

Conference on Integration

Monday, 21 May 2012
Ballroom 1 & 2, Orchard Hotel

Immigration and Integration in Singapore: Trends, Rationale and Policy Responses

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Acknowledgements

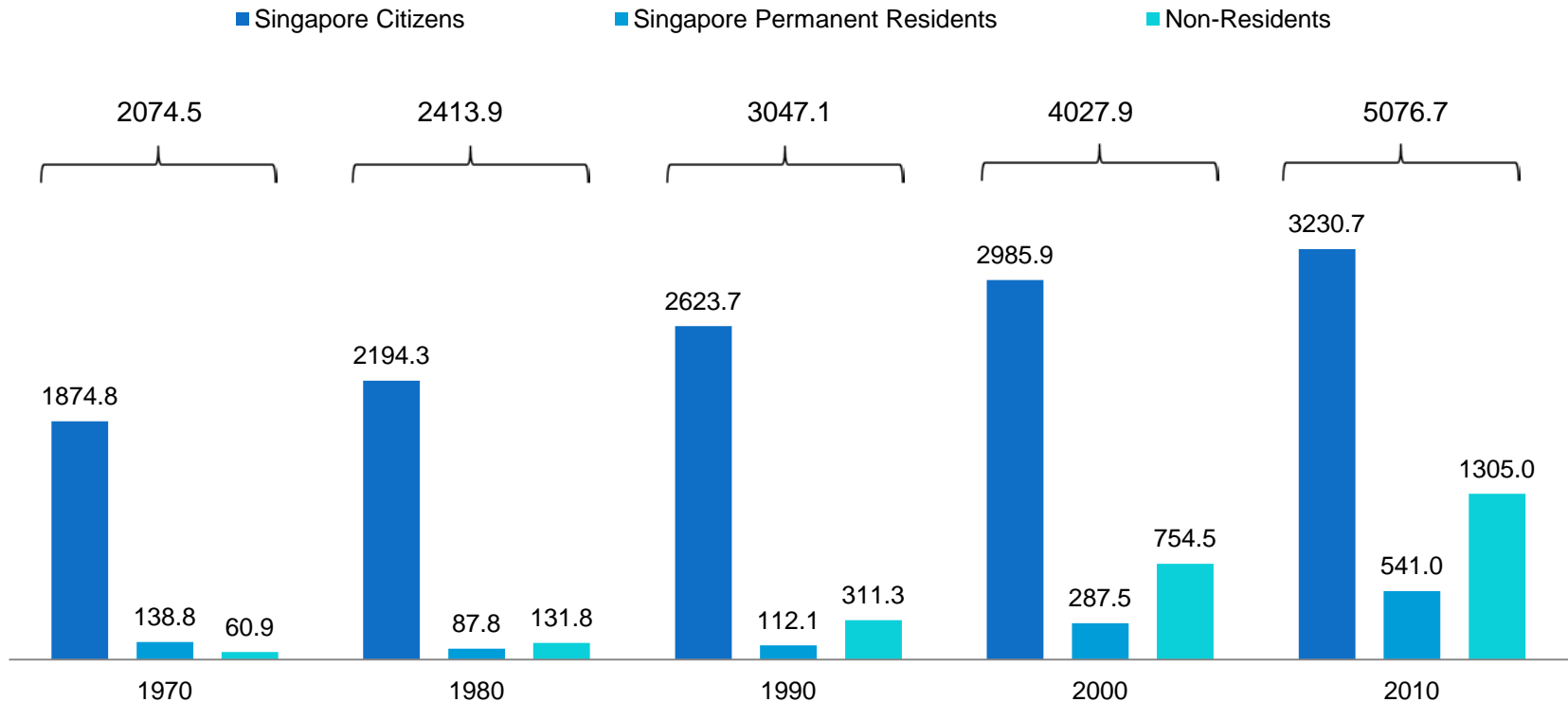
- The presentation is based on the book chapter prepared for the **IPS Project on Integration in Singapore** .
- Co-authored with Dr Yap Mui Teng, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies.
- The projections in this presentation were part of a series generated by Dr G. Shantakumar and Ms Hazel Macadangdang.

Outline of Presentation

- Overview of Singapore's Demographic Profile
- Drivers of Singapore's Immigration Policy
- The importance of immigration to Singapore
- Immigration and Integration
- Concluding Observations

