前天，在完成“飞行检查”之后，新加坡管理大学李光前商学院院长冯应鹏满意地离开厦门。此次来厦，他是为了探访新大和厦大合作培养应用金融人才项目，这也是新大在海外的第一个“新生儿”。

今年九月，新大和厦大启动应用金融硕士项目（MAF），在这个合作项目里，新大还为厦大开办为报考特许金融分析师（CFA）作准备的课程，这在中国大陆还是头一遭。

64 岁的冯应鹏之前曾任新加坡驻英国等欧洲国家大使，五年前回新加坡，这位只能说简单中文的新加坡人是地道的厦门女婿——他夫人是鼓浪屿人。本报记者对这位厦门女婿进行了专访。

金融人才短缺催生 MAF

问：新大和厦大的 MAF 引起英国《金融时报》的注意。它有什么特别之处？许多大学不都开设金融专业吗？

冯应鹏：随着经济发展，中国金融业极速扩张，相反，金融人才相对缺乏。但是，国际上金融进步得十分迅速，中国大陆的金融学教育却仍停留在传统模式上，需要创新——如果金融无法得到改善，经济发展会有瓶颈。我们常说，制造业如同一棵树，产业如同根，金融就是那叶子，如果没有叶子，无法进行光合作用，那么大树就迟早要出事。

问：那么，CFA 又是怎么一回事？新大为厦大开办为报考 CFA 做准备的课程，在中国大陆还是头一遭。

冯应鹏：我们这个合作项目的特别之处就在于学生不仅可以获得应用金融硕士学位，它还涵盖了 CFA 所需的课程，CFA 是被世界金融业所广泛承认的一种证书，新大在 CFA 通过率上一直保持强势，90%新大学生通过 CFA 一级证书，78%能通过二级，而 CFA 的通过率一般在 50%。
在厦大建立中国培训基地

问：当我听说新大和厦大合办这个项目，学生还可获得新大应用金融硕士学位，我有点吃惊，据说新大的门槛是极高的，甚至有人形容说，严格到有点“变态”了。

冯应鹏：这是新大在中国开展的第一个MAF项目，也是新大第一次在海外与高校合作系统招收硕士研究生，但是，我们不是在卖学位，并不是你付钱，就能得到学位。我们注重的是质量而不是数量，这和现在一些中外合作项目不同。新大校长华德·亨特对这个项目的惟一要求就是：质量。我们对这个项目是很认真的，它的学习时间两年，比新加坡的MAF时间长些。

我们希望能为中国培养更多的应用金融人才，但是，我们不着急追求数量，在这方面，我们把厦大当成一个试验田，并预备要在这建立新大在中国的培训基地。

问：为什么选择和厦大合作？

冯应鹏：和厦大合作，有很多原因——新加坡有很多福建移民，其次，新大最大的一笔捐款来自李氏基金，它捐给新大新币5000万元（一新加坡币约合五元人民币），李氏基金的主人就是陈嘉庚的女婿李光前。此外，我们和王亚南经济研究院也有很多共同之处。

问：能谈谈你们之间的合作吗？

冯应鹏：我们的教授之前一直和王亚南经济研究院院长洪永淼合作，洪永淼是美国康奈尔大学终身教授，他也非常重视质量，我们了解到，厦大王亚南经济研究院老师的绩效考核和教学及科研水平密切相关，这完全是美国式竞争的优点。双方合作十分愉快。

明年二月份，王亚南经济研究院的老师将到新加坡去，和新大老师分享教学经验，新大也着手协助该项目的学生到达新后尽快在当地国际一流的金融机构获得实习机会。总之，我们不仅要使学生获得学位，更重要的是，我们要使他们成为就业市场上热销人物。

我们的教室与众不同

问：新加坡管理大学在2000年创办，虽然年轻，但是已经如雷灌耳了——每位毕业生一般都有好几个工作在等着他，而且都是大企业，秘密在什么地方？

冯应鹏：你到过新大吗？我们的教室与众不同，它是圆形的梯形教室，四周都是黑板，一个班级只有二十几位……

问：教室的排列真的有那么重要吗？

冯应鹏：这样排列的一个好处是，每位学生前面的障碍都被移除了，老师可以四处走动，方便他们获得学生反馈，到底他们听明白了吗？也方便他们之间的讨论。你的问题很有意思。是的，这样排列的背后是我们要推行的独特教学理念，我们会培养学生两点：一是自信，二是解决问题的能力。

换言之，我们教育的目的并不是只满足让学生通过考试，而是使他们获得一个成功的人生——他们能应对新经济世界的挑战。
文/图 本报记者 余峥

2007年11月27日 厦门日报，原题《新加坡管理大学李光前商学院院长冯应鹏：我们的教室四周都是黑板》

上一条： 世界计量学会成立  下一条： ‘2007当代劳动经济学’

联系方式：
通讯地址：厦门大学王亚南经济研究院经济楼A307
邮政编码 361005
联系电话：86-592-2187878/2180855
传真：86-592-2187708
电子邮件：wise@xmu.edu.cn
After a site visit, Professor Pang Eng Fong, Dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Business at the Singapore Management University (SMU) departed from Xiamen in good spirits. He was in Xiamen to visit postgraduate students of the Master of Science in Applied Finance (China) – a collaboration between SMU and Xiamen University (XMU). It is also SMU's first baby overseas.

