

## **Experienced Education Leader Joins Institute for Adult Learning as Executive Director**

**Singapore – 17 January 2023** – The Institute for Adult Learning ([IAL](#)), an autonomous institute of the Singapore University of Social Sciences, will have a new leader at its helm as it steps up to its expanded role as the National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning. Mr Yeo Li Pheow will succeed Professor Lee Wing On with effect from 13 March 2023.

A seasoned education leader, Mr Yeo Li Pheow has three decades of experience serving in various leadership roles in the education sector, including leading Republic Polytechnic as its Principal/CEO for 14 years. The Polytechnic was the first education institution in Singapore to apply the “Problem-based Learning Approach” in all its diploma programmes. As one of the longest serving Board Members of the National Community Leadership Institute (NACLI), he was actively involved in pioneering the curriculum design for the upskilling of community and grassroots leaders through advanced certificate programmes in Community Development and Community Leadership.

Over the span of his career, Mr Yeo also held various senior appointments, including serving as Deputy Director, Higher Education Division of the Ministry for Education. He was an Advisory Council Member to the International Symposium on Advances in Technical Education, a joint initiative between the National Institutes of Technology (Japan) and the five polytechnics in Singapore. He has served in the IAL Council since 2019. He also serves as a member of the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD) and the National Pharmacy Strategy Advisory Committee.

For his distinguished service to the education sector, he received the Public Administration Medals (Bronze and Gold) in 2003 and 2019, respectively. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics (Accountancy major) from Macquarie University, Australia and a Master's Degree in Business Administration at the Institut Supérieur de Gestion (ISG), France. He also participated in the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School and the first Executive Leadership Programme for senior public sector leaders by the Institute of Public Sector Leadership, Civil Service College.

“I am honoured to be given the opportunity to serve in IAL, at a pivotal time of its strategic role as a National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning. The great work that has been done by those before me, especially Professor Lee Wing On, paves the way for the institute to accelerate, advance and scale the adult learning practices and research to world-class standards in Singapore. I look forward to working closely with the team at IAL, our global industry partners, Singapore's institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) and the entire Training and Education (TAE) sector here to further raise standards, and support our workforce to be resilient, agile and employable in a competitive, connected global economy”, said Mr Yeo Li Pheow.

Mr Tan Kok Yam, Chairman of the IAL Council and Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), said, “The IAL Council warmly welcomes Li Pheow to the IAL. We are confident that his experience as a leader in the field, and his passion for education, will bring IAL to new heights at a time when more is being expected of the Institution. The Council would also like to express our deep appreciation for the many important and long-lasting contributions to IAL by Professor Lee Wing On. Wing On’s leadership has been instrumental in integrating IAL into the Singapore University of Social Sciences, to reap the synergies of being part of a larger university. Over his tenure, he has grown IAL’s research capability, established strong industry partnerships, and built up the institution’s international standing. Most importantly, he has nurtured a strong team of professionals and leaders. These are firm foundations on which the future growth of IAL can be confidently established.”

Professor Lee Wing On said, “My time at IAL has been one of the most rewarding times of my career, and I am immensely proud of the team and their work. In the capable hands of Li Pheow, IAL, in its new expanded strategic role as the National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning will achieve new heights of success to impact to the TAE sector, help raise workforce productivity and competitiveness of our economy.”

**Enclosure:**

Annex A: Curriculum Vitae of Mr Yeo Li Pheow

Annex B: Achievements of Prof Lee Wing On as Executive Director, Institute for Adult Learning

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**About the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL)**

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) is an autonomous institute of the Singapore University of Social Sciences. As the National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning, IAL works closely and supports Adult Education professionals, businesses, human resource developers and policy makers through its comprehensive suite of programmes and services on raising capabilities and catalysing innovations in Continuing Education and Training (CET). IAL also champions research in sustaining economic performance through skills, shaping employment as well as CET decisions, and develops innovations through learning technology and pedagogy to heighten adult learning. pedagogy to heighten adult learning.

For more information, visit: [www.ial.edu.sg](http://www.ial.edu.sg)

**About the Singapore University of Social Sciences**

Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) is a university with a rich heritage in inspiring lifelong education, and transforming society through social sciences. We develop work-ready graduates and work-adaptive alumni to their fullest potential through our 3H’s education philosophy – ‘Head’ for professional competency with applied knowledge, ‘Heart’ for social awareness to meet the needs of the society, and ‘Habit’ for passion towards lifelong learning. We

offer over 80 undergraduate and graduate programmes, available in full- and part-time study modes, which are flexible, modular and inter-disciplinary, catering to both fresh school leavers and adult learners. SUSS also offers a broad range of continuing education and training modular courses for the professional skills upgrading of Singapore's workforce. Our programmes and courses are offered by our five schools:

- S R Nathan School of Human Development
- School of Business
- School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences
- School of Law
- School of Science and Technology

