Dear Alumni,

Time really flies. In the blink of an eye, 2014 is coming to a close. In this final quarter, we would like to share with you some of the noteworthy results that Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) has achieved.

On 13 October 2014, NCPA welcomed 30 provincial and city officials from Bac Ninh, Vietnam, who took part in a one-week training course in public administration and human resource management. Following Quang Ninh, Bac Ninh is the second province from Vietnam that partnered NCPA to conduct training programmes for its senior officials. For the past three years, NCPA has trained over 300 state and city officials from Vietnam. The new partnership with Bac Ninh is an expansion of the training programmes that NCPA provides for Vietnamese government officials.

On 25 October 2014, NCPA organised the second Lien China Development Forum with the theme of “Improving Social Governance Capabilities, Promoting New Patterns of Urbanization”. Sponsored by Singapore’s Lien Foundation, the event was co-organised by NCPA at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Wong Kan Seng, former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, delivered an opening address at the Forum’s opening ceremony. In addition, Professor Chen Zhangliang, Vice-Chairman of China Association for Science and Technology and former Vice Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, gave a keynote speech entitled “Safeguard the Peasants’ Employment: A Key Factor of China’s Urbanisation” at the event.

Results of the 2014 Lien Service-Oriented Government Index for Chinese Cities was announced at the Forum. The study, sponsored by Singapore’s Lien Foundation, was conducted by NCPA. It included sub-rankings across three broad categories – Citizen Satisfaction, Business Satisfaction and Provision of General Public Service. The study provided rankings for all 36 cities covering all municipalities, provinces and autonomous regions across Mainland China. The top four Chinese cities in this year’s general rankings were Xiamen, Shenyang, Qingdao and Chongqing respectively. Xiamen had occupied the top spot in 2011 and 2012, but came in second after Qingdao in 2013. Shenzhen and Hangzhou tied at the fifth position; Dalian, Nanjing and Chengdu tied at the eighth position; while Hefei and Shanghai tied at the tenth place.

In his interview with Lianhe Zaobao, Professor Liu Hong, Director of NCPA, said, “This is the fifth year that NCPA studied the public service index for major cities in China. Over the five-year results, we can conclude that with the improvement of public service quality and management, the general public’s expectation of social fairness delivered by the public service will also become more demanding. This year’s results shows that the satisfactory level of public service fairness is generally low. From here, we can see that it is important to enhance the fairness in public service as it will reduce social inequality and enhance overall societal cohesion.”
On 31 October 2014, NTU, Temasek Foundation and Vietnam’s Monitoring Office of Programme 165 (MOP165) sealed a new round of partnership in Hanoi, Vietnam. This marked the third time that the three parties have worked together following the success of the “Train-the-Trainers” programme in 2012 and 2013. The objective of the 2014 training programme is to train senior officials from Vietnam in the area of public administration, policy and governance. Professor Alan Chan, Dean of the NTU’s College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences; Professor Liu Hong, Director of NCPA; HE Ng Teck Hean, Ambassador of Singapore to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Dr Nguyen Van Quynh, Member of Central Committee of CPV, Vice Chairman of the Party Central Committee’s Organisation Commission and Standing Vice Chairman of Programme 165; and Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation, were present at the programme’s opening ceremony. The new training programme will be conducted by NCPA and will feature special courses based on the learning needs of the Vietnamese government.

Moving forward, NCPA is poised to become a leading institution of education and research on public governance, especially in the context of a globalising Asia. In order to achieve this, we will be focusing our efforts in two areas: nurturing and inspiring a new generation of leaders in Asia, and researching on and promoting good governance in Asia and beyond. We sincerely hope that all of you can provide us with suggestions and help us achieve even greater heights in the coming years.

Admissions for our Master of Science in Managerial Economics and Master of Public Administration (in Chinese) programmes commencing in March 2015 will be closed in January 2015. Admission for our Master of Public Administration (in English) commencing in August 2015 has begun. We look forward to your continuous support to promote the programmes. For more information on admissions and application forms, please visit the NCPA’s website, www.ncpa.ntu.edu.sg.

Finally, we would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May all your wishes come true in the coming year!

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