

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES2017

What If?

Monday, 23 January 2017
Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre

PROGRAMME

(as at 16 January 2017)

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 – 10.15 am

PANEL I Looking Out

Chairperson

Professor Tommy Koh
Special Adviser
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

What if the nation-state is no longer the key organising unit of the world?

Professor Wang Gungwu
Chairman
Governing Board
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore

What if globalisation fails?

Dr Khong Cho-Oon
Chief Political Analyst
Global Business Environment
Shell International

What if Singapore has to choose between China and the United States?

Professor Joseph Liow
Dean and
Professor of Comparative and International Politics
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University

Question and Answer Session

10.15 am – 10.45 am

Tea Break

10.45 am – 12.15 pm

**PANEL II
Looking In**

Chairperson

Ms Li Xueying
Deputy News Editor
The Straits Times
Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

Speakers

What if non-economic indicators become the measure of a country's progress?

Mr Jeremy Au

What if Singapore fails to become a creative and innovative nation?

Mr Aaron Maniam

What if Singapore fails to sustain itself as a vibrant, cosmopolitan "global city"?

Ms Amanda Chong

Question and Answer Session

12.15 pm – 2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

**PANEL III
Looking Across**

Chairperson

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

Speakers

What if we ignore race and religion?

Dr Norman Vasu
Senior Fellow and Deputy Head
Centre of Excellence for National Security
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University

What if we cease to accept immigrants?

Ms Mariam Jaafar
Partner and Managing Director
The Boston Consulting Group

What if the family is no longer the fundamental building block of society?

Associate Professor Thang Leng Leng
Deputy Director
Centre for Family and Population Research
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question and Answer Session

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Tea Break

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

**PANEL IV
Looking Ahead**

Chairperson

Ms Debra Soon
Head
Family English Segment
Mediacorp Pte Ltd

Speakers

What if Singapore becomes a two or multi-party system?

Mr Ong Ye Kung
Minister for Education
(Higher Education and Skills)

Mr Ho Kwon Ping
Executive Chairman
Banyan Tree Holdings Limited

Question and Answer Session

5.30 pm

End of Conference

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Chairpersons' and Speakers' Profiles

Jeremy AU is the co-founder of Quad.sg, a non-partisan collective expanding Singapore's data-driven discourse. He was recognised by Forbes' "30 Under 30 Asia" for co-founding Conjoint Consulting, a social enterprise that empowers pro bono talent to strengthen organisations that deliver social good. Mr Au graduated from University of California, Berkeley, was a former Bain consultant, and is currently a candidate in the Master of Business Administration programme at the Harvard Business School.

Amanda CHONG is a lawyer with strong interests in criminal justice and public policy. She attended Cambridge University on a President's Scholarship and specialised in international human rights at Harvard Law School, where she developed an expertise in trafficking in persons and gender justice.

Ms Chong writes poetry during her lunch breaks. A winner of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, her poetry has been engraved on the Marina Bay Helix Bridge and included in the Cambridge International GCSE syllabus. She is interested in exploring themes of gender and power in both her poetry and academic writing, which has been published in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender*. Her creative work has appeared in *Monocle*, *The Straits Times* and *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*. Her first collection of poetry, *Professions*, was published in 2016.

Ms Chong also co-founded ReadAble, a non-profit organisation that runs weekly English literacy classes for children and migrant women in a low-income neighbourhood since 2014, with the aim of improving social mobility. She serves as web editor for poetry.sg, the first online database of Singapore poetry, complete with critical analyses and a multimedia archive.

