

**MEDIA INVITE
NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Hosted by:



Discussing “Risk and Resilience in the Era of Climate Change” with book author, Dr Vinod Thomas, and the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Ms Grace Fu

Singapore, 4 April 2023 – The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy’s (LKYSPP) [Institute for Environment and Sustainability](#) (IES) will be hosting a panel discussion and launch for Dr Vinod Thomas’ book, “Risk and Resilience in the Era of Climate Change”, on 4 April 2023 at the LKYSPP. The event, chaired by Li Ka Shing Professor in Public Management and IES Director, Professor Benjamin Cashore, will be highlighted by a keynote address by Singapore’s Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Ms Grace Fu.

Dr Vinod Thomas, a former Senior Vice President at the World Bank, will discuss how growing global risks are raising the bar for building resilience. The panel will consider how understanding the dynamics of these risks and building coalitions help a country tackle the problem better given runaway climate change.

The 200-page publication offers essential insights for achieving greater traction on climate policy. It highlights challenges posed by the obsession of mainstream economics with short term GDP, which has led to celebrating any type of growth, even carbon-intensive growth, in favour of taking steps to deduct the spill-over damages from the growth process. Dr Thomas also writes about the crucial role of attributing climate change to the use of fossil fuels; the needed change in focus to prevention and not just coping; and necessary policies and investments in building far greater climate resilience in countries.

Speakers:

- [Dr Vinod Thomas](#) is a Distinguished Fellow in Development Management at the Asian Institute of Management, Manila, and previously, a Visiting Professor at LKYSPP. His current areas of work are climate change, sustainable development, disaster risk management and resilience building. He was Senior Vice President, Independent Evaluation, at the World Bank, and Director General, Independent Evaluation, Asian Development Bank. At the World Bank, he was also Chief Economist for Asia, and Country Director for Brazil.
- Ms Grace Fu is the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment. Ms Fu spent the early part of her career in the private sector and last held the position of Chief Executive Officer, PSA South East Asia and Japan, where she was responsible for the business performance of PSA’s port terminals in Singapore, Thailand, Brunei and Japan. Prior to her current appointment, she was the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and held various positions at the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development.

Chairperson:

- [Professor Benjamin Cashore](#) holds the Li Ka Shing Chair in Public Management at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and is director of LKYSPP's Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES). He specialises in global and multi-level environmental governance, comparative public policy, and transnational business regulation/corporate environmental social governance (ESG) innovations. His substantive research interests include climate policy, biodiversity conservation/land use change, and sustainable environmental management of forests and related agricultural sectors.

Please refer to the next page for more details.

Please refer to the "Risk and Resilience in the Era of Climate Change" [here](#).

Event Details

Date: 4 April 2023, Tuesday
Time: 4.00 to 5.30 PM
Venue: Conference Room, Oei Tiong Ham Building, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS Bukit Timah Campus, 469 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

Registration / Enquiries

Please register at:

https://nuslkyspp.secure.force.com/app/Online_Registration_Event?id=a0B2s000008hxTz

For enquiries on IES, please email: ies_admin@nus.edu.sg

For media enquiries, please email: monica-khoo@nus.edu.sg

About the Institute for Environment and Sustainability

The Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) is a newly formed think tank dedicated to generating fit-for-purpose policy solutions for Southeast Asia's most pressing environmental and sustainability challenges. The institute draws on the policy design heritage and expertise of the LKYSPP to help close the gap between sustainability policy goals and desired outcomes. IES seeks to empower agents of change to identify, design, and trigger effective sustainability policy pathways through the generation of Original Research, Stakeholder Dialogues, and Capacity Building.

About the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) is an autonomous, professional graduate school of the National University of Singapore (NUS). Its mission is to be a leading global public policy school, with its faculty and alumni shaping thought leadership, improving standards of governance, and transforming lives for a more sustainable world. In addition to its Masters and PhD programmes, LKYSPP offers high quality Executive Programmes for civil servants, corporate executives, and non-profit professionals to equip them with insights and skills to transform their organisations and the world.