



## Media Release

### **SMU Welcomes Mr Timothy Chia Chee Ming as a new Member of SMU**

*Singapore, 29 April 2021 (Thursday)* - The Singapore Management University is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr Timothy Chia Chee Ming** (谢志明) as a new Member of the University with effect from 15 April 2021. The appointment was made by the SMU Board of Trustees.

The Members of SMU, together with its Board of Trustees, are key stakeholders of the University and play an important role in the overall governance structure of SMU. Constitutionally, Members are expected to further, to the best of their abilities, “the objects, interests, and influence of the Company”. Any changes to SMU’s Constitution also require the approval of the Members. In addition, Members are required to participate in all Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings held by SMU.

Mr Timothy Chia succeeds Dr Lee Seng Tee who has stepped down after having served as one of the founding members of SMU since January 2000. The other Members of SMU are Chairman of the SMU Board of Trustees, Mr Ho Kwon Ping and SMU Chancellor, Mr Lim Chee Onn.

Over the course of Dr Lee Seng Tee’s illustrious term as an SMU member, Dr Lee’s reputation as one of Singapore’s leading leaders of society and the corporate sector was an important factor in helping SMU build up its reputation, especially in its formative years. His association with SMU from its early days clearly signalled to society that this newly formed institution was an institution fully deserving of his support and had tremendous potential.

Taking over from Dr Lee, Mr Chia has a wealth of experience in the corporate sector, specifically in the finance, banking and insurance industry. He is Chairman of Hup Soon Global Corporation Private Limited and Gracefield Holdings Limited. He is also a Director at Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd, Fraser and Neave Limited, Singapore Power Ltd, The Straits Trading Company Limited, Ceylon Guardian Investment Trust PLC, Ceylon Investment PLC, Vertex Venture Holdings Ltd, Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad and Thai Beverage Public Company Limited. In 2020, he was appointed Chairman of InnoVen Capital Private Limited and its group of companies. He was also a former member of the SMU Board of Trustees. His CV can be found in the Annex.

Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman of the SMU Board of Trustees, said, “SMU is privileged to have Mr Timothy Chia as our new Member and we look forward to his deep wealth of knowledge and experiences that will take SMU forward as we are in the midst of our 21st year as a global-city university in Asia. I would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr Lee Seng Tee for his leadership and guidance as a founding member of SMU. His attendance at important university events and general meetings; and interactions with university colleagues will always be remembered with much gratitude.

-End-

For media queries, please contact:

Corinne Kang

Assistant Director, Corporate Communications, SMU

DID: +65 68085238

Email: [corinne kang@smu.edu.sg](mailto:corinne kang@smu.edu.sg)

### **About Singapore Management University**

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 to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning.

Home to over 11,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU comprises six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, Yong Pung How 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 multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

**Mr Chia Chee Ming, Timothy***Chairman**Hup Soon Global Corporation Private Limited**Gracefield Holdings Limited*

Mr Timothy C. M. Chia is Chairman of Hup Soon Global Corporation Private Limited and Gracefield Holdings Limited.

He was the President of PAMA Group Inc. (previously known as Prudential Asset Management Asia Limited, the Asian investment and asset management arm of The Prudential Insurance Company of America). He retired from PAMA Group of Companies on 31 December 2004. In 2007, he founded Hup Soon Global Corporation and became its founding Chairman.

Prior to joining PAMA, as one of the original principals in 1986, Mr Chia was Vice President - Investment of American International Assurance Company Limited (AIA), a major subsidiary of the American International Group, Inc., New York (AIG).

Mr Chia is currently a Director of Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd, Fraser and Neave Limited, Singapore Power Ltd, The Straits Trading Company Limited, Ceylon Guardian Investment Trust PLC, Ceylon Investment PLC, Vertex Venture Holdings Ltd, Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad and Thai Beverage Public Company Limited. In 2020, he was appointed Chairman of InnoVen Capital Private Limited and its group of companies.

He was made Chairman of UBS AG – Asia in October 2009 and retired in September 2011. He stepped down as Senior Advisers to JM Financial Singapore Pte Ltd and EQT Funds Management Limited in 2015. He was Chairman - Asia of Coutts & Co Ltd, the wealth management arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, from January 2012 to March 2016.

Amongst his past appointments, Mr Chia was director of SP PowerAsset Ltd, Power Gas Ltd, SPI (Australia) Assets Pty Ltd, Singapore Post Ltd, FJ Benjamin Holdings Ltd, Frasers Centrepoint Ltd, Macquarie Pacific Star Prime REIT Management Ltd, The Hour Glass Ltd, KorAm Bank Co. (Korea), Meritz Securities Co., Ltd (Korea) and Magnecomp Precision Technology Public Co., Ltd (Thailand).

Mr Chia stepped down as Trustee of the Singapore Management University in January 2019 but is currently serving as Chairman of its Committee for Institutional Advancement. In April 2021, Mr Chia is appointed as Member of the Singapore Management University.

In 2010, The Singapore Venture Capital and Private Equity Association inducted Mr Chia into the “SVCA Hall of Fame” as its inaugural member by naming him “Pioneer Venture Capitalist & Private Equity Investor since 1986”.

In October 2015, Mr Chia has been appointed as Advisory Council Member of the ASEAN Business Club (“ABC”) and the co-chair of ABC Singapore.

In January 2016, Mr Chia has been appointed as Member of the Advisory Board of the Asian Civilization Museum and serves on the Investment Committee of the National Heritage Board.

In July 2017, Mr Chia is named a Term Trustee of the Singapore Indian Development Association (“SINDA”) and is a member of its Investment Committee.

In February 2019, Mr Chia has been appointed as Member of the Corporate Governance Advisory Committee of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

He is currently a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Directors and a member of the World Presidents’ Organization.

In 1996, Mr Chia was elected a Director of the Singapore Dance Theatre until he stepped down in March 2004 and in September 2004, was conferred the Arts Supporter Award by the National Arts Council.

Mr Chia graduated with a cum laude in Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University in the United States.