



34th Singapore Economic Roundtable

Wednesday, 19 May 2021
Online via Zoom

PROGRAMME

1.30 pm – 1.35 pm

Opening Remarks

Mr Manu Bhaskaran
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

1.35 pm – 1.55 pm

Recent Economic Developments

Mr Moses Soh
Senior Economist
Economic Policy Group
Monetary Authority of Singapore

1.55 pm – 2.25 pm

Macro-Economic Outlook for Singapore and Implications for Policy

1.55 pm – 2.10 pm

Dr Taimur Baig
Managing Director &
Chief Economist, Group Research
DBS Bank Ltd

2.10 pm – 2.25 pm

Discussant

Mr Mohamed Faiz Nagutha
ASEAN Economist
Bank of America Securities

2.25 pm – 3.10 pm

Discussion

3.10 pm – 3.25 pm

Break

3.25 pm – 4.00 pm

Special Session: Public Debt and Intergenerational Equity in Singapore

3.25 pm – 3.45 pm

Mr Kunal Pawa
Research Associate
Institute of Policy Studies

Mr Christopher Gee
Senior Research Fellow &
Head, Governance & Economy
Institute of Policy Studies

3.45 pm – 4.00 pm

Discussant

Mr Jim Brumby
Senior Adviser
Governance Global Practice
World Bank Group, Singapore

4.00 pm – 4.55 pm

Discussion

4.55 pm – 5.00 pm

Closing Remarks

Mr Manu Bhaskaran

5.00 pm

End

SYNOPSIS

The SER is a biannual meeting of private sector economists, business leaders and policymakers. Participants discuss and debate major macroeconomic policy issues facing the domestic economy at the meeting, which includes a Special Session focusing on a specific contemporary topic of economic interest. The topic of the Special Session for the 34th SER will be “**Public Debt and Intergenerational Equity in Singapore**”.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Taimur BAIG, PhD, heads global economics as well as macro strategy for interest rate, credit, and currency at DBS Group Research. He also advises the bank on risk management and investment strategy.

Prior to joining DBS, Dr Baig was a Principal Economist at the Economic Policy Group, Monetary Authority of Singapore. Earlier, he spent nine years at Deutsche Bank’s Singapore office, where his last position was Managing Director and Chief Economist, Asia. During 1999–2007, he was based in Washington, DC, at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund, where his last position was Senior Economist.

Dr Baig sits as a council member for the Asian Financial Think Tank, Economic Society of Singapore, and Women’s World Banking. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He attended London School of Economics and Wabash College for his BA in Economics.

Manu BHASKARAN is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies. He is also concurrently Partner and Member of the Board, Centennial Group Inc, a policy advisory group based in Washington DC, where he heads the group’s economic research practice. Mr Bhaskaran co-leads the institute’s work in the area of economics. His major area of research interest is the Singapore economy and the policy options it faces. Prior to his current positions, he worked for 13 years at the investment banking arm of Societe Generale as its Chief Economist for Asia. He began his professional career at Singapore’s Ministry of Defence, focusing on regional security and strategic issues. Mr Bhaskaran graduated from the University of Cambridge with a Master of Arts and also has a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Jim BRUMBY took up a new role as Senior Adviser at the World Bank Group (Singapore) in 2020, after four years as Director of the Governance Global Practice based in Washington DC. He has led the governance practice’s global response on COVID-19, while continuing to work across the financial management and public sector families focused on bolstering public finance, public investment management and strengthening institutions. He has been engaged on public management and economic reform at state, national and international levels for several decades, having worked for the Treasury of the state of Victoria in Australia, the Treasury of New Zealand, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and since 2007, at the World Bank.

Christopher GEE is a Senior Research Fellow and head of the Governance and Economy Department at the Institute of Policy Studies, within the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He is a non-executive director of CapitaLand Retail China Trust and holds a joint appointment with the National University of Singapore’s Department of Real Estate and the Institute of Real Estate and Urban Studies. His research focuses on policy implications and outcomes from Singapore’s demographic trends, with a specific focus on housing, healthcare and retirement adequacy. Mr Gee previously worked in investment banking, where he led equity research teams that covered Singapore and Malaysia. He received a Bachelor of Law from the University of Nottingham and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst charter.

KUNAL Pawa is a Research Associate in the Governance and Economy Department at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). Prior to joining IPS, he worked in the private sector with specialisation in real estate development and operations. He has set up various real estate projects in Indonesia and Singapore, and has also had working experience in trade finance. Mr Kunal hopes to translate his professional experience and research qualifications to aid in IPS' public policy research, with special focus on economic inequality and fiscal policy. His MSc dissertation researched the legitimacy of a capital gains tax in Singapore. Mr Kunal has an MSc in Economics and Philosophy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (2020) and a BA in Economics from the University of Chicago (2011).

MOHAMED FAIZ Nagutha is Director and ASEAN Economist in the Asia Economics Research team, Bank of America Securities. He is responsible for the firm's South East Asia economics research, with lead coverage for Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. He was previously Senior Economist at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, involved in analysing economic policy issues and macro modelling/forecasting. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Management from the University of Oxford and a Master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics.

Moses SOH is a Senior Economist in the Economic Policy Group at the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). He joined MAS in 2018 as an economist monitoring risks to Singapore's financial system in the Macroprudential Surveillance Department, before joining the Price Analysis Division of the Economic Surveillance & Forecasting Department in 2020. Mr Soh is an alumnus of the Wharton School of Business and Princeton University.