Singapore's Total Population Profile

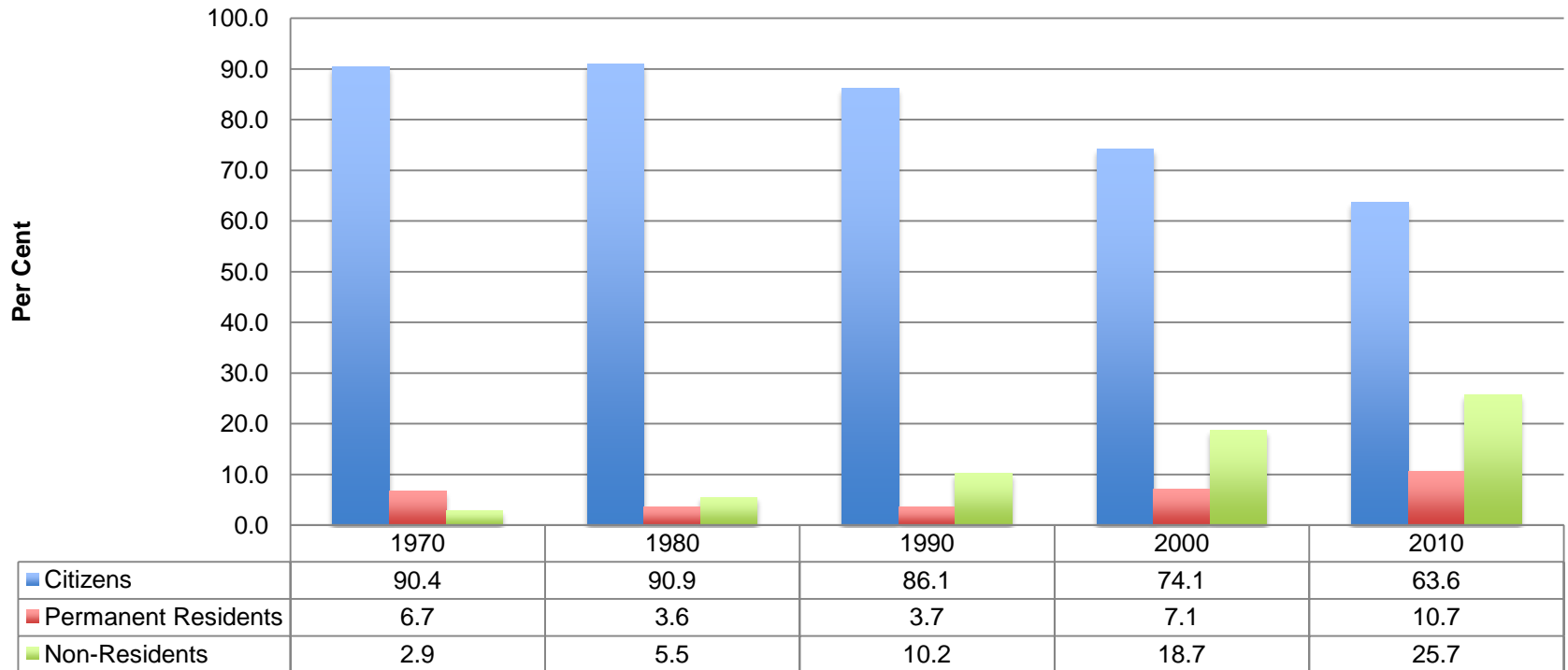
Population by Residency Status (000s)



Source: Singapore Department of Statistics, Census of Population, various years

Singapore's Total Population Profile (Percentage)

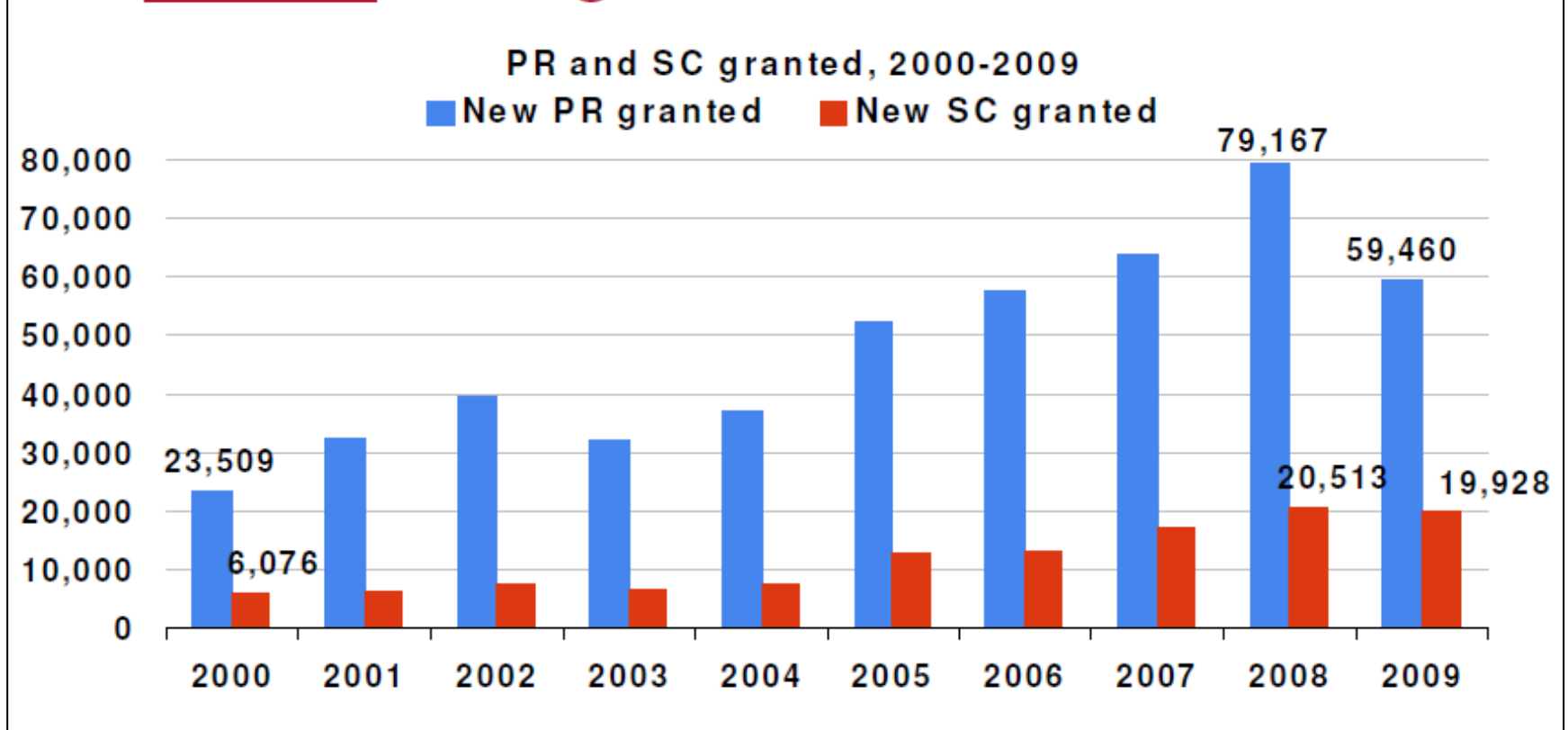
Population by Residency Status (%)



Source: Singapore Department of Statistics,
Census of Population, various years

New Residents

Chart 2: Immigration trends, 2000-2009



Source: Mr Wong Kan Seng's COS Speech 4 March 2010.

https://www.nptd.gov.sg/content/NPTD/news/_jcr_content/par_content/download_35/file.res/Charts%20for%20DPM's%20speech%20on%20population%20at%20

[COS%202010%20-%20final.pdf](#)



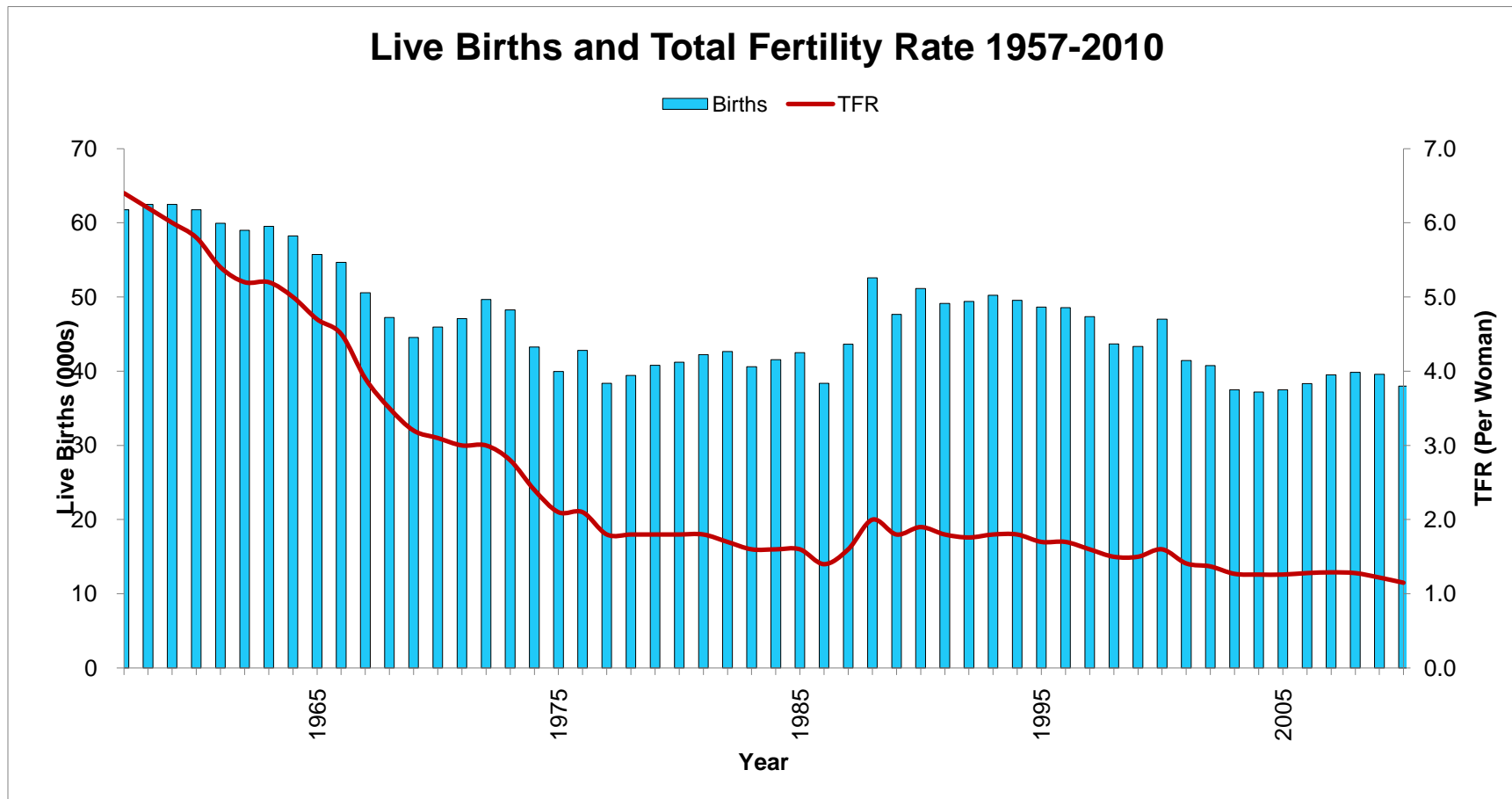
New Residents (2)

- The immigration framework has been tightened since 2009.
- According to the latest *Population in Brief*, the number of new PRs granted has fallen from 59,460 in 2009 to 29,265 in 2010.

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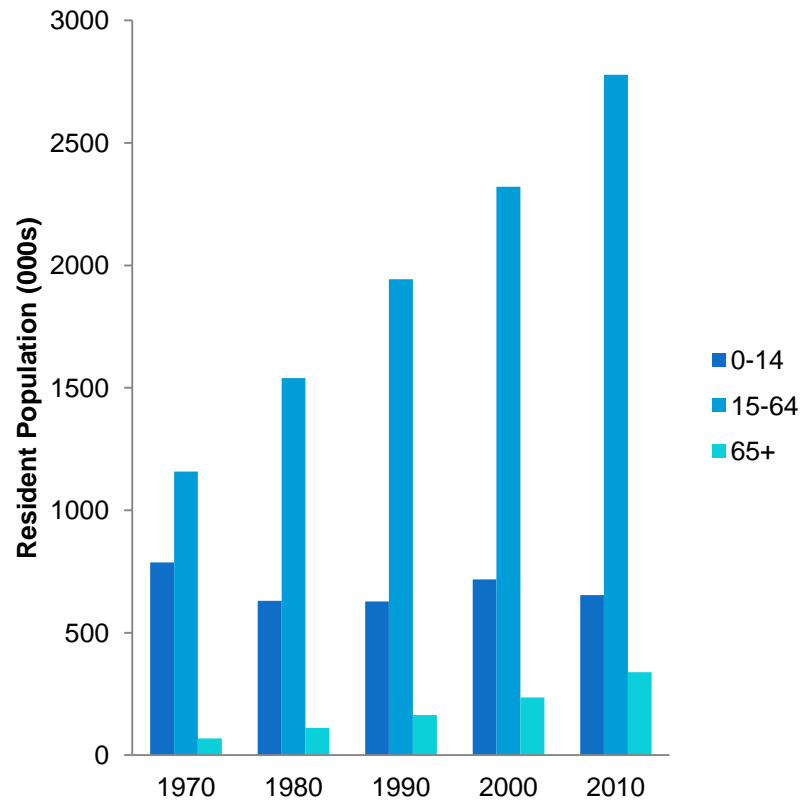
Fertility Patterns



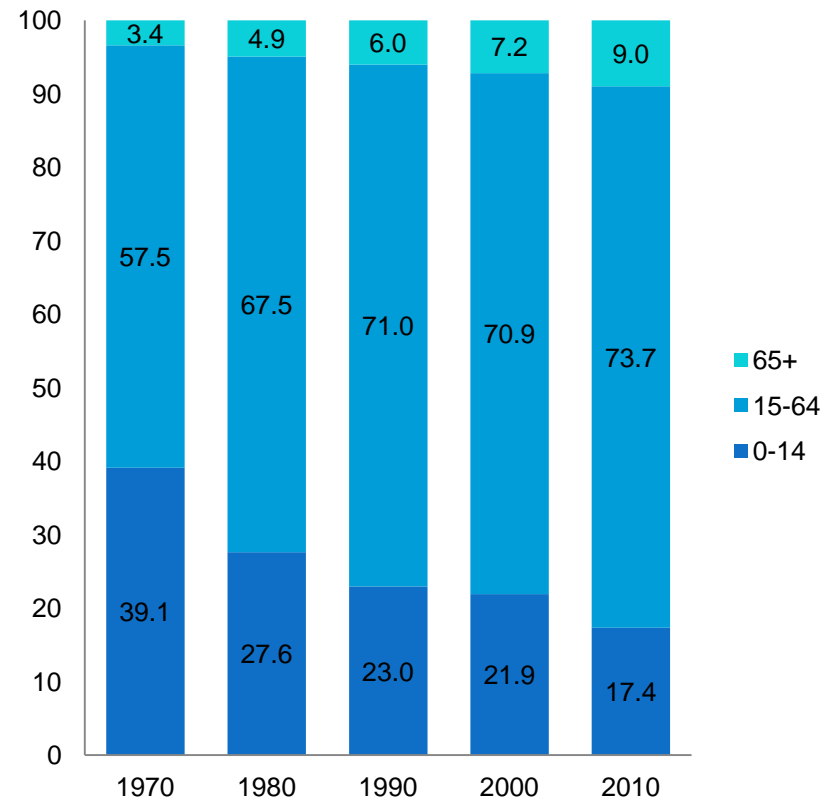
Source: Singapore Department of Statistics, Yearbook of Statistics, various years

Resident Population by Age Group

Resident Population by Age Group (000s)



Resident Population by Age Group (%)



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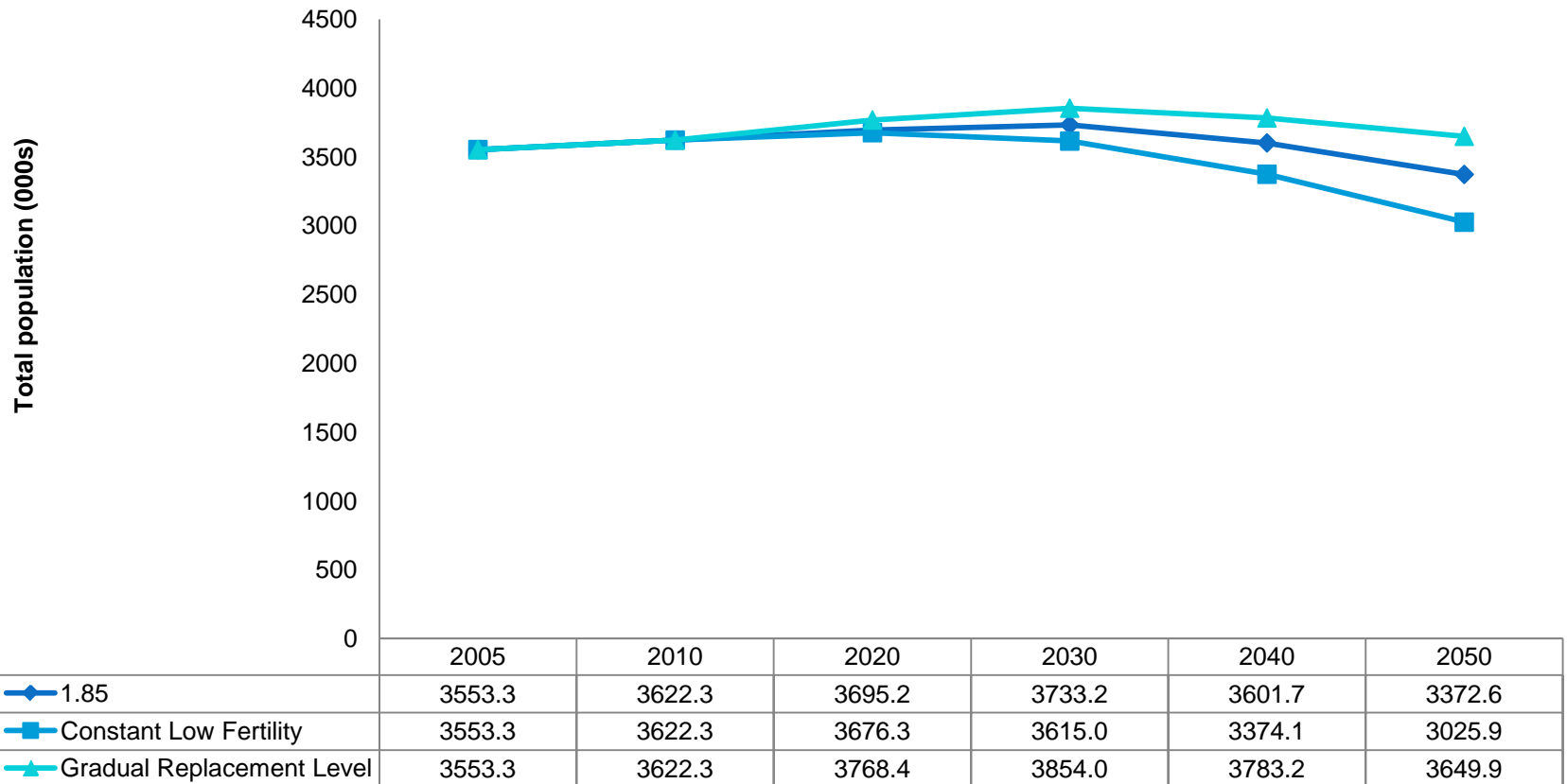
Future Population Trends (1): Raising TFR alone

Assumptions:

1. Closed population (0 migration)
2. Life expectancy at birth (2005-2050) rises from
 - 77.4 to 79.7 (males)
 - 81.3 to 84.6 (females)
3. TFR
 - remains at 1.24 births per woman throughout (Constant Low);
 - raised to 1.85 births per woman by 2030 and remaining constant afterwards (New Status Quo?)
 - raised to 2.1 births per woman by 2030 and remaining constant afterwards (Return to Replacement)

Total resident population declines under all scenarios, timing differs

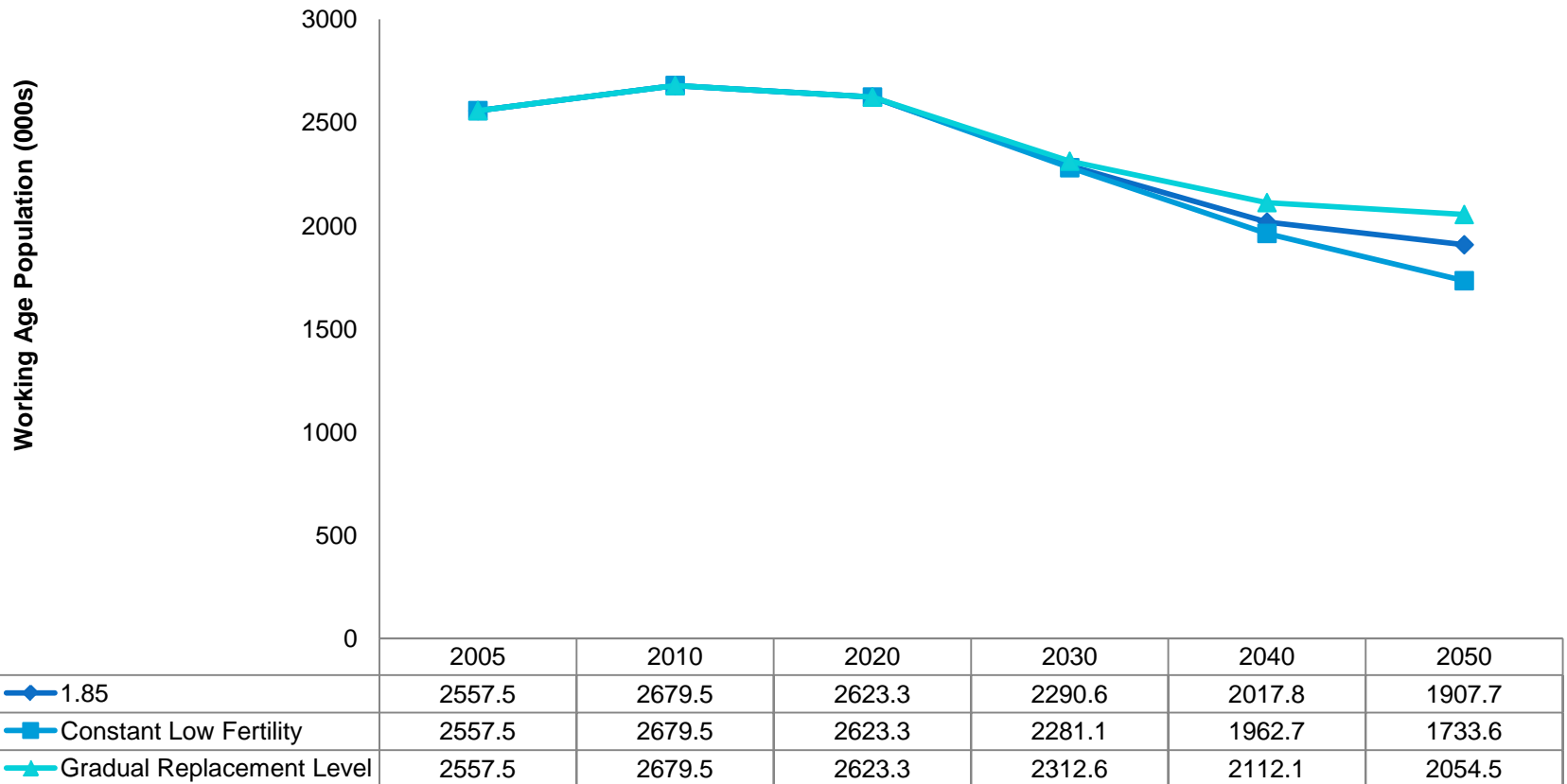
Total Resident Population (Projections)



