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SINGAPORE’S LEE KUAN YEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY HOLDS 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, LAUNCHES TWO NEW BOOKS ON PUBLIC POLICY IN SINGAPORE AND ASIA

SINGAPORE – Two new books on the principles of public policy in Singapore and Asia have been launched by the National University of Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), at a special conference held today to mark the School’s 10th anniversary.

The books, both essay compilations, respectively showcase the trail-blazing ideas of Singapore’s former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew and the research being undertaken by LKYSPP scholars on governance in Asia. They were launched by the conference’s guest-of-honour Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Communications and Information.

The first book, The Big Ideas of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, is a collection of papers presented at an eponymous conference held last year to mark LKYSPP’s 9th anniversary. It includes contributions from former Singapore president S R Nathan, former deputy prime minister S Jayakumar, former chief justice Chan Sek Keong, Education Minister Heng Swee Keat, Government Chief of Communications Janadas Devan, LKYSPP Dean Kishore Mahbubani, and Ambassadors-at-Large Chan Heng Chee, Bilahari Kausikan and Tommy Koh.

“The Big Ideas of Mr Lee Kuan Yew is a ground-breaking work because this is the first time that policymakers and scholars who have worked together with Mr Lee have come together to reflect on his contributions. Fresh new insights on the thinking and legacy of Mr Lee can be found in this work. Current and future generations of Singaporeans will benefit a great deal from studying this book,” said Professor Mahbubani.

The second book, Governing Asia: Reflections on the Research Journey of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, analyses governance in Asia and the actions that the region’s governments
and people are taking for the public good. It comprises 38 essays by LKYSPP’s diverse pool of global scholars, who delve into their research interests to explore the past, present, and future of governance in Asia.

LKYSPP’s 10th anniversary conference, titled *Singapore and a Rising Asia*, was the culmination of “Festival of Ideas” -- a year of research and outreach events to celebrating the School’s journey over the past decade. It was graced by a host of distinguished speakers, including former Singapore foreign affairs minister George Yeo, renowned New York Times columnist Roger Cohen, and author and China Economic Quarterly co-founder Joe Studwell.

The first part of the conference examined the success of the Singapore model in the country’s first 50 years of independence, and how it may have to change to adapt to the next half-century. This was followed by a look at the shifting balance of power in Asia as well as the likely evolution of governance frameworks in China.

Established in 2004, LKYSPP has gone from strength to strength over the last decade. It has become the third-best endowed school of public policy in the world, and the first to introduce a fully-integrated multidisciplinary curriculum. The School boasts a distinguished faculty strong in research, and a diverse student body spanning over 70 countries. The School has played host to numerous distinguished speakers from around the globe, including former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Rwanda President Paul Kagame, former World Bank president Robert Zoellick and Nobel Laureates Amartya Sen, Douglass North, Elinor Ostrom and Kofi Annan.

LKYSPP has also cultivated an extensive network of international partners, which include the Harvard Kennedy School, the London School of Economics, Sciences Po, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs, and the University of Tokyo. In 2007, LKYSPP became the first Asian school to join the prestigious Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) established by the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs, the London School of Economics and Sciences Po.

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About Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Part of the National University of Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy was established in 2004 with the mission of educating and inspiring current and future generations of leaders to raise the standards of governance in Asia, improve the lives of its people and contribute to the transformation of the region.

With over 400 students spanning 70 countries, the School’s unique Asian focus allows students to experience public policy education in a distinctively global environment. The School has a number of research centres and institutes that contribute both to scholarly inquiry as well as policymaking, and frequently plays host to distinguished speakers and visiting scholars. For more information about the School, visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg.

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 16 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 37,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 23 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore’s fifth 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.

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