

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES2014 Differences

Tuesday, 28 January 2014
Island Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel

PROGRAMME

(As of Tuesday, 21 Jan 2014)

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 – 9.15 am **Presentation**
IPS Survey on Race, Language and Religion

Dr Mathew Mathews
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

9.15 am – 10.45 am **PANEL I**
From Differences, Unity

Singapore's demographic diversity was the driving force for our founding leaders as they forged a nation. They sought to navigate the many differences in our ancestral, social and cultural affiliations even as they embarked on the urgent task of nation-building.

The speakers will discuss the differences arising from our history, cultures and economy; and how we have dealt with them in the first half-century of our existence. What differences persist or have been accentuated; what differences have we overcome or softened?

Chairperson

Dr Sharon Siddique
Director
Sreekumar.Siddique & Co Pte Ltd
and
Visiting Professorial Fellow
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities
Singapore University of Technology and Design

Speakers

Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon
Associate Provost (Student Life), President's Office
Division of Sociology
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University

Dr Leslie Teo
Managing Director
Chief Economist and
Director of Economics and Investment Strategy
GIC Private Limited

Question and Answer Session

10.45 am – 11.15 am **Tea Break**

11.15 am – 12.45 pm **PANEL II**
Living with New Differences

A decade into the new century, many of our traditional understanding of differences — CMIO, for instance — are being challenged, even as new differences spawned by immigration, new media and globalisation have emerged.

The speakers in this session will address these emergent differences and how we cope with new complexities.

Chairperson

Professor Tommy Koh
Special Adviser
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Ms Sim Ann
Minister of State
Ministry of Education &
Ministry of Communications and Information

Professor David Chan
Lee Kuan Yew Fellow &
Professor of Psychology
Director, Behavioural Sciences Institute
Singapore Management University

Question and Answer Session

12.45 pm – 1.45 pm **Lunch**

1.45 pm – 3.15 pm

DEBATE
Consensus / Contest

Diversity can bring opportunity, agility and new imaginings; diversity can also accentuate fault-lines and the sense of separateness. How then should we draw strength from our differences and continue in the never-ending task of giving substance to our common dream of becoming “one united people, regardless of...”?

Two speakers will debate the motion: “This conference resolves that consensus rather than contest will secure Singapore’s future.”

Chairperson

Ms Debra Soon
Managing Director
Channel NewsAsia
MediaCorp Pte Ltd

Proposer

Professor Kishore Mahbubani
Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Opposer

Professor Chua Beng Huat
Department of Sociology
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question and Answer Session

3.15 pm – 3.45 pm

Tea Break

3.45 pm – 5.15 pm

PANEL III
Dialogue with Guest of Honour, Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat

Chairperson

Mr Janadas Devan

Question and Answer Session

5.15 pm

End of Conference

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