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Mr Piyush Gupta

CHAIRMAN

I am delighted to write my first message for the SMU Annual Report to Stakeholders as Chairman of the SMU Board of Trustees. It is an honour to succeed Mr Ho Kwon Ping, SMU's Founding Chairman, who stood down on 11 January 2023.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Kwon Ping as well as the current and past SMU leadership for laying a strong foundation and getting SMU to where it is today. In just 23 years since its inception, SMU has made great strides, progressing boldly and swiftly. Through Kwon Ping's sterling contributions, he has steered SMU to become a distinctive and world-renowned university, even redefining the landscape of higher education in Singapore in the process.

I would also like to congratulate Professor Lily Kong on accepting the invitation to extend her term as President of SMU until 31 December 2028. This decision brings us continuity in leadership, allowing Lily to see through the SMU2025 initiatives and establish new directions for the University. As we move forward with Lily's extended term, SMU will continue to flourish. Her visionary leadership, strategic planning, and unwavering commitment have shaped SMU's trajectory as a global centre of excellence.

The world is changing, and we need to continue to evolve and make SMU's impact felt even more strongly, in Singapore and internationally. To stay ahead we must focus on interdisciplinary, holistic education

in a journey of lifelong learning. We must further develop applied research and create solutions for society. It is also imperative that SMU continues with the three Strategic Priorities of its Vision 2025: Digital Transformation,

Sustainable Living and Growth in Asia.

Lastly, we can also do more to leverage and emphasise our strategic location as a city university in the heart of downtown Singapore

that will help us foster strong connections with business, government, and the wider community. These connections and partnerships will fuel our research, thought leadership and educational offerings.

I look forward to working with the SMU Board of Trustees and University management team to take SMU to even greater heights.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE