

# **"International Differences in Work-related values - A Comparative Study of Chinese Companies in Singapore and China"**

by

Prof. Lee Cheuk Yin

**Date: 13th March 2013, Wednesday**

**Time: 2.30PM**

**Venue: IAS Meeting Room 2.27**

**Level 2, FASS Building, UBD**

## **Abstract**

The economic prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, especially during the 90's, has created no less attention to Confucianism or Asian values for it has been regarded as the cultural background conducive for entrepreneurs of this region to excel.

Although the causes of economic growth and success are complex and likely to vary from one country to another, the significance of culture has been emphasized. For example, Hicks and Redding commented. "as there are well over a hundred developing countries, the almost perfect correlation between Chinese heritage and economic success could hardly be due to chance." Another study by Gordon Redding on the spirit of Chinese capitalism suggested a strong link between Confucian values and modern overseas Chinese business enterprises.

However, people often loosely refer to "Confucianism" or "Asian Values" when analyzing factors relevant to the economy and social matters. They do so without first synthesizing the system of thought upon which they base their claims, thereby weakening their arguments. Moreover, there is also the misconception that all "Chinese" are the same or Asians are homogeneous.

How then does Confucianism influence Asian countries? Do traditional Chinese values still exist in modern Chinese societies? Do Confucianism or traditional Chinese values still played a role in shaping the culture of modern Chinese companies in Singapore and China? Using quantificational methodology of study, this talk attempts to answer the above questions based on survey findings in Singapore and China.

## **Speaker's profile**

Prof. **Lee Cheuk Yin** graduated from the University of Hong Kong (B.A. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours; M. Phil.) and received his doctorate from the Australian National University. A former Swire Scholar and Commonwealth Scholar, his research interests include Chinese intellectual history, Chinese business culture, East-Asian Confucianism, and Chinese beliefs and customs. He has served as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Director of the Centre for Research in Chinese Studies and Head of the Department of Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore, and is currently Academic Convenor of the Minor in China Studies Programme and Director of the NUS-Peking University Double MA in Chinese Language Programme. He is concurrently Guest Professor of the Wuhan University, Nanjing University and Wubei University in China. Besides academic duties, Prof Lee is Council Member of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony of the Singapore Government, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Chinese Programmes of the Media Development Authority of Singapore, Member of Board of Directors of the Singapore Kwang Wai Siu Hospital and Singapore Calligraphy Center.