

8 August 2023

For Immediate Release

Appointment of the 13th and 14th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore

The **Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Professor Joseph Liow**, Dean of College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, and **Mr Tan Chong Meng**, Group Chief Executive Officer of PSA International (PSA), as the 13th and 14th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore respectively.

Given the changing global political landscape, both fellows will touch on Singapore's place in the new world order, and what the country must do to remain relevant.

Appointed from August to December 2023, Professor Liow will be speaking on US-China relations and Southeast Asia in a time of geopolitical flux and uncertainty, as well as Islam and political activism in Southeast Asia. For Mr Tan, he will be appointed from January to May 2024 and will discuss the many drivers of global trade, and how they will affect Singapore moving forward. Both will deliver their series of lectures at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Thereafter, their lectures will be compiled and published as books.

The IPS-Nathan Lectures are free and open to all. Held at NUS, they enrich the vibrant intellectual and cultural life on campus, and advance understanding and discourse on issues of national interest among the general public. Details of Professor Liow and Mr Tan's lectures will be published on the IPS website in due course.

A biographical note on Professor Liow and Mr Tan is provided herewith.

About the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore

The S R Nathan Fellowship was announced in 2013 at IPS' 25th anniversary gala dinner. IPS wanted to recognise the unique contributions of Mr S R Nathan — Singapore's sixth and longest-serving President — to public service and the development of Singapore. With generous support from individual and corporate donors, the Institute raised around S\$5.9 million (including a matching government grant) to endow the fellowship.

The S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore serves to further IPS' core mission: to research and analyse policy issues and challenges, build bridges between key thought leaders, and communicate the Institute's work to a wider audience.

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About Professor Joseph LIOW



Professor Joseph Liow (Joseph Chinyong Liow) is Dean of College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, where he is also Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics, and Professor and former Dean at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. He held the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew Chair in Southeast Asia Studies at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC.

Professor Liow's research interests encompass Muslim politics and social movements in Southeast Asia and the geopolitics and geoeconomics of the Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Liow is the author, co-author, or editor of 17 books, the most recent being *Islam and Political Power in Indonesia and Malaysia* (Cambridge University Press Element Series, 2022) and *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*, fifth edition (Routledge, 2022). A regular columnist for *The Straits Times*, his commentaries on international affairs have also appeared in *New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *National Interest*, *Nikkei Asian Review*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *South China Morning Post*. He has testified to the United States Congress and been invited to deliver a special closed door briefing to the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting.

In addition to scholarship and policy analysis, Professor Liow has also consulted for a wide range of MNCs including Shell, BHP Billiton, Chevron, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Temasek, Total, and Statoil. He sits on the board of several peer-reviewed academic and policy journals, and is Singapore representative on the Experts and Eminent Persons Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Trilateral Commission. He is also on the boards of the Social Science Research Council (Singapore), ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and the National Arts Council.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Nanyang Technological University, Professor Liow holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

About Mr TAN Chong Meng



Mr Tan Chong Meng is the Group Chief Executive Officer of PSA International (PSA), a leading global port group and trusted partner to cargo stakeholders around the world.

He joined PSA on 1 October 2011, bringing a wealth of experience in managing the complexity, diversity and breadth of a global business. Headquartered in Singapore, PSA's network encompasses 160 locations in 42 countries. The Group's portfolio comprises 66 deep-sea, rail and inland terminals, as well as affiliated businesses in supply chain management, logistics, marine and digital services. The PSA Group handles one in 10 global container movements annually, serving all major international shipping lines and key stakeholders in the global supply chain.

Together with his management team, Mr Tan is responsible for the overall performance of the PSA Group and provides strategic direction on growing the company's network and value through maximising assets and engaging global business partnerships.

Outside the PSA Group, Mr Tan serves as the Chairman of JTC Corporation and is Deputy Chairman of the board of the National University Health System. In January 2022, he assumed the role of Governor Chair for The World Economic Forum's Supply Chain & Transport Industry Community. He was previously a Board Member of IE Singapore and F&N Pte Ltd.

In April 2020, he was appointed Co-Chair of the Emerging Stronger Task Force, a committee set up by the Singapore government to guide the nation's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Tan, who was also appointed the Lead for Community Care Facilities Taskforce, drove the set-up of emergency health infrastructure during the first COVID-19 surge and facilitated the safe arrival of migrant workers for critical sectors. In recognition of his exemplary leadership coordinating Singapore's pandemic response, safeguarding lives and livelihoods, and steering the nation towards recovery, he was one of a select few conferred the national Meritorious Service Medal (COVID-19) in December 2022.

In May 2023, Mr Tan received two awards: the honour of the Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy — one of the country's highest civil honours recognising individuals who have made outstanding contributions to promote friendly relations and cooperation between Italy and other countries; and the Singapore's National Trades Union Congress Medal of Commendation (Gold) award for his continuous and significant contributions towards promoting and supporting Labour Movement initiatives.

Before joining PSA, Mr Tan was the Executive Vice President, Global Commercial, Shell Downstream, of the Royal Dutch Shell Group. He led six businesses — many of which are world leaders engaged in the marketing and sale of fuels, lubricants and specialty products to commercial customers vis-à-vis Shell's Aviation, Marine, Industrial, Land Transport, Construction and Liquefied Petroleum Gas sectors. With more than 20 years of experience in Shell, Mr Tan worked in USA, Europe, China and Singapore, holding various senior leadership positions that spanned management, sales, marketing, trading, refinery operations, customer service and merger & acquisitions.

Prior to Shell, Mr Tan also worked in various positions with Singapore's Ministry of National Development for five years.

About the Institute of Policy Studies

The [Institute of Policy Studies \(IPS\)](#) was established in 1988 as an independent think-tank to study and generate public policy ideas in Singapore. Today, IPS is an autonomous research centre of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. The Institute continues to advance its core mission: to analyse public policy; build bridges between thought leaders; and communicate research findings to a wide audience. IPS examines domestic policy challenges across a variety of fields and studies the attitudes of Singaporeans through surveys of public perception. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its analysis and takes the long-term view in its strategic deliberation and research.

For media queries

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