

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES2022



11, 13, 17 & 24 January 2022

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2022

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Pre-Conference Session

Cities, Civilisations and Geopolitics:

In Conversation with George Yeo and Liu Thai Ker

From ancient Greece to renaissance Italy, city-states have in history defined the contours of geopolitics and geo-economics in regions across the world. While the Treaty of Westphalia would give rise to an international system that is dominated by nation-states and civilisational states, cities continue to play an important role in the global political economy. In this pre-conference session, we will situate the city in its historical and geopolitical context. What is the role of the city in an increasingly state-centric and multi-polar international system? What lessons can we learn from historical cities and city-states?

At the heart of these debates is Singapore, which exists as both a city and a sovereign state. How can Singapore as a city-state navigate an increasingly complex and turbulent world? What lessons can we learn from other cities and city-states in history?

Moderator

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee

Ambassador-at-Large

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and

Professor

Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities

Singapore University of Technology and Design

Speakers

Mr George Yeo

Former Foreign Minister

and

Visiting Scholar

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

National University of Singapore

Dr Liu Thai Ker

Chairman

Morrow Architects & Planners

Question-and-Answer Session

THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2022

9.00 am – 10.00 am

Forum 1 – Keynote Speech: Cities, Countries and Resilience

Moderator

Dr Woo Jun Jie
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speaker

Mr Ong Ye Kung
Minister for Health

Question-and-Answer Session

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Forum 2 – City as an Inclusive Space

Global cities have often been associated with high levels of inequality and contestations among the haves and the have-nots. In recent times however, policymakers are paying greater attention to ensuring greater social diversity and maintaining the social compact within their cities. What makes a city inclusive and liveable? How can we build an inclusive and liveable city? How do we ensure inclusivity and liveability in the physical, economical, digital technological, and social-cultural spaces of a city? Are there new emergent spaces of contestation? This forum explores ways in which Singapore could become a more inclusive and liveable city for its people.

Moderator

Dr Harry Tan
Research Fellow
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Professor Saskia Sassen
Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
Columbia University

Mr Lim Eng Hwee
Chief Executive Officer
Urban Redevelopment Authority

Discussant

Associate Professor Irene Ng
Department of Social Work
Social Service Research Centre
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Forum 3 – City as a Cosmopolitan Space

What ideas and values are invoked by the term “cosmopolitan city”? As Singapore attracts more global citizens and its population continues to grow more diverse, its culture and identity also become more fluid and contested. How does positioning itself as an open cosmopolitan city affect Singapore’s national identity? How are increasingly diverse cultures and identities negotiated in the local context? Which groups are included and excluded in the city-state’s discourse of cosmopolitanism? Some two decades after the terms “cosmopolitan” and “heartlanders” were coined by the government to describe two differing orientations amongst the city-state’s populace, is this division still useful and accurate?

Moderator

Dr Mathew Mathews
Principal Research Fellow &
Head, Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Ms Chang Hwee Nee
Chief Executive Officer
National Heritage Board

Associate Professor Elaine Ho
Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

MONDAY, 17 JANUARY 2022

9.00 am – 10.30 am

Forum 4 – City as Economic Space

This forum will discuss the urban economic dynamics that have driven Singapore's emergence and continued success as a global business hub and financial centre. It will also address the emerging challenges and opportunities that Singapore faces in its ongoing urban economic development and industrial policies. These include ongoing shifts towards the new digital economy and the intensification of inter-urban competition.

Moderator

Dr Woo Jun Jie

Speakers

Professor Edward Glaeser
Chairman &
Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Harvard University

Mr Gabriel Lim
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Dr David Skilling
Founding Director
Landfall Strategy Group

Question-and-Answer Session

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Forum 5 – City as Connected Space

Consistently ranked the second largest container port in the world and home to Asia's most connected airport, Singapore's survival and success as a city-state has depended very much on its connectivity. How can Singapore continue to enhance and expand its global connectivity in a post-COVID-19 world? What must Singapore do to enhance its digital connectivity to become a leading technological and data hub? How can Singapore continue to play key roles in global trade, finance and aviation?

