

SINGAPORE FUTURES YOUTH COMPETITION 2021

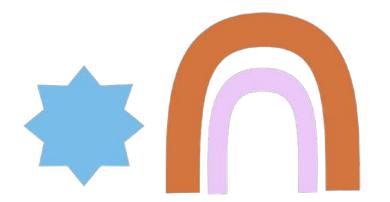
REIMAGINING SG75: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SINGAPORE

21 - 25 JUNE 2021

ORGANISED BY
LEE KUAN YEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
EXECUTIVE EDUCATION SINGAPORE FUTURES

ABOUT THE

SINGAPORE FUTURES YOUTH COMPETITION



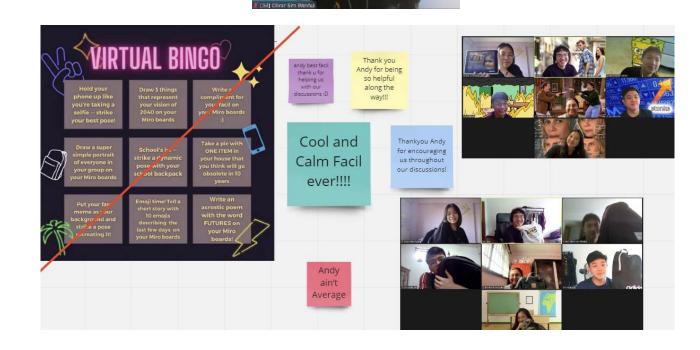
The Singapore Futures Youth Competition 2021 was the inaugural youth event run by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School) Executive Education Singapore Futures (EESF). The theme of the competition was Reimagining SG75: Shaping the Future of Singapore, which challenged the youth to imagine how Singapore would look like in 2040 as we celebrate the nation's 75th birthday.

The competition was a 5-day event held from 21 June to 25 June 2021. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was run entirely on online platforms such as Zoom and Miro. In this iteration of the competition, the LKY School was delighted to host a diverse group of 48 students from a variety of pre-tertiary education institutions such as Junior

Colleges, Polytechnics, Institutes of Technical Education, Madrasahs, and independent schools to participate in the event.

The competition comprised of a 3-day Futures Thinking and scenario planning workshop and 2 days of presentations and judging rounds. During the workshop, participants were introduced to Futures Thinking tools and frameworks and their application in the public policy context. The participants then applied these tools and frameworks into their group discussions, and developed scenarios for the futures they envisioned for Singapore in 2040. Their scenarios were later presented to the various judges during the preliminary and final judging rounds.







JUDGING PANELS

Both preliminary and final judging rounds required participants to give a 10-minute presentation, followed by a 10-minute Q&A session by the judges. The group presentations were assessed based on these criteria:

- Application of Futures Thinking and scenario planning tools, including plausibility;
- Creativity and pushing boundaries;
- Relevance of scenarios; and
- Presentation and display exhibits.

We invited experts and leaders from the public and private sectors as members of judging panels.

For the preliminary rounds, we invited the following as our judges:



Zarith Sofia MagadTechnical Director,
Mott MacDonald

Vicnan P.

Co-founder, Pluswhat



M. Ibnur Rashad

Director
(Innovation Sciences),
Ground-Up Innovation Labs
for Development (GUILD)



Serene Lim Associate Director, ANZ Bank

For the final round, we invited the following as our judges:



Jeanette Kwek

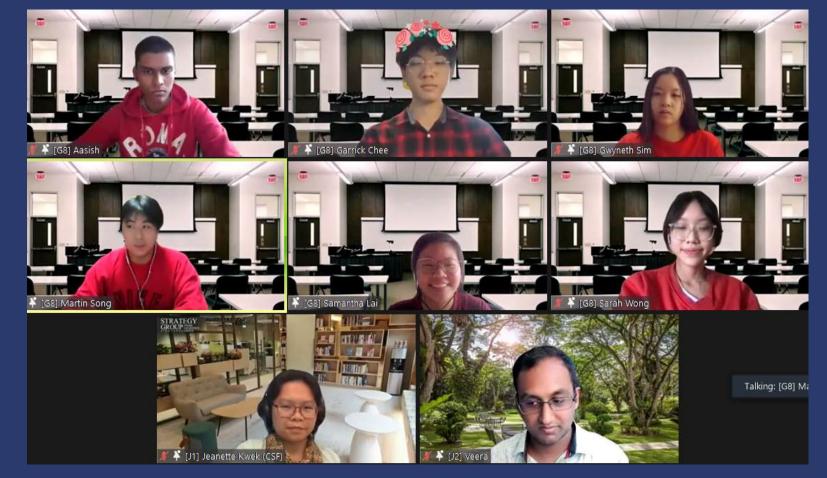
Head,
Centre for Strategic Futures,
Strategy Group,
Prime Minister's Office

