



THE STRAITS TIMES
**SINGAPORE'S
BEST EMPLOYERS**

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1,000
entries from 77 countries
for SMU's Lee Kuan Yew
Global Business Plan
Competition

MAKING IMPACT, ENRICHING COMMUNITIES



CITY UNIVERSITY

Bridging Communities and Innovation

Located in Singapore's bustling centre, SMU leverages its location to foster innovation and community engagement. Through strategic partnerships with industry, government, and society, SMU nurtures entrepreneurial talent and leads pioneering research to maximise its city university status, inspiring and creating lasting, positive change.



SMU hosts launch of Dr Tony Tan's political memoir

Former President of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam unveiled his memoir, *Tony Tan Keng Yam: My Political Journey*, at SMU in March 2024. The event, officiated by then-Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, was attended by dignitaries like Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong and Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Teo Chee Hean. The book details Dr Tan's contributions as Singapore's seventh President and his role in shaping policies on education, finance, and defence. It offers personal insights into key national decisions and aims to inspire future leaders.



(L-R): Then-Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong with former President Dr Tony Tan, who is also Honorary Patron and Distinguished Senior Fellow at SMU.



(L-R): Prime Minister Mr Lawrence Wong with Prof Kong.

PM Wong urges youths to pursue passions

Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lawrence Wong encouraged youths to follow their passions and talents in career choices, promising more opportunities for diverse aspirations. Speaking to 900 students at SMU in a dialogue moderated by SMU President Prof Lily Kong, PM Wong emphasised the need for everyone to contribute to society. The event, organised by SMU, the Institute of Policy Studies and the inter-university student organisation, Varsity Voices, included a Q&A where students raised issues like housing, social mobility, and economic policies. PM Wong also advised the audience to focus on future mega trends for skills development, stressing the importance of remaining adaptable in a changing world.

SM Lee launches memoir on former Chief Justice



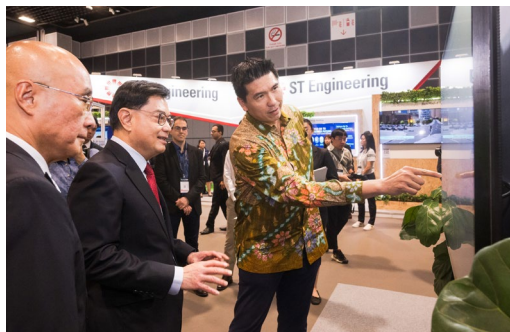
(L-R): Justice Andrew Phang presenting the newly launched book to then-Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong.

On 11 April 2024, then-Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong graced the launch of a memoir on Dr Yong Pung How at SMU. *Pioneer, Polymath and Mentor – The life and legacy of Yong Pung How* is edited by Justice Andrew Phang, who is Distinguished Professor at the Yong Pung How School of Law, and features a foreword penned by Mr Lee. The book explores the life and legacy of the former Chief Justice, and highlights Dr Yong's contributions to Singapore's legal system and his role in modernising court processes and championing technology in the judiciary.

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Patron Sponsor at World Cities Summit



Deputy Prime Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat (2nd from left) speaking with SMU Prof Winston Chow at SMU's booth at the World Cities Summit.

Singapore Management University upheld its commitment to urban innovation as a Patron Sponsor of the 2024 World Cities Summit held between 2 and 4 Jun 2024. The event brought together government, industry and academic leaders to tackle city challenges under the theme “Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine”.

The University highlighted at its booth its commitment to the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals, and how its research is making a positive impact on urban life, growth and infrastructure. Also showcased were sustainability startups founded by its students and alumni.

SMU faculty contributed their expertise in forums discussing people-centric cities, regenerative city solutions, green growth, and smart technologies, reinforcing the university's influential role in promoting resilient, liveable cities.

SMU also signed two memoranda of understanding, with Centre for Liveable Cities and Singapore Land Authority. The partnerships will strengthen collaborative research on topics related to climate change, urban challenges, sustainable infrastructure, just to name a few.

Education forum at SMU explores future of work



(L-R) Panellists SMU Vice-President of Partnerships and Engagement Prof Sun Sun Lim (moderator); Google's Country Managing Director for Singapore Mr Ben King; SkillsFuture Singapore CEO Mr Tan Kok Yam; and SMU Asst Prof Jerrold Soh.

