

# SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES2018

Together

Monday, 22 January 2018  
Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre

## PROGRAMME

(as at 12 January 2018)

7.45 am – 8.30 am

### Registration

8.30 am – 8.45 am

### Opening Remarks

Mr Janadas Devan  
Director  
Institute of Policy Studies

8.45 am – 9.00 am

### Presentation on Conference Background Paper Harnessing Singapore's Longevity Dividends

This presentation on the conference background paper will cover the evolution of Singapore's demographic transition, including quantifying the demographic dividend and decomposing its sources into population age structure, migration and education.

Mr Christopher Gee  
Senior Research Fellow  
Institute of Policy Studies

9.00 am – 10.30 am

### PANEL I The Singapore Economy: Ageing yet Dynamic?

The first panel of the conference will consider the economic consequences of an older workforce and ask who is to bear the costs associated with longer life and a spectrum of care needs among the aged. We examine, specifically, the human capital and economic development policies necessary to enable businesses and workers to harness longevity dividends, as well as alternative paradigms for fostering a dynamic economy.

How can we strengthen social risk-pooling schemes to make for secure and equitable lives that soften the hard edge of being a competitive, meritocratic society through the life course of ordinary Singaporeans? What is the role of immigration in this picture? How can we couple economic dynamism with successful and productive ageing?

### Moderator

Ms Wong Su-Yen  
Board and C-Suite Advisor

## **Speakers**

### **Economic Dynamism Amidst Demographic Change**

Mr Ravi Menon  
Managing Director  
Monetary Authority of Singapore

### **Redesigning Jobs for Our Silver Age to Drive Our Thriving Economy**

Mr Sean Tan  
Career Consulting Services Leader  
Mercer (Singapore) Pte Ltd

## **Question and Answer Session**

10.30 am – 11.00 am

### **Tea Break**

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

## **PANEL II**

### **The Singapore Community: Solidarity not Contention**

It is often assumed that there will be a contest for political, cultural and social space amongst different segments of the population, especially between the young and the old, local- and foreign-born, in the context of a small, open economy confronted the challenges of sustaining economic growth and dynamism. This panel delves into the political, social and cultural dimensions of Singapore's evolving population structure and how this may give rise to age-based political or social divides. The speakers will consider the political, social and community dimensions of balancing the needs of different generations in a manner that ensures sustainability not just in the fiscal or economic sense, but also the whole of our diverse society in this small, yet global city-state.

Key questions include the likelihood of age-based political divides to arise as our population ages, whether income and wealth inequalities transmitted across generations will fracture the community, and the continued viability of the family as the first line of social support. Will Global City Singapore be "no country for old men", or will it be a city-state for all ages? To whom will Singapore belong, if the citizens of Singapore do not replace themselves?

## **Moderator**

Dr Gillian Koh  
Deputy Director (Research)  
Institute of Policy Studies

## **Speakers**

### **The Future Politics of Ageing**

Professor Chan Heng Chee  
Chairman  
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities  
Singapore University of Technology and Design

## **Creating a Golden Age for Ageing: Opportunities We Are Missing**

Mr Laurence Lien  
Chairman  
Lien Foundation

### **Question and Answer Session**

12.30 pm – 2.15 pm

### **Lunch Dialogue**

Mr Teo Chee Hean  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Coordinating Minister for National Security

### **Moderator**

Mr Janadas Devan

### **Question and Answer Session**

2.15 pm – 3.45 pm

### **PANEL III Singaporeans Living Longer: Asset or Liability?**

Singapore is one of the most rapidly ageing societies in the world. It is often said that “demography is destiny”, and most narratives and discourse around population ageing typically frame the issues pessimistically, referring to the elderly as dependent and a burden to society. Are there alternative, more positive trajectories for Singapore’s demographic story? What needs to be updated in our social care, social security and retirement funding systems to enable Singaporeans to live longer lives successfully?

This panel assesses our current social and economic institutions and policies with an eye on how they may be adapted to help us harness the upside of Singapore’s longevity revolution.

### **Moderator**

Associate Professor Corinne Ghoh  
Co-Director  
Next Age Institute  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore

### **Speakers**

#### **Longevity and Social Welfare in Singapore**

Professor David Canning  
Visiting Professor  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
National University of Singapore

**Misconceptions that Frame Singaporeans  
Living Longer as a Liability**

Dr Kanwaljit Soin  
Practising Orthopaedic & Hand Surgeon

**Question and Answer Session**

3.45 pm – 4.15 pm

**Tea Break**

4.15 pm – 5.30 pm

**PANEL IV  
Dialogue**

Mr Heng Swee Keat  
Minister for Finance

**Moderator**

Ms Debra Soon  
Chief Customer Officer &  
Head  
Family English Segment  
Mediacorp Pte Ltd

**Question and Answer Session**

5.30 pm

**End of Conference**

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