

6 November 2017

**Statement to the Governing Board of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy**

To the Chairman and members of the Governing Board,

I would like to inform you of a significant decision that I have made about my life.

On 24 October this year, I turned 69. As I approached this date, and as I thought about my experience with the double heart bypass surgery last year, I realise that the time had come for me to take a fresh look at what I should achieve over the next decade as I enter my 70s.

I have been working in some kind of administrative position for 46 years: 33 years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 13 years at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School). After 46 years, I thought that my life should take a new direction. I have therefore decided to step down as Dean on 31 December this year and to focus on a new career that involves more time spent on reading, reflection and writing. I need to re-build my store of intellectual capital, if I am to carry my writing up to a higher level.

I am truly grateful that, to help achieve this goal, the National University of Singapore (NUS) has kindly agreed to allow me to go on a sabbatical from 1 January 2018 for nine months. Following that, I will return to NUS before retiring fully in 2019.

It has been a real privilege and honour to be the founding Dean of the LKY School and to watch its spectacular growth and success. It is now in a very strong position to move ahead on its own. I am confident that under the new Chairman, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, the School will be led to even greater heights. I will remain a strong friend of the School and will support it in any way that I can. I would also like to thank Emeritus Senior Minister Goh and the Governing Board for this unique privilege of having been the Dean for the past 13 years. I am now looking forward to the next chapter in my life.

Kishore Mahbubani