At *The Straits Times* Education Forum 2024, held in partnership with SMU and supporting SkillsFuture, participants delved into the future shaped by artificial intelligence. Themed “The AI Revolution: Are You Ready for It?”, the event drew 330 attendees, including industry professionals and educators, to discuss AI's impact on employment, education, and society. Highlights included a conversation with the humanoid robot Sophia and a panel discussion on AI's evolving role.

Social sciences as drivers of change

At Singapore's very first Social Science and Humanities Ideas Festival, which was organised by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with autonomous universities such as SMU, discussions focused on the importance of social sciences in addressing societal challenges. SMU faculty contributing their thought leadership included SMU President Professor Lily Kong; Vice President, Partnerships & Engagement and Professor of Communication and Technology Sun Sun Lim; Professor of Urban Climate Winston Chow; Professor of Psychology David Chan; Associate Professor of History Ngoei Wen-Qing; Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Ng Teng Kuan; and



SMU President Prof Lily Kong at the first Social Science and Humanities Ideas Festival.

Associate Professor of Urban Sustainability Professor Terry Van Gevelt. The festival included roundtable discussions, public lectures, and networking sessions to showcase how social science research can inform policy and improve lives.

City Dialogues expands abroad with Bangkok edition



SMU City Dialogues Bangkok 2024.

SMU launched the inaugural overseas edition of City Dialogues in Bangkok on 9 May 2024. Held in partnership with Thammasat University, the event focused on the theme “Growing Asia's Secondary Cities – Challenges & Opportunities”. The forum gathered leaders from various sectors to discuss sustainable urban development.

Keynote speaker Riccardo Maroso, programme manager of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), highlighted the rapid urbanisation in ASEAN, emphasising the need for strategic support for smaller cities. He was joined in a panel discussion with experts, including SMU's Urban Institute Director, Professor Orlando Woods.

CITY UNIVERSITY
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Inaugural SMU Sustainability Forum focuses on future initiatives



SMU Sustainability Forum 2023

In 2023, the inaugural SMU Sustainability Forum attracted 250 participants, including students, educators, and industry leaders. The event was attended by Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Ms Grace Fu; and included a keynote address

by Petronas President and Group CEO Tengku Muhammad Taufik. SMU Dean of Students Professor Paulin Straughan moderated a panel discussion on sustainability challenges, while SMU showcased its sustainability projects.

Global experts gather for SMU’s experiential learning symposium



SMU Provost Prof Timothy Clark delivering the Opening Address at INDEX Symposium 2023.

The INDEX symposium was held at SMU in October 2023. Titled “Industry Project-based Experiential Learning (INDEX) in 21st Century Asia: Industry, Integration, Innovation, Internationalisation”, the event attracted participants from across Asia, Canada, and the UK. Experts discussed best practices in experiential learning and curriculum development. Highlights included panel discussions, creative activities, and the launch of the X-Scent fragrance – with proceeds from the sale of the scent supporting the SMU-X Opportunity Award.

SGFC and SKBI lead Nature Finance talks

In November 2023, the Nature Finance Conference, co-organised by the Singapore Green Finance Centre (SGFC) and the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics (SKBI), gathered over 100 experts at SMU to discuss innovative financial solutions for environmental challenges. Supported by Ho Bee Land and in collaboration with The World Bank, the event aimed to examine the future of nature-related finance. The conference was followed by a Nature Finance Roundtable Series commencing in June 2024 and a research project by SMU and Imperial College London in Q3 2024. These initiatives seek to advance the global climate and nature agenda within the finance sector.



Director of the Singapore Green Finance Centre Ms Nikki Kemp delivering the Opening Address at the Nature Finance Conference 2023.

ASEAN universities unite to explore AI in learning



Panellists at the 4th AUN-TEPL Symposium organised by SMU in Bangkok.

Senior leaders and educators from the ASEAN University Network (AUN) gathered in Bangkok for the 4th AUN-TEPL [Technology-enhanced Personalised Learning] Symposium on 28 May 2024. Organised by SMU in collaboration with other universities in the region, the event focused on “AI for Personalised Learning”.

Experts discussed using generative AI to enhance teaching and learning, sharing insights on AI-powered tutoring, automated assessments, and personalised content. The symposium highlighted successful AI applications, ethical considerations, and future strategies for AI in education.

