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PRESS RELEASE

**NAVIGATING THE LABYRINTH: GENDER DIVERSITY AND WOMEN LEADERSHIP
INTO THE FUTURE**

*NUS LKY School celebrates 11th anniversary with a panel discussion addressing the
complex challenges for women in leadership*

SINGAPORE – Women in Singapore and around the world continue to be strikingly under-represented in leadership roles. In Singapore, women account for just one in five senior management positions and hold fewer than one in 10 corporate board seats. This dearth of top women leaders has long been attributed to an invisible glass ceiling preventing women from reaching key decision-making positions.

2 But recent research has shown that the challenges professional women face are far more complex. At each stage of their careers and personal lives, women are presented with different choices and obstacles – a labyrinth of challenges and choices that continue to undermine women's access to top leadership positions. This suggests a need for more sophisticated policy instruments in order to increase gender diversity.

3 Exploring this idea of a gender labyrinth, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School) at the National University of Singapore will organize a panel discussion today on women in leadership as part of its 11th anniversary celebrations this year. Featuring prominent women leaders from diverse fields, the panel will shed light on the stumbling blocks to gender diversity at the highest levels and discuss the future of women in leadership.

4 Speaking on the panel will be Dr Kanwaljit Soin, a consultant orthopaedic and hand surgeon at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, who is renowned for a being a pioneer in championing the cause of gender equality and women's rights in Singapore. She will be joined by Ms Grace Sai, CEO of an entrepreneurial community The Hub Singapore, who will speak about female leadership and empowerment from the perspective of today's millennials.

5 The two panellists will describe the options and obstacles for women in leadership from different lenses. They will explain the importance of workplace gender diversity and equality of opportunities, as well as examine the reasons for the shortage of women in leadership roles. In addition, they will discuss whether there are any new and emerging developments that will help women overcome the many challenges of the gender labyrinth.

6 Dr Noeleen Heyzer, the highest-ranking Singaporean in the United Nations network and the event's guest-of-honour, will discuss the topic of women's leadership though social change. She will draw on her many years of working in the UN system to share insights on how women can make a difference in this female century.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2015
Time: 5.15pm – 6.45pm
Venue: NUS LKY School of Public Policy, Auditorium, Level 3, Block B,
469G Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259776

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About the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Established in 2004, the LKY School of Public Policy is 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 active in research and a diverse student body of 400 students spanning 50 countries. Numerous distinguished speakers from around the globe have graced events organised by the LKY School, such as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, David Cameron, 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. The LKY School has also cultivated an extensive network of international partners, including the Harvard Kennedy School, the London School of Economics and the University of Tokyo. In 2007, LKYSPP became the first Asian school to join the prestigious Global Public Policy Network (GPPN), which was established by the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs in the United States, the London School of Economics in Britain and France's Sciences Po.

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