

Forum 6: Soul of the Nation

Session 6, Soul of the Nation, of the Singapore Perspectives was moderated by Dr Kalpana Vignehsa, Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies Governance and Economy Department. The speakers on the panel included Ms Janice Koh, actor and former Nominated Member of Parliament, Mr Asahi Takano, Partner and Asia Pacific Head of Portas Consulting, Dr Munidasa Winslow, Chief Executive Officer and Senior Consultant Psychiatrist at Promises Healthcare, and Professor Audrey Yue, Head of the Department of Communications and New Media at the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The speakers came from different backgrounds, such as acting, consulting, psychiatry, academia; and expounded on the idea of the soul of the nation. Dr Vignehsa started the session by asking the panellists what the soul of the nation means to them. Each speaker shared their own views on the soul of the nation. There was no single thing that defined the soul of the nation, however a common theme behind what was shared was the idea of bringing people together through sports, environment, and culture.

A few key takeaways from the session were that Singapore's "soul" is ever-changing from old to new, there has to be a balance between the government and the people in influencing Singapore's culture, and that it is important to sustain the culture of the nation by keeping our purpose in mind.