

Manchester Business School celebrates 50 years of academic brilliance

Sharing a rich and proud heritage dating back to 1824, the University of Manchester and Manchester Business School (MBS) continue to build on this history, today, and generate world-class research as well as deliver an outstanding learning and student experience.

In its 50th anniversary year, MBS continues to play a key role in achieving these aims, both in Manchester, England, and internationally, through seven global centres. Part of the world-renowned University of Manchester, MBS opened its doors in 1965, and soon acquired a high reputation for innovation in business education. Much has changed in the world since then, however, the core aim of generating the highest quality research to inspire business leaders of the future, remains.

The 50th anniversary is a particularly exciting time as MBS continues to build on the history of world-class research and cutting-edge business education, and develop its international offerings, in line with the University of Manchester's strategic plan.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the South East Asia Centre of MBS hosted the MBS 50 Extravaganza Gala, at the Chijmes Hall in Singapore, recently. The event was attended by hundreds of guests, comprising alumni, students, key partners and eminent guests of the school.

The Guests-of-Honour included Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health & Ministry of Transport in Singapore; Ms Judi Leon, Director of UK Trade & Investment for the British High Commission in Singapore; Mr Michael Kum Soh Har, Executive Chairman of the M&L Group; and Mr Neil Maxwell, CEO of M&L Hospitality.

Last year, MBS was delighted to announce the development of a new hotel adjoining the new Executive Education Centre in Manchester, which is supported by an investment from Singapore's M&L Hospitality Group, one of the world's leading international hospitality real estate investment platforms. The hotel is a part of the University of Manchester's £1 billion 10-year Campus Masterplan, which will transform the university into one of the most modern campuses in the world by 2022. The new hotel will not only serve visiting faculty and students of MBS, but the entire city of Manchester as well, including other centres of research and innovation in the city, such as the Manchester Science Park and the Central Manchester University Hospitals.



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These developments build on an already successful partnership between Singapore, the University of Manchester and MBS.

Guests from around Asia and MBS faculty members from the UK flew in for the MBS 50 Extravaganza Gala in Singapore. Among them were Ms Christina Siu, the East Asia Centre Director; Mr Ronald Kong, Managing Director of JW investment Holding Ltd and distinguished MBS alumnus and university donor; Ms Pauline Lai, CEO of PL Management Ltd and Founding Chairperson of the MBS Alumni Association China.

Also sharing in this noteworthy moment were key partners of the school, such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (with whom MBS has a global Talent Management Partnership); the International Compliance Association; the Singapore Institute of Management (with whom MBS has a partnership for the Bachelor of Science in Management programme); as well as council members of the MBS Alumni Association Singapore and the UOM Alumni Association Singapore; Mr Er Kwong Wah, notable MBS alumnus; and Mr Gabriel Lee, founding Director of the South East Asia Centre and MBS graduate.

The evening began with guests treated to cocktails and 'A Walk through History' (photo wall exhibits lining the entrance, celebrating both MBS and Singapore's heritage), with the accompaniment of a classical music performance by a string quartet.

The event was officially opened by Prof Fiona Devine, Dean and Head of MBS, who delighted the audience

with an insightful opening address. Speeches were also delivered by Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health & Ministry of Transport, Singapore; and Ms Judi Leon, Director of UK Trade & Investment, British High Commission in Singapore.

The guests enjoyed a sumptuous eight-course meal as well as various other celebratory activities such as an MBS history video montage and 'The Real Deal' (an interactive segment onstage with students and alumni). The event concluded with an elaborate ceremony that included cake-cutting and champagne-toasting with confetti.

[The MBS50 celebrations can be viewed at <https://singapore.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Events/Gallery.aspx>

Information on the SG50 promotions from MBS can be obtained by emailing globalmba@mbsw.edu.sg (using SG50SE as the subject) or by calling 65-6538 4454].



Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim delivering his address.

