







SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2021

Reset



Forum 1 - Jobs and Skills



Forum 2 - Environment and Sustainability



Forum 3 - Global Economy



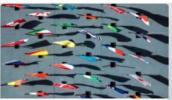
Forum 4 - Identities and Cohesion



Forum 5 - Technology and Liveability



Forum 6 - Soul of the Nation



Forum 7 - Multilateralism and Global Cooperation



Forum 8 - The Values and Qualities of Leadership



Forum 9 - Global Trends Social Movements and Democracy



Monday - 25 January 2021









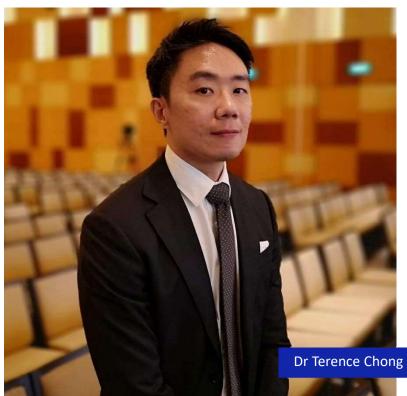
The challenge now is to make sure that those lower down are not left behind. We have to take advantage of the spirit of solidarity ... it can be done. It requires collective solutions and economic strategies that ensure you have continued demand for jobs up and down the ladder.

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"We have to broaden our definition of merit. We have to broaden our definition of talent. And I would also add that the state, being the largest employer has to take the lead on this, and you can see it has ... things are moving. The question is can it move fast enough? What about the generations who have kind of missed out? It is not very comforting for them to hear that policy is moving slowly, but in the meantime they are losing opportunities"









We say more about smart citizens than about smart cities.







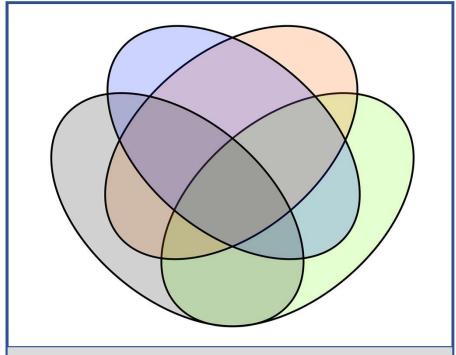


Retraining yourself... is a very important way of being a self organiser, because now technology is changing more rapidly ... so what you used to know is obsolete, ten years later, maybe five years later.









An intersectional analysis considers all the factors that apply to an individual in combination, rather than considering each factor in isolation.

Image by Rupert Millard Text: Wikipedia









Tolerance... is not enough... We need to go to understanding, the intermediate level, and an even higher aspiration of appreciation, of our different cultures, languages, religion and beliefs... That is what I meant by the dialogical society, and in reaching our own common grounds as people of great diversity.









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we will need to ensure that ours is an inclusive politics, a politics that is inclusive not just in the sense of giving people equal access to resources, financial, educational and civic, but we also need to make sure people have the wherewithal to participate in political life, that means an educational system that equips them with a vocabulary, and a technology system that allows them to participate in a political life that is increasingly digital.









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You want to be an origin hub, not a connecting hub... why are we not a leader, why are we always a follower, why are we always a fast follower? ... A major reset that we need is to get back into being our own initiator of innovations, of enterprise and job creation.











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The heart and soul of the social contract is the heart and soul of leadership, the faith that we can do more together, and better, than anything we can make alone.











The quality I would like to see in leaders, our leaders, is the ability to be bold and seek to instil a culture of daring to try, to push us so that we will not slip behind.

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At the heart of a communitarian democracy is a system whereby individuals participate in a very lively way in the political life they are in.

... I think this kind of deliberative democracy or participative democracy is going to be very key for Singapore... we are going to be facing far more complex issues than we have in the past, and we need therefore to bring multiple perspectives together in this participative way, in a way that emphasises nuance and not just simplistic generalisations.

Even more importantly, we need participation because that is how the multiple identities that we all have can interact with each other.









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Singapore is a strong supporter of rules-based multilateralism, at the same time we are pragmatic. So instead of being defeatist and letting things drift because of multilateral gridlock, for some issues it is efficacious to adopt a building block approach with the end goal being to achieve multilateral outcomes eventually. We work with like-minded partners to test out ideas. We can be and have been pathfinders of workable solutions which address common needs, and then we seek to get broader engagements and buy-ins from others.









Images courtesy of Giovanni Palma at be.net/giovannipalma





