

Forum 8: The Values and Qualities of Leadership

Forum 8 on the values and qualities of leadership was moderated by Dr Gillian Koh, Deputy Director (Research) at the Institute of Policy Studies. The panel's speakers included Ambassador Chan Heng Chee, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Professor Margaret Heffernan, Professor of Practice at the University of Bath.

Discussants on the panel were Mr Han Fook Kwang, Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and Madam Zuraidah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of Yayasan MENDAKI.

Dr Koh opened by posing questions about the types and qualities of leaders that will be needed to navigate the challenges of the next decade.

The invited speakers, Ambassador Chan Heng Chee and Professor Margaret Heffernan both shared their thoughts on the future of leadership and raised the importance of diversity and plurality of voices. Ambassador Chan emphasised that leadership circles needed to be diverse and work to understand the diversity of the populations they are tasked to represent.

Professor Heffernan explained that decisions gain legitimacy when they are made transparently and with sufficient input from different stakeholders.

Discussants Mr Han Fook Kwang and Ms Zuraidah Abdullah agreed with the points raised during both Ambassador Chan's and Professor Heffernan's presentations. Mr Han also raised the significance of value-driven leadership while Ms Zuraidah urged leaders and society to consider the benefits of failure and resilience.