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Media release

SMU receives S\$20 million landmark gift from family of the late Dr Yong Pung How

Gift goes towards supporting students, nurturing academics and furthering research in Law

Singapore, 9 January 2023 (Monday) – Singapore Management University (SMU) has received a significant gift of S\$20 million towards the Yong Pung How School of Law (YPHSL). Generously gifted to SMU by Mrs Yong Wei Woo in Dr Yong’s honour, this gift forms part of the 15th anniversary celebrations of SMU’s law school, which was established in 2007. The announcement also coincides with the third anniversary of the passing of the late Dr Yong Pung How (11 April 1926 – 9 January 2020).

The S\$20 million gift will be used to establish a financial aid programme, a fellowship programme and a research fund, as follows:

- S\$10 million will be channelled towards the Yong Pung How Law Access Award, which will provide support to eligible first-year law undergraduates in financial need. Commencing Academic Year 2023-2024, eight students will receive full tuition fee support for the duration of their undergraduate law education at YPHSL every year and in perpetuity.
- S\$5 million will be channelled towards the Yong Pung How Fellowship Programme to attract and retain talented faculty at YPHSL. Up to 12 awards will be given out every year. YPHSL will also recruit talented young Singaporean law graduates with potential for academia.
- S\$5 million will be channelled towards the Yong Pung How Research Impact Fund to accelerate the research endeavours and thought leadership of YPHSL in strategic and emerging areas of interest. YPHSL will invite renowned legal experts and reputable scholars to contribute to its intellectual and research endeavours.

Mrs Yong Wei Woo, wife of the late Dr Yong Pung How, said, “My family and I are deeply honoured by the naming of the SMU law school after my late husband. He had been closely associated with SMU and with the law school since its founding years, and proud of its rapid development. We are delighted to be able to make this gift to continue his good deeds in nurturing young law undergraduates, developing quality faculty and supporting the acceleration of legal research in growing areas of critical importance.”

Professor Lily Kong, SMU President, said, “I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Mrs Yong for bestowing upon SMU the honour of stewarding Dr Yong’s legacy through this generous gift. We are humbled by her trust, which is a testament to her belief in SMU. Together, we will strive to espouse Dr Yong’s vision and make meaningful impact – through our students, our faculty, our research, and towards legal development for Singapore’s future.”

Professor Lee Pey Woan, Dean of YPHSL, said, “This gift is of exceptional significance to us because Dr Yong was not only an outstanding lawyer and a distinguished judge but also a pioneer and a nation builder who made extraordinary contributions to Singapore. My colleagues and I are immensely grateful for, and encouraged by, this opportunity to honour Dr Yong’s legacy through our educational

and research endeavours. His single-minded commitment to justice and the nation's wellbeing will be our constant inspiration."

Dr Yong and his family have been close friends of the University since its early years. SMU remains indebted to Dr Yong for his leadership and guidance as Pro-Chancellor and subsequently Chancellor, and for the critical role he played in establishing SMU's law school. As the Founding Chairman of the law school's Advisory Board, he was instrumental in the development of the School and its curriculum, and was directly involved in recruitment and retention of high quality law faculty.

Beyond offering his professional experience, Dr Yong had also contributed greatly to support SMU's students and faculty through the establishment of the Yong Pung How Professorship of Law in 2007, the Yong Pung How Bursary in Law in 2013 and the Yong Pung How Bursary in 2016. To date, a total of 105 students across the University have benefitted from his and his family's generosity. Given Dr Yong's role as one of Singapore's most consequential legal reformers, it was a great privilege for the University to subsequently [rename its law school as the Yong Pung How School of Law](#) in April 2021.

- End -

Enclosures:

- Annex 1 – SMU's association with Dr Yong Pung How
- Annex 2 – About SMU Yong Pung How School of Law
- Annex 3 – Names and terms in Chinese

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 12,000 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

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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 Yong Pung How School of Law



[SMU Yong Pung How School of Law](#) (YPHSL) 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, future-ready lawyers with a heart for service 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 its rigorous [Ian R. Taylor International Moots Programme](#), SMU's law students have also shone on the world mooting stage. SMU's international mooters are 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](#).

The SMU Yong Pung How 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, a newly-launched PhD programme in Law, Commerce and Technology as well as continuing legal education. From 2020, the School of Law also jointly offers a [Bachelor of Science \(Computing & Law\)](#) with the SMU School of Computing and Information Systems. This degree seeks to 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, commercial law in Asia, 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.

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.

Annex 3**Names and terms in Chinese****Names**

Mrs Yong Wei Woo	郑惠和女士
Professor Lily Kong, SMU President	新加坡管理大学校长江莉莉教授
Professor Lee Pey Woan, Dean of SMU Yong Pung How School of Law	新大杨邦孝法学院院长李佩婉教授

Terms

Yong Pung How School of Law	杨邦孝法学院
Yong Pung How Law Access Award	杨邦孝援助金
Yong Pung How Fellowship Programme	杨邦孝研究生奖学金
Yong Pung How Research Impact Fund	杨邦孝建设研究基金
