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For Immediate Release

Appointment of the first S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore

The **Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)** is pleased to announce today, on the occasion of the 90th birthday of former president S R Nathan, that Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman of the Singapore Management University Board of Trustees and Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Holdings Limited, will be appointed the first S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore.

The S R Nathan Fellowship was announced in 2013 at IPS' 25th anniversary gala dinner. IPS wanted to recognise the unique contribution of Mr Nathan – Singapore's sixth and longest-serving President – to public service and the advancement of Singapore. With generous support from individual and corporate donors, the Institute raised S\$3 million (excluding the matching government grant) to endow the annual fellowship.

As an S R Nathan Fellow, Mr Ho, 61, will pursue research related to public policy and governance in Singapore, and share his ideas at a series of public lectures over the course of the academic year 2014/2015.

To be delivered at the main campus of the National University of Singapore (NUS), the "IPS-Nathan Lectures" will aim to enrich the already-vibrant intellectual and cultural life on campus, by advancing public understanding and discussion of issues of critical national interest.

The S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore will further the core mission of IPS, which is to: research and analyse public policy; build bridges between key thought leaders; and communicate the Institute's work to a wider audience.

More information about the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore is available [here](#). Mr Ho's bio is appended below.

Annex 1
Bio of Ho Kwon Ping



Mr Ho Kwon Ping is Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Holdings, which owns both listed and private companies engaged in the development, ownership and operation of hotels, resorts, spas, residential homes, retail galleries and other lifestyle activities around the world.

Born in 1952, Mr Ho was educated in Tunghai University, Taiwan; Stanford University, California and the University of Singapore. He worked as a broadcast and financial journalist and was the Economics Editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. He joined the family business in 1981.

In 1994, after the success of rehabilitating an abandoned tin mine into Laguna Phuket, Asia's first integrated resort, he launched Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts. Banyan Tree has grown to more than 30 hotels and resorts, over 60 spas and close to 80 retail galleries, as well as three golf courses. With a strong presence in China, Banyan Tree will double its number of properties by 2016.

In May 2000, Mr Ho was conferred an honorary doctorate by Johnson & Wales University, and later received the London Business School 2005 Entrepreneurship Award. In 2008, he was named CEO of the Year at the Singapore Corporate Awards. In 2009, he was the recipient of the Hospitality Lifetime Achievement Award at the China Hotel Investment Summit in Shanghai.

As Chairman of Singapore Management University (SMU), Mr Ho was awarded the Singapore Government's Meritorious Service Medal for his contribution in the founding of SMU. In 2010, he became the first Asian to receive the ACA (American Creativity Association) Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his creativity and innovation in various spheres of endeavour. In 2011, he was voted top Thinker in Singapore in the Yahoo! Singapore 9 Awards, a testament to his business innovations and leadership in civic causes. The year 2012 saw Mr Ho awarded with CNBC's Travel Business Leader Award Asia Pacific 2012, in addition to being named to the board of Diageo, a British multinational.

Mr Ho is married to Claire Chiang, Senior Vice President, Banyan Tree Holdings Limited. They have three children – two sons and a daughter.

About the Institute of Policy Studies

The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) was established in 1988 as an independent think-tank to study and generate public policy ideas in Singapore. Today, IPS is an autonomous research centre of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. The Institute continues to advance its core mission: to analyse public policy; build bridges between thought leaders; and communicate research findings to a wide audience. IPS examines domestic policy challenges across a variety of fields and studies the attitudes of Singaporeans through surveys of public perception. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its analysis and takes the long-term view in its strategic deliberation and research. For more information about IPS, visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/

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