of recovery, Professor Lily Kong also emphasised that SMU can contribute to regional development with its understanding of Asia. Last but not least, she urged all staff and students to stay united, exercise flexibility and creativity, so as to enable SMU to continue to exert its influence both locally and internationally.

In a pre-recorded video, President Halimah Yacob, who is also SMU Patron, praised SMU for rising to the ranks of one of the top universities in Asia in the short time span since its

establishment. President Halimah also acknowledged SMU's push to prepare its students for the challenges in the post-Covid era.

The festivities for 21 days, both online and offline, celebrate the progress and achievements of SMU over the years. One of the main highlights is a "larger-than-life bookshelf", transformed from the walls of the Li Ka Shing Library. The installation symbolises the wealth of knowledge that glows with SMU's 21 years of research and thought leadership.

Photo caption:

The walls of Li Ka Shing Library at SMU's campus at Stamford Road are dressed up as a "larger-than-life bookshelf". The installation symbolises the wealth of knowledge that glows with SMU's 21 years of research and thought leadership. (Photo provided by SMU)