Source: IPS Population Projections

Fewer persons of working ages...

Working Age Population (Projections)



Source: IPS Population Projections

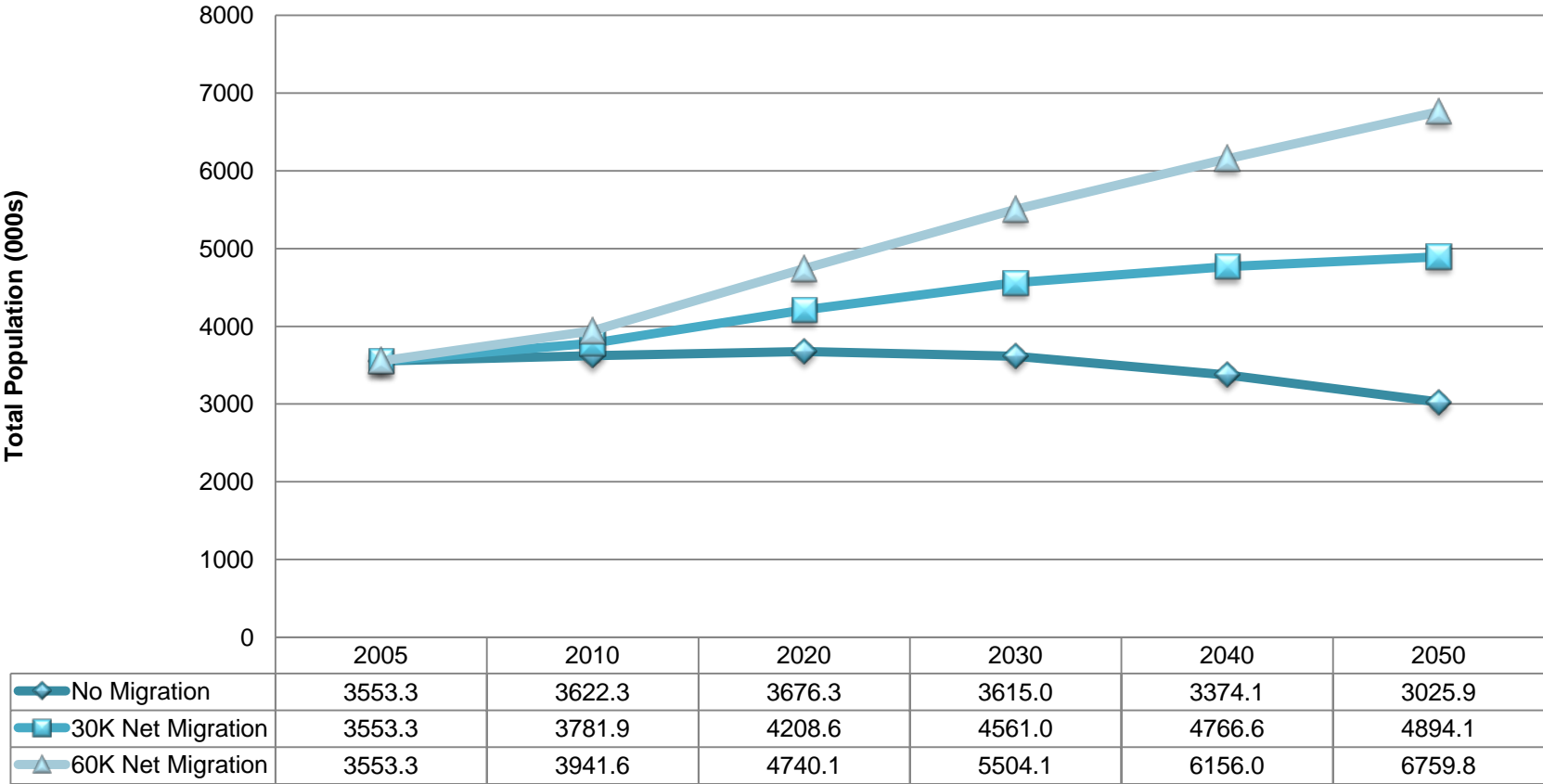
Future Population Trends (2): Raising Net-Migration