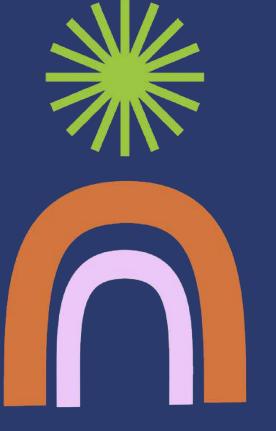


Veerappan SwaminathanFounder and Director,
Sustainable Living Lab









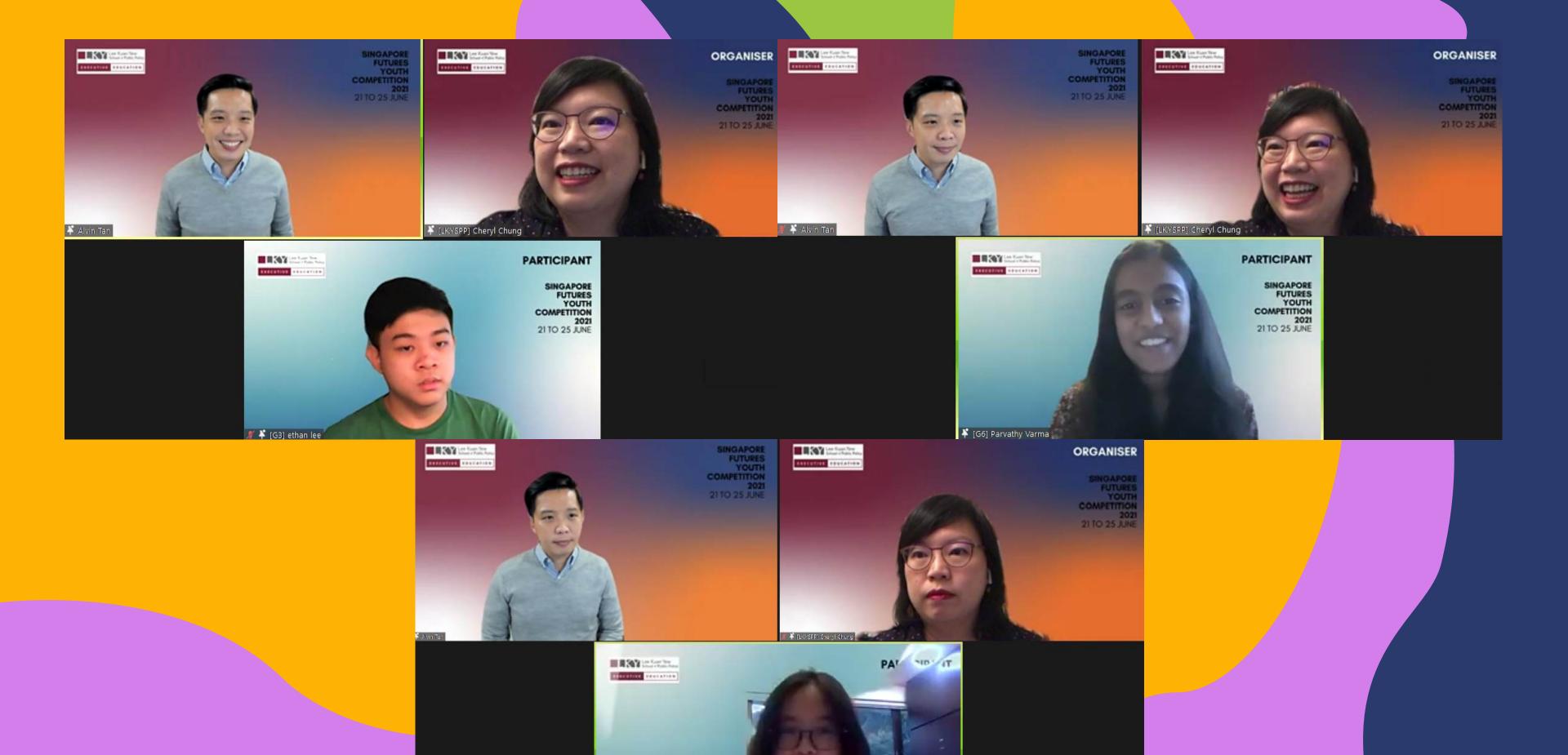
DIALOGUE WITH MR. ALVIN TAN, MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH, MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

On the final day of the competition, Mr. Alvin Tan shared his views on the challenges Singapore will face in the coming years. Mr. Tan shared about the disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and how the government had been helping businesses to cope during the pandemic. He also shared more about big and enduring issues that will continue to affect the future of Singapore including the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore's geographical and population size, the issue of an ageing population, climate change, and threats to racial and religious harmony in the country.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in a dialogue and pose questions to Mr. Tan for his insights. A few questions from participants were rather thought provoking and popular topics being discussed included minimum wage, future of jobs and innovation, climate change and sustainability, and impact of brain drains on Singapore.

Finally, in his closing remarks Mr. Tan provided advice to our young participants about how to navigate their futures as they mature into working adults. Facing an uncertain future, participants were advised to take leadership roles, make difficult decisions for themselves and their fellow citizens, and lead Singapore into a prosperous SG75. Mr. Tan concluded the dialogue session by advising the participants to shape the future of Singapore into one they want for themselves and to continue our legacy of looking forward into the future.

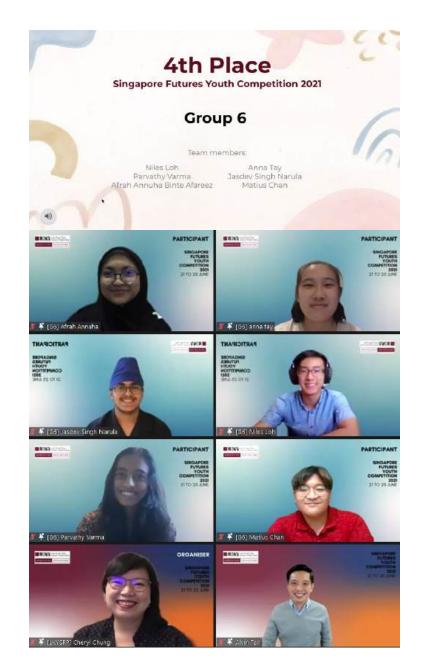


