

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Signs Two MOUs with Swedish Institutions to Deepen Academic and Policy Collaboration

Stockholm, Sweden, 20 October 2026 - The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) and a separate MOU with KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) to deepen collaboration across public policy research, academic exchange and executive education.

The MOUs were signed as part of a series of engagements during the State Visit to Sweden by Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore. The MOU with SSE was signed by Professor Joseph Liow, Dean of LKYSPP, and Professor Lars Strannegård, President of SSE. The MOU with KTH was signed by Professor Liow and Professor Anders Söderholm, President of KTH. Both signings were witnessed by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, and President Tharman.

LKYSPP and SSE

The partnership with SSE brings together the complementary strengths of the two schools in research and academic collaboration. LKYSPP is recognised for its expertise in public policy and governance across the Asia region, while SSE has a distinguished tradition of research and education in economics, finance, and business. Both institutions share a commitment to rigorous, applied scholarship that informs policy and practice.

The MOU also reflects a shared conviction that effective governance is essential to the competitiveness and flourishing of societies, and that an evolving global order calls for new forms of cooperation across countries, regions, institutions, and disciplines. It affirms the value of closer engagement between ASEAN and the Nordics.

Under the MOU, LKYSPP and SSE will explore closer cooperation across areas of mutual interest, including a recurring forum that brings together academic experts, public officials, industry leaders, and representatives of civil society from ASEAN and the Nordics to address shared policy challenges.

The collaboration is especially timely following the establishment of SSE's new Master in Public Policy programme, which offers natural opportunities for engagement between the two schools.

LKYSPP and KTH

The agreement with KTH pairs LKYSPP's strengths in public policy education and executive development with KTH's expertise in engineering, technology and innovation management. KTH, through its School of Industrial Engineering and Management, has a strong track record in research and education at the intersection of technology, industry and society.

Under the MOU, LKYSPP and KTH will collaborate on the design and delivery of a one-week overseas study visit to Stockholm as part of LKYSPP's Senior Management Programme and will explore opportunities to design and develop capability development programmes for public sector leaders.

The agreement reflects the growing importance of equipping public sector leaders with insights into how technology, innovation and industrial strategy intersect with public policy. These are areas in which both Singapore and Sweden have established strong track records.

“The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy has long believed that public policy education is enriched when it draws on a diversity of governance traditions and experiences. Singapore and Sweden are different in many respects, but both are open economies that have had to navigate a world shaped by larger powers, while maintaining our own agency and a strong commitment to international cooperation. There is much we can learn from each other, and we look forward to building lasting academic partnerships with SSE and KTH that benefit our students, our faculty, and the broader public policy community,” said Professor Joseph Liow. “It is especially fitting that these agreements are signed during President Tharman’s State Visit to Sweden, underscoring the depth of the relationship between our two countries,” he added.

“Understanding how societies develop and thrive requires us to look beyond our own experiences and learn from different perspectives. Sweden and Singapore have developed different approaches to economic development and governance, and there is much to be gained from bringing these experiences into dialogue. Through our partnership with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, we can strengthen the connection between academic research and public policy, while creating new opportunities for our students and faculty. We are excited to build on this collaboration as we develop SSE’s Master in Public Policy programme,” said Professor Lars Strannegård, President of SSE.

“Addressing the complex challenges facing societies today requires close collaboration between academia and the public sector, particularly as artificial intelligence and digital transformation reshape industries, economies and governance. By combining KTH’s strengths in technology, innovation and industrial transformation with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy’s expertise in public policy and leadership development, we can translate technological advances into effective policies and lasting societal impact, while building on the longstanding ties between Sweden and Singapore,” said Professor Anders Söderholm, President of KTH.

The signing of these MOUs adds to the growing ties between Singapore and Sweden. NUS and SSE have cooperated closely for several decades, spanning research, student exchange, and executive education across the NUS Business School and the NUS Department of Economics. NUS and KTH also share a deep and multi-faceted partnership, including active student exchange programmes and the NUS Overseas Colleges programme in Stockholm. These new agreements broaden and deepen that engagement, extending it into public policy and executive education for public sector leaders, and reflect a bilateral relationship that now spans education, research, trade, and innovation. Further details on specific programmes and activities under the partnerships will be announced in due course.

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About the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) is an autonomous, professional graduate school of the National University of Singapore. Its mission is to be a leading global public policy school, with its faculty, students and alumni shaping thought leadership, improving standards of governance, and transforming lives for a more sustainable world. In addition to its Master's and PhD programmes, LKYSPP offers high-quality Executive Programmes for civil servants, corporate executives, and non-profit professionals to equip them with insights and skills to lead change in their organisations and communities. For more information please visit: <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/>

About the Stockholm School of Economics

The Stockholm School of Economics is rated as a top business school in the Nordic and Baltic countries and enjoys a strong international reputation. World-class research forms the foundation of our educational offering, which includes bachelor, master, PhD, MBA, and Executive Education programs. Our programs are developed in close cooperation with the business and research communities, providing graduates substantial potential to attain leading positions in companies and other organisations.

The School is accredited by EQUIS, certifying that all of its principal activities – teaching as well as research – maintain the highest international standards. The Stockholm School of Economics is also the only Swedish member institution of CEMS and PIM, which are collaborations between top business schools worldwide, contributing to the level of quality for which our school is known.

About KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Since its founding in 1827, KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm has become one of Europe's leading technical and engineering universities, as well as a key centre of intellectual talent and innovation.

KTH works with industry and society in the pursuit of sustainable solutions to some of humanity's greatest challenges: climate change, future energy supply, urbanisation and quality of life for the rapidly-growing elderly population. We are addressing these with world leading, high-impact research and education in natural sciences and all branches of engineering, as well as in architecture, industrial management, urban planning, history and philosophy.

KTH is Sweden's largest technical research and learning institution and home to students, researchers and faculty from around the world.

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