Assumptions:

1. TFR remains constant at 1.24 births per woman throughout
2. 3 levels of net annual migration –
 1. No migration
 2. 30,000
 3. 60,000
3. Life expectancy assumptions remain unchanged

Resident population grows ... more than by raising TFR alone

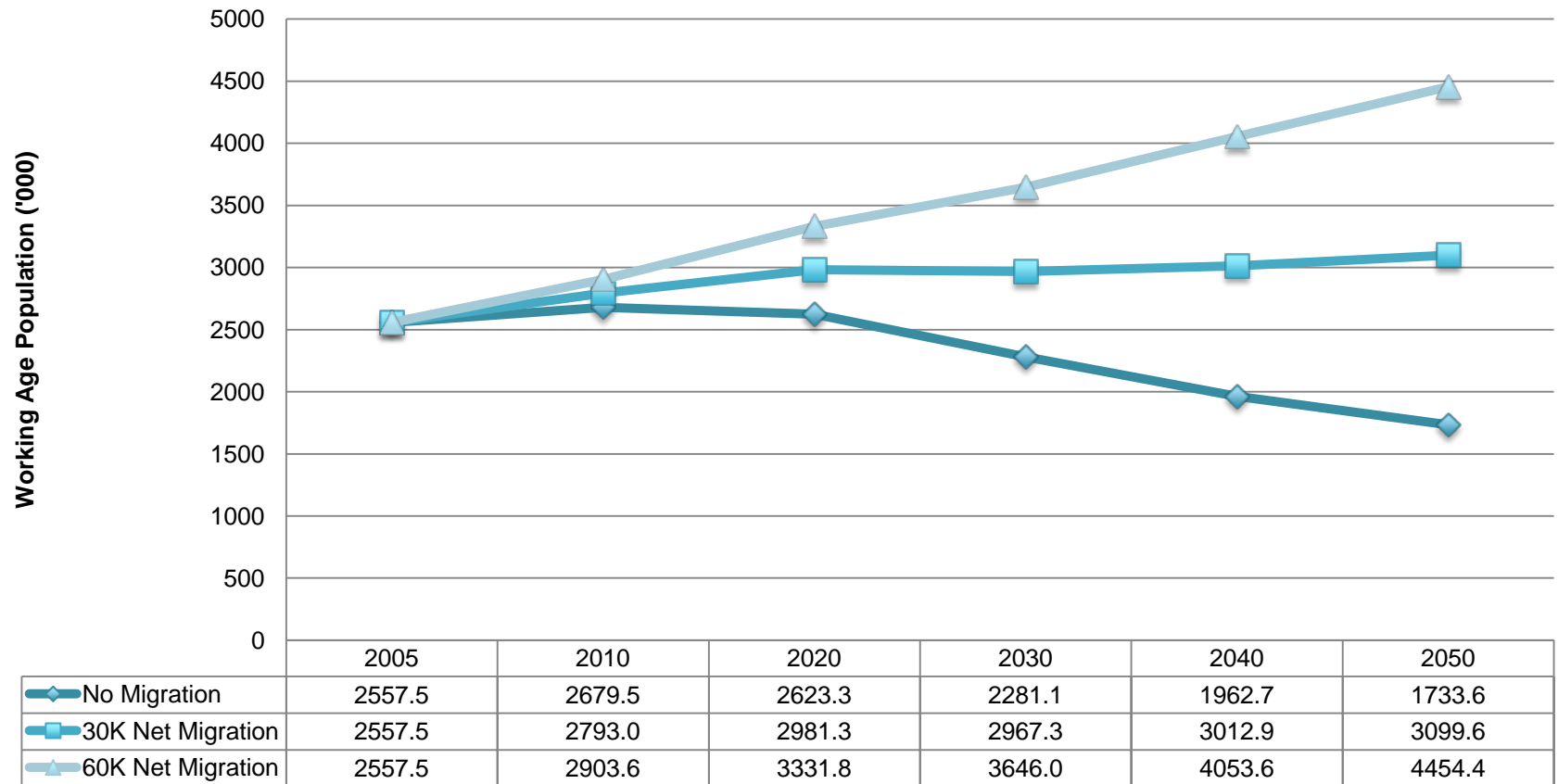
Total Population



Source: IPS Population Projections

Perhaps more importantly, size of working age population larger ...

