

Singapore Perspectives 2021: Reset

**Forum 1:**

The Singapore Perspectives opening forum on Jobs and Skills, moderated by Professor Danny Quah, Dean of the LKY School of Public Policy, featured Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Professor Tyler Cowen of the George Mason University as speakers and Ms Selina Ling of OCBC as a discussant.

SM Tharman spoke about how Singapore has dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic and how more needed to be done to better coordinate public and private sectors, helping grow the broad middle class and prevent those lower down the income distribution are not left behind.

Prof Cowen, in his opening remarks, introduced the idea of 'self-organisers' as those who benefited from the pandemic. These self-organisers tend to be knowledge workers who work in teams and learn from each other. He observed that Singapore's education system already gears the broad majority of our workers towards having the ability to self-organise.

Ms Ling highlighted in her comments the need to close gaps between the haves and have-nots, and the need to raise labour productivity to sustain a dynamic workforce in an ageing population through the government's fiscal, monetary and tax policies.