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SMU will rename its law school Yong Pung How School of Law to celebrate and honour the legacy of Dr Yong Pung How

Singapore, 9 March 2021 (Tuesday) – To celebrate and honour the late Dr Yong Pung How, Singapore’s former Chief Justice and Singapore Management University’s (SMU) third Chancellor, the University today announced that its School of Law will be renamed the Yong Pung How School of Law (杨邦孝法学院). The new name will come into effect from 11 April 2021, which would have been Dr Yong’s 95th birthday.

The late Dr Yong Pung How was Singapore’s second Chief Justice and an eminent figure in the legal profession. He fundamentally transformed Singapore’s judiciary through key reforms that pushed for progress and excellence. He was also an ardent champion and trailblazer in the higher education scene, and was instrumental in the development of the SMU School of Law. He received the Order of Temasek (First Class) in 1999 in recognition of his contributions to Singapore.

Mr Ho Kwon Ping, SMU Chairman, said, “SMU has been privileged to have a long and deep association with Dr Yong Pung How. As Pro-Chancellor and then Chancellor, Dr Yong offered leadership and guidance to the University. Further, he played a pivotal role in building the foundational blocks for the SMU School of Law as the Founding Chairman of its Advisory Board. Dr Yong was a force of wisdom and his legacy will continue to positively shape the growth of our University and the School of Law. We are humbled and privileged to honour Dr Yong by naming our School of Law after him.”

Ms Yong Ying-I, daughter of Dr Yong said, “My family is deeply honoured and touched by the recognition that the Singapore Management University and the Singapore Government have given my father. He was greatly committed to education of the next generation and this honour will enable his legacy to be remembered and built upon.”

SMU remains indebted to Dr Yong for his vision and guidance. Dr Yong played a critical role in the development of the SMU School of Law and its curriculum, which benefitted immensely from his leadership as Founding Chairman of its Advisory Board. In that role, he also facilitated the close relationships between the School, the legal profession and its stakeholders. His commitment was critical to the School of Law which was in its infancy.

Dr Yong also believed that having excellent faculty was critical to the development of the School and established the Yong Pung How Professorship of Law in 2007. This position recognises an eminent legal researcher of high international standing, a thought leader and expert in his area of legal pursuit and a passionate teacher of the law.

Under his guidance and support, the School of Law pursued its ambition to be a knowledge hub in various areas of commercial law, leading to the setting up of the Centre for Cross Border Commercial Law in Asia (CEBCLA) in 2014, which has today been renamed the Centre for Commercial Law in Asia (CCLA). Building on Dr Yong’s vision in legal innovation, the School now has four legal research centres

focusing on A.I. and data governance, computational law, cross-border commercial law, and international dispute resolution.

Dr Yong's dedication to moulding the next generation of legal minds also led him to establish in 2013 the Yong Pung How Bursary in Law, which provides financial aid for less privileged students at the School of Law, and later in 2016, the Yong Pung How Bursary, which supports needy students across the University. To date, the Yong Pung How Bursary in Law has been awarded to 51 students, and the Yong Pung How Bursary to 30 students. The Yong family topped up funding for the Bursary in 2020 to ensure that needy students would continue to be supported during the economic and societal disruptions caused by the pandemic.

An official renaming ceremony is being planned and more details will be shared with the press in due course. Members of the media will be invited to cover the ceremony.

- End -

Enclosures:

- Annex 1 - SMU's association with Dr Yong Pung How
- Annex 2 – About SMU School of Law

About SMU

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 11,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and post-graduate research programmes, SMU comprises six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, 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 the six 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

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Annex 1 - SMU's association with Dr Yong Pung How

SMU is proud to have had a strong association with Dr Yong:

- 2010 – 2015 SMU Chancellor
- 2008 – 2010 SMU Pro Chancellor
- 2007 – 2011 Founding Chairman, SMU School of Law Advisory Board
- 2007 – 2020 SMU Doctor of Law honoris causa
- 2006 – 2020 Distinguished Fellow of the SMU School of Law

Annex 2 – About SMU School of Law

[SMU School of Law](#) 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.

Owing to a rigorous mooting programme, SMU's law students have also shone on the world mooting stage. SMU's international mooters have regularly placed in the Top-3 of the largest and most prestigious competitions in the world – known as the Grand Slam moots. More details [here](#).



Image credit: SMU

The SMU School of Law offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems or Social Sciences, a three-year Juris Doctor programme, a Master of Laws programme, as well as continuing legal education. From Academic Year 2020-2021, the School of Law 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 School of Law has a strong focus in three main inter-related areas – Law and Technology, Transnational Commercial law in Asia, and Dispute Resolution. The School has established [four legal research centres](#) focusing on A.I. and data governance, computational law, cross-border commercial law, and international dispute resolution.

Many of these research centres are funded through generous external grants. In 2018, the School was awarded a major grant of S\$4.5 million from the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the

Infocomm Media Development Agency (IMDA) to helm a [five-year Research Programme on the Governance of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Data Use](#). The Centre for AI and Data Governance (CAIDG) was set up in the same year to undertake focused efforts on the Programme.

More recently, in March 2020, the School also announced another major grant of S\$15-million from NRF to helm a [five-year Research Programme on Computational Law](#). The Centre for Computational Law (CCLAW) was set up later that year. Besides focusing on computational law research, CCLAW will also conduct research on the application of cutting-edge computational technology to legal, regulatory, compliance and governance problems. In addition to these two centres, the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA) and the Singapore Global Restructuring Initiative (SGRI) (housed under the CCLA) also receive strong support from the Ministry of Law.



Image credit: SMU
