

## **A. Introduction**

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- A1 Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- A2 Mr Janadas Devan, Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS),
- A3 Professor Cheong Koon Hean, Chair of the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities (LKYCIC),
- A4 Professor Chan Heng Chee, Professor at Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Liveable Cities (LKYCIC) and Ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- A5 Mr Felix Loh, Chief Executive Officer for Gardens by the Bay,
- A6 Mr Tan Choon Shian, Chief Executive-Designate of Tote Board
- A7 Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
- A8 A very warm welcome to all of you. I'm happy to see so many partners and friends across the People-Private-and-Public (3P) sectors here today. Thank you for joining us.

## **B. Present day - Building on our foundation.**

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- B1 This is the third year of our conference series on "Transforming the Non-Profit Sector". Over the past 3 years, we have brought together leaders in the 3P sectors, to share ideas to transform the non-profit sector and take action for greater social impact.

- B2 We are all deeply invested in the future of Singapore and our society. We want to ensure that Singapore continues to thrive in the future.
- B3 The world today is going through a troubling period, politically, economically and socially. We need to recognise the gravity of the external situation we are facing. On the ground, Singaporeans are worried about bread-and-butter issues ahead, like the rising cost of living.
- B4 The Government has implemented a set of comprehensive support measures that will continue to be rolled out progressively. Tote Board as grant-maker will complement Government, to provide grants to support Singaporeans and our community.
- B5 One of our key signature grants is the Tote Board Social Service Fund (TBSSF) which provides longer term funding for over 70 programmes run by over 90 Social Service Agencies, serving over 360,000 clients. This includes vulnerable families, children and youths, the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons with mental health issues. These are all members in our local community who need support.
- B6 The Tote Board Enabling Lives Grant (TB ELI) supports the CAREconnect which provides resources and networks for emotional support. This enables caregivers to care for themselves even as they care for others. We understand the stress and strain that caregivers are under when they care for the elderly or persons with disabilities or others under their charge.

B7 Another example of our impact is our support for mental wellness. Through the Tote Board Social Service Fund, SAMH YouthReach (by the Singapore Association for Mental Health), a social worker reached out to Charlie\* who was unplugged from mainstream society, attending school sporadically and in poor physical and mental health. SAMH YouthReach helped Charlie to learn life skills such as setting reminders on his phone not to forget appointments and imparted skills to cope with suicide and violent thoughts, and to continually remind himself that these thoughts did not define him.

*\*(name has been changed for confidentiality purposes)*

### **C. Into the Future - orchestrating the ecosystem towards evidence-based action-oriented futures solutioning**

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C1 But is it sufficient to just look at current needs? Even as we continue to address today's social issues through our current grant portfolio, perhaps it is timely to look forward using a future-proofing lens and ask ourselves how we can make tomorrow better.

C2 Our launch today is borne from a long collaborative discussion with LKYCIC and IPS. We are delighted to share that our pivot into the "future-ready" space is well-timed. The world today is polarised, and our social fabric is under many stresses from divisions such as misinformation and economic anxiety. We cannot take the current strengths of our social fabric for granted.

C3 We need to look further and know what we need to do to preserve the harmony in Singapore. Singapore's prosperity and social harmony that we enjoy today cannot be taken for granted and we need to constantly think ahead and plan for the future.

- C4 With the launch of the Fund today, Tote Board is further committed to ensuring the “future-readiness” of our society.
- C5 Tote Board’s vision of “A Caring and Resilient Singapore” is something that no one single organisation or entity can achieve alone. To achieve “A Caring and Resilient Singapore”, it is therefore important for us to re-imagine possibilities in our future space.
- C6 As an orchestrator, Tote Board is very proud to have brought together two leading institutions who are at the forefront of Singapore’s futuring space:
- (i) the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities (LKYCIC), a research institute in the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD);  
and
  - (ii) the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), a think-tank at the National University of Singapore (NUS).
- C7 Together, with this new “Future-ready Society Impact Fund and Knowledge Partnership”, we will collectively take an evidence-based, action-oriented approach in solutioning towards a future-ready society. Our partners have their leading strengths and will play a critical role in this partnership.
- C8 On behalf of Tote Board and our partners from LKYCIC and IPS, we are here to signal our commitment in working towards a future-ready and resilient society. We will ensure that our work is relevant and impactful in effecting positive social change in our communities.
- C9 I wish you a fruitful conference ahead. Thank you.