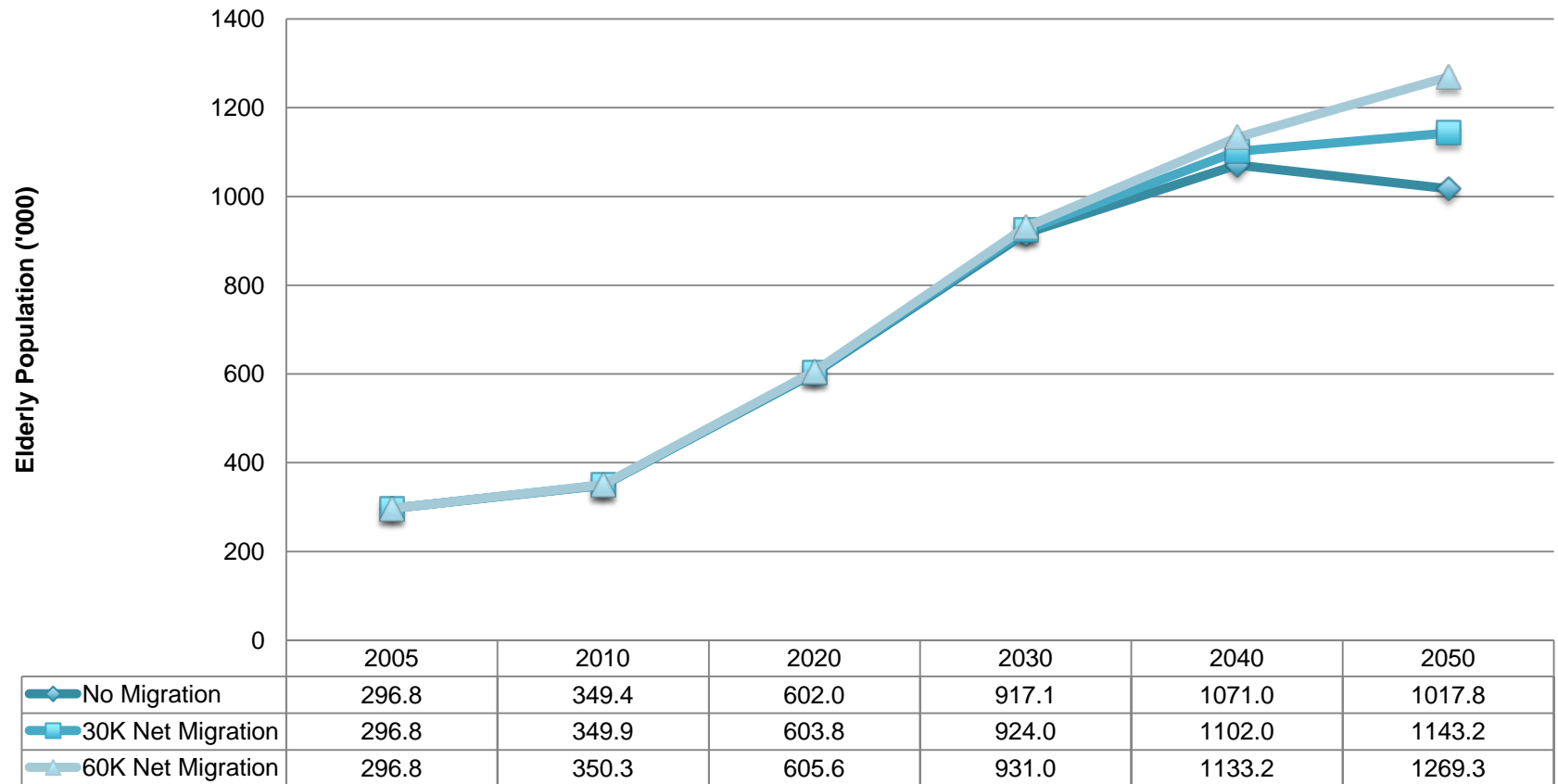
Working Age Population



Source: IPS Population Projections

Size of elderly population remains largely unchanged ...

Elderly Population



Source: IPS Population Projections

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Integration Policy

- 1988: Social Integration Management Service set up under the Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office
- 2009: National Integration Council and Integration Fund
- Model of managing new migrants?
 - Former DPM, Mr Wong Kan Seng's speech in Parliament, March 2010
 - National Integration Council



DPM Wong (2010):

- *“We will ensure that those who become one of us ... not only contribute to Singapore economically but also integrate well into our society”*
- “The success of the endeavour will, however, depend on the support and response of both newcomers and Singaporeans ... Integration is an ongoing journey and takes a long time. It cannot be rushed”

Integration Programmes

- The \$10 million Community Integration Fund (CIF) set up on 16 Sep 2009 provides co-funding of up to 80% of the total expenditure of projects or events that:
 - (i) Provide opportunities for new immigrants, foreigners and locals to interact and communicate with each other;
 - (ii) Improve their understanding of each other's culture, values and norms;
- For new citizens, a Singapore Citizenship Journey will be launched to enrich their understanding of Singaporean norms and values, and provide opportunities for meaningful interaction with the local communities.

Integration Programmes (2)

- Another national-level initiative is the People's Association's Integration and Naturalisation Champions (INC) programme. Our INCs reached out to over 30,000 new immigrants last year and organised grassroots events that brought them together with local Singaporeans. Their efforts have helped new immigrants to settle in, plug into the community and begin to build social networks
- NIC also encourages new immigrants to contribute to society through volunteerism. Participating in volunteer activities provides opportunities for personal engagement with locals, exposure to a larger cross-section of society and demonstrates a willingness to be involved in and contribute back to society.

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Concluding Observations

- Immigration is pertinent.
- Integration of new migrants is key in an increasingly diverse Singapore.
 - Policymakers need to be on guard and ensure that their initiatives do not favour certain groups over others, and
 - Ensure that their policies do not inevitably push migrant groups to create their own separate and exclusive communities.

Thank you!