

**2 October 2026**

**For Immediate Release**

**Appointment of the 19th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore**

The **Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr Ng Chee Khern, Director and CEO of ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute**, as the 19th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore.

From September to December 2026, Mr Ng will be pursuing research into Singapore's place amid great power rivalry, ASEAN's capabilities and limits, and how Singapore can maintain sovereignty in the current geopolitical landscape. He will deliver his series of three lectures on the 16th, 23rd and 30th of November 2026. Thereafter, the lectures will be compiled and published in a book.

The IPS-Nathan Lectures are free and open to all. Held at the National University of Singapore (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 Mr Ng's lectures will be published on the IPS website in due course.

A biographical note on Mr Ng 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' 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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NG Chee Khern was appointed Director and CEO of ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute on 1 April 2026.

Prior to this appointment, Mr Ng was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Manpower from 2022 to 2025. He began his career as a pilot in the Republic of Singapore Air Force in 1984 and was the Chief of Air Force from 2006 to 2009. In 2010, he was appointed Director of the Security and Intelligence Division and became the Permanent Secretary for Defence Development in 2014. He was the Second Permanent Secretary for Health from 2014 to 2016, and the Permanent Secretary for Smart Nation and Digital Government in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from 2017 to 2022.

Mr Ng is the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and also serves on the Boards of Hong Leong Asia Ltd, SIA Engineering Company Ltd and NCS Pte Ltd as an Independent Non-Executive Director. He is a Senior Fellow of the Civil Service College, and LKYSPP Distinguished Practitioner Fellow & Professor of Practice.

Mr Ng was previously the Chairman of the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) and served as a board member of the National Research Foundation (NRF), Changi Airport Group, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd, and CapitaLand Mall Trust.

Mr Ng was a recipient of the President's Scholarship in 1984 and Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship in 1985. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Second Upper Class Honours) and a Master of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford. He also graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University.

### **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. IPS joined the National University of Singapore in 2008 as an autonomous research centre of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, before transitioning to an autonomous research institute within the University in 2026. Today, IPS continues to analyse public policy, build bridges between thought leaders, and communicate its findings to a wide audience. The Institute examines issues of critical national interest across a variety of fields, and studies the attitudes and aspirations of Singaporeans through surveys of public perception. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its analyses and takes the long-term view in its strategic deliberation and research. It also tests policy interventions through programme pilots and evaluations. For more information about IPS, visit [ips.nus.edu.sg](https://ips.nus.edu.sg).

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**S R NATHAN**  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
**SINGAPORE**

IPS-NATHAN LECTURES