



The Young Singaporeans Conference YSC 2010

Background on the Series

The Institute of Policy Studies' series of Young Singaporeans Conferences is a programme designed to gather outstanding young Singaporeans for discussions on issues of national interest. One aim of the programme is for participants to share ideas and knowledge for a more informed approach to policy-making and innovative governance. Another aim is to foster a sense of camaraderie through networking among participants who are drawn from leadership levels across the government, business and people sectors. Past participants have found these cross-sectoral exchanges insightful and helpful in enhancing their shared sense of stake in the future of the country.

The Conferences typically end with a dialogue session with a Cabinet Minister where participants share their reflections of the conference proceedings. IPS summarises the discussions for publication and dissemination to a wider audience including the relevant government agencies.

YSC 2010: [Future.Identity.Talent@Singapore](#) Thursday, 11 November 2010, Amara Sanctuary Resort Sentosa

YSC 2010 will focus on three critical themes, namely, the future Singaporeans are likely to face in a vast different world, and the implications for policy; the sense of identity that will emerge for Singapore as a country and for Singaporeans as they live, work and play in that new future; and the management of local and foreign talent to enable Singapore to stay competitive, relevant and socially stable. In short, the title of YSC 2010 is [Future.Identity.Talent@Singapore](#).

The programme and list of speakers are attached.

PROGRAMME

9.00am - 9.10am	Welcome Remarks	Amb Ong Keng Yong Director, Institute of Policy Studies
9.10am - 9.30am	The Big Picture of YSC 2010	Dr Gillian Koh Senior Research Fellow
9.30am - 11.15am	Session I	<p>Sharing A Common Future?</p> <p>Professor Phang Sock Yong (Chairperson) Professor of Economics and Interim Dean School of Economics, Singapore Management University</p> <p>Dr Stephen Roach Non-Executive Chairman, Morgan Stanley Asia</p> <p>Mr Manu Bhaskaran Partner and Member of the Board at Centennial Group Inc, and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies</p> <p>Young people look to the future with hope and wonder. They aspire to do something significant for themselves, their family and their country. The Digital Age and other rapid technological, scientific and business advancements have raised the vista for a different and exciting future. Yet, with the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the phenomenal growth of the Chinese and Indian economies with the attendant consequences for the <i>status quo</i> of the international order, the future seems less certain, and even, less bright. What will happen to the economies of Europe, Japan and the USA which Singapore has traditionally relied on? How can Singapore's policies be orientated to harness such significant changes in the global configuration of economic, political and soft power? Can Singapore adapt and re-invent herself to take advantage of this new configuration? What kind of impact will the adjustments have on Singapore's own nation-building efforts?</p>
11.15am - 11.30am	Coffee Break	

11.30am - 1.15pm	Session II	<p>Sharing A Common Identity?</p> <p>Associate Professor Shirlena Huang (Chairperson) Department of Geography National University of Singapore</p> <p>Mr Calvin Cheng Director, Looque Models Singapore and Nominated Member of Parliament</p> <p>Mr Nazry Bahrawi Doctoral Researcher University of Warwick</p> <p>The physical and social transformation of the country seems to have resulted in a loosening of the bearing Singaporeans have and this appears to have affected their sense of belonging. In recent years, this has been compounded by the increased inflow of immigrants and the growing number of Singaporeans going abroad for employment, study and retirement. There are frequent public exchanges on what it means to be a Singaporean and a foreigner in Singapore. The key question is what should we expect of ourselves and what of the others? What is the value of Singapore citizenship and how can the many things that the Singaporean national identity means remain a key part of an increasingly cosmopolitan Singapore? Are the Singaporeans overseas any less 'Singaporean' and how can new citizens become more 'Singaporean' if that is at all important? What other forms of identity will grow stronger in a Singapore which is open to so many external influences?</p>
1.15pm - 2.15pm	Lunch	
2.15pm - 4.00pm	Session III	<p>Sharing Talent for Inclusive Growth?</p> <p>Mr Donald Low (Chairperson) Head, Centre for Public Economics, Civil Service College</p> <p>Mr Tan Chade-Meng Jolly Good Fellow Google Inc</p>

		<p>Mr Yeoh Lam Keong Vice President Economic Society of Singapore</p> <p>Talent is needed to sustain Singapore's economic growth and social progress but more Singaporeans are going abroad to work. As the high-tech and knowledge-based industries in Singapore continue to expand, more foreign talent has arrived. The growth of the construction, home care, maintenance services and tourism sectors has also led to a rise in the number of guest workers. The presence of so many expatriates and foreign workers has an impact on the perception of Singaporeans vis-à-vis their own well-being. They see the middle class expanding but the upper and lower segments of the society have grown further apart. Disparities are getting more obvious. If Singapore is to be an innovation-led society, we will have to attract and develop our own as well as foreign talent, and reward them amply. How to do this? Can we ensure that the lower segments of the population be brought along with the growth and innovation that that talent brings? How do we achieve a 'creative' sharing of national wealth?</p>
4.00pm - 6.00pm	Session IV	Group Discussion
6.00pm – 6.30pm	Break	
6.30pm – 7.00pm	Cocktail	
7.00pm – 7.45pm	Dinner	
7.45pm – 8.30pm	Session V	Group Presentation
8.30pm - 9.30pm	Session VI	Dialogue with DPM Teo Chee Hean, chaired by Amb Ong Keng Yong
9.30pm	End	