

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
