

**Roundtable
on
Post-COVID-19, Critical Success Factors of the New Innovation Led Economy**

Tuesday, 6 April 2021

PROGRAMME

2.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Registration

3.00 pm – 3.10 pm

Introduction

Dr Faizal Yahya
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Mr Victor Tay
Chief Executive Officer
Global Catalyst Advisory
and
Governing Council
China-ASEAN Business Alliance
Singapore Digital Chamber of Commerce

3.10 pm – 4.10 pm

Presentations

Dr Ori Sasson
Director
S2T Unlocking Cyberspace

Ms Leong Si Ngah
Director
Digital Transformation
Deloitte

Adjunct Associate Professor Neo Kok Beng
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Imagineering Global and
NEO Aeronautics

Dr Toh Mun Heng
Honorary Fellow
Department of Strategy and Policy
NUS Business School
National University of Singapore

Mr Alan Chua
Executive Director
Concorde Security Pte Ltd

Mr Eugene Tan
Assistant Honorary Treasurer and Council Member
Association of Small & Medium Enterprises

4.10 pm – 4.50 pm

Open Discussion

Moderators

Dr Faizal Yahya

Mr Victor Tay

4.50 pm – 5.00 pm

Closing Remarks

5.00 pm

End

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SYNOPSIS

The pandemic provides a timely opportunity for restructuring and rebuilding the Singapore economic model. For example, the procurement strategy by government could be a key lever for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to step up to enhance their capabilities and grow in order to take more complex and challenging projects. As seen in other economies, the government has started to allocate certain projects for SMEs to bid.

The tapering of support and assistance for businesses towards a more targeted approach has started in Budget 2021. Nonetheless, the government has to maintain the core and strategic capabilities of the economy. The aim of this roundtable is to re-examine the Singapore economy and the policy measures to develop a more resilient, adaptable and vibrant economy.

This roundtable will focus on key introspective concerns, and some that are worth re-examining and rethinking are:

- i. Core Strength — What are the critical core strengths of Singapore?
- ii. Strategic Capabilities — What are the strategic capabilities of Singapore's industries and sectors?
- iii. High-Impact Sectors — Should only "high-impact" sectors receive assistance?

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Alan CHUA is Executive Director of Concorde Security Pte Ltd. Since 2015, the company has delivered a unique range of services and solutions to more than 100 corporate clients. In response to the call for "Smart Nation", through the matrix of intelligent solutions, Concorde has also been addressing the sectoral problems faced by the man-guarding industry.

Concorde's first innovative solution, IFS, a concept of mobile surveillance vehicle, has garnered awards and won accolades from both private and public organisations, locally and overseas. IFS has been featured as a successful case study at several reputable universities such as Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Harvard University. Concorde was the only private security solution featured in the Security Industry Transformation Map launched in 2018.

Mr Chua is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, UK, incorporated by the Royal Charter. His innovative inventions have received the Certificate of Grant of Patent, recognised by both the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

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.

LEONG Si Ngah is a director in Deloitte Consulting, South East Asia. She has led numerous business and digital transformations, in particular, business strategy, mergers & acquisitions and people & operations across various industries — including real estate, logistics & supply chain, public & Small Medium Enterprises sector, to a success. She actively contributes her knowledge and experience in entrepreneurship and transformations to the start-up community through mentorship.

NEO Kok Beng is an award-winning engineer, educator and entrepreneur. He has received numerous awards for this engineering products and design including the President's Design Award, the Veteran's Affairs Innovation Initiative (USA) and the Institution of Engineers' Gold Medal. He was awarded Honorary Fellow of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations. He serves on the Engineering Accreditation Board and also on the Disciplinary Committee of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants. He was a Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and taught innovation policy to global senior administrators and executives. He also teaches innovation strategies at NUS Business School, Tsinghua University and Fudan University. He is a venture catalyst and has developed more than 100 deeptech ventures. He is co-founder and chairman of numerous technology ventures in sustainable engineering, medical technology and consumer lifestyle.

Ori SASSON is the founder of S2T, a global cyber intelligence company. Dr Sasson is also the co-founder of the Dynamics group of companies offering early intervention and education for children with special needs, and allied health services for children and adults. One of his recent initiatives in the first quarter of 2021 was transforming the customer service at Dynamics through infusion of talent from other industries affected by COVID-19. This included hiring seven new team members, include five former cabin crew.