To date, over 38,000 graduates have experienced our unique brand of education, and each year, about 15,000 students are pursuing their full- and part-time studies with us.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suss.edu.sg/>

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**Curriculum Vitae of Mr Yeo Li Pheow**



**Personal Particulars**

Name : Yeo Li Pheow  
Nationality : Singaporean

**Academic/Professional Qualifications**

Degree/Diplomas : Bachelor Degree in Economics (Accountancy major)  
Macquarie University, Australia, 1983

Master Degree in Business Administration  
Institut Supérieur de Gestion (ISG), France, 1993

School : Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business  
Harvard Business School, 2013

2015 : Executive Leadership Programme  
Institute of Public Sector Leadership, Civil Service College,

**Appointments**

Present Appointment : Principal/CEO  
Republic Polytechnic

Prior to his appointment at Republic Polytechnic in 2008, Mr Yeo spent 18 years in the Polytechnic Sector and held various appointments. From May 2001 to April 2003, Mr Yeo was posted to the Ministry of Education where he assumed the appointment of Deputy Director, Higher Education Division. During his stint in MOE, Mr Yeo was responsible for overseeing the operating and development budget planning and allocation for all MOE post-secondary education institutions, and three public-funded universities. Mr Yeo spent the first six and half years of his career in the Banking industry before he joined the education sector.

### **Awards**

Public Administration Medal (Bronze), 2003

Public Service Long Service Medal, 2017

Public Administration Medal (Gold), 2019

Honorary Doctor degree [Dr. (h.c.)], James Cook University, Australia, 2018

### **Professional Activities**

Fellow, Australian Society of CPAs,

Associate, Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (UK)

Associate, Staff Education Development Association (UK)

Member, Singapore Human Resources Institute

### **Public/Social Service**

Member, Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD) (EI)

Member, National Pharmacy Strategy Advisory Committee.

Member, Advisory Council, International Symposium on Advances in Technical Education, a joint initiative between the National Institutes of Technology (Japan) and the five polytechnics in Singapore.

Chairman, Committee for Staff Development (Polytechnics and ITE)

Chairman, Joint-Polys/ITE Salary Review Committee

Member, Council of Institute of Adult Learning

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**Achievements of Professor Lee Wing On as Executive Director,  
Institute for Adult Learning**



Professor Lee Wing On is the first Executive Director of IAL since the institute became an autonomous entity of Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) from 1 Apr 2019. During his tenure, a key milestone was the stewardship in developing of IAL's first five-year strategic roadmap in 2020 which outlined the institute's aspirations of advancing towards the future and meeting the evolving needs of the dynamic Training and Adult Education (TAE) sector.

In 2020, Professor Lee set up the Centre for Workplace Learning and Performance (CWLP) and upgraded the former iN.LAB of the Research Division to become an Innovation Centre in order to forge IAL's role in enterprise innovation. In 2021, he led the institute in the set-up of the National Centre of Excellence for Workplace Learning (NACE @ IAL) to develop work-learn capabilities and advance workplace learning in enterprises. CWLP embraces NACE@IAL, with a broader portfolio covering the Learning Enterprises Alliance (LEA), a brainchild of IAL and other partnering enterprises initiatives. Most recently in November 2022, under Professor Lee's leadership, IAL was designated as a National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning (NCAL) to spearhead capability building and raise the quality of the Training & Adult Education sector.

In the area of research informing policy related to adult learning, Prof Lee was appointed in 2019, by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) and National Research Foundation (NRF) as Chairman of the Taskforce on the Future of Adult Learning Research Directions, which comprised of representatives from all six autonomous universities as members. leading to the Taskforce Report, also known as the FOALR Report (2020). The recommended Research Collaboratory in the report has been accepted by Ministry of Education and SkillsFuture Singapore as part of the NCAL agenda, entrusting IAL to lead the establishment of the new Centre.

For his invaluable and wide-ranging contributions to adult and continuing education, Professor Lee has been inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in September 2022, recognised alongside other exemplary international education leaders.

In his illustrious academic career, alongside his prolific publications and editorship in various fields and areas, Professor Lee has been invited to be Co-Editor-in-Chief for Springer's International Handbook of Education Development in Asia-Pacific, and the Third International Handbook of Lifelong Learning. For both Handbooks, staff members of IAL contribute as authors and section editors. Professor Lee also co-authored two papers for the Lifelong Learning Handbook namely the Develop a Qualification Ecosystem for Adult Learners: Micro-credentialing to Formalize Informal and Nonformal Learning (2022), Enabling Continuous Innovation and Knowledge Creation in Organizations: Optimizing Informal Learning and Tacit Knowledge (2022). Professor Lee also contributed the paper The Emergence of the Institute for Adult Learning: An Institutionalisation Experiment of Advancing Continuing Education and Training in Singapore (2020) published in the Journal of Global Lifelong Learning by Shanghai Open University. Last, but not least, Professor Lee had also established a Routledge-IAL Book Series, which will provide a platform for international publication of IAL and SUSS research outputs.