



YOUNG SINGAPOREANS (UN)CONFERENCE 2016

Wednesday, 21 September 2016

The Pavilion @ Far East Square

THEME: "WHAT'S GOOD?"

Questions of value and debates about “what’s good?” are not new at all. In 1988, then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong mooted the notion of having an official set of shared national values, a sentiment echoed by the late President Wee Kim Wee, which eventually led to the passing of the White Paper on Shared Values¹ in parliament in 1991. Many of these values were promoted through schools, primarily through civics and moral education (CME) lessons, which focus on inculcating values which form the basis of a person of good character and a useful citizen.

As we forge ahead into Singapore’s 51st year of independence, amidst a time of growing complexity — an increasingly diverse society, a rapidly-changing biosphere, emergent disruptive technologies — and tectonic shifts in the world we live, the question of what we value, and the myriad ways we respond to it, have become more relevant than ever.

What does it mean to live a good life? What does it mean to do good: by ourselves, and by the people around us? How do ideas of wellbeing, happiness, fairness, and morality fit together? What does meritocracy really mean? More urgently, how do we negotiate our values: those shared as well as those that diverge, or even provoke conflict? What is the ‘common’ or ‘greater’ good, and how do we — as individuals, as businesses, as collectives, as a society — move and work to that end?

There is, of course, no single, obvious answer. With an alternative Unconference format, this year’s edition of YSC invites young Singaporeans from different backgrounds and fields of expertise to actively share, explore, and discuss the diverse meanings and values they ascribe to the lives they live or aspire to, and those of the people around them.

¹ *Parliamentary debates: Official report*. 15 January 1991. Shared values (Vol. 56). Singapore: Govt. Printer, cols. 967-968.

FORMAT

In contrast to traditional top-down conference formats that feature panels of expert speakers, an Unconference, or Open Space conference, is a participant-driven format that focusses on having participants actively engage in a range of free and open discussions and workshop-style activities, encouraging vibrant exchanges, cross-pollination of ideas, and encouraging participants to develop critical responses to complex issues from the ground-up.

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PROGRAMME

*As at 13 September 2016.
Details may be subject to change.*

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| 8.30am-9.00am | Registration <i>*Coffee bar and refreshments available from 8.30am-7.00pm.</i> |
| 9.00am-9.10am | Introduction to YSC 2016 Asst. Professor Hoe Su Fern Adjunct Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies |
| 9.10am-9.30am | Opening Remarks Mr Janadas Devan Director, Institute of Policy Studies |
| 9.30am-10.00am | Opening Activity Led by Ms. Ng Hui Ying |
| 10.00am-12.00pm | Opening Circle Facilitated by A/P Hoe Su Fern, Mok Cui Yin, and Johannes Hadi. |
| 12.00pm-5.30pm | Break-out Discussions <i>*Lunch will be available from 1.00pm-3.00pm.</i> |
| 5.30pm-7.15pm | Closing Circle Facilitated by A/P Hoe Su Fern, Mok Cui Yin, and Johannes Hadi. |
| 7.15pm-7.30pm | Closing Remarks Mr Janadas Devan |