He holds a PhD in Computer Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was an Assistant Professor at the Singapore Management University. He is also the author of numerous books and research papers.

Dr Sasson is a Singapore citizen and was conferred the Public Service Medal by the President of Singapore in 2014. He was a speaker in Singapore Perspectives, the IPS flagship event, in 2011.

Eugene TAN was co-opted into the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) Executive Council in 2019. He successfully led his company, Wanin Industries Pte Ltd, to clinch the Singapore Prestige Brand Award-Heritage Brands in 2015. In addition to his involvement in ASME, Mr Tan also serves as a committee member in the Singapore Manufacturing Federation Food & Beverages Industry Group. Serving as the Vice Chairman of the bidding committee, the group has won the bid for Food & Hotel Asia 2020 to be held in Singapore. Having served on several business committees within the food and beverage community, it is his belief that his experiences will play a vital role in further addressing the current challenges that Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face in the evolving business landscape.

Mr Tan is also the Chairman of the ASME Business Feedback Committee, a special committee comprising business owners, experienced industry leaders, Executive Council members and invited participants to build effective feedback channels pertaining to SME-related issues.

Victor TAY is Managing Director within the Investment Banking group and is based out of Stout's Singapore office focusing on South East Asia office. His areas of expertise include corporate strategic development, market entry and expansion strategy, direct investment, M&A and corporate finance advisory. He has assisted a number of Asian companies in going public successfully.

Prior to Stout, Mr Tay was Chief Operating Officer of Singapore Business Federation, with an in-depth understanding of global strategic developments, including in China, the United States and Asia. He was also Group Director of Singapore Economic Development Board and SPRING Singapore, where he oversaw eight industry sectors comprising of Transportation, Logistics, Environmental, Engineering Services, Biomedical, Chemicals, Education and Business Services in which he had assisted Singapore enterprises in a variety of areas such as M&A advisory, technological R&D, private equity investment and internationalisation.

Conversant with technology and strategy consultancy, he was also the Principal of Management Consulting Services at PWC (Asia Pacific), Management Consultancy at KPMG (Asia Pacific), Chief Development Officer of Nanyang Technological University and Chief Technology Officer at Pacific Internet.

Mr Tay has developed deep understanding of future science and technology trend and sustainable development strategies as the Chief Development Officer of Nanyang Technological University. His previous board appointments include Vice Chairman of the United Nations Global Compact Network Singapore, Chairman of the Environmental and Water Centre for Innovation at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, and Independent Director of the Franchising and Licensing Association

(Singapore). He was appointed by the Singapore government as its representative at the ASEAN Young Business Leader Committee.

He also sat on a series of government committees including the SME Committee, REACH, Tripartite, PDPA Appeal Committee, as well as a series of awards committee like Enterprise 50, SME 1000, E&Y Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, Singapore Productivity Awards, Singapore Sustainability Awards.

At the association front, Mr Tay is also Governing Council member of Singapore Digital Chamber of Commerce, Independent Board Advisor of Singapore Franchising and Licensing Association of Singapore, Singapore representative to World Franchise Council.

He was awarded Oxford Director's Scholarship while he was attending Executive MBA at University of Oxford. Concurrently he had attended Executive Management Programme with Harvard Business School, MIT Sloan School of Management, Columbia University and University of Cambridge.

He is the Executive Fellow with National University of Singapore and lectures at Civil Service College International and speaks regularly to the regional media on various topics on future trends, business issues, innovation and technology, growth strategies, market expansion and merger and acquisitions.

TOH Mun Heng is Honorary Fellow of the National University of Singapore. He was formerly Associate Professor at NUS Business School. With a doctorate degree from the London School of Economics, Dr Toh is an economist with more than 30 years of experience, consulted by international organisation and local enterprises. He had been economic consultant for several ministries and statutory boards in Singapore, including Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Manpower, InfoComm Media Development Authority, and National Secretariat of Climate Change. His main areas of expertise are in public policies and strategies for economic development, evaluation of projects, productivity improvement, and environment-related policies. He has authored, co-authored and edited several titles, the latest being *Productivity in Singapore's Retail and Food Services Sectors: Contemporary Issues; Lifting Productivity in Singapore Retail & Food Services Sectors: Role of Technology, Manpower & Marketing*.