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Women’s forum spotlights tech and inclusivity



SMU Vice President Prof Sun Sun Lim (L) moderating a panel discussion at the Women’s Forum Singapore 2024.

Empowering individuals and embracing inclusion were key themes at the Women’s Forum Singapore 2024. Leading discussions on democratising education and creating inclusive workplaces with technology, SMU President Professor Lily Kong and Vice President Professor Sun Sun Lim highlighted

the importance of nurturing empowered individuals and thriving workplaces. The event drew over 500 leaders to explore technology’s impact on various sectors, including climate change, healthcare, and the future of work.

New Partnership Concierge boosts strategic alliances

In a bid to streamline collaboration with universities, businesses, governments, and society, SMU launched the Partnership Concierge — a platform that offers an overview of partnership opportunities. Making it easier for organisations to engage with SMU’s resources and expertise,

key partnerships include collaborations with IBM on AI-based supply-chain optimisation and Singapore-based SME uParcel on delivery efficiency. These initiatives reflect SMU’s commitment to impactful, real-world partnerships that drive innovation and success.



BEYOND BORDERS

Strengthening ties: new Overseas Centre in Bangkok



Striking the gong to launch the SMU Overseas Centre Bangkok were (L-R) SMU President Prof Lily Kong; SMU Trustee and Group CEO of Frasers Property Limited Mr Panote Sirivadhanabhakdi; Guest of Honour, Former Deputy Minister of Education & Chairman, Kasetsart University Council Dr Krissanapong Kirtikara; Chair of SMU’s International Advisory Council in Thailand and President of Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited Mr Chartsiri Sophonpanich; Charge d’Affaires ad interim, Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Bangkok Mr Alexander Lim; and SMU Vice President, Partnerships and Engagement Prof Sun Sun Lim.

On 27 October 2023, SMU unveiled its second Overseas Centre in Bangkok to cement its regional presence. Aligning with SMU Vision 2025 and its commitment to Growth in Asia, the Centre launched its first in-market immersion programme for Enterprise Singapore, enhancing understanding

of the local business environment and culture. It also participated in *The Economist’s Sustainability Week Asia* to highlight SMU’s domain expertise in sustainability, as well as other initiatives to build awareness and create opportunities for stakeholders.

SMU engages with industry leaders, experts and academics in Beijing

On 6 June 2024, SMU held the Industry Leaders Dialogue in Beijing, themed “Financing a Greener Future: China and Southeast Asia”. The event included the signing of an MOU between SMU and the Singapore Chamber of Commerce and

Industry in China, and the launch of the SMU School of Accountancy Beijing Alumni Group. Singapore’s Ambassador to China Mr Peter Tan also attended as Guest-of-Honour. The MOU formalises a strategic alliance to deliver market

BEYOND BORDERS

insights, professional development, and support for Singaporean businesses in China, enhancing SMU's vision of fostering growth in Asia.

This closely follows the SMU-Renmin University of China's Global Forum on Green Finance and Governance in November 2023, which featured and attracted participation by SMU and RUC academics, policy-makers from international and Chinese organisations, industry leaders and practitioners, and students majoring in sustainability and



(L-R) SMU Prof Lily Kong, SMU Prof Sun Sun Lim, SingCham China's Mr Ong Tze Guan, and His Excellency Mr Peter Tan at the signing of the MOU.

finance – both foreign and local, based in Beijing.

Ho Chi Minh City welcomes SMU Overseas Centre



Officiating the launch of the SMU Overseas Centre Ho Chi Minh City were (L-R) Director, SMU Overseas Pte Ltd Mr Paul Beh; Founder, Chairman and CEO, U&I Investment Corporation Dr Mai Huu Tin; SMU President Prof Lily Kong; Guest of Honour, Singapore Ambassador to Socialist Republic of Vietnam H.E. Mr Jaya Ratnam; Chancellor, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City Dr Vu Hai Quan; SMU Trustee, Founding & Former Chair of SMU's International Advisory Council in Vietnam and Chief Executive Officer & Founding Partner, VinaCapital Group Mr Don Lam; Vice Rector, Ho Chi Minh City University of Law Dr Do Van Dai; SMU Vice President, Partnerships and Engagement Prof Sun Sun Lim.

Expanding its presence in Asia, SMU has launched a new representative office in Vietnam. The Overseas Centre Ho Chi Minh City aims to boost knowledge exchange and regional collaboration. It leverages upon SMU's long-standing partnerships with businesses and academic institutions in the country,

enhancing talent development and facilitating the exchange of expertise between Singapore and Vietnam. The launch event on 25 April 2024 included a panel discussion on digitalisation and sustainable entrepreneurship, moderated by SMU Professor of Communication and Technology Sun Sun Lim.

Overseas Centres transform ASEAN engagement

SMU is reshaping education and industry collaboration in Asia with its Overseas Centres. The Ministry of Education has selected SMU as the lead university to coordinate efforts in profiling Singapore's autonomous universities in South-east Asia. For example, Overseas Centre Jakarta has upskilled talent through partnerships with organisations like the Indonesia Financial Services Authority and facilitated internships via Enterprise Singapore's Global Ready Talent programme. In April

2024, Overseas Centre Bangkok enhanced SMU students' learning during their SMU-X Overseas courses and organised an in-market immersion programme for Enterprise Singapore. Meanwhile, Overseas Centre Ho Chi Minh City has integrated into local business communities through thought-leadership events with partners like the Singapore Global Network. It has also signed MOUs with Vietnamese educational institutions, creating pathways for postgraduate programmes.

SMU and Chulalongkorn University forge strategic partnership

SMU has established a five-year strategic partnership with Chulalongkorn University, to leverage unique strengths as city universities to pursue deep and wide collaborations in Digital Transformation, Sustainable Living, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In addition, SMU and Chulalongkorn University partnered four universities in the ASEAN University Network to grow the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Southeast Asia and launched a direct admission

collaboration for several SMU master's programmes. This is SMU's third strategic partnership, following HEC Paris in 2021 and the University of Toronto in 2022. SMU has continued to develop these partnerships through impactful programmes and substantive research, including the launch of a second joint research grant call on Urban Mobility and Sustainability with the University of Toronto in July 2024.

Collaborations with India's top business schools

A five-year memorandum of understanding has been inked between SMU and the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) to explore collaborations in academics, student exchanges, and research. The SMU Centre for AI and Data Governance and IIMA's Brij Disa Centre will produce a

joint report on AI's impact on the labour market. Additionally, the SMU Sim Kee Boon Institute and IIM Bangalore (IIMB) presented a joint paper at the Asian Bureau Finance and Economics Research Conference, and are working on two more papers with researchers from IIMB and the University of Hong Kong.

BEYOND BORDERS

Programmes to expand horizons in Asia

SMU has established new programmes to increase student innovation and global exposure in China, India, and Southeast Asia. In November 2023, SMU partnered with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics for a work-study programme in Shanghai, including a six-month Global Innovation Immersion internship. A similar programme will be launched with Vietnam

National University-Ho Chi Minh City, marking SMU's first exchange with the Vietnamese university. Additionally, a study mission to Mumbai, in collaboration with Jio Institute and Reliance Industries, will focus on conducting business in India, particularly in the sustainability and digitalisation spheres.

Sustainable startups win at Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition



Student founders of the eight grand finalists of the 11th Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition.

SMU unveiled the winners of the 11th Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition, organised by the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. MEDEA Biopharma from the Technical University of Munich and PlasticFri from Karlsruhe

Institute of Technology won the top prizes for their sustainable solutions. The event, in September 2023, attracted over 1,000 entries from 77 countries, highlighting SMU's dedication to fostering global innovation and entrepreneurship.

CORPORATE AWARDS

People's Association Community Spirit Award 2024 – Excellence Award

SMU received the People's Association Community Spirit (PACS) Awards 2024 – Excellence Award in recognition for its outstanding dedication and efforts in fostering a caring and cohesive community. Recognition stems from its significant contributions to various Central Singapore Community Development Council initiatives that aim to promote social inclusion, community engagement, and lifelong learning. Through these initiatives, SMU students and staff have enhanced the lives of individuals across Singapore, especially those from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds.



SMU student volunteers and beneficiaries from Project Espresso (a community service project initiated by SMU SoundFoundry in partnership with Aphasiasg), taking part in The Purple Parade to promote awareness and celebrate abilities of Persons with Disabilities in Singapore.

