

SMU FINANCIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE RECEIVES 2015 IBF INSPIRING EDUCATOR AWARD



Photos from IBF

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- Professor Annie Koh

FTI is proud to be the recipient of the IBF Inspiring Educator Award for 2015, making it the first institute in a Singapore university to attain this industry recognition. The annual award, given by The Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) recognises IBF-accredited training providers' commitment in supporting the adoption of the IBF Standards, to raise industry and professional competencies.

Receiving the award from Guest-of-Honour Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong at the IBF Distinction Evening, Professor Annie Koh, SMU Vice President for Business Development, and Academic Director of Financial Training Institute (FTI) said: “We believe that lifelong learning must be impactful, relevant and market ready. Individuals must take ownership to seek and acquire deep expertise that transform thinking, develop careers and drive effective change for businesses”.

For Singapore to maintain its position as one of Asia's premier financial hubs, it is vital for the financial workforce to continuously enhance their competencies. FTI designs certification pathways for progressive expertise-building within and across banking segments. In collaboration with academia, practitioners and industry partners to ensure rigour and relevance, FTI's practice-oriented programmes aim to raise the bar of excellence for practitioners to excel in their careers.

Banks that FTI worked with attest to FTI's quality training programmes. The Head of Learning from a regional bank said, "FTI's courses have been a contributing factor in helping our employees become more effective in their respective job functions and in paving the way for career progression." She added: "FTI is a strategic knowledge partner, setting high certification standards and helping our employees acquire critical knowledge and practical skills to stay ahead of the competition".

An Executive Director of a local bank commented: "We chose to work with FTI, given their comprehensive and rigorous training programmes and assessment.

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They also have a team of trainers who themselves are practitioners, and understand the requirements of the financial industry". The bank had more than 150 corporate bankers certified through FTI's certification programmes for corporate banking.

FTI's accredited programmes have benefitted over 3,000 professionals from more than 100 financial institutions who have undergone training in areas such as corporate banking, financial markets, wealth management and private equity.

On the rapidly changing landscape of the financial services industry, Professor Annie Koh shared: "Financial professionals should be given the opportunity to develop their competencies in integrative skills across functional areas, such as building effective teams, leadership and communication. Financial professionals of the future need

to know how to scan the environment for emerging trends and identify new threats and opportunities that will be the game changer in the way businesses are carried out".

FTI is committed to support the Singapore government's drive for lifelong learning among working adults by expanding its portfolio of specialist certification programmes. For example, estate planning advisory services for financial advisors, structured commodity trade financing for corporate bankers, operational risk management for middle office and treasury risk management for corporate treasurers. Through such deep-dive programmes that help to expand skillsets in specific domains, FTI aims to make lifelong learning an enriching journey for professional development.



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