

Media Release

**SMU Launches Research Initiative on Capital Markets**

*New platform for cutting-edge research and policy dialogue positions SMU and Singapore at the forefront of a rapidly evolving global capital markets landscape*

Singapore, 7 July 2026 (Tuesday) – Global capital markets are at an inflection point. IPO activity has declined sharply across many economies, while private equity, venture capital and private credit are reshaping corporate financing. Asia sits at the centre of this shift. The region has emerged as the world's dominant force in listed companies and has also become a major engine of global venture capital activity and a focal point for capital market development and reform.

Against this backdrop, Singapore Management University (SMU) today launched the [Singapore Capital Markets Initiative](#) (SCMI), a new research initiative under the [Centre for Commercial Law in Asia](#) (CCLA) at the SMU [Yong Pung How School of Law](#) (YPHSL). The Initiative will advance research, policy dialogue and talent development at the intersection of law and finance, with a particular focus on Singapore and Asia.

The SCMI's research agenda will encompass equity and debt capital markets, venture capital and private equity, private credit and alternative finance, corporate governance and investor protection, financial regulation and market infrastructure, and the role of emerging technologies in shaping the future of capital markets.

[Professor Lee Pey Woan](#), Dean of SMU YPHSL, said, "SCMI will serve as a platform for interdisciplinary research and policy engagement, positioning SMU as an international leader in capital markets research, and establishing Singapore as a hub for capital markets research, thought leadership and policy influence in law and finance."

"The initiative builds on the success of existing CCLA platforms at our law school, including the [Singapore Global Restructuring Initiative](#) (SGRI) and the [Singapore Tax Academy Research Initiative](#) (STARI) – which have demonstrated the value of focused research initiatives that combine academic excellence with meaningful engagement with policymakers, industry leaders and international organisations," she added.

The new Initiative will be led by [Professor Aurelio Gurrea-Martínez](#), together with law faculty [Professor Dan Puchniak](#) and [Assistant Professor Nydia Remolina](#).

"Capital markets play an essential role in financing innovation and economic growth. As capital markets and corporate financing continue to evolve, the need for rigorous research at the intersection of law and finance has never been greater, particularly in Asia, which is now home to more than 55 per cent of the world's listed companies and more than half of global venture capital activity," said Professor Gurrea-Martínez, Head of the SCMI.

The launch event of the SCMI was marked by an inaugural [conference](#) co-organised with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI), bringing together prominent scholars, regulators, policymakers and

industry leaders from Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States to explore the future of capital markets.

The conference featured welcome remarks by Professor Lim Sun Sun, SMU's Vice President (Partnerships and Engagement); and an opening address by SMU Chairman, Piyush Gupta. These were followed by a series of presentations and panel discussions covering trends in Asia's capital markets, the decline of IPOs in the United States and Europe, the rise of private markets, institutional investors and stewardship, financial market infrastructures and the use of technology in capital market development.

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### **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 13,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU comprises eight schools: [College of Integrative Studies](#), [College of Graduate Research Studies](#), [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 its 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.

### **About SMU Yong Pung How School of Law**

SMU's law school was renamed Yong Pung How School of Law (YPHSL) on 11 April 2021 to celebrate and honour the late Dr Yong Pung How, Singapore's former Chief Justice and SMU's third Chancellor.

The law school had proudly welcomed its first cohort of 116 students in August 2007. Taught by a dynamic faculty with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities, the School aims to nurture its students to become excellent lawyers who will contribute significantly to society. Trained with the ability to contextualise legal expertise and to think across disciplines and geographical borders coupled with SMU's interactive pedagogy, SMU's law graduates are confident, articulate and analytically agile.

The School offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing & Information Systems or Social Sciences; a three-year Juris Doctor programme; a Master of Laws programme; a

PhD programme in Law, Commerce and Technology; as well as continuing legal education. From Academic Year 2020-2021, the School also jointly offers a new Bachelor of Science (Computing & Law) with the SMU School of Computing and Information Systems. This new degree will produce IT and legal professionals who are adept at bridging technology and law.

Research at the SMU YPHSL has a strong focus in three main inter-related areas – Law and Technology, Transnational Commercial law in Asia, and Dispute Resolution. The School has also set up legal research centres focusing on A.I. and data governance, computational law, commercial law, and international dispute resolution. [law.smu.edu.sg](http://law.smu.edu.sg)

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