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 – 2.45 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**
2.45 pm – 3.00 pm	**Break**
3.00 pm – 4.45 pm	**Special Session: Chokepoints** **Moderator** Dr Faizal Bin Yahya 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 Chair International Committee Singapore Shipping Association
	Mr Lim Ching Kiat Executive Vice President Air Hub & Cargo Development Changi Airport Group
	Ms Loh Woon Sien Senior Director Infrastructure Planning and Market Development Infocomm Media Development Authority
	Mr Gareth Tan ASEAN Regional Lead Government Affairs GlobalFoundries Singapore Pte Ltd
	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.





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