

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
Managing Director & Head
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

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