

## PROGRAMME

*Monday, 20 January 2025  
Sands Grand Ballroom (Level 5)  
Sands Expo and Convention Centre*

8.00 am – 8.45 am

### **Registration**

8.45 am – 9.00 am

### **Opening Address**

Mr Janadas Devan  
Director  
Institute of Policy Studies

9.00 am – 10.30 am

### **Panel 1 — Community and the State**

The state has an overarching presence in several domains. It makes major interventions in education, housing, healthcare, and in the provision of social assistance. Its “Many Helping Hands” approach shapes community involvement and collaboration in addressing social issues and supporting vulnerable groups.

Has the Government’s own hand in many areas “crowded out” opportunities for Singaporeans to engage each other organically? Where might the state pull back – and conversely, where might it do more?

### **Moderator**

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee  
Ambassador-at-Large  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Speakers**

Dr Aaron Maniam  
Fellow of Practice and Director  
Digital Transformation Education  
Blavatnik School of Government  
University of Oxford

Professor Cherian George  
Department of Journalism  
School of Communication  
Hong Kong Baptist University

Dr Joanne Yoong  
Founder, Principal Economist and Behavioural Scientist  
Research for Impact

## **Question-and-Answer Session**

10.30 am – 11.15 am

### **Break**

11.15 am – 12.45 pm

### **Panel 2 — Community and the Market**

Markets can be efficient mechanisms in the provision of social goods and services. But they can also perpetuate inequalities and exacerbate social divisions. Our government has long sought to avoid the excesses of laissez-faire capitalism. Our leaders have variously invoked “a socialism that works”, “tripartism”, and more recently, “a refreshed social compact”.

What more might be done? For example, can communities be empowered to shape and even own businesses to foster a greater sense of ownership and responsibility? What are the main barriers to achieving a more inclusive and equitable economy?

### **Moderator**

Ms Karen Ngui  
Head  
DBS Foundation and  
Strategic Marketing and Communications, DBS Group

### **Speakers**

Professor Arnoud De Meyer  
Chairman  
Stewardship Asia Centre

Associate Professor Teo You Yenn  
Provost's Chair in Sociology and  
Director, Centre for the Study of Social Inequality  
School of Social Sciences  
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
Nanyang Technological University

Ms Catherine Loh  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Foundation of Singapore

## **Question-and-Answer Session**

12.45 pm – 2.00 pm

### **Lunch**

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

### **Panel 3 — Community and the Polity**

With increasing diversity in values, beliefs, and perspectives in societies everywhere, how might we find common ground while respecting and acknowledging different identities and value systems. Other than “race, language or religion” that the Singapore Pledge acknowledges, Singaporeans have in recent years organised themselves around other identities.

What can we do to build new and stronger ties among groups with differing value systems? How do we avoid a politics driven by clashing identities? How do we foster a stronger sense of community that is both inclusive and respectful of differences? How can we fashion “one united people” out of many, without erasing many?

**Moderator**

Mr Laurence Lien  
Chairman  
Lien Foundation

**Speakers**

Mr Chng Kai Fong  
Permanent Secretary (Information and Development)  
Ministry of Digital Development and Information

Associate Professor Daniel Goh  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore

Miss Yulianna Frederika  
Founder  
Lepak Conversations

**Question-and-Answer Session**

3.30 pm – 4.15 pm

**Break**

4.15 pm – 5.30 pm

**DIALOGUE**  
**with Mr Edwin Tong,**  
**Minister for Culture, Community and Youth &**  
**Second Minister for Law**

**Moderator**

Professor Lily Kong  
President  
Singapore Management University

**Question-and-Answer Session**

5.30 pm

**End**

*Last modified on 21 November 2024*