

Speech by Dr Beh Swan Gin, Managing Director, Singapore Economic Development Board, at the opening of AACSB International Asia headquarters in Singapore, on Thursday, 4 June 2009, 1730 hours, Equinox Private Dining Room.

Mr John Fernandes, President and CEO, AACSB

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening.

1. I am pleased to be here this evening to celebrate the opening of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International Asia headquarters in Singapore.
2. We are delighted that AACSB will be joining the growing community of more than 76 International Organisations which have set up their regional operations in Singapore. We are glad that AACSB has found Singapore to be a conducive base to develop, manage and deliver your programmes and activities in Asia; leveraging on Singapore's location, business infrastructure and the ease of access to talent.

3. Equally important, AACSB's presence is a significant addition to the education landscape here, and helps advance our vision of developing Singapore into the leading centre of learning in Asia, with a diverse and distinctive mix of world-class universities and schools from all over the world.

4. In management education, Business Schools such as INSEAD, U of Chicago, ESSEC as well as our local universities are attracting students from all over the world to Singapore, particularly those from Asia and equipping them with the skills to be business leaders of tomorrow.

5. In fact, by 2025¹, the region is projected to account for 70% of the global demand for international higher education. As the leading accreditation for business schools, AACSB will complement our Global Schoolhouse initiative and help raise the standard of management education in Asia.

6. Let me end by thanking AACSB for your confidence in Singapore. A big congratulations on the official opening and I wish you every success.

¹ UK Vision 2020 Report

Thank you.