



45th Singapore Economic Roundtable

*Friday, 13 November 2026
Manasseh Meyer Seminar Room 3-5
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore*

PROGRAMME

1.15 pm – 1.30 pm

Registration

1.30 pm – 1.45 pm

Opening Remarks

Mr Manu Bhaskaran
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

1.45 pm – 3.00 pm

Panel on Macro-Economic Outlook for Singapore and Implications for Policy

Moderator

Mr Manu Bhaskaran

Panellists

Dr Luo Wei
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Mr Heng Koon How
Head of Markets Strategy
Global Economics and Markets Research
United Overseas Bank Limited

Question-and-Answer Session

3.00 pm – 3.15 pm

Break

3.15 pm – 4.45 pm

Special Session: Chokepoints

Moderator

Mr Christopher Gee
Deputy Director and
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Panellists

Ms Darshana M. Baruah
Shangri-La Dialogue Senior Fellow
Indo-Pacific Defence and Strategy
The International Institute for Strategic Studies (Asia) Ltd

Captain Kunal Nakra
General Manager
Safety Governance and Performance
Swire Shipping Pte Ltd
and
Chair, International Committee
Singapore Shipping Association

Mr Lim Ching Kiat
Executive Vice President
Air Hub & Cargo Development
Changi Airport Group

Mr Gareth Tan
ASEAN Regional Lead
Government Affairs
GlobalFoundries Singapore Pte Ltd

Ms Loh Woon Sien
Senior Director
Infrastructure Planning and Market Development
Infocomm Media Development Authority

Question-and-Answer Session

4.45 pm – 5.00 pm

Closing Remarks

Mr Manu Bhaskaran
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

5.00 pm

End

SYNOPSIS

The Singapore Economic Roundtable (SER) is a biannual meeting of private-sector economists, business leaders and policymakers to discuss major cyclical issues facing the domestic economy and their implications for monetary and fiscal policy. Each edition includes a Special Session on a contemporary topic.

The first session will examine the cyclical economic outlook for Singapore, with background provided by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and responses from private sector economists.

The special session for the 45th SER will focus on chokepoints — areas of vulnerabilities for Singapore's connectivity in Singapore's sea lanes, air corridors and digital infrastructure. The conflict in the Middle East and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has renewed global attention on strategic chokepoints and global connectivity networks, shifting reliance and anxiety towards the Strait of Malacca. Rising tensions have spurred discussions regarding regional tolling, airspace access and competing land bridge alternatives that could threaten Singapore's absolute dominance as a transit hub.

For Singapore and ASEAN, digital trade presents both a strategic opportunity and a test of regional integration. ASEAN economies differ widely in digital readiness and regulatory capacity, while firms — from MNCs running complex supply chains to SMEs expanding via platforms — seek faster, cheaper and more predictable cross-border processes amid evolving global rules influenced by cybersecurity risks, AI adoption and data governance competition.

The special session will explore the vulnerabilities of these sea lanes, air corridors, and even digital spaces and its impact on Singapore's trade and economy, as well as for global connectivity patterns at large.



Last modified on 2 October 2026