Moderator

Dr Faizal Bin Yahya
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Mr Tan Chong Meng
Group Chief Executive Officer
PSA International Pte Ltd

Ms Quah Ley Hoon
Chief Executive
Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Forum 6 – City as Green Space

Singapore's physical transformation has long been informed by its commitment to environmental sustainability. It aims to significantly reduce its carbon emissions by 2030, most significantly through a nation-wide shift towards electric vehicles and clean energies as well as creation and preservation of its green and blue spaces. How can Singapore manage and adapt to emerging climate risks and threats? Can Singapore help facilitate the development of climate change solutions? What can planners and policymakers do to ensure greater urban resilience to the impacts of climate change? What roles do ordinary Singaporeans play in ensuring greater sustainability and resilience?

Moderator

Mr Christopher Gee
Senior Research Fellow &
Head, Governance and Economy Department
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Dr Olivia Jensen
Lead Scientist
Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public
Understanding of Risk
National University of Singapore

Dr Harvey Neo
Senior Fellow
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities
Singapore University of Technology and Design

Question-and-Answer Session

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Forum 7 – Cities in the Digital Space

The new digital economy and industry 4.0 present Singapore with opportunities to overcome its physical constraints by expanding into digital space. As Singapore continues to transform not just into a leading smart city but a smart nation, what are the opportunities and challenges that it will face in its digitisation journey? How will Singapore's digital transformation impact its politics and social fabric? What are the impacts on Singapore's urban form and industrial mix?

Moderator

Dr Carol Soon
Senior Research Fellow &
Head, Society and Culture Department
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Mr Lew Chuen Hong
Chief Executive
Infocomm Media Development Authority

Professor Carlo Ratti
Urban Technologies and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Question-and-Answer Session

MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2022

8.15 am – 9.30 am

Registration

9.30 am – 9.45 am

Opening Address

Mr Janadas Devan
Director
Institute of Policy Studies

9.45 am – 11.00 am

Panel 1 – City: Who Owns?

In this panel, we will examine questions of ownership in the city. Who are the individuals and organisations that typically exercise ownership over land, capital and public service delivery in a city? What are the implications of private versus public ownership of municipal services and infrastructure? How do different configurations of public and private ownership impact city politics and its people?

Moderator

Mr Christopher Gee

Speakers

Professor Cheong Koon Hean
Chair
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities
Singapore University of Technology and Design
and
Chairman
Centre for Liveable Cities
Ministry of National Development

Mr Manohar Khiatani
Senior Executive Director
CapitaLand Investment Limited

Question-and-Answer Session

11.00 am – 11.30 am

Break

11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Panel 2 – City: Who Plans?

By determining the spatial distribution of people and resources and establishing rules and regulations that govern how a city operates, urban planners play an important role in defining both the urban form and the socio-spatial relations of a city. How has urban planning contributed to Singapore's viability and success as a city-state? How can policymakers and planners ensure greater diversity and inclusiveness in Singapore's urban planning processes?

Moderator

Dr Woo Jun Jie

Speakers

Ms Hwang Yu-Ning
Chief Planner & Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Urban Redevelopment Authority

Mr Seah Chee Huang
Chief Executive Officer
DP Architects

Question-and-Answer Session

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Panel 3 – City: Who Belongs?

As a global city-state, Singapore has to welcome new immigrants, find ways to integrate newcomers while continuing to build in its local citizenry a sense of community and national identity at the same time. In this panel, we explore both established and emergent social relationships and ties in the city-state that help foster this sense of belonging and community. We ask what else is needed to build social trust and national affinity among the increasingly diverse group of people who calls Singapore home.

Moderator

Dr Gillian Koh
Deputy Director (Research) &
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Ms Cindy Khoo
Deputy Secretary
Strategy Group
Prime Minister's Office

Associate Professor Ho Kong Chong
Head, Urban Studies
Yale-NUS College
and
Associate Professor of Sociology
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Question-and-Answer Session

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Break

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

DIALOGUE

**with Mr Desmond Lee,
Minister for National Development and
Minister-in-Charge of Social Services
Integration**

Moderator

Professor Tan Tai Yong

President

and

Professor of Humanities (History)

Yale-NUS College

Question-and-Answer Session

5.30 pm

End

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