



PRESS RELEASE

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KISHORE MAHBUBANI TO RETIRE AS LKY SCHOOL DEAN

Singapore, 6 November 2017 — The National University of Singapore (NUS) today announced that Professor Kishore Mahbubani, who is Founding Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School), will retire from his leadership position at the School on 31 December 2017. He will remain a faculty member of NUS. A search process will be initiated for the next Dean of Asia's top public policy school, and an Acting Dean will be appointed from 1 January 2018.

Prof Mahbubani, who is 69, has served as Dean of the LKY School for over 13 years. He was appointed in August 2004 after serving 33 years in the Singapore Foreign Service, with postings in Cambodia, Malaysia, Washington, DC, and twice as ambassador to the United Nations, during which he also served as president of the Security Council. He was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1998. He is recognised internationally as an expert on Asian and international affairs, and was selected as one of *Foreign Policy's* Top Global Thinkers in 2010 and 2011.

Said Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Chairman of the LKY School Governing Board, "Professor Kishore Mahbubani has demonstrated dedication and leadership in building up the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy from scratch. He has firmly established the School as an internationally renowned institution for public policy education and research in Asia. The Governing Board deeply appreciates Kishore's tireless efforts as the Founding Dean of the LKY School."

During Prof Mahbubani's tenure, the LKY School developed a strong international reputation as Asia's leading public policy school, and a thought leader in key areas of public policy research, such as major powers and global governance, policy studies and public management, water and environment policy, competitiveness in Asia, and social policy in Asia. The School also deepened its long-standing collaboration with the Harvard Kennedy School, and became the first in Asia to join the Global Public Policy Network established by the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, the London School of Economics, and Sciences Po.

The School today has a diverse mix of scholars, academics, and prominent public policy practitioners to conduct good, relevant research and provide real-world insights in its classes. The School has more than 2,350 graduate alumni in 80 countries. It has also trained more than 11,000 professionals around the world through its popular executive education programmes. In 2017, the School received more than 1,300 applications for its Masters programmes – a record in the history of the School.

The LKY School's global profile is reflected in the many prominent visiting dignitaries it has hosted over the years. They include former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former UK

Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron, former Australia Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Pulitzer prize-winning author Thomas Friedman, Nobel Laureates Elinor Ostrom, Amartya Sen, Muhammad Yunus, and former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker.

Said Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President, “As the Founding Dean of the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Kishore built a solid academic and institutional foundation for the School, and positioned it well for its next stage of growth. I thank him for leading the LKY School with passion, dedication, and vision, for building up the team in the School and positioning it as a global thought leader in public policy with an Asian focus. We thank Kishore for his many contributions and wish him well on his well-deserved sabbatical.”

Prof Mahbubani, an alumna of the University, said, “It has been an incredible privilege to be the Dean of the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. After 13 years, it is timely for a new leadership to take the School to greater heights. I am deeply grateful to the University, Governing Board, my colleagues, the students, alumni, donors, and friends for their wonderful support during my tenure. I look forward to the opportunity of the nine-month sabbatical to expand and deepen my research and writing.”

Please refer to the Annex for Prof Mahbubani’s statement to the LKY School Governing Board.

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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 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives. NUS also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

NUS takes an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to research, working with partners from industry, government and academia, to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in NUS’ Schools and Faculties, 30 university-level research institutes and centres, and Research Centres of Excellence cover a wide range of themes including: energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems. The University’s latest research focus is to use data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore’s Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

About the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Part of the National University of Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School) 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 2,350 alumni spanning 80 countries, the School's unique Asian focus allows students to form a network of future leaders and experience public policy education in a distinctively global environment. In addition to Masters and PhD programmes, the LKY School offers high quality customised Executive Programmes that cater to the needs of time-constrained senior managers and professionals, with the aim of delivering creative solutions to real management and leadership challenges. 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.

6 November 2017

Statement to the Governing Board of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

To the Chairman and members of the Governing Board,

I would like to inform you of a significant decision that I have made about my life.

On 24 October this year, I turned 69. As I approached this date, and as I thought about my experience with the double heart bypass surgery last year, I realise that the time had come for me to take a fresh look at what I should achieve over the next decade as I enter my 70s.

I have been working in some kind of administrative position for 46 years: 33 years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 13 years at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School). After 46 years, I thought that my life should take a new direction. I have therefore decided to step down as Dean on 31 December this year and to focus on a new career that involves more time spent on reading, reflection and writing. I need to re-build my store of intellectual capital, if I am to carry my writing up to a higher level.

I am truly grateful that, to help achieve this goal, the National University of Singapore (NUS) has kindly agreed to allow me to go on a sabbatical from 1 January 2018 for nine months. Following that, I will return to NUS before retiring fully in 2019.

It has been a real privilege and honour to be the founding Dean of the LKY School and to watch its spectacular growth and success. It is now in a very strong position to move ahead on its own. I am confident that under the new Chairman, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, the School will be led to even greater heights. I will remain a strong friend of the School and will support it in any way that I can. I would also like to thank Emeritus Senior Minister Goh and the Governing Board for this unique privilege of having been the Dean for the past 13 years. I am now looking forward to the next chapter in my life.

Kishore Mahbubani