Real World Leadership Series

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MSc Applied Economics Programme
Division of Economics
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Speaker: Dr Ker Sin Tze
Director, First Capital Insurance Limited, Singapore
Adjunct Professor, LKY School of Public Policy, NUS
Consul-General, Singapore Consulate in Hong Kong, 2008-2012

Title: “The Current Socioeconomic Problems in Hong Kong”

Time: Wednesday, 26th Mar 2014
05.30pm - 06.30pm

Venue: HSS SEM-RM6 (HSS-01-04)

About The Speaker:
Dr Ker is a Director of First Capital Insurance Limited, Singapore, and an Adjunct Professor at the LKY School of Public Policy, NUS. He has worked in various fields and accumulated vast experiences from his work in Singapore and abroad. He joined the Economic Council of Canada as a research economist after completing his PhD course in Economics at the University of Manitoba. He returned to teach Economics at the University of Singapore in 1974. He left the University to work in the private sector in 1980. He entered politics in 1991 to become a Member of Parliament and subsequently Minister of State at the Ministry of Education. He was appointed Trade Representative at the Singapore Trade Office in Taipei in 2002. After completing his posting in Taiwan in 2007, he was appointed Consul-General, Singapore Consulate in Hong Kong in 2008. He spent 5 years in Hong Kong, and returned to Singapore in late 2012. During his posting in Taiwan and Hong Kong, he published a book and several articles. He now writes occasionally for the Straits Times and the South China Morning Post.

Synopsis:
Hong Kong's destiny was intertwined with China’s development in recent history. When the handover in 1997 was approaching, a large number of Hong Kong residents emigrated to safe countries as they feared the control by the communist system. They returned only after they realised that the “One Country Two System Model” promised by the Chinese Government seemed to be working. However, the suspicion that Beijing will tighten its control over Hong Kong persists.

It is now 17 years since the handover and the implementation of the One Country Two System Model, but major social and economic problems remain unsolved. The society becomes more divisive, and radical politicians have capitalised on people's dissatisfaction to stage demonstrations and street protests. Some local residents were egged on by radical politicians to organise “expel tourists campaigns” as they claimed that Mainland tourists had crowded into public facilities such as trains and buses which caused inconvenience to them. All these have formed a picture that Hong Kong is seemingly ungovernable. The talk will present views of Pro-democracy political parties and also approach of the Central Government with regard to Hong Kong.

The outcome of the situation in Hong Kong will depend on the political consideration by the Central Government and the wisdom of all concerned parties.