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S'pore is tops for training of senior Chinese officials

Singapore is the top choice when it comes to selecting a place to train top Chinese government officials.

This was what Mr Li Yuanchao said in his address at the inaugural opening ceremony of the Master in Public Administration and Management (MPAM) programme yesterday.

It is a joint effort by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the NUS Business School.

'Out of all the destinations where we send our leading officials to receive training, Singapore is the top choice, because Singapore is the most sincere in helping China develop, due to our longstanding warm relationship,' said Mr Li.

Mr Li, Minister of the Central Organisation Department of China's Communist Party, was the guest of honour at the ceremony at the LKY School in the Bukit Timah campus of the National University of Singapore.

Targeted at senior Chinese government officials and business leaders, the 10-month MPAM programme started last month with its first batch of 57 students. It is the first Chinese-language programme offered by the LKY School.

NUS president, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, who hosted the ceremony, said: 'We hope that their attachment here will further reinforce the close ties and strong collaboration between senior officials of China and Singapore, and help build bridges between our two countries in the fields of education, training and development.'

The MPAM curriculum integrates public administration and business management education.

It includes study visits to regional countries and the United States, as well as attachments with Singapore government organisations, statutory boards and government-linked firms.

Mr Li also said in his speech: 'At this moment, China is in urgent need of good leadership - this is what we have a shortage of. Therefore, I hope after this year-long programme, I will be able to see leading officials who are more knowledgeable at a higher level, who are able to solve the challenges China faces as our country continues to modernise.'

He also visited Nanyang Technological University yesterday and met students.

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