

Training the next generation of policymakers to transform Asia



An interview with

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What can students expect to learn at the LKYSPP?

A combination of economics, politics, international affairs, leadership and management are the principal thematic areas taught at the school. Broadly, students learn about the impact of public policy on a country's political, social and economic architecture, as well as gain an understanding of the impact of policy on cross-border issues such as security, the environment, energy, global finance and international trade and development.

What is the unique value proposition of the school that differentiates it from other schools in the region?

The partnerships we have with some of the best institutions in the West and the scholarships we offer make us truly unique.

Strategic Partnerships

The goal of the LKYSPP is to train a new generation of globally minded policymakers in Asia by giving them the opportunity to learn from the best global practices. We do this through our GPPN partnerships. This allows a select number of qualifying students from the Masters in Public Policy programme to spend a year at any one of our partner schools-Columbia University, LSE and Sciences Po and get a dual degree from LKYSPP as well as from one of our partner institutes.

The School also has a long-standing collaboration with The Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) that involves faculty exchanges and collaboration in research and curriculum development. One specific benefit of this partnership with HKS is that students from LKYSPP's flagship Masters in Public Management program get to spend a full semester at Harvard.

Today, LKYSPP is one of the fastest growing public policy schools in the world. It is also one of the most diverse schools with 80 percent of the students coming from outside of Singapore. 65 percent of these students are supported by scholarships given by the school and its partners making it one of the most generous schools in the world.



Left to right: Robert Klitgaard (Claremont Graduate University), Anne-Marie Slaughter (Woodrow Wilson School), Robert Lieberman (Columbia University), Sarah Worthington (London School of Economics), Richard Descoings (Sciences PO) and Kishore Mahbubani (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy) at the GPPN Conference October 2007.

What are the core strengths of the school?

Our first strength is a diverse mix of faculties that includes younger academics trained at Harvard, MIT, Princeton and Stanford as well as respected faculties from the region and seasoned practitioners with experience working in global multilateral institutions. For example, Prof. Scott Fritzen is a Princeton trained academic who speaks Vietnamese and Bahasa and focuses his research and teaching on public management, Prof. Mukul Asher is a highly respected Indian academic whose expertise in pension and social security reform is highly sought after by governments and institutions around the world and finally, Prof. Charles Adams is an Australian economist with over 25 years experience at the IMF.

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Secondly, LKYSPP attracts a steady stream of distinguished visitors from politics, business, media and academia. The former Prime Minister of Britain, Tony Blair, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, New York Times columnist and best selling author Tom Friedman and Nobel laureates Douglass North and Amartya Sen have all given public lectures and in some cases, closed-door seminars at LKYSPP.

Thirdly, a truly diverse and talented student body of LKYSPP is a big attraction to come study at our school. At LKYSPP, students come from all over the world – primarily from Asia, but also from the Americas, Africa and the Middle East. Our students also have diverse professional backgrounds. We have students from health ministries, education ministries, the military, urban planning, the Indian Railways and even the Vice-Mayors from cities such as Beijing. The diversity of our student body is one of our greatest assets. Hence, at LKYSPP, you can truly expect to network with the next generation of leaders and policymakers from Asia and beyond.

What role does the school hope to play in shaping Asian public policy?

We hope to play a significant role in shaping Asian public policy by boosting good governance in the region and beyond.

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An enormous transformation is underway in Asia today. The continent is experiencing a period of economic and cultural renaissance. Therefore it is vitally important that, in this phase, the institutions of governance keep pace with the rapidly growing economies.

In this regard, the record appears to be mixed. Since the Asian financial crisis, there has been growing recognition that, in a significant number of Asian countries, the institutions of governance have not kept pace with economic development. In order to rectify this, Asian countries will need highly skilled leaders in public policy who can significantly raise the standards of governance and thus improve lives of millions across this vast continent. This is the mission of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP). We consider ourselves very lucky to be in the right place at the right time.