Janadas DEVAN, Director of the Institute of Policy Studies, was educated at the National University of Singapore and Cornell University in the United States. He was a journalist, writing for *The Straits Times* and broadcasting for Radio Singapore International, before being appointed the Government's Chief of Communications at the Ministry of Communications and Information in 2012. He is now concurrently Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

HO Kwon Ping is Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Holdings. Born in 1952, he was educated in Tunghai University, Taiwan; Stanford University, California and the University of Singapore. He worked as a broadcast and financial journalist and was the Economics Editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. In 1994, after successfully rehabilitating an abandoned tin mine into Laguna Phuket, Asia's first integrated resort, he launched Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, which has now grown to more than 40 hotels and resorts, over 70 spas and over 80 retail galleries, and three golf courses. Currently, over 20 projects are under development around the world.

Mr Ho has been recognised for his numerous significant contributions. Mr Ho was conferred an honorary doctorate by Johnson & Wales University (2000) and received the London Business School Entrepreneurship Award (2005). He was named CEO of the Year at the Singapore Corporate Awards (2008) and was the first Asian to receive the American Creativity Association Lifetime Achievement Award (2010) for his creativity and innovation. Mr Ho also received the CNBC Travel Business Leader Award in Asia Pacific (2012). He was awarded the Singapore Government's Meritorious Service Medal (2013) for his contribution in the founding of the Singapore Management University as Chairman. He also sits on the board of Diageo, a British multinational company. He was the Institute of Policy Studies' S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore in the 2014/15 academic year, and his five IPS-Nathan Lectures on policy issues have been compiled into a book titled *The Ocean in A Drop — Singapore: the Next Fifty Years*.

KHONG Cho-Oon is Chief Political Analyst in the Global Business Environment team, Shell International, based in London, with over 20 years' experience leading and advising on country scenario projects. Dr Khong advises on political trends and political risk for the Shell Group, and leads the external environment assessments for Shell's country reviews. He was actively involved in developing the 1995, 1998, 2001 and 2005 sets of Shell Global Scenarios, the 2008 Shell Energy Scenarios and the 2013 New Lens Scenarios.

Dr Khong is an active scenarios practitioner, using scenarios in futures thinking and working with a range of organisations in the private and public sectors. He is a member of the Brains Trust of the Evian Group, International Institute for Management Development, Lausanne; an Academy adjunct faculty member at Chatham House and an Associate Fellow of the Said

Business School, University of Oxford, where he teaches as a core faculty member on the Oxford Scenarios Programme.

Gillian KOH is Deputy Director (Research) at the Institute of Policy Studies and Senior Research Fellow and Head of its Politics and Governance research cluster, which analyses electoral politics, the development of civil society, state-society relations, citizen engagement in Singapore.

Dr Koh led the research teams that generated the IPS Presidential Election Survey (2011) and three IPS Post-Election Surveys (2006, 2011, 2015). Other surveys she has conducted focus on Singaporeans' sense of identity, rootedness and resilience. She has published and co-published articles on civil society and political development in Singapore. She was co-editor of *Migration and Integration in Singapore: Policies and Practice* (2015) as well as *State-Society Relations in Singapore* (2000) and *Civil Society and the State in Singapore* (2017).

Dr Koh obtained her Master of Arts in Third World Studies in 1989 and her doctoral degree in Sociological Studies in 1995 both from the University of Sheffield (UK) and has been at IPS since.

Tommy KOH is Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre for International Law, and Rector of Tembusu College at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is the Co-Chairman of the China-Singapore Forum, the India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue, and the Japan-Singapore Symposium. Professor Koh was Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) in New York for 13 years and served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Professor Koh was President of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, and he chaired the Preparatory Committee as well as the Main Committee at the Earth Summit. He also served as Ambassador to the United States of America for six years and was Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. He chaired two dispute panels for the World Trade Organization and also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Law at NUS. In 1984, Yale University conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Law. He received the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law in 1996 and was made a Champion of the Earth by the UN Environment Programme in 2006. He also received the Great Negotiator Award from Harvard University in 2014.

LI Xueying is a journalist of 14 years. She is *The Straits Times'* Deputy News Editor.

