



CONFERENCE CONCEPT

Defying the odds and achieving the unexpected — in short, reinventing our destiny as a small state — has been a hallmark of modern Singapore’s success under the leadership of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. To mark the 100th birth anniversary of the nation’s first prime minister, the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS), are jointly organising the “Reinventing Destiny” conference.

In a world that is increasingly challenged by geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, climate change pressures and technological disruptions — outside observers have, once again, raised questions about vulnerabilities of small states. However, this also presents a unique opportunity that Singapore and other small states may capitalise on to reinvent themselves.

While the conference takes inspiration from Mr Lee’s legacy, its focus is to encourage a forward-looking discussion on issues critical to the future survival and success of small states like Singapore.

PROGRAMME

8.15 am – 9.00 am

Registration

9.00 am – 9.15 am

Opening Remarks

Mr Janadas Devan
Director
Institute of Policy Studies

9.15 am – 10.45 am

PANEL I — 21st Century Economic Transition

This panel will focus on the dynamics of Singapore's continued economic transition. In the first 50 years of modern Singapore's founding, the country embraced globalisation and rode the wave to leap from Third World to First. Now we face new challenges and opportunities as rising tensions and structural insecurities threaten to fragment the global economy into different blocs; this, even as countries and organisations begin to grapple with fundamental changes in value creation and labour markets catalysed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. How is Singapore positioning itself for economic progress at this next turning point?

Moderator

Professor Danny Quah
Dean & Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Speakers

Professor Lawrence H. Summers
President Emeritus & Charles W. Eliot University
Professor
Harvard University
and
Former United States Secretary of the Treasury

Ms Jessica Tan
Group Executive Director &
Group Co-Chief Executive Officer
Ping An

Professor Ian Goldin
Professor of Globalisation and Development
and
Director of Programmes
Future of Work, Technological and Economic Change
and Future of Development
Oxford Martin School
University of Oxford

Mr Piyush Gupta
Group Chief Executive Officer
DBS Bank Ltd

Question-and-Answer Session

10.45 am – 11.15 am

Tea Break

11.15 am – 12.45 pm

PANEL II — The Small State in a Turbulent World

As a staunch champion of the multilateral system, Singapore has always believed such a system to be critical for the survival of small states. With multilateralism under siege today, what are the implications for Singapore? What is the new strategy for small states in these circumstances? What options do we have and how else can small states like Singapore increase our limited options to enhance our political and economic space?

Moderator

Ms Zuraidah Ibrahim
Executive Managing Editor
South China Morning Post

Speakers

The Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC
Australian Ambassador to the United States of America
and
26th Prime Minister of Australia (2007–2010, 2013)

Professor Chan Heng Chee
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities
and
Ambassador-at-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Bilahari Kausikan
Chairman
Middle East Institute
National University of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

12.45 pm – 1.45 pm

Lunch

1.45 pm – 3.15 pm

PANEL III — Governance of a City-State

This panel will explore what it means and what it takes to design for sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness in a city. Who are the key stakeholders and how can they be involved? How can we integrate technology and design with policy to develop innovative solutions?

Moderator

Professor Tan Tai Yong
President
Singapore University of Social Sciences

Speakers

Mr Peter Ho
Chairman
Urban Redevelopment Authority

Professor Cheong Koon Hean
Chair
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities

Professor Wu Weiping
Professor of Urban Planning & Director of Urban
Planning Programs
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and
Preservation
Columbia University

Question-and-Answer Session

3.15 pm – 3.45 pm

Tea Break

3.45 pm – 5.00 pm

DIALOGUE
with
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance
Lawrence Wong

Moderator

Dr Fareed Zakaria
Host
Fareed Zakaria GPS, CNN and
Columnist, *The Washington Post*

Question-and-Answer Session

5.00 pm – 5.15 pm

Closing Remarks

Professor Chan Heng Chee

5.15 pm

End

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Last updated on 4 August 2023