

# REIMAGINING UNIVERSITIES, POST-COVID

The impact of Covid-19 has been dramatic and transformative on education systems around the world. In the higher education sector, Covid-19 has caused institutions to challenge deep-rooted notions of when, where, and how they deliver education, of the role of universities and the distinction we draw between traditional and non-traditional students. So, how are universities rethinking the basic purposes of education, and the pedagogic models better suited for the ever-present possibilities of insecurity, risk, and relentless change?

The Straits Times Education Forum 2021 on Reimagining Universities, Post-Covid, held in partnership with Singapore Management University, will examine the ripple effects of the coronavirus pandemic on higher education and the changes that it will forge.

Come listen to Education Minister Lawrence Wong, SMU president Lily Kong and ST's senior education correspondent Sandra Davie discuss the changes to come.

The webinar will be moderated by Lydia Lim, head of SPH Schools and Education.

## SPEAKER PROFILES



**Prof Lily Kong**

*President  
 Singapore Management University  
 (SMU)*

Professor Kong is SMU's fifth President, and the first Singaporean to lead the 21-year old university. She is also the first Singaporean woman to head a university in Singapore. She was previously Provost of SMU; Vice Provost and Vice President at the National University of Singapore (in various portfolios), and Executive Vice President (Academic) of Yale-NUS College.

Prof Kong is internationally known for her research on social and cultural change in Asian cities, focusing on a range of issues ranging from religion, cultural policy and creative economy, urban heritage and conservation, to smart cities. An award-winning researcher and teacher, Prof Kong has received five international fellowship awards and has also won the Association of American Geographers Robert Stoddard Award for Distinguished Service (Geography of Religion and Belief Systems).

Prof Kong was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2006 and the Public Service Star in 2020. She was among 25 recognised on Forbes Asia's Power Businesswomen list in 2020.



**Lawrence Wong**

*Minister for Education  
 Singapore*

Mr Lawrence Wong is the Minister for Education and the Second Minister for Finance.

Mr Wong co-chairs the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19, and is a member of the GIC Board, the Future Economy Council, the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council and the National Research Foundation Board. He also co-chairs the Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council.

He chairs the PAP Community Foundation and contributes to the labour movement as Chairman of the Singapore Labour Foundation, and Advisors to the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) U Associate Leaders' Circle, and the Union of Power and Gas Employees.

Beginning his career as a civil servant, Mr Wong had worked previously as the Chief Executive of the Energy Market Authority and the Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

He obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.



**Sandra Davie**

*Senior Education  
 Correspondent  
 The Straits Times*

She was a junior college teacher before joining the newspaper. As a young reporter, she covered a range of topics from health to education. She honed her investigative journalism skills further at The Philadelphia Inquirer on a Knight Ridder fellowship and on her return joined a special report team and wrote many award-winning stories.

She became Education Correspondent in 1998 and has since written extensively on education issues. She has a BA from the National University of Singapore and a MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

## MODERATOR



**Lydia Lim**

*Head  
 SPH Schools and Education  
 Singapore Press Holdings (SPH)*

Since joining the paper in 1999, she has covered local politics, policies and Singapore-Malaysia relations, three journalism beats that have taken her around the island and the world, including to international courts in Hamburg and the Hague for sovereignty disputes over reclamation and Pedra Branca.

She now heads the SPH teams of journalists and teaching experts who produce student publications in four languages and News in Education content. She continues to write as a columnist for The Straits Times. She has a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford and was John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University.

## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021

9.30AM	Registration
10:00AM	Start of Forum
	Panel discussion
	Question & answer session
11:15AM	End of Forum

Sign up at <https://str.sg/JDxs> by Jan 29, 6pm  
 (Limited virtual seats on a first-come-first-served basis)