Between 2012 and 2016, she was based in Hong Kong as the newspaper's Senior Regional Correspondent covering Greater China. During her time there, she covered the city's unprecedented Occupy movement against the backdrop of an increasingly testy relationship with Beijing, a widening income gap and a general feeling that the city's best years are behind it.

She also chronicled the rise of its identity politics, from the days when the Hong Kong independence movement was dismissed as a lunatic fringe group, to when its leaders came within spitting distance of the legislature. In Taiwan, she observed the evolving state of cross-strait relations, as the island segued from blue to green. She covered the election that propelled Taiwan's first woman President Tsai Ing-wen into power, and interviewed then-Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, in his final media interview before stepping down.

Before going to Hong Kong, Ms Li wrote about Singapore politics, with a front-row seat to five general and presidential elections.

Joseph LIOW is Dean and Professor of Comparative and International Politics at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He held the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew Chair in Southeast Asia Studies at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC, where he was also a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Program. Professor Liow's research interests encompass Muslim politics and social movements in Southeast Asia and the international politics of the Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Liow is the author, co-author, or editor of 14 books. His recent single-authored books are *Religion and Nationalism in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*, fourth edition (Routledge, 2014). He has a forthcoming book, *Ambivalent Engagement: The United States and Regional Security in Southeast Asia after the Cold War*, scheduled for publication by Brookings Institution Press in 2017. His commentaries on international affairs have been published in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *National Interest*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. In addition to scholarship and analysis, Professor Liow has also consulted for a wide range of multinational corporations including Shell, BHP Billiton, Chevron, and Statoil. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nanyang Technological University, and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Aaron MANIAM is a civil servant, currently overseeing policy on manufacturing, services and tourism. He previously served as a diplomat from 2004 to 2008 (including at Singapore's Embassy in Washington DC); as the inaugural Head of the Singapore Government's newly-formed Centre for Strategic Futures (CSF) from 2008 to 2011, and as Director of the Institute of Policy Development at the Civil Service College (CSC), which organises leadership training programmes for public sector talent.

In June 2012, Mr Maniam was conferred the Singapore Youth Award, the highest national honour for young people who exemplify excellence in their professional lives and community work, by the Prime Minister. In March 2013, he was named by the World Economic Forum as one of 200 Young Global Leaders, selected from a worldwide pool. In May 2014, he was named a member of the "Purpose Economy Asia 100" by the United States-based firm Imperative, which identifies pioneers in purpose-driven management in the Asia-Pacific. A published poet, he won the National Arts Council's Golden Point Award in 2003. His first collection, *Morning at Memory's Border* was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize in 2007. He is a trained facilitator of inter-religious dialogue and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA).

MARIAM Jaafar is a Partner and Managing Director at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Singapore. She is a core member of the Technology, Media and Telecommunications and Financial Services practices. Ms Mariam has worked with both public and private sector clients in the United States and Southeast Asia. Her recent focus has been on helping clients respond to and pursue opportunities from digital disruption. She also leads Wealth Management for BCG across Asia Pacific. Ms Mariam has served as Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer of Barclays Wealth Management Asia, Middle East and Africa. She started her career with Vertex Management, the venture capital arm of the Singapore Technologies group.

Ms Mariam holds a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School as well as a Master and Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (with Distinction) from Stanford University. She serves on the Committee on the Future Economy and is Co-Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Future of Connectivity. She is a Board Member of the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech).

ONG Ye Kung was elected Member of Parliament for Sembawang Group Representation Constituency in September 2015, and appointed to the Cabinet of Singapore as the Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) on 1 October 2015. He also held the concurrent appointment of Senior Minister of State for Defence. On 1 November 2016, he was promoted to Education Minister (Higher Education and Skills), and concurrently, Second Minister in the Ministry of Defence. Prior to his Cabinet appointment, he held the position of Director of Group Strategy at Keppel Corporation, overseeing long-term strategic planning of the Group's activities. Before joining Keppel Corporation, he was the Deputy Secretary-General of National Trades Union Congress, overseeing the Labour Movement's employment and employability programmes.

