

Renaming of SMU School of Information Systems as  
**School of Computing and Information Systems**  
**Speech by SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping**  
Singapore Management University  
15 January 2021

Members of the Board of Advisors of the School of Computing and Information Systems

Faculty, staff and students of SMU

Ladies and gentlemen

I'm sorry I can't be with you to celebrate this important occasion, but I'm pleased to be able to share a few thoughts with you via this virtual mode.

Today marks so much more than a change of name for the School of Information Systems to the School of Computing and Information Systems or SCIS for short. It denotes another step forward for SMU. SMU welcomed our pioneer batch of 306 students on 1 June 2000 to our first school, the School of Business and we opened a new school each year for the following three years – until the School of Information Systems was launched in 2003. The School of Economics

and Social Sciences reorganised as two separate schools in 2007, the same year as the School of Law opened.

The rapid proliferation in the number of schools was not expansion for its own sake, but an evolution in response to and in anticipation of the changing needs of Singapore, and of businesses and other organisations here and throughout Asia. The evolution also reflects our university's determination to adapt our pedagogy and curriculum to prepare our students for this changing economic landscape and the world.

SMU's founding concept included being more than a typical management university; it was to inculcate a global mindset among our students and developing a multidisciplinary approach to education were always priorities. These form the foundation of the broad-based, holistic and integrated education that is the hallmark of SMU.

SCIS students will be equipped with a range of soft and hard skill sets, an ability to look at the big picture as they analyse the detail, key skills on how to use information technology to create value for business and society, and to work as a member of a multidisciplinary team to develop innovative solutions that make a meaningful impact on business and society. Thus, the School of Computing and

Information Systems has steadily expanded beyond Information Systems to computing fields that are in high demand in industry, such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things. This is why it is timely to add the word 'Computing' to the school name.

Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches also enable our faculty to address societal challenges through their thought leadership and research. They increasingly collaborate with colleagues in other schools, academics in other universities as well as with industry to enhance and accelerate the generation of knowledge.

SMU President Professor Kong and Dean Pang will explain in more detail how broadening the scope of disciplines at SCIS will benefit not only its students but also give all SMU students and faculty access to a greater number of tracks, degrees and a wider variety of academic knowledge and resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my very best wishes to everyone involved in making this transformation possible.

Thank you and enjoy the celebrations.