In September this year, SMU and XMU launched the master's programme which also comprises preparatory courses within its curriculum to train students to meet the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) examination requirements for those looking towards pursuing their CFA designation. The CFA module is still relatively undeveloped in mainland China.

Professor Pang (64 years old) was formerly Singapore High Commissioner to the United Kingdom as well as other European countries. He returned to Singapore five years ago. Professor Pang, a Singaporean who speaks simple Mandarin, can also be considered a close relative of Xiamen as his wife comes from the island of Gulangyu, to the southwest of Xiamen.

Question: I just learnt that this new applied finance master's programme between SMU and XMU even caught the attention of the Financial Times. How is this so? What is so special about it? Aren't there many China universities also teaching finance?

Pang Eng Fong: The finance sector in China is expanding quickly as the country's economy develops. On the contrary, there is a dearth of finance professionals. We have observed that the pace of global finance development is very rapid but finance education in mainland China remains on the conventional model. There is a need to innovate or else China’s economic development will remain at a plateau. We often say that the manufacturing sector is like the tree, services like the root and finance make up the leaves. Without leaves, there will be no photosynthesis and the tree will be in trouble. In 2002, SMU first launched the Master of Science in Applied Finance. At that time, there was an acute shortage of wealth managers and fund managers, and the government was urgently asking universities to groom such talents. Now we saw a similar need in China and therefore decided to export this to mainland China.

Question: How does the CFA training within the master's programme tie in with this? People have told me that the CFA scene in China is in an awful mess.

Pang Eng Fong: The interesting aspect of this applied finance master's programme is that not only will the students obtain a postgraduate degree but they will also receive training in the form of preparatory courses for the CFA examinations. SMU has a strong track record in CFA. On average, 90% of SMU MAF students have passed the CFA Level 1 examination, and 78% passed the CFA Level 2 examination. This is compared to the overall average pass rates of less than 50% for both Levels 1 and 2 elsewhere. Then, you may ask what the CFA is all about? The development of the global finance market has created an unprecedented need for qualified investment professionals. There has never been a better time than now for a unified and across-the-board standard to benchmark the knowledge, ethics and professionalism of financial analysts in order to entrust investment decisions in them. CFA fills this lacuna.

Question: To be honest, I was shocked to hear that mainland Chinese students can actually graduate with a master's from this programme with SMU. This is because SMU has always set very high entry requirements and some may even say – unreasonably high standards.

Pang Eng Fong: This is SMU's first master's programme in China and is also the first time we are partnering an overseas university to take in graduate master's students. But I must be clear that we are not selling degrees and it is not a matter of students paying fees to get a paper qualification. We emphasise quality, not quantity. This is very different from some other joint degree programmes offered elsewhere. SMU President Howard Hunter has one requirement for this programme – quality. We take this very seriously. The duration is two years – even longer than the local applied finance master's. In the first year, students take a foundation course and English lessons in XMU and Shanghai. Only on the second year will they fly to SMU for full-time studies. We hope to groom more applied finance professionals for China. But we are not in a hurry to see numbers. Rather, we hope to see XMU as an experimental test bed and will use XMU as our training base to reach the rest of China.
Question: Why do you choose XMU as a partner?

Pang Eng Fong: There are many reasons. Historically, there is the late Mr Tan Kah Kee. There are many Hokkien migrants in Singapore. Our largest donation comes from the Lee Foundation. They gave SMU S$50 million (S$1 is about 5 Renminbi). The founder of the Lee Foundation is the late Lee Kong Chian who was the son-in-law of Mr Tan Kah Kee. Besides, we have many similarities with the Wangyanan Institute of Studies in Economics.

Question: You are all so young yet you have such aspirations?

Pang Eng Fong: Yes, of course! Our faculty has been working closely with Dean of the Wangyanan Institute of Studies in Economics Hong Yong Sen. Hong Yong Sen is a permanent faculty of Cornell University and he also values quality. As we understand, performance of the faculty of the Wangyanan Institute is pegged to their teaching and research. This is very much the competitive advantage of American universities. Hong Yong Sen is of the same mind as us – to make this programme a success. He never fails to follow up immediately on our requests and we have a very happy relationship. In February next year, some faculty from the Wangyanan Institute will come to Singapore to share teaching experience with SMU faculty. This will also be a time of preparation for the mainland Chinese students to come over. Next week, SMU’s Director for Career Services Mrs Ruth Chiang will also visit the Institute. She will help to place the students (when they reach Singapore) in top financial institutions for their internships. In summary, we are interested in getting them the master’s degree but we are more interested in making them finance professionals in hot demand in the market.

Question: SMU was set up in 2000 but is already very well-known. Every graduate has a job waiting for him and these are usually big companies like IBM. What is your secret?

Pang Eng Fong: Have you visited SMU? We have a different type of classroom – it is tiered, horse-shoe shaped and the whiteboards are all around. And each class sits only 20 people ...

Question: Please forgive my interruption but what is the big deal about classroom design?

Pang Eng Fong: The advantage of such a design is that we destroy all barriers in front of the students. Professors can walk all around and this helps in getting students to respond. We then know if students truly understand the lesson and it helps to generate discussion. This forms the backbone to our unique pedagogy. We ensure students have, one, confidence and second, problem solving skills. In other words, our education objective is not to just let them pass examinations but to let them experience a successful life so that they can embrace the challenges of the new economy.