He also held various positions in the Government earlier. These include the Chief Executive of Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), during which he spearheaded many initiatives to build up the Continuing Education and Training infrastructure. He was the Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong from 2003 to 2005, and Press Secretary to Prime Minister Lee from 1997 to 2003. Mr Ong was also the Deputy Chief Negotiator for the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Mr Ong graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) with a Bachelor of Science (Econs, First Class Honours), and holds a Master of Business Administration from the International Institute for Management Development, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Debra SOON heads the Family English Segment for MediaCorp. She is responsible for the profitability, programming, content and marketing strategy to reach English-speaking audiences in Singapore in the entertainment and lifestyle space in television, radio and print. The platforms include television channel, *Channel 5*; radio stations *CLASS 95*, *GOLD 90.5*, *Symphony 924* and the magazine *8Days*. Ms Soon also manages television operations across MediaCorp, including acquisitions, subtitling, content standards and broadcast layout.

With over 20 years of experience in the media and communications industry, Ms Soon was appointed Managing Director of *Channel NewsAsia* in March 2009. She was responsible then for the editing of English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil news and current affairs, as well as the business operations of *Channel NewsAsia*. Ms Soon is a mentor/member of BoardAgender and an executive committee member of the Singapore Committee for UN Women, formerly known as UNIFEM Singapore. She is also on the Business Advisory Board of the Behavioural Sciences Institute of the Singapore Management University.

Ms Soon obtained her Bachelor of Science (Econs) and Master of Science in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science under scholarship from the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, and later the Television Corporation of Singapore.

THANG Leng Leng is Deputy Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore. She is a socio-cultural anthropologist with research interests in the areas of ageing, intergenerational approaches and relationships, gender and family. She publishes widely in her areas of expertise with a focus on Asia, especially Japan and Singapore. Associate Professor Thang is also active in community services, currently serving on the board of Fei Yue Family Service Centre (chair), Fei Yue Community Services, Centre for Seniors and the council of Gerontological Society of Singapore. She is also a member of the Families for Life Council, which promotes strong families. Associate Professor Thang advocates for the promotion of intergenerational approaches in the community and is often consulted on intergenerational programmes and relationship issues. Internationally, she is co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* (Taylor and Francis, USA) and vice chair of the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programs. Besides heading the Department of Japanese Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, she is also Honorary Fellow with the College of Alice and Peter Tan, National University of Singapore.

Norman VASU is Senior Fellow, Coordinator of the Social Resilience Programme and Deputy Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University. He is the author of *How Diasporic Peoples Maintain Their Identity in Multicultural Societies: Chinese, Africans, and Jews* (2008); editor of *Social Resilience in Singapore: Reflections from the London Bombings* (2007); co-editor of *Nations, National Narratives and Communities in the Asia Pacific* (2014) as well as *Immigration in Singapore* (2015).

Dr Vasu has published and co-published academic articles and book chapters on narratives of governance, policies of multiculturalism, gender and politics, and national security and resilience. His research interests include communal relations, narratives of governance, citizenship, immigration and national security.

WANG Gungwu is University Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University (ANU). He is Chairman of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies-Yusof Ishak Institute; and of the East Asian Institute and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the NUS.

His recent books in English include *Diasporic Chinese Ventures: The Life and Work of Wang Gungwu* (2004); *Renewal: The Chinese State and the New Global History* (2013); and *Another China Cycle: Committing to Reform* (2014). His dialogues on world history were edited by Ooi Kee Beng and published as *The Eurasian Core and its Edges* (2015).

Professor Wang received his Bachelor and Master of Arts from the University of Malaya in Singapore, and his doctoral degree at the University of London. He was Professor of History at the University of Malaya; Professor of Far Eastern History and Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies at ANU. From 1986 to 1995, he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. In Singapore, he was Director of the East Asian Institute at the NUS from 1997 to 2007.