

## **About the Panellists**

**Vernon LEE** is a preventive medicine specialist and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also Director of the Communicable Diseases Division at the Ministry of Health; and President of the College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians, Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

He had previously worked at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters as the Advisor to the Assistant Director General, working on pandemic preparedness, global health security, and antimicrobial resistance; and at the WHO Office in Indonesia from 2007 to 2008, responding to the avian influenza threat.

A/P Lee graduated from medical school at NUS. He also holds a PhD in epidemiology from the Australian National University, and the Master in Public Health and Master of Business Administration degrees from the Johns Hopkins University, USA.

**Barnabas GAN** joined the Global Economics and Markets Research team of United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) in 2019 and is responsible for providing macroeconomic research focusing on Singapore and India. His daily research work includes the application of economic principles, market-based observations and financial tools to formulate statistically-based forecasts and to craft economic analysis. Mr Gan provides regular economic commentaries through local and international print and broadcast media.

Before joining UOB, he was an economist in a financial institution covering Thailand, Korea and Commodities. He also held research positions in the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore where he performed risk assessments and horizon scanning roles in relation to policy-making.

Mr Gan graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Economics from the National University of Singapore. He also holds a Master of Social Science in Applied Economics from the Singapore Management University.

**Carol SOON** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies where she leads the Society and Culture Department. She has a PhD in Communications and New Media from the National University of Singapore. Her current research focuses on public engagement and deliberation, digital inclusion, media regulation, online public opinion sensing, new media and activism, and Singapore as a digital village. Dr Soon is also Associate Director of the Asia Journalism Fellowship that is supported by Temasek Foundation. She is Vice Chair of Singapore's Media Literacy Council and a member of the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Industry Advisory Panel at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. Prior to joining academia, she worked in the corporate sector where she developed communication campaigns for profit and non-profit organisations.

**SHASHI Jayakumar** is the Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security, Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology, and Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University. He is also Singapore's representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

Dr Shashi was educated at Oxford University where he studied History, and has published in various peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes on topics relating to medieval history. He was a member of the Singapore Administrative Service from 2002 to 2017. During this time, he was posted to various ministries, including Defence, Manpower, Information and the Arts, and Community Development, Youth and Sports. He was from August 2011 to July 2014 a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His research interests include extremism, social resilience, cyber, and homeland defence. He is currently completing a book project relating to Singapore politics (forthcoming, National University of Singapore Press, 2020).