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For Immediate Release

New Book Examines Lee Hsien Loong's Two Decades as Prime Minister

***Lee Hsien Loong and Singapore*, edited by Dr Gillian Koh, Ms Chua Mui Hoong and Mr Terence Ho, brings together 23 essays by Singapore's leading thinkers and policy practitioners to assess the leadership and legacy of the country's third Prime Minister.**

SINGAPORE, 29 July 2026 — Singapore navigated the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and an increasingly confrontational US–China relationship under one prime minister. A new book from the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), National University of Singapore (NUS), examines how Mr Lee Hsien Loong steered the country through two decades of profound change, and what unfinished business was handed over to his successor.

Lee Hsien Loong and Singapore arrives two years after the end of his 20-year tenure in 2024, at a moment when Singapore's fourth-generation leadership confronts many of the same forces that defined his time at the helm in government: a multipolar world, technological disruption and evolving social diversity and aspirations among Singaporeans.

The volume is edited by Dr Gillian Koh, Senior Research Fellow at IPS; Ms Chua Mui Hoong, former Opinion Editor of *The Straits Times*; and Mr Terence Ho, Executive Director and Associate Professor (Practice) at the Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences. Its 23 chapters are organised into four sections: Economic and Finance Policy, Foreign Policy, Social Policy, and Politics and Society.

In the first section, Mr Ravi Menon, former Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, examines financial sector reform including what Mr Lee introduced even before becoming the prime minister, Mr Manu Bhaskaran reviews Mr Lee's overall economic performance, while two other prominent scholars — Professor Hoon Hian Teck and Emeritus Professor Tan Kong Yam — draw out lessons in governance from managing economic crises in their chapters.

The contributors to the second section include some of Singapore's most authoritative voices in diplomacy. Professor Tommy Koh, Professor Chan Heng Chee and Mr Bilahari Kausikan assess Mr Lee's foreign policy record, from managing relations with the United States and China to ties with Singapore's closest neighbours.

The third section examines social policy. Professor Paulin Tay Straughan analyses how Mr Lee's Government responded to Singapore's demographic challenges and like other writers in the section, traces Singapore's move from a minimalist to a more broad-based welfare system in chapters on healthcare, education and social support. The section includes a discussion of Mr Lee's commitment to the transformation of Singapore's physical landscape to meet the demands of efficiency, affordability, sustainability and liveability.

In the fourth section on politics and society, media scholar Dr Carol Soon traces the development of key policies to manage the challenges of emergent online media while Professor Cherian George and former Editor of *The Straits Times*, Han Fook Kwang assess the Lee Government's media and public engagement in the midst of rising social and political pluralisation. Associate Professor Eugene Tan discusses the reform of political institutions in response to those trends.

Together, the authors consider how various policy innovations have prepared Singapore for its future as a small city-state in Southeast Asia in an era of radical change.

"This is not a tribute volume. We asked each contributor to weigh up what worked, what did not in light of the shifting policy context, and what remains unfinished business. These essays afford readers a timely examination of Mr Lee Hsien Loong's contributions," said lead editor, Dr Koh.

As for Ms Chua's view of it – "Living through an era, we are often unaware of just how much things have changed until we pause to take stock. This book is the result of writers doing just that and tracing the arc of how social, political and economic policies have reshaped Singapore, softening its hard-driving capitalistic edges. Overall, it adds to the study of adaptive leadership and governance that a small city-state needs."

"Through his many years in political office, including two decades as Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong has left an enduring imprint on Singapore's governance. This volume examines different facets of his leadership and administration, offering a nuanced assessment of his contributions and legacy," added Mr Ho.

The book will be launched on 8 September 2026, and more details of the event will be announced soon.

Lee Hsien Loong and Singapore is published by World Scientific and will be available at major bookstores and at <https://doi.org/10.1142/14641>.

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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, communicate its findings to a wide audience, foster deliberation platforms to engage and educate the policy ecosystem and experiment through pilots. 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.

Annex A: About the Editors

Dr Gillian Koh is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore.

Ms Chua Mui Hoong is a former journalist with *The Straits Times*, where she was the Opinion Editor for 10 years.

Mr Terence Ho is Executive Director and Associate Professor (Practice) at the Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences.

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