

**Welcome Address by Professor Timothy Clark, SMU Provost  
at the inaugural ASEAN University Network  
Technology-Enhanced Personalised Learning Symposium (Online)**

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Good morning, everyone. It is my pleasure to wish you a very warm welcome to the inaugural ASEAN University Network Technology-Enhanced Personalised Learning Symposium. I understand that many of you made plans to visit Singapore for this event, but we have had to convert it into an online format given the developing situation with the COVID-19 outbreak.

A benefit of moving the event online is that now, more of us can participate in the symposium. I know that some of you were unable to attend the original event because you had other commitments. Now that the Symposium is online, we can all have access to the symposium wherever we are.

Whether we are in Thailand, Malaysia or any other country in Asia, every university student has their individual needs, strengths, prior experiences, and interests, and consequently, every student has their own personal learning journey. Therefore, we need to use varied, personalised, and readily available digital resources to design and deliver instructional content to cater to their different needs, so that we can give them their best chance at academic success.

Today's event marks the launch of the AUN Thematic Network on Technology-enhanced Personalised Learning (TEPL). This is a concrete step towards collaboration among the AUN members, which will allow all of us to learn from one another by exchanging ideas and build deeper collaborations across the Network so that we can enhance the ways our students' learn. I am

delighted that Singapore Management University is leading this very important initiative together with our partners Mahidol University and University of Malaya.

The Symposium today is the first in a series of symposiums that will allow all member universities of the network to build capacity and knowledge towards TEPL. The network also forms a platform for all of us to exchange useful tools and content that we have developed or use in approaches to education. In his keynote address, my Vice Provost for Undergraduate Matters Venky will talk about some of the exciting tools we are developing at SMU, and we certainly welcome further discussions if you are keen to find out more. Indeed, it is my hope that the creation of this thematic network gives us additional impetus to reach across borders and consider research collaborations in the area of TEPL.

There is no denying that technology has dramatically altered the world of higher education. New jobs are being created rapidly and universities need to prepare students for jobs that do not currently exist. Advances in technology have opened up new possibilities, new forms of interaction and new ways to learn. So how can we transform from a one-size-fits-all approach to one that recognises individual differences so that we have better learning effectiveness? How can we incorporate technology that models and fosters self-regulated learning strategies? And how can we use technology to provide timely and targeted feedback on student performance?

These form the themes for today's event. There are several talks and discussions planned for this morning, and recordings of the presentations will be uploaded to and shared on the AUN TEPL website. I hope these inspire you

to exchange ideas, explore opportunities, and tap on the network's collective resources to deepen your understandings of how we can use technology in delivering better personalised learning for all our students.

I speak to you at a time when Singapore and many other countries around the world are responding to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus. At the University, in order to address a situation where students and Faculty may be absent from Campus for a period of time we have put a significant amount of course and assessments online ensuring that no one misses out on their education. This has been presented a number of challenges, but I am delighted to say that Faculty and students have responded positively to these changes. In taking this action I am very aware that we have undertaken a large-scale exercise in technology-enhanced personalised learning. We look forward to sharing with you our learnings at future events.

On behalf of the Singapore Management University, I would like to thank everyone involved in making this event happen and you all of you for participating in this event. Thank you.