

**MEDIA RELEASE – Embargoed until 2 August 2019, 3 pm**

### **LAUNCH OF TEMASEK HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE (THRC)**

**2 AUGUST 2019, SINGAPORE:** Renowned Historian, and Chairman, Board of Trustees of ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Professor Wang Gungwu, officially launched the Temasek History Research Centre, this afternoon at an event witnessed by guests from academia, government, diplomatic community, culture and heritage sector, and media. The Centre will start with three programmes supported by Temasek Foundation.

The Temasek History Research Centre (THRC) was established at ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute in 2019, also Singapore's Bicentennial Year. Fittingly, the new centre will focus on Singapore's premodern history, its economic and socio-cultural links to the region, as well as its historic role as a trading centre. Towards this focus, the centre will pursue historical research from the 14th to the 19th century, from the emergence of Temasek to cover the Majapahit Empire which included present-day Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, southern Thailand, Philippines and East Timor. A key complementary aspect of the Centre's work will focus on strengthening the understanding and interest of young Singaporeans in Singapore's history and its connections to the region.

The Centre has three main programmes:

- a. The Singapore and the Region Programme (SRP)  
Research that will bring intellectual leadership to the issue of national identity and heritage. The findings will be converted, where possible, into resource teaching material for local schools.

- b. The Southeast Asian Heritage Programme (SEAHP)  
An annual archaeology and art history field school for Singaporean students in a Southeast Asian country. Students from all disciplines are welcome to apply.
  
- c. The Archaeology Programme for Students (APS)  
A community engagement programme with short attachment for Singaporean students to the Archaeology Unit and Teachers' Workshops to "train the trainers".

These programmes are generously funded by Temasek Foundation for a period of 3 years, starting from July 2019.

### **Quotes**

"We need to understand Singapore's changing role and share it with more Singaporeans. We hope that the programmes supported by Temasek Foundation can help us develop a deeper appreciation of our shared heritage. For example, results of a research can be translated into more easily understood bite-size toolkits and materials that can be used by teachers within classrooms nationwide to engage with and enhance learning for students."

- *Mr Lim Hock Chuan, Chief Executive, Temasek Foundation Connects*

"History is an important part of a nation's DNA. Only by knowing where we come from, would we have a better sense of our place in the world. ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute is pleased to contribute to this process with the establishment of Temasek History Research Centre."

- *Mr Choi Shing Kwok, Director, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute*

"Through its research and education work, the Temasek History Research Centre can and will play a vital role in deepening our contemporary understanding of Singapore's history and identity, and its linkages to the region, while bringing history to life for younger Singaporeans."

- *Dr Terence Chong, Head, Temasek History Research Centre and Deputy Director, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute*

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## **About ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute**

ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute (formerly Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) was established as an autonomous organization in 1968. It is a regional centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security, and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment. The Institute's research programmes are the Regional Economic Studies (RES, including ASEAN and APEC), Regional Strategic and Political Studies (RSPS), and Regional Social and Cultural Studies (RSCS).

For more information, visit [www.iseas.edu.sg](http://www.iseas.edu.sg)

## **About Temasek Foundation**

Temasek Foundation supports programmes that promote the identity, values and heritage of Singapore, which contribute to Singapore's social resilience.

For more information, visit [www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation.org.sg)