



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

SINGAPORE TO HOST INAUGURAL OECD CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION FUTURES

A two-day conference on *Higher Education Futures* that gathers leaders and experts in academia and public policy to discuss trends and challenges in global higher education will be held in Singapore from 14 to 15 October 2015. The first of its kind among conferences organised in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the conference will also explore ideas to meet these challenges and leverage opportunities in higher education.

2. There are four themes for the OECD-Singapore Conference on *Higher Education Futures*:

- a) Mapping and meeting future demand for higher education;
- b) The rise of higher education in Asia and the impact on the global landscape;
- c) Technology, disruption and the 'unbundling' of higher education: challenges to traditional modes of education; and
- d) Two sides of the same coin: resource challenges, the drive for quality and imperatives for relevance.

3. The conference comprises four plenary sessions and accompanying parallel sessions in a seminar/workshop format, which features Ministers, academics and senior practitioners who are internationally recognised and well regarded in their respective fields.

4. Minister for Education, Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat, and Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD, Mr Stefan Kapferer, are slated to deliver opening addresses at the conference. Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education, Singapore, Ms Indranee Rajah, is also scheduled to speak at the first plenary session. The line of speakers includes:

- Professor Tyler Cowen, Professor of Economics, George Mason University, USA;
- Professor Bertil Andersson, President, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore;
- Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England, United Kingdom;

- Professor Simon Marginson, Professor of International Higher Education, UCL Institute of Education, University College of London, United Kingdom; and
- Professor Ka Ho Mok, Vice President (Designate) and Chair Professor of Comparative Policy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Registration

5. For more information about the programme, speakers and registration, please visit www.oecdconference.sg. The closing date for registration is 9 October 2015.
6. For queries on the conference, please contact:

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Ministry of Education (MOE), Singapore

The MOE directs the formulation and implementation of education policies in Singapore. At the pre-tertiary level, it oversees the development and administration of the Government and Government-aided primary schools, secondary schools, junior colleges, and a centralised institute.

The MOE also oversees the development of the higher education sector through policy oversight and resourcing of the Institute of Technical Education, five polytechnics, five autonomous universities – National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), and Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) – and other publicly-funded private institutions such as SIM University, the LASALLE College of the Arts, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. By developing a high-quality post-secondary education sector, the MOE aims to provide opportunities for all Singaporeans to realise their potential, while meeting Singapore's social and economic objectives. Visit MOE's website at <http://www.moe.gov.sg/>

Synopsis on OECD-Singapore Conference on *Higher Education Futures*

While higher education and research are widely recognised as crucial for social and economic development, those responsible for planning and delivering these vital services will face formidable challenges in coming years. These include scarcity of public funding, demographic changes, heightened competition for students and research funds, growing expectation of cost containment of higher education, and challenges to the traditional modes of education delivery.

To address these challenges, the joint OECD-Singapore Conference on Higher Education Futures will explore forward-looking themes in the global higher education landscape. Plenary sessions and parallel discussions will focus on mapping and meeting future demand for higher education, the rise of higher education in Asia, the disruptive role of technology on traditional modes of education, and how higher education can stay relevant in the face of resource challenges. The Conference will bring together some 500 participants from over 40 countries, representing senior government officials, higher education administrators, academics and practitioners, for an engaging exchange of ideas and best practices.

Please refer to www.oecdconference.sg for updates on the conference.