



Chairman's Message **by Professor Tommy Koh**

On the first day of the New Year, IPS will take a momentous step – it will become an integral part of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in the National University of Singapore (NUS). IPS will, however, remain an autonomous research centre within LKYSPP, enjoying much of the status and scope it has had as an independent think tank since it was founded 20 years ago.

To ensure continuity and consistency in our mission, IPS' name, corporate identity, and all the staff have been incorporated into the new management structure within LKYSPP and NUS. In addition, the members of the current Board of Governors of IPS have been invited to serve on the reconstituted Board of Management that will supervise IPS. I have the pleasure and honour to continue as Chairman of the new Board. I am also very gratified that Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, who has been the Patron of IPS since he helped found the institute, will continue to be the Patron for the present.

We all look forward to a bright future for IPS given the enormous intellectual and infrastructural resources of NUS and LKYSPP that IPS will now be able to take advantage of. The international reputation and networks of both NUS and LKYSPP will add great value to IPS' own search for new staff and research collaborators. Leveraging on these additional factors, IPS intends to expand its research capacity and broaden the areas for critical policy analysis.

The Dean of LKYSPP, Kishore Mahbubani, who will play an active role in the further development of IPS, has welcomed this merger as a "very good strategic fit for both institutions". LKYSPP has been looking to augment its research capabilities, particularly in Singapore-based research, and the Dean sees IPS' strength and experience as a think tank a significant addition to the School's capacity.

In 2008, IPS will celebrate its 20th anniversary and we hope to offer our constituencies a rich and varied programme of activities that

will reflect the combined strengths and aspirations of IPS, LKYSPP and NUS.

I also hope that all those who have found IPS to be a useful and relevant think tank will continue to support it and encourage others to do so as well.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all of you the very best for a happy, healthy and successful New Year!