



Joint Media Release

Singapore Management University launches international tax research initiative with grant from the Tax Academy of Singapore

Singapore, 11 August 2025 (Monday) – Singapore Management University (SMU) [Yong Pung How School of Law](#) (YPHSL) and [Tax Academy of Singapore](#) announced the establishment of the [Singapore Tax Academy Research Initiative \(STARI\)](#) which will be undertaken by YPHSL's Centre for Commercial Law in Asia.

Supported by a grant from the Tax Academy of Singapore, this initiative aims to both contribute to the international tax academic community and serve the body of tax professionals in Singapore through three main streams of work: 1) conduct world-class international tax research; 2) develop local academic capacity in taxation; and 3) build links with international thought-leaders in taxation.

Mr Dennis Lui, Chief Executive Officer, Tax Academy of Singapore, said, "Through the Singapore Tax Academy Research Initiative (STARI), we will conduct tax research in a rapidly developing international tax landscape with a focus on the Asian context. This industry-relevant research will also be used to enhance our training programmes, offering tax professionals deeper insights into regional complexities and emerging challenges. STARI will develop domestic tax research capacity as well as bring the best in international tax thought leadership to Singapore."

Professor Lee Pey Woan, Dean of SMU YPHSL, said, "Taxation is a key commercial consideration for businesses and a crucial part of nation building. With global tax changes having significant implications for Singapore, there is a clear need for us to have thought leadership on international tax developments. Our law school is pleased to be able to contribute to strengthening Singapore's position in international taxation through cutting-edge research and developing Singapore's tax profession. We are particularly keen on supporting and promoting domestic academic research on taxation."

Helmed by SMU Assistant Professor of Law Vincent Ooi, STARI will produce leading international tax research in a variety of areas, including the study of harmful tax competition, Global Minimum Tax, digital economy, crypto assets and environmental taxation. Such research is particularly timely, given international tax developments which potentially have a significant impact on Singapore, including the 15% global minimum corporate tax rate and amendments to the United Nations Model Double Tax Convention.

"For a start, we will develop a Research Affiliates Programme, with various Academic Writing Workshops designed to equip tax professionals with the necessary skills to conduct and publish academic research on taxation. The aim is to build academic research capacity in taxation among Singapore tax professionals and increase tax research output," said Assistant Professor Ooi.

"The Research Affiliates will also benefit from consultation sessions with SMU faculty and visiting professors and present at public seminars, where academic commentators will provide feedback on their work," he added. The Academic Writing Workshops are expected to begin in October 2025 and will run annually for three years.

STARI will collaborate closely with an **Academic Expert Panel comprising international taxation scholars from leading global institutions and universities across Singapore**. International panel experts hail from esteemed institutions such as the University of Oxford; University of Sydney; University of Melbourne; University of New South Wales; and New York University. In addition to academic engagement, STARI will maintain strong connections with the tax profession through its Technical Expert Panel and a network of Senior Research Affiliates, which includes prominent figures from the industry and professional practice. (Please see *Annex 1* for more details.)

To enable a platform for academic debate and industry exchange, STARI will hold an Annual Conference and several Visiting Academic Seminars each year. The first Annual Conference, held today in conjunction with the launch ceremony of STARI, welcomed **Professor Michael Dirkis of the University of Sydney, who delivered a keynote lecture as the inaugural STARI Visiting Professor**, alongside Professor Zhu Yansheng of Xiamen University and Dr Leopoldo Parada of King's College London. Associate Professor Darren Koh from Singapore University of Social Sciences served as moderator of the conference panel. A series of Visiting Academic Seminars with speakers from across Europe, Asia and Australasia is already lined up for the forthcoming months.

- End -

Enclosure:

- Annex 1 – Members of STARI Expert Panels & Senior Research Affiliates
-

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: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, Yong Pung How School of Law, School of Social Sciences, College of Integrative Studies and College of Graduate Research Studies. 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. www.smu.edu.sg

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. www.law.smu.edu.sg

About Tax Academy of Singapore

The Tax Academy of Singapore is a not-for-profit institution set up by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore in collaboration with the international accounting firms – Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Singapore Chartered Tax Professionals, the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants and the Law Society of Singapore.

As a leading hub for tax excellence and a network of networks, Tax Academy collaborates with leaders in the industry, academia and the government to develop and deliver structured tax training programmes, regular seminars and conferences. Through these platforms, tax professionals can stay current with global developments while enhancing their professional competency, knowledge and capabilities. By fostering exchanges between industry experts, academics and government officials from both local and international spheres, Tax Academy cultivates an environment of continuous learning and knowledge sharing. <https://www.taxacademy.sg>

Media Contacts

SMU

Huang Peiling
Associate Director, Corporate Communications
Office of Corporate Communications & Marketing
Hp: 98453361
Email: plhuang@smu.edu.sg

Tax Academy of Singapore

Eunice Toh
Associate Director
Tax Academy of Singapore
Hp: 98483688
Email: eunice_toh@iras.gov.sg

Annex 1**Members of STARI Expert Panels & Senior Research Affiliates****Academic Expert Panel**

1.	Professor Adrian Sawyer, University of Canterbury
2.	Professor Craig Elliffe, University of Auckland
3.	Associate Professor Darren Koh, Singapore University of Social Sciences
4.	Professor John Vella, University of Oxford
5.	Professor Kerrie Sadiq, Queensland University of Technology
6.	Professor Li Na, East China University of Political Science and Law
7.	Professor Michael Dirkis, University of Sydney
8.	Professor Michael Walpole, University of New South Wales
9.	Professor Miranda Stewart, University of Melbourne/ New York University
10.	Professor Rick Krever, University of Western Australia
11.	Mr Sam Sim, Member, Board of Directors, Tax Analysts
12.	Associate Professor Simon Poh, National University of Singapore
13.	Professor Sunita Jogarajan, University of Melbourne
14.	Professor Zhu Yansheng, Xiamen University

View [here](#) for their profiles.

Technical Expert Panel

1.	Mr Dennis Lui – Chair of the STARI Technical Expert Panel Chief Executive Officer Tax Academy of Singapore
2.	Mr Allen Tan Principal and Head of the Tax, Trade and Wealth Management Practice Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow
3.	Ms Belinda Chan Head, Tax Temasek
4.	Mr Chester Wee Partner and EY Asean International Tax and Transaction Services Leader Ernst & Young Solutions LLP
5.	Mr Falgun Thakkar Partner and Transfer Pricing Leader PwC Singapore
6.	Ms Yong Sing Yuan Partner Tax - Transfer Pricing KPMG Services Pte. Ltd.

7.	Ms Jillian Lim Executive Vice President (Planning, Policies, Products) and Chief Data and Digital Strategy Officer Singapore Economic Development Board
8.	Ms Liew Li Mei Partner Tax & Legal – International Tax Deloitte Tax Solutions Pte Ltd

View [here](#) for their profiles.

Senior Research Affiliates

1.	Mr Chan Wenjie Partner (Business Tax and International Tax) Deloitte Tax Solutions Pte Ltd
2.	Ms Cindy Wong Group Tax Specialist Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore
3.	Mr Phua Kuan Hua Senior Manager - Tax & Legal Deloitte Singapore
4.	Mr Richard Goh Master Tax Specialist Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

View [here](#) for their profiles.
