

Transforming the Non-Profit Sector: Opening Seminar

Thursday, 6 May 2021

Online via Zoom

PROGRAMME

2.45 pm – 3.00 pm

Registration

3.00 pm – 3.15 pm

Opening Remarks

Mr Fong Yong Kian
Chief Executive
Tote Board

3.15 pm – 3.30 pm

Overview of Objectives and Programme

Mr Freddy Hong
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow &
Head, Policy Laboratory
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer and Participant Feedback

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Landscape of Research and Evaluation in Non-Profit Sector

Dr Justin Lee
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

4.00 pm – 4.45 pm

Breakout Session (4 Groups)

Group 1 - Grantmakers

Facilitators

Mr Benedict Cheong
Chief Executive
Temasek Foundation International

Mr Laurence Lien
Co-Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Asia Philanthropy Circle

Group 2 - Service Providers

Facilitators

Ms Sue Cheng
Chief Service Officer
Singapore Children's Society

Dr Roland Yeow
Executive Director
Boys' Town

Group 3 - Associations and Membership Organisations

Facilitator

Mr Freddy Hong

Group 4 - Social Enterprises

Facilitator

Ms Kwek Jim See
Founder
elementum

4.45 pm – 5.15 pm

Facilitators Shareback

5.15 pm – 5.30 pm

Closing Round

5.30 pm

End

Last modified on 3 May 2021



SYNOPSIS

Transforming the Non-Profit Sector is a three-year partnership between IPS and Tote Board that aims to uplift the capability of non-profit organisations as well as support public-private-people partnerships. This opening seminar will kickstart a series of conversations and learning journeys that will lead up to a conference in October. The theme for this year is **Using Research and Evidence for Social Impact**. The series of events we have planned will help address the following questions: What is the value of different types of research for various non-profit actors? What are the limits of evidence-based practice? How can we encourage more relevant and useful research? Who should be doing what type of research? How do we build a conducive ecosystem for non-profit research?

Non-profit organisations increasingly engage in research and collect evidence to inform their programmes. However, there is a wide variety of research activities possible, and these can range from basic research typically conducted by academics to the forms of applied research used for different purposes: needs assessments to understand the problem; evidence reviews or design research to develop a solution; and evaluation to determine how effective those solutions are. For this opening seminar, breakout sessions will be held so that grantmakers, service providers, associations and social enterprises can have in-depth discussions with their peers on their research interests and capabilities.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Sue CHENG was employed as a Senior Counsellor at Singapore Children's Society in 2002. She set up its Research and Outreach Centre the following year and headed it till 2017 when she took on the appointment of Chief Service Officer.

The culture of programme evaluation at the Children's Society has evolved over the years. Embracing the principle of evidence-supported programmes and services, it evaluates its work to avoid the risk of interventions that are ineffective or detected to have unintended harmful consequences. Guided by its Research Committee, Ms Cheng works closely with research officers to support practitioners in this endeavour.

Benedict CHEONG is the Chief Executive of Temasek Foundation International. Prior to this, he was the Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Social Service. He also served in the Singapore Police Force for 15 years in various appointments at headquarters and in its operational units.

FONG Yong Kian joined Tote Board as its Chief Executive in January 2014. He brings with him over 25 years of experience serving in the public sector. His career in the public sector began in 1989 at the former Ministry of Communications and Information. Between 1996 and 2013, he worked in various positions in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, and helmed the Singapore Customs before his appointment at Tote Board. Mr Fong was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2003 for the role he played in combating SARS, and was instrumental in the Singapore Customs' attainment of the prestigious Singapore Quality Award.

Mr Fong graduated from the University of Oxford with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Philosophy and Economics, under the Public Service Commission (Overseas Merit) Scholarship. He has served as board member of various public statutory boards.

Freddy HONG is Adjunct Senior Research Fellow and the head of the Policy Laboratory at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). He is also an advisor to and supports various research studies led by the Social Lab at IPS. His research interests include sentiments polling and behavioural insights. Mr Hong obtained his Bachelor of Social Sciences in Political Science at the National University of Singapore. He obtained his Masters in Comparative Politics (Empire) at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

KWEK Jim See's passion is in purpose, perspectives, and possibilities. After spending almost 20 years in the corporate sector as a strategy and change consultant, she switched to the non-profit sector in 2012, not knowing that she would find purpose. She led strategic partnerships and consulting at the Centre for Non-Profit Leadership (CNPL), where she discovered different perspectives. To create possibilities out of the perspectives, Ms Kwek joined the National Council

of Social Service (NCSS) as the head of Pumpkin Lab to drive innovation and productivity in the social service sector. Now, she is pursuing different projects, exploring different perspectives and uncovering possibilities with TEDxSingapore, Women In Asia, Community Development Network, and others. She is also on the board of Drama Box.

Justin LEE is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies. He is interested in issues relating to disability, community development and social services. He has created a wiki platform that allows mass participation in the mapping of social needs (socialcollab.sg) and co-founded a skilled volunteer-matching platform (serve.sg).

He has provided consultation to voluntary organisations, government agencies and corporations on the design and evaluation of their programmes. He is also Chairman of ArtsWok Collaborative, a non-profit organisation engaged in arts-based community development.

Laurence LIEN is Co-Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC), a membership-based platform for Asian philanthropists to exchange, learn and collaborate. Mr Lien is also the Chairman of Lien Foundation, a family foundation that has become well regarded for its forward-thinking and radical approach in the fields of education, eldercare and the environment, as well as the Chairman of Lien AID, the foundation humanitarian arm for enabling sustainable access to clean water and sanitation for Asia's rural poor.

Mr Lien was the Chief Executive Officer of the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre in Singapore from 2008–2014, and Chairman of the Community Foundation of Singapore from 2013–2019. Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, he served in the Singapore Government. He holds degrees from Oxford University, the National University of Singapore, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He was also a Nominated Member of Parliament in Singapore from 2012–2014.

Roland YEOW likes people to know him as a youth worker when he joined the social service sector in 2004. Since then, his passion continues to evolve into non-profit management and leadership. He is currently the Executive Director of Boys' Town. His vision for the social service sector includes key emphasis on strong organisational values, and to identify and develop people who care for others. He often quotes that "there is not enough to just have a good heart.... In this sector, we need people with strong hearts!"

As a NCSS Social Service Fellow, he sees his contribution in the following aspects:

- To be involved in various professional settings in the social service sector and these include research, training and conference presentation on his domain of expertise and interests. He looks towards imparting his knowledge as mentor and coach to current and future social service professionals.
- Dr Yeow was involved in various strategic taskforces and committees at the national and sector levels in enhancing the capabilities of youth work. He sees his involvement on the leadership setting by providing critical evaluation of the various programmes, enhancing the strategic roadmap of various taskforces, and providing consultation to guide the secretarial teams in implementing the programmes and services.
- With his experience in serving on various boards and committees, he brings insights to organising and aligning people to a common goal and striving towards balancing the ideal and reality for the overall development of the social service sector.