

Renaming of SMU School of Information Systems as
School of Computing and Information Systems
Speech by SMU President Professor Lily Kong
Singapore Management University
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SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping and members of the Board of Trustees

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

Faculty, staff and students of SMU

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

The renaming of SMU's School of Information Systems as the School of Computing and Information Systems, or SCIS for short, projects the expanded aspirations and role of the School beyond Information Systems to include computing. To those less familiar with the disciplinary nomenclature, Computing is a term that encompasses Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Software Engineering.

Over the last few years, as technologies, the nature of jobs and the needs of the market transform, the School has been refreshing and augmenting its undergraduate and postgraduate education programmes to go beyond Information Systems. In particular, the School has been actively building up expertise in the science of computing, hardcore programming, and technology development. Today, two-thirds of its faculty are computer scientists. It offers a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. It has started to offer a Bachelor of Science (Computing and Law) degree, collaboratively with SMU's School of Law, a first of its kind in Singapore. At the Masters level, it offers a Master of Science in Computing. It has launched a Professional doctoral degree, the Doctor of Engineering degree, alongside its Academic doctoral degree, the PhD in Computer Science. Over the last four years especially, under the leadership of Dean Pang Hwee Hwa, these programmes have been systematically rolled out, building on the phenomenal efforts of his predecessor, the founding Dean of SIS, Professor Steve Miller.

It is thus time to relaunch the School of Information Systems as the School of Computing and Information Systems. The new name reflects the School's inherent strengths as well as its direction of growth. It will place the School on an even stronger footing to attract prospective students, faculty and research funding.

Within the University, SCIS is pivotal in leading and contributing to one of the three key strategic priorities that SMU has identified, that of Digital Transformation. Together with the other two identified strategic priority areas, namely, Sustainable Living, and Growth in Asia – they serve as cross-disciplinary focal areas that cut across the Schools at SMU and focus the University's efforts on areas of particular economic and social relevance to Singapore and the region.

Digital Transformation involves spearheading cutting edge ideas to digitally transform the private and public sectors and develop robust insights into the impact of digitalisation on customer and citizen experience. SCIS will contribute to this strategic priority through three school strategies.

First, it will focus on developing research capabilities in intelligent collaborative systems, such as Data Management & Analytics, Machine Learning & Intelligence, Pervasive Sensing & Systems, and Human-Computer Interaction.

Second, the School will cultivate the twin pillars of academic scholarship in computing technology, and practice scholarship in solutions development, because digital transformation happens only when computing technology is put into practical application.

Third, the School will continue to provide a transformative education in computing technology and solutions development through its tracks and programmes at undergraduate, Masters and doctoral levels. SCIS, along with the other SMU schools, will continue to create more pathways for its students to complement depth in computing with breadth in business and social science disciplines. Similarly, students from other schools at SMU will continue to have access to computing skills that are essential for their professions.

Let me end by echoing Mr Ho's congratulations and thanks to all those involved in making this next step in the development of the School and the University possible. This is a

significant moment in the development of the School and the University, and it leaves me to wish the very best to all involved in this exciting endeavour.

Thank you.