



PRESS RELEASE

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FOSTERING GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND CHINA IN FINANCE AND BANKING

NUS Global Asia Institute launches the Wee Cho Yaw Singapore-China Finance and Banking Forum through a S\$3m gift from the Chairman of UOB

The National University of Singapore Global Asia Institute (NUS-GAI) is launching the Wee Cho Yaw Singapore-China Finance and Banking Forum with two lectures in Beijing and Singapore. The establishment of the Forum was made possible with a S\$3 million gift from the Chairman of the United Overseas Bank, Dr Wee Cho Yaw and his family. The donation is eligible for the dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the Ministry of Education, bringing the total funding to S\$6 million.

The Forum aims to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in banking and finance in Singapore and China. Besides public lectures, the Forum may also fund a distinguished professorship, visiting professorships or fellowships, scholarships or research in finance and banking.

NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, said, "We are very grateful to Dr Wee Cho Yaw for his generous gift and strong support for NUS and our Global Asia Institute. The launch of a Forum focusing on issues relating to finance and banking, areas that are critical to both Singapore and China, is a demonstration of Dr Wee's great foresight as a pre-eminent business leader."

"As Singapore and China celebrate 20 years of close ties, the Wee Cho Yaw Singapore-China Finance and Banking Forum will create a distinctive platform which fosters cooperation amongst banking and finance scholars and professionals in both countries. The gift will also contribute to the NUS Global Asia Institute's ability to pursue scholarship in these areas at a greater level of depth and breadth," Prof Tan added.

Inaugural Lecture in Beijing: "Livelihood and Liveability - The Twin Mission of Urbanisation" by Dr Liu Thai Ker

The inaugural lecture will be held in Beijing on 30 August 2010 at the Grand Millennium Hotel, in conjunction with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and China. Renowned Singapore architect-planner and Adjunct Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the School of Design and Environment at NUS, Dr Liu Thai Ker will speak on the importance and impact of urban planning on the creation of a vibrant

financial centre and a conducive living environment. He will share his rich experience not only from the perspective of the physical development of Singapore since independence but also insights gained as a consultant to countries and cities throughout Asia. Some 200 government officials, academics, NUS alumni and members of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China (SingCham) are expected to attend the lecture. For more information on the inaugural lecture, visit www.singcham.com.cn.

Dr Wee Cho Yaw, who had led the Republic's first trade mission to China in 1971, said, "In the early days our bilateral relations were mainly confined to trade. In the last two decades, Singapore's economic ties with China have expanded into many other business sectors. I hope that the Forum will make significant contributions to closer ties and collaboration between the financial sectors of our two countries."

In line with NUS' vision to be a leading global university centred in Asia, the NUS-GAI was set up in September 2009 to bring together expertise from across NUS, particularly those with expertise in China and India, to create a more integrated understanding of critical issues within Asia, as well as to develop thought-leadership and innovative solutions.

Professor Seetharam Kallidaikurichi E, Director of NUS-GAI, said, "This gift from Dr Wee Cho Yaw presents a very exciting opportunity for the NUS Global Asia Institute. It will enable us to achieve new and more integrated insights into the critical issues in banking and finance in China and Singapore. We expect to see the NUS-GAI playing an instrumental role in enhancing the continued competitiveness of both countries by contributing ideas and solutions to help meet the challenges in these fields."

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 14 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 30,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 22 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner for Singapore's 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit www.nus.edu.sg

About the NUS Global Asia Institute

Set up in September 2009, the NUS Global Asia Institute (NUS-GAI) aims to take the lead in research and scholarship directed at topics pivotal to Asia's future. Driven by the mission to provide in-depth insights to shape the nature of 21st Century Asia, NUS-GAI takes a holistic approach to the fundamental issues confronting Asia and the world. By focusing on integrative studies, the work of the Institute will go beyond public policies and also deal with matters of technological importance.

NUS-GAI will complement existing NUS programmes that already have a significant Asian component. The Institute will bring together existing expertise from NUS and other universities, particularly those with expertise in India and China, in its quest for solutions to critical issues in Asia.

Through NUS-GAI's work, NUS expects to become a pre-eminent centre for thought-leadership, research and education on critical issues for Asia. It aims to distinguish NUS as a leading global university centred in Asia.

For more information, please visit www.gai.nus.edu.sg