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**SEA OF LEARNING
A NEW LIBRARY FOR A NEW CAMPUS
The official opening of LI KA SHING LIBRARY**

(Singapore and Hong Kong, 24 February 2006) Today marked the official opening of the Li Ka Shing Library at the Singapore Management University (SMU).

Dr Li Ka-shing, Chairman of **Li Ka Shing Foundation** www.lksf.org and **Hutchison Whampoa Limited** <http://www.hutchison-whampoa.com>, a world renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist, officiated at the opening of the library together with special guest **Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew**.

In 2002 together with Hutchison Whampoa Group, a gift of S\$19.5 million, the largest contribution ever made to a Singapore university at the time, was granted to SMU by the Li Ka Shing Foundation of which S\$15 million has been earmarked for the endowment of the library and the remaining portion dedicated towards the establishment of up to eight concurrent scholarships to support scholars from Hong Kong and China

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr Li shared his long-standing feelings for Singapore, “Today feels a great deal like a fond and endearing walk down memory lane for me,” Dr Li was reminiscent of 1967 when his young family came to Singapore amidst looming turbulence and uncertainty.

In a speech titled “*Between Form and Substance*”, Dr Li shared his thoughts on the importance of “responsible citizenship”.

“The prime challenge as I see it today is how to nurture the responsible citizenship, to build in the hearts and minds of genuinely progressive young men and women the will as well as the means to carry our true hope of the future...”

Dr Li believes that it is important for thinking, innovative and inspired men and women to feel a deep sense of responsibility and public duty towards their world and beyond and care as much for individual dignity and for collective honour.

“The road to true liberalism is a long one,” he said. “We must not succumb to the belief that by merely providing the mechanism of participation we have achieved our goal... structure might hold us together but substance is the essence of a bright and transcendent future.” He used the library as an example, “I believe that this new library structure would have found its beautiful soul if it inspires more people to seek who they are, who we all are and where we shall be.”

Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman of SMU, added, “The library will support SMU’s world-class teaching and research by serving as the gateway to a vast resource of information. It is also designed to bring students from across campus to congregate and share ideas, innovations and creativity.”

Poised to become the unified centre for information creation, discovery and management, the five-storey library is situated at the heart of SMU’s new city campus and serves faculty and students from all four schools, as well as the educational community and public. The library is a resource for both print and electronic collections and boasts study and training areas, a reading room, a lounge and café and state-of-the-art facilities such as wireless network connections, virtual interactive terminals and multimedia laboratories. The University’s Visitor Centre takes pride of place on the ground floor, and is the centre point of the 4.5 hectare campus.

The Li Ka Shing Library showcases unique architectural features, such as the louvered windows facing the Campus Green, which permit abundant natural light and also allow for dramatic views of the surrounding district – including such buildings as the National Museum of Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum; skylights and light wells that infuse the interior spaces with natural brightness; and exterior planter boxes filled with natural greenery that cascades down the library’s modern, curvilinear façades.

The Foyer Entrance of the library will feature a unique art piece titled “Sea of Learning”, which was the winning entry of the Public Art Competition jointly organized by the Li Ka Shing Foundation and SMU.

A total of 17 submissions were received from Singapore, Mainland China and Hong Kong. The work of Ms Connie Chu and Mr David Biddlecombe of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University was selected for installation. The art work is a metaphoric interpretation of the ancient Chinese saying “the sea of learning is boundless, perseverance is the key.”

About Singapore Management University

Incorporated on 12 January 2000, SMU's aim is to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs capable of excelling in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. The first in Singapore to be set up as a private university offering an American-style education modeled after Wharton School, SMU occupies a newly completed purpose-built and state-of-the-art city campus located right in the heart of Singapore's civic and business district.

Today, SMU is home to nearly 4,000 students and comprises four schools: Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Accountancy, School of Economics & Social Sciences and School of Information Systems. SMU offers five bachelor's degree programmes in Business Management, Accountancy, Economics, Information Systems Management and Social Science and six master's degree programmes in Wealth Management, Applied Finance, Professional Accounting, Applied Economics and in Economics and Finance (by research). It also has a dedicated Office of Research and provides customized executive programmes for working professionals through its Office of Executive Education. www.smu.edu.sg

About Li Ka Shing Foundation

The Li Ka Shing Foundation was established in 1980 to nurture a culture of giving. Mr Li believes that this can be accomplished by focusing on capacity empowerment through education and the building of a caring society through medical and healthcare projects. The Li Ka Shing Foundation and other private charitable foundations established by Mr Li have supported numerous philanthropic activities with grants, sponsorships, and commitments of over HK\$7.6 billion.

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