Workplace Safety and Health CARE Award 2024



SMU Vice President, Human Resources Mr Terence Tan (R) receiving the award from Associate Professor Gan Wee Hoe, co-chairman of WSH Council. (Photo: Workplace Safety and Health Council)

SMU once again received the Culture of Acceptance, Respect and Empathy (CARE) award at the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Awards. The CARE award recognises companies that have exemplary mental well-being practices and highlights them as employers of choice. SMU was among 19 organisations that received the award at the 2024 WSH Awards, where a total of 323 companies and individuals were honoured. SMU takes on a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach, both bottom up and top-down, to building a culture of shared ownership and involvement for well-being.



CORPORATE AWARDS

Four consecutive years: SMU's mental health commitment

For the fourth year in a row, SMU received the Silver Ribbon Mental Health Award — recognising the University's dedication to mental health and holistic wellness within its community. Through initiatives such as the SMU Resilience Framework, mental well-being programmes and workshops, SMU promotes emotional wellness through a whole-of-University approach. Its ongoing commitment includes support services from Student Care Officers and engagement through the Student Pulse Survey. Such efforts have earned SMU accolades for fostering a resilient and supportive environment.

SMU wins Best Employer Award

SMU secured 45th position among Singapore's top 250 employers in The Straits Times Best Employers 2024 Awards, up from 65th in 2023. This marks SMU's third inclusion since the awards began in 2021. Notably, SMU is the highest-ranked autonomous university and one of the top three employers in the Education Sector. The rankings are based on an extensive survey by Statista, which evaluated various employment factors, including working conditions, organisational image, and diversity. SMU's strong performance reflects its commitment to an inclusive and positive work environment.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Artist-in-Residence Programme launched

SMU Libraries launched its Artist-in-Residence Programme with Singapore artist Ms Priyageetha Dia, focusing on the speculative narratives of resistance arising from Southeast Asian plantations. The four-month residency ran from August to November 2023, engaging students in Virtual Reality for Business and Cultural History of the Cold War in Asia: The Battle for Hearts and Minds courses. This initiative aims to offer diverse learning experiences by exploring issues from various perspectives.



SMU Artist-in-Residence 2023 Ms Priyageetha Dia.



UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Major donation boosts opportunities for Filipino students



SMU President Prof Lily Kong (7th from left) and Chairman of Ayala Corporation and chair of SMU International Advisory Council Philippines Mr Jaime Augusto Zóbel de Ayala (8th from left) hosted an appreciation dinner for donors of the SMU Philippine Community Fund, which was graced by Her Excellency Ms Constance See, Singapore Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines (centre).

Distinguished industry leaders and key members of the Philippines corporate community raised \$4 million to support outstanding Filipino students pursuing higher education at SMU. Spearheaded by Mr Jaime Augusto Zóbel de Ayala, Chairman of Ayala Corporation and

chair of SMU International Advisory Council Philippines, the SMU Philippine Community Fund is the largest overseas donation received by the University. It offers scholarships and internship grants, benefitting up to 11 students annually.



\$3.14m donation enhances student initiatives

Dr Lillyn Teh, a passionate advocate of education, has gifted SMU \$3.14 million to support student development. This donation funds the Lillyn Teh Endeavour Scholarship, Study Awards, and Work-Study Grant. It also supports student-driven initiatives, such as a student-led investment programme. These efforts aim to provide valuable experiences and foster academic and professional growth, aligning with SMU's goal of empowering the next generation.



SMU President Prof Lily Kong (R) presenting a token of appreciation to Dr Lillyn Teh (centre), accompanied by her husband Dr Foo Suan Tong.



SMU President Prof Lily Kong (L) receiving a gift of \$2.5 million from UOB Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr Wee Ee Cheong.

UOB's \$2.5m gift boosts SME training

The UOB-SMU Asian Enterprise Institute (UOB-SMU AEI) has received a \$2.5 million gift from UOB to extend its leadership and innovation training for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This funding supports the new SME Leadership Programme, training up to 50 SME leaders annually in digital transformation, regional

expansion, and succession planning. This gift follows previous investments by UOB, culminating in donations totalling over \$10 million, and continues the collaboration through the Institute. Additionally, UOB-SMU AEI will develop case studies on SME leadership and innovation to enhance its curriculum.

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