

PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS 2022



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Professor Lily Kong gave her fourth President's State of the University Address on Friday 9 September 2022. After two years of hybrid events, Prof Kong was delighted to speak directly with 600 faculty, staff, students, and guests in SMU Hall. She began her Address with a review of the preceding Academic Year.

Review of Academic Year 2021/22

This year SMU marked major milestones in the growth and development of SMU education and research, including the launch of our seventh and eighth Schools: the College of Integrative Studies (CIS) and the College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS). CIS is the next step in SMU's effort to nurture a generation of graduates capable of navigating cross-disciplinary boundaries and who can respond nimbly to industry and societal needs; while CGRS aims to develop world-class thought leaders equipped to undertake cutting-edge research across disciplines, bringing about significant impact in academia, business, government, and society.

A third milestone for SMU was establishing the SMU-A*STAR Joint Lab in Social and Human-Centred Computing. This Lab will enable researchers from SMU and A*STAR to form complementary teams to pursue ambitious projects in areas of strategic importance, with special attention to integrative research and scholarship, which Prof Kong said she hopes will become a hallmark of SMU.

Turning to SMU's engagement activities as a City University, Prof Kong said the University has continued to build City Perspectives, its omnichannel hub that showcases key work by SMU faculty that supports SMU's Strategic Priorities. SMU also had a significant presence at the World Cities Summit with its

own booth which attracted over 300 visitors. Prof Kong also participated in a panel discussion and was appointed as the chair on one of two World Cities Summit Knowledge Councils.

Prof Kong provided updates on developments in the undergraduate curriculum; shared positive results from internal measurement of the quality of instruction as well as from external measurement of the quantity and quality of research published by SMU.

SMU 2025

The next three sections of her Address took a closer look at our progress and plans in the three strategic priorities in SMU 2025.

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1. Growth in Asia

As examples of SMU's **Transformative Education**, Prof Kong mentioned that SMU had forged new collaborations with leading universities in Asia, entered new markets with SMU Academy, and resumed overseas immersion trips after pandemic-era travel restrictions were lifted.

She cited examples of SMU's **Cutting Edge Research** by faculty in many of SMU's Schools and explained how the University's first Overseas Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia, will deliver SMU's commitment as an **Engaged City University**.

2. Digital Transformation

Prof Kong then spoke about Digital Transformation, SMU's second strategic priority under SMU2025. Beginning with **Transformative Education**, she discussed new programmes from

SMU Academy and SMU ExD developed in collaboration with digital education partners, new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, and the launch of a new Digital Learning Strategy.

3. Sustainable Living

Prof Kong announced the launch of the SMU Sustainability Blueprint in some detail and directed the community to the sustainability.smu.edu.sg¹ microsite to track its progress. The Sustainability Blueprint,

she said, shows how SMU can purposefully pursue objectives that contribute to a more sustainable world. This is part of a purposeful journey for everyone, as individuals and members of families, and as members of the One SMU community.

In closing, SMU's President remarked, "Thank you to everyone who is tending the SMU garden – you chose action over comfortable inaction. Let us continue to choose action in realising our Vision 2025."



¹ <https://sustainability.smu.edu.sg>

³ A display area at SMU Hall featuring SMU's research, academic programmes, as well as student and alumni initiatives related to sustainability.

SMU'S FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, MR HO KWON PING, STEPS DOWN



On 11 January 2023, SMU's Founding Chairman, Mr Ho Kwon Ping, stepped down from the role.

For a period of 25 years, from 1997 to 2023, Mr Ho Kwon Ping's transformative leadership has played a significant role in shaping the success and reputation of SMU. His unwavering vision and steadfast dedication have established the University as a globally renowned institution, redefining higher education in Singapore and beyond.

Working alongside former Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan, Mr Ho laid the foundation for SMU, focusing on excellence in management and the social sciences, giving students a well-rounded education, and imbuing them with a strong sense of personal

and social responsibility. This unique approach, combined with a strategic city location, sets SMU apart from other institutions.

Since welcoming its first batch of students in 2000, SMU has grown from a business school to a dynamic university comprising eight schools with over 13,000 students and 36,000 alumni.

Under Mr Ho's leadership, SMU has gained international recognition for its rigorous, high-impact and inter-disciplinary research that addresses global issues. His strategic guidance led to the formulation of Vision 2025, charting SMU's path for future growth and development.

Furthermore, Mr Ho's commitment to

internationalisation fostered the establishment of SMU International Advisory Councils across various countries, strengthening collaborations with governments, academia, and businesses in the region.

Mr Ho's remarkable contributions have been acknowledged through prestigious awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal and the Distinguished Service Order of Singapore. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment have propelled SMU's journey, positioning it as a leading institution that continues to shape the landscape of higher education in Singapore and make a positive impact on a global scale.

⁴ SMU's Founding Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping.