

## What of the Singapore Spirit?

*The Straits Times*, 18 January

Last year, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong spoke about the Singapore Spirit, based on shared experiences, values and a sense of commitment to the country. What does this entail when Singapore is both a global city and a nation? Extracts of what four speakers said:

### **IT HOLDS PROMISE**

'This is fitting for a young nation. But it carries one major risk: resilience. What about the nation's ability to withstand a severe shock? On the upside, it has the distinct potential to create a bright future for Singapore, so much so that people from every background want to come here.'

**Mr Ori Sasson, founder and CEO of Simulation Software & Technology. He became a Singapore citizen in 2007**

### **SPIRIT TO DARE**

'The Singapore Spirit is about our ability to constantly reinvent ourselves, to seize every opportunity that comes our way and to excel. It is a spirit of entrepreneurship, efficiency, tolerance, acceptance and diversity. It is the spirit to dare.'

**Dr Woffles Wu, medical director and consultant aesthetic and plastic surgeon**

### **STAYING TOGETHER**

'The elite in Singapore - and the Government - must continue to look out for the least among us. If the division between your globally connected cosmopolitan elite and your locally restricted grassroots comes to coincide dramatically with a sharp income and wealth gap, Singapore is finished.'

**Mr Janadas Devan, Straits Times associate editor**

### **ENSURING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

'We have to be very careful, because income inequality is growing wider, and mobility through meritocracy is a lot more limited. The Singapore Spirit of looking out for the poor and disadvantaged - this is the challenge now. How can we ensure there are opportunities for the poor, the disabled, the disadvantaged?'

**Dr Lai Ah Eng, senior research fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore**