

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES2012

Singapore Inclusive: Bridging Divides

Monday, 16 January 2012

Ballroom, Suntec City Convention Centre

PROGRAMME

(As of 4 January 2012)

8.15 am – 9.00 am **Registration**

9.00 am – 9.15 am **Opening Remarks**

Mr Janadas Devan
Director
Institute of Policy Studies

9.15 am – 11.00 am **PANEL I**
Economics: Business as usual, no longer?

Singapore's connection to the global economy has not only produced an economic miracle but has also brought keener competition both at home and abroad. Much attention has been paid to the widening income divide, structural-unemployment or under-employment, and the necessity of retraining low-skilled workers. What more can be done to address these problems?

Chairperson

Mr Manu Bhaskaran
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies
&
Partner and Member of the Board
Centennial Group

Speakers

Professor Paul Cheung
Director
United Nations Statistics Division

Dr Chua Hak Bin
Director
Global Research
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

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

Question-and-Answer Session

11.00 am – 11.30 am **Tea Break**

11.30 am – 1.00 pm

PANEL II

Social Development: Working together, towards a new social compact?

Singapore is a diverse and open society, her social landscape in a constant state of flux. How can the country improve social mobility and better manage social inclusion? This panel will look at three key areas of concern to ordinary Singaporeans – healthcare, housing and retirement funding – and examine the appropriate balance between state funding and private funding in these areas.

Chairperson

Dr Aline Wong
Academic Adviser
SIM University

Speakers

Dr Jeremy Lim
Chief Executive Officer
Fortis Healthcare Singapore

Professor Phang Sock Yong
School of Economics
Singapore Management University

Associate Professor Chia Ngee Choon
Department of Economics
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

PANEL III

Politics: A New Paradigm?

The 2011 General Election was a watershed in Singapore's history, giving rise to the possibility of what has been called a "new normal" in politics. Among other things, the election revealed a polity more committed to pluralism. The results of GE 2011 call for a re-examination of the processes of citizen participation in policy-making; how the state responds to and engages with a better-educated and politically-engaged citizenry; and the models of governance that best fit the "new normal" in politics. How in particular should government respond to calls for it to increase the provision of public goods, yet allow for the growth of private entrepreneurship and the development of a self-reliant society?

Chairperson

Dr Gillian Koh
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Mr Ho Kwon Ping
Executive Chairman
Banyan Tree Holdings Limited

Dr Cherian George
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies
&
Associate Professor
Division of Journalism and Publishing
Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information
College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University

Mr Peter Ho
Senior Adviser
Centre for Strategic Futures

Question-and-Answer Session

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Tea Break

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

PANEL IV Governing for An Inclusive Society

The preceding sessions focussed on the economic, social and political divides that exist in Singapore and how they might be bridged. To conclude the conference, a senior member of the Cabinet has been invited to give his take on the model of governance and policies that Singapore needs to help bridge these divides. Participants are encouraged to share their own reflections from the day's proceedings with him.

Chairperson

Professor Tommy Koh
Special Adviser
Institute of Policy Studies

Speaker

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Deputy Prime Minister
&
Minister for Finance and Minister for Manpower

Question-and-Answer Session

5.30 pm – 5.40 pm **Closing Remarks**

5.40 pm **End of Conference**

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