

**Closed-Door Discussion
on
Economic Recovery from COVID-19**

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

PROGRAMME

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Registration

4.30 pm – 4.40 pm

Introduction

Dr Faizal Yahya
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Mr Manu Bhaskaran
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Presentations

4.40 pm – 4.55 pm

Dr Matteo Lanzafame
Senior Economist
Macroeconomic Research Division
Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Asian Development Bank

4.55 pm – 5.10 pm

Dr Chaipat Poonpatpibul
Lead Economist & Group Head
Surveillance (China; Hong Kong, China; Singapore)
ASEAN + 3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO)

5.10 pm – 5.25 pm

Ms Selena Ling
Chief Economist
Treasury Research & Strategy
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited

5.25 pm – 5.40 pm

Mr Ang Yuit
Vice-President
Strategies, Development & Digitalisation
Association of Small and Medium Enterprises

5.40 pm – 6.30 pm

Open Discussion

Moderator

Mr Manu Bhaskaran

6.30 pm

End

.....

Last modified on 3 March 2021



SYNOPSIS

Over the past few months, COVID-19 has caused large-scale disruptions to the global economy. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that the global economy is likely to contract by 3% in real terms in 2020. Global Trade is not expected to regain its pre-COVID-19 levels before 2023. With border closures and synchronised lockdowns, business across most industries is adversely impacted and several sectors in Singapore such as aviation, hospitality, retail, transport and tourism are bearing the brunt of the pandemic. In response, governments the world over, including Singapore, have introduced various schemes to minimise job losses and mitigate losses suffered by businesses. One of the key concerns was to ensure that there is adequate liquidity in the markets for the efficient functioning of economic activities.

The aim of this closed-door discussion would be to examine the impact of policy measures for ameliorating the adverse impacts of COVID-19. Some of the policy measures taken have primarily been to provide the necessary measures to keep businesses running and preserve their core capabilities for swift recovery. As the government tapers its stimulus policy measures, which measures need to be enhanced or trimmed down? Are there additional financial/fiscal measures that need to be implemented? We hope you can join us in the discussions.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ANG Yuit is the founder and Managing Director of Inginim Pte Ltd, a digital agency that focuses on technological innovation and user experience. Inginim Pte Ltd is the spin-off from The Adventus Consultants and most notably and recently drives front-end mobile and web projects with various government ministries, local banks and MNCs.

He started his business out of National University of Singapore in 1997. Over two decades later, he counts among his customers most of the banks, telco, airlines and numerous government bodies with solutions impacting every Singaporean.

He concurrently serves as the Vice-President of Strategies, Development and Digitalisation at the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises and past president of Entrepreneur's Organisation Singapore. Previously, he was the National President of the Singapore's Junior Chamber International (JCI) and Junior Chamber City. Mr Ang obtained his Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering (Hons) from the National University of Singapore, and also graduated from the JCI Academy.

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.

FAIZAL Yahya is Senior Research Fellow in the Governance and Economy Department at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). Prior to joining IPS, he was Assistant Professor in the South Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. Concurrently, he was Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies from 2008 to 2009. He has also served in the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (International Policy) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Foreign Service Officer. He was a member of the Singapore Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 1998 and was also involved in multilateral meetings dealing with environmental issues such as climate change and transboundary hazardous wastes. He was appointed as a board member to the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore in 2019. Dr Faizal received his PhD in Economics in 2000 from the University of Sydney, and was an Australian Overseas Postgraduate Research Scholar from 1994 to 1998.

Matteo LANZAFAME is Senior Economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Associate Professor of Political Economy at the University of Messina, Italy (on leave). At the ADB, he is part of the team in the Macroeconomic Division that produces the Asian Development Outlook report and conducts macroeconomic surveillance and monitoring. He holds a master's degree in Development Economics and a PhD in Economics from the University of Kent, United Kingdom. His research centres on applied macroeconomics, with a particular focus on growth and development issues. He has published in several peer-reviewed academic journals.

Selena LING is the Chief Economist for OCBC Bank. As Head of Treasury Research & Strategy, she leads a research team that is responsible for Treasury market research, forecasts and trading recommendations for the bank, covering fixed income, interest rates, corporate credit, foreign exchange and macroeconomic commentary. She is a member of the OCBC Wealth Panel for Singapore and Malaysia, as well as a council member for the Economic Society of Singapore. She was conferred the Institute of Banking & Finance (IBF) Fellow Award in Financial Markets in 2017. The IBF Fellow award recognises industry veterans who have demonstrated mastery of a profession and exemplify thought leadership and commitment to industry development. Her research writings have been extensively quoted and published by prominent media across print, television and radio. Under her leadership, OCBC Bank's research capabilities have been greatly valued by customers and highly ranked in surveys for interest rate research, FX research, market coverage and Asian macroeconomic research in various forums.

Prior to joining OCBC in August 2000, Ms Ling was with the Fiscal Policy Unit under the Ministry of Finance and the Economics Department in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. She received her Bachelor of Science degree (Economics) from the London School of Economics and her master's degree in Applied Economics from the National University of Singapore.

Chaipat POONPATPIBUL is Group Head and Lead Economist at the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), where he joined in November 2013. He has varied expertise in macroeconomics, policy analysis and research as well as international cooperation from working in various capacities at a central bank as well as international organisations. He is currently responsible for conducting country macroeconomic assessments for China, Hong Kong and Singapore as well as research activities related to regional macroeconomic and financial stability. His most recent research works include "A Framework for Assessing Policy Space in ASEAN+3 Economies and the Combat against COVID-19 Pandemic" and "Conceptualizing and Examining China's Economic Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic".

His experiences at the Bank of Thailand from 2000 to 2013 covered domestic macroeconomic and external sector surveillance, regional economic cooperation and global economic assessment over the course of the global financial crisis. He also served as Senior Advisor to Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Voting Group at the International Monetary Fund from 2011 to 2013. Dr Poonpatpibul completed his PhD in Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.