Thinking About Ethics:
Is a Good Professional Necessarily a Good Person?

Developing countries are struggling to transition into the modern world. The struggle is not only economic and political; it is also moral. It is a struggle to preserve what one believes to be of value in one’s own culture or tradition while adapting to new circumstances and participating in new relationships. Often this results in a hybrid displaying the kind of syncretism that makes Asian countries fascinating sites of political and ethical development.

This transition creates a kind of disorderliness that poses special challenges to the moral person. In this lecture, Professor Kenneth Winston will focus on one particular source of disorderliness: the fact that, in a time of transition, public leaders face multiple sources of obligation - maintaining their own sense of personal integrity, meeting the responsibilities that come with their professional position, and abiding by shared moral understandings in society at large. Reconciliation of these different sources of obligation cannot be assumed. Even the most conscientious person will confront difficult ethical conflicts - which is why we need to think carefully (and together) about ethics.

Professor Winston is a retired Senior Lecturer at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), Harvard University. He taught practical and professional ethics at HKS from 1986 to 2015 and served as faculty chair of the HKS Singapore Program from 2008 to 2015.

Date: 15 August 2016
Time: 5.30pm - 7.00pm
Venue: Auditorium JC 2, Level 1, Sunway University

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