

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2005

People and Partnerships

Wednesday, 19 January 2005
Island Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel

PROGRAMME

(as at 14 Jan 05)

8.15 am - 9.00 am

Registration

9.00 am - 9.15 am

Welcome Remarks

Mr Arun Mahizhnan
Acting Director
Institute of Policy Studies

9.15 am - 10.45 am

Session I

DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Chairperson:

Dr Gillian Koh
Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Political Change and Continuity: The Near Term Outlook

This presentation will examine Singapore's political condition since the 2001 General Elections. It will analyse the areas of change and continuity in the political style and substance of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), and explore whether the political leadership can be expected to chart a new political course in the foreseeable future. Included will be a discussion of the fortunes of civil society and the political opposition and how, together with the PAP, they can be expected to relate to the electorate over the near term.

Speaker:

Dr Derek da Cunha
Senior Fellow
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

The Ties That Bind Us

Being a multi-religious, multi-ethnic, capitalist society, Singaporeans bear a very mixed bag of sometimes mutually-reinforcing, sometimes competing identities. This presentation discusses whether globalisation and other local factors ameliorate the divisions of race, religion and social class or reinforce such social fissures? It will also provide an assessment of the state of social cohesion in Singapore currently.

Speaker:

Assoc Prof Tan Ern Ser
Department of Sociology
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

10.45 am - 11.15 am

Coffee Break

11.15 am - 12.45 pm

Session II

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Chairperson:

Mr Patrick Daniel

Member

Board of Governors

Institute of Policy Studies

The Bigger Picture

While measures have been taken to restructure the economy and it is on the upturn, this presentation will discuss what the broader regional and global economic trends that will impact Singapore in the near-term might be. It will also explore what new drivers of growth for the Singapore economy could be, and if Singapore could achieve full employment again. It will provide a forecast of prospects for the Singapore economy, the regional economies and the world economy, over the next 12 months.

Speaker:

Mr Manu Bhaskaran

Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

Institute of Policy Studies

People-Centred Growth and Development

This presentation will discuss the social implications of our current economic policies and strategies. It will assess the prospects of a globalised Singapore achieving job-creating and socially equitable growth in both the near and distant future.

Speaker:

Ms Evelyn Wong

Director

International Affairs Department

National Trades Union Congress

Question-and-Answer Session

12.45 pm - 2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm – 2.15 pm

Performance by Sri Warisan

2.15 pm - 3.15 pm

Session III

SPECIAL FOCUS: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairperson:

Professor Tommy Koh
Chairman
Institute of Policy Studies

Our Position in the World...

Singapore is a small country but has constantly used its 'soft power' to expand its political and economic space. It has been said to punch above its weight in the world. It has sought to make itself relevant and useful to the United States (US), the major powers in the region, and its neighbours. This presentation will explore some critical issues about our strategic relationship with the US and these other major powers in the region.

Speakers:

Mr Kishore Mahbubani
Dean
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Assoc Prof Simon Tay
Chairman
Singapore Institute of International Affairs

Question-and-Answer Session

3.15 pm - 4.15 pm

Fresh Waves of Engagement – Malaysia

The change of Prime Minister in Malaysia has presented a window of opportunity for improving relations with our closest neighbour. The presentation will explore how best to resolve the old problems that have beset this important bilateral relationship and how best to replace the legacy of mistrust and suspicion with a new atmosphere of mutual trust and partnership.

Speakers:

Mr K Kesavapany
Director
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Institute of Strategic and International Studies
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Question-and-Answer Session

4.15 pm - 4.40 pm

Coffee Break

4.40 pm - 5.40 pm

Fresh Waves of Engagement – Indonesia

This presentation explores how Singapore should respond to a new, democratic and more nationalistic Indonesia. It will seek to mark out the landscape in terms of who is in charge in Indonesia, in charge of managing the relationship with Singapore, and how best to deal with specific issues on the bilateral agenda in order to arrive at a new *modus operandi* that develops mutual trust and partnership between the two countries.

Speakers:

Dr Leonard Sebastian

Senior Fellow

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

Mr Jusuf Wanandi

Member, Board of Trustees

Centre for Strategic and International Studies

Jakarta, Indonesia

Question-and-Answer Session

5.40 pm – 6.00 pm

Polling Results

Closing Remarks by Prof Tommy Koh