



Media Release

Dr Tahir and son contribute S\$1 million to support SMU- Universitas Gadjah Mada collaboration

Singapore, 4 April 2016 (Monday) – Dr Tahir (翁俊民), Founder of Indonesia’s Mayapada Group, and his son Jonathan Tahir (翁大川), have contributed S\$1 million to establish the Tahir SMU-UGM Management and Faculty Development Programme (MFDP) at Singapore Management University (SMU).

The objective of the MFDP is for SMU to organise various events and programmes in collaboration with Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) towards building academic excellence, as well as creating new opportunities for innovation and co-operation, so as to help nurture the next generation of scholars and leaders in Singapore and Indonesia. UGM is the oldest and largest institution of higher learning in Indonesia.

This gift agreement was signed in Jakarta today by Dr Tahir, Jonathan Tahir and SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer. Prof De Meyer also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on SMU-UGM collaboration with UGM Vice Rector Didi Achjari and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Professor Wihana Kirana Jaya. The MOU entails faculty exchange and development, research initiatives, sharing of best practices in university governance, and exchange of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer said, “SMU is very pleased to have Universitas Gadjah Mada as our first partner university in Indonesia. This collaboration will allow SMU faculty and students to acquire first-hand knowledge and experience in the largest economy and most populous nation in Southeast Asia, and promote knowledge exchange and interaction between the two universities. We believe these will help contribute to knowledge creation and talent development for both Singapore and Indonesia.

“We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr Tahir and Jonathan Tahir for their generosity and foresight in establishing the Tahir SMU-UGM Management and Faculty Development Programme at SMU. Dr Tahir had in 2014 set up two scholarships for Indonesian and Singaporean students studying at SMU. This latest contribution by Dr Tahir is yet another demonstration of his strong belief in SMU’s pedagogy and research strengths,” added Prof De Meyer.

Dr Tahir said, “We all work towards building a better tomorrow and my wish is that this gift will allow these two very respected universities to further increase its capacity and transcend educational boundaries through the exchange of knowledge and scholarly ideas that will hopefully impact the greater educational sector in Asia. Initiatives such as faculty and student

exchanges, as well as study missions will help with achieving better people-to-people understanding between the two countries."

Professor Dwikorita Karnawati, Rector of Gadjah Mada University said, "UGM is keen to collaborate with SMU, one of the best universities in business and management in Asia, to conduct faculty and students exchanges, undertake joint research into trade and culture, as well as technological innovation. UGM believes that entrepreneurship is one of the important pillars of our economic development. As such, UGM promotes socio-entrepreneurship so as to serve the interests and needs of society through an entrepreneurial approach. We are confident that this collaboration with SMU will help us achieve these goals for the benefit of Indonesia and Singapore."

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For more information, please contact:

Teo Chang Ching (Mr)
Senior Assistant Director, Corporate Communications
Office of Corporate Communications & Marketing
DID: 6828 0451
Email: ccteo@smu.edu.sg

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 produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to over 9,300 undergraduate and postgraduate students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg