

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****10 DECEMBER 2015****Launch of the first 10 titles of the 50-volume *Singapore Chronicles* series**

The **Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)**, together with **Straits Times Press (STP)**, today launched the first 10 titles of the 50-volume *Singapore Chronicles* series. Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Finance, was the guest-of-honour at the launch on the NUS Bukit Timah campus.

The list of 10 titles are: Colonial Singapore; Constitution; Defence; Diplomacy; Education; Eurasians; Heritage; Indians; Law; and Presidency. More information about the books and their authors can be found in the Annex.

The *Singapore Chronicles* series was first announced in 2014 by IPS, Singapore's only think-tank dedicated to domestic public policy research.

The books chronicle the evolution of Singapore on a variety of fronts, from governance to the economy, from food and sports to the CPF and our flora and fauna. Each volume in the series is designed as a primer on the subject, focusing on its essential aspects and giving a historical perspective. Between 100 and 150 pages long, each is written by subject experts from the public sector, academia and journalism. The choice of 50 volumes is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence in 2015.

IPS Special Research Adviser Arun Mahizhnan, the Series Editor; project consultant Asad Latif; and IPS Research Assistant Sim Jui Liang led the project.

IPS Director Janadas Devan said: "These volumes seek to be as objective as possible. We also asked the authors to make sure their accounts are accessible to the intelligent lay reader, especially young Singaporeans. We did not seek academic tomes or strive to have the last word on any particular subject."

Mr Arun said: "IPS selected authors who are experts in their own domains and also aware of the civic purpose of such general series. They had to be concise without being sketchy. Anyone reading these volumes will realise that they have done a remarkable job of précis writing."

Ms Susan Long, General Manager of Straits Times Press, said: "It is an honour to be the publisher of this well thought out collection of books that document almost every aspect of life in Singapore and our most beloved institutions. We hope it will grace every library and school in Singapore."

The books are available in leading bookstores and each volume costs \$16 (inclusive of GST). The remaining 40 titles of the *Singapore Chronicles* series will be published over the course of 2016. Enquiries about the series can be directed to [ips.publicaffairs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ips.publicaffairs@nus.edu.sg).

### **About the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)**

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 became an autonomous research centre of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore in 2008. Today, IPS continues to analyse public policy, build bridges between thought leaders, and communicate its findings to a wide audience. 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. For more information about IPS, visit [www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips](http://www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips).

### **About Straits Times Press (STP)**

Straits Times Press is a publishing house with more than 100 years of combined international publishing experience as a team. The team has won international and regional prizes for excellence in editorial, design and publishing.

Straits Times Press publishes History, Biographies/Memoirs, Politics, Culture, Food and Lifestyle books. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore Press Holdings Ltd.

For more information, please visit [www.stpressbooks.com.sg](http://www.stpressbooks.com.sg).

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## **Annex**

### **The 10 titles launched on 10 December 2015 and the authors**

#### **COLONIAL SINGAPORE**

This book is a history of Singapore from the founding of a settlement by Raffles in 1819, to the post-imperial phase inaugurated by World War II and the Japanese invasion. It shows how colonial Singapore matured as an economy and developed as a society even as it grew into a commercial centre that was also a centre for the movement of people and ideas. The book captures the essence of the island-city's place in the Asian economic and political scheme of things as European imperialism reached its zenith before giving way to Japan's military advance. The fall of Singapore to the Japanese in February 1942 embodied the new times. The return of the British after the Japanese defeat in 1945 set the stage for a fresh phase of Singapore's political development as the anti-colonial movement grew in strength.

*Dr Nicholas Tarling, a veteran historian of Southeast Asia, is a Fellow of the New Zealand Asia Institute.*

#### **CONSTITUTION**

Unlike many former British colonies, Singapore has prospered without abandoning the established constitutional order. Against that framework, this book traces the development of Singapore's Constitution. It analyses Singapore's unique representative model, and the roles of the Executive and the Judiciary. Citizenship, equality, fairness and the minorities are issues that are treated within this constitutional framework, as is the protection of human rights. The book holds that the Singapore Constitution is a pragmatic document that facilitates governmental action for social and economic progress while assuring the public of a large measure of stability.

*Dr Kevin Y L Tan is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.*

#### **DEFENCE**

How can a tiny island defend itself against Goliaths in the region? This book addresses that often-asked question. Singapore's defence works within a strategic culture which assumes the country's intrinsic vulnerability, stemming from its inherent smallness and historic hostilities. Singapore believes that the challenges to its survival and success can be overcome if the Government and the people commit sufficient resources to a strong defence posture. This primer provides an introduction to Singapore's defence policy and why it has adopted the approach that it has. It details the wide-ranging role the Singapore Armed Forces plays in Singapore's defence, one that is not always conspicuous. The domestic challenges faced from possessing such an expensive, albeit formidable and technologically-advanced force are also examined.

*Mr Ho Shu Huang is an Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.*

*Dr **Samuel Chan** is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy.*

## **DIPLOMACY**

Diplomacy has played a significant part in Singapore's success story abroad over the past 50 years. This book shows how Singapore has dealt with many daunting challenges: Separation from Malaysia; Independence; Communist insurgency; racial tensions; confrontation with immediate neighbours; wars in Southeast Asia; oil shocks and financial crises; the waxing and waning of major powers; and terrorism, pandemics and transboundary pollution. Singapore's diplomacy has distinctively combined the characteristics of overcoming vulnerability; linking national security with economic development; being proactive in international affairs; and emphasising cooperation with multiple partners. The book also derives lessons from the past half-century that can help Singapore develop even more agile diplomatic responses and far-sighted strategic planning.

***Professor Evelyn Goh** is the Shedden Professor of Strategic Policy Studies at the Australian National University, where she is also the Research Director of the Strategic & Defence Studies Centre.*

***Dr Daniel Chua** is a Research Fellow with the Military Studies Programme at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.*

## **EDUCATION**

Singapore has been hailed as a great success in educating its citizens. Now, an educated citizenry seeks to influence, if not change, the nature of the state, the state's compact with its citizens, and the role that education must play in the future. Against that background, this book examines the impact of education on Singapore's transformation by studying the social, political and economic contexts within which policy and practice are embedded. It examines the key imperatives and principles that drove policy formulation, the success and failures of policy implementation, and how the state, at various times, fashioned education to meet its imperatives.

***Professor S Gopinathan** is an Adjunct Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore, and Senior Adviser, The Head Foundation, an Asia-centric education think tank.*

## **EURASIANS**

Eurasians are people who have both European and Asian ancestry. They face and overcome issues of identity in Singapore that appear not to apply to certain other ethnic minorities here. To understand this phenomenon, this book explores the social history of Singapore Eurasians, focusing particularly on the 50 years since Independence. The author, himself a Eurasian, also explains how one cardinal principle of post-colonial Singapore – the ideology and policy of multiracialism – has affected the evolution of the Eurasian identity.

***Dr Alexius A Pereira** is Deputy Director at the Research and Statistics Division, Ministry of Home Affairs. He holds a PhD in Sociology and has penned various articles on the Singapore Eurasian community.*

## **HERITAGE**

Heritage means different things to different people. This book provides a guide to Singapore heritage and its preservation and promotion since 1959, when Singapore attained full self-government, and thereafter for the first 50 years of Independence. It conveys the thoughts of policy-makers, conservationists, architects, city planners, museum curators, historians, academics and community advocates – a diversity that attests to the wide range of ways in which heritage has an impact on the lives of Singaporeans. As heritage has no end point, the book concludes with a reflection on the future of heritage – whence it came, where it goes.

***Mr Kennie Ting** is Group Director, Museums and Development, at the National Heritage Board, overseeing museums and corporate development.*

## **INDIANS**

Though a small minority within Singapore society, the Indian community displays deep diversity within its own fabric. This book seeks to unpack complex questions of identity in the community. Discussing the story of Singapore Indians within the larger narrative of Indian displacement and placement globally, it goes on to contextualise the Indian presence in Malaya and Singapore historically. The author maps the socio-economic, religious and linguistic complexities of the community, which are further complicated by ongoing new arrivals from India. The dynamics of the Indian community are as rich as they are complex.

***Professor Vineeta Sinha** is concurrently Head of the South Asian Studies Programme and the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore.*

## **LAW**

This book tells the story of the Singapore legal system. Beginning with the British years, it moves on to the post-Independence period, when a new Singapore had to grapple with the judicious mix of legacy laws and new laws that the new environment demanded. That was followed by the years of expansion as the complexity of the local environment deepened. The legal system had to be further refined as Singapore embraced technological advances and globalisation. This is a story of a fast-changing and yet remarkably stable legal system that has been the cornerstone of Singapore's commitment to the rule of law.

***Associate Professor Goh Yihan** teaches law at the Singapore Management University and specialises in the law of contract.*

## **PRESIDENCY**

The Elected Presidency represents one of the most distinctive institutional innovations that Singapore has made to the constitutional order in the first 50 years of its existence. Its original primary intention was to serve as a check on a

powerful Parliament that could bankrupt the national reserves either through buying votes, fraud or sheer incompetence. However, experience has shown that this institution has evolved in ways unanticipated by its original design. This book traces the fascinating twists and turns of the relatively short history of the Elected Presidency in Singapore and how it has reached a new equilibrium.

***Professor Thio Li-ann*** is Chief Editor of the *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, and Provost Chair Professor at the Faculty of Law, the National University of Singapore.