

# SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2011

Our Inclusive Society: Going Forward

Monday, 17 January 2011

Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre

## PROGRAMME

*(Draft as of 5 January 2011)*

8.30 am – 9.00 am      **Registration**

9.00 am – 9.10 am      **Opening Remarks**

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong  
Director  
Institute of Policy Studies

9.10 am – 9.40 am      **Keynote Address**

Mr Wong Kan Seng  
Deputy Prime Minister  
and  
Coordinating Minister for National Security

9.40 am – 10.10 am      **Tea Break**

10.10 am – 11.40 am      **PANEL I: Global City**

Singapore has been a global city right from its founding in 1819. It was founded with a place in cross-region commerce in mind, with human capital comprising diverse groups of people as a complement. Today, enhanced talent flows and Singapore's established position on the world map present many challenges for the global city orientation to continue to work. How can we continue to attract talented professionals and make Singapore a home for them, rather than a mere stopover? At the same time, how do we develop human resources to take on the changing global landscape? Increased globalisation and necessary talent policies – including the Permanent Resident scheme – have also resulted in a more diverse population in terms of outlook and aspirations. How do we reconcile the need for social order without sacrificing the creative energies innate to a varied people? How may local-born Singaporeans cope with increased competition for schooling, employment and other spaces? Given Singapore's size and global reach, Singapore should perhaps be thought of as a "global state" rather than a global city. What are the regional and international roles Singapore could play as an open and networked hub?

## **Chairperson**

Associate Professor Hui Weng Tat  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

## **Speakers**

Dr Derek da Cunha  
Writer / Independent Scholar

Ms Sylvia Lim  
Non-Constituency Member of Parliament  
and  
Chairman, Workers' Party

Mr T Sasitharan  
Director  
Theatre Training and Research Programme

## **Discussant**

Mr Ong Ye Kung  
Assistant Secretary-General  
National Trades Union Congress

## **Question-and-Answer Session**

11.40 am – 1.10 pm

### **PANEL II: Caring Community**

Singapore's economic success has been both bane and boon. Her citizens' individual contributions have been the bedrock of the country's stunning progress and transformation. As the country enters a new era of development as well as internal and external changes, it is timely to re-examine, and if necessary, refine the ways in which Singaporeans can provide better care for their fellow citizens. In particular, the population is ageing fast and those with special needs require more state attention. The expectations of Singaporeans are also changing with the demographic transformation. How can we grow together while maintaining social mobility? How can each and every citizen share in Singapore's growth? How can we express care and concern for our fellow citizens in a more responsive and effective fashion? Is minimum wage the solution to increasingly unbalanced income distribution? While state and grassroots organisations have been providing services under the "Many Helping Hands" approach, individuals' involvement and engagement is invaluable. Is there a way to ensure an increased effectiveness of customised care? A cohesive Singapore requires strong personal commitment and participation. Are Singaporeans capable of more philanthropic and volunteer work?

## **Chairperson**

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman  
Senior Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of National Development

## **Speakers**

Mr T Raja Segar  
Chief Executive Officer  
Singapore Indian Development Association

Ms Denise Phua  
President, Autism Resource Centre (Singapore),  
Supervisor, Pathlight and Eden School Boards  
and  
Member of Parliament, Singapore

Mr Kok Heng Leun  
Artistic Director  
Drama Box Ltd

## **Discussant**

Mr T K Udairam  
Chief Executive Officer  
Changi General Hospital

## **Question-and-Answer Session**

1.10 pm – 2.15 pm

Lunch

2.15 pm – 3.45 pm

### **PANEL III: Singapore Spirit**

In his National Day Rally speech in 2010, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong spoke about the Singapore Spirit which is based on shared experiences and values, a commitment to the nation and the common dreams and aspirations of citizens. The Singapore identity, though visible, is also a work-in-progress. One main concern has been, and continues to be: how can we build up an enhanced sense of belonging and rootedness, particularly as Singapore becomes an even more diverse and open country? Could we do more to foster a shared sense of association to place, heritage and history? How do we keep Singaporeans at home and abroad connected and involved in local issues, and strengthen their national identity? An endearing home with public symbols of familiarity and good memories is essential for harnessing the Singapore Spirit. How do we take advantage of new media and technology to help facilitate person-to-person connectivity? It has been argued that community bonding has a direct relationship with the level of social trust and civic engagement, which covers a broad spectrum of activities such as voluntary work, activism and the delivery of social services by non-government actors. How can we refine our structures and processes to deepen

such engagement?

**Chairperson**

Dr Suzaina Bte Abdul Kadir  
Senior Lecturer  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

**Speakers**

Dr Ori Sasson  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Simulation Software & Technology (S2T) Pte Ltd

Dr Woffles Wu  
Plastic Surgeon  
Woffles Wu Aesthetic Surgery & Laser Centre

Mr Janadas Devan  
Associate Editor  
The Straits Times  
Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

**Discussant**

Dr Lai Ah Eng  
Senior Research Fellow  
Asia Research Institute

**Question-and-Answer Session**

3.45 pm – 4.15 pm

**Tea Break**

4.15 pm – 5.45 pm

**SPECIAL SESSION**

This session intends to highlight the work of grassroots and voluntary welfare organisations in inclusiveness, social enterprise and the reach of the Singapore Spirit.

**Chairperson**

Ms Lee Chor Lin  
Director  
National Museum of Singapore

**Speakers**

Mr Lim Boon Heng  
Minister , Prime Minister's Office  
and  
Deputy Chairman of People's Association

Mr Hassan Ahmad  
Chief Executive  
Mercy Relief

**Question-and-Answer Session**

5.45 pm – 6.00 pm

**Closing Remarks**

Dr Gillian Koh  
Senior Research Fellow  
Institute of Policy Studies

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

6.00 pm

**End of Conference**

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