

S R Nathan Fellowship
Young Leader Seminar Series | Melissa Low
Director's Opening Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to the inaugural S R Nathan Fellowship Young Leaders Seminar,

1. This actually is our first S R Nathan Fellowship Young Leaders Seminar ever. Our keynote speaker is Ms Melissa Low, as you just heard. She is a Research Fellow at NUS' Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions.
2. I am very heartened by the size of the audience because I expected fewer people to turn up. It is actually more than what we have for some of the S R Nathan Fellowship lectures. So it is rather auspicious.
3. We conceived this Young Leaders Seminar Series as a departure from the traditional IPS-Nathan Lecture Series, where we invite people, more senior Singaporeans, people who look like me, to share their insights on various topics. The S R Nathan Lectures vary from three to six lectures, and now we have settled on about three lectures every semester. I think we have had about 15 S R Nathan Fellows. We will be having the 16th S R Nathan Fellow next week. Philip Yeo is coming along.
4. The Young Leaders Seminar Series aims to provide a platform for younger Singaporeans below the age of 40, who possess valuable and pertinent insights to share on topics of importance to Singapore. I actually wanted to keep the age requirement under 35 because I belong to the generation — the 60s — where we used to have a saying — do not trust anyone over the age of 35. I used to believe it, but the IPS fellows disagreed. They did not think that 35 would be a suitable cut-off age. So, they compromised on 40.
5. Today's seminar is titled "Shaping Singapore's Climate Future: Achieving NDCs with the Use of Carbon Markets," it will focus on the crucial role of

carbon markets in addressing climate change in Singapore. Melissa will share with us her research on transparency and accountability in carbon markets, and offer insights into how policy frameworks can drive meaningful change.

6. Following her keynote, there will be a panel discussion. I thank the people who were listed just now, Rueban Manokara of the World Wide Fund for Nature — International (WWF) and Ho Xiang Tian, co-founder of LepakInSG, for agreeing to join the panel discussion. I would also like to thank BiogirlMJ (Kong Man Jing), co-founder of Just Keep Thinking, for moderating the discussions.
7. I thank all of you for joining us and I thank the panel and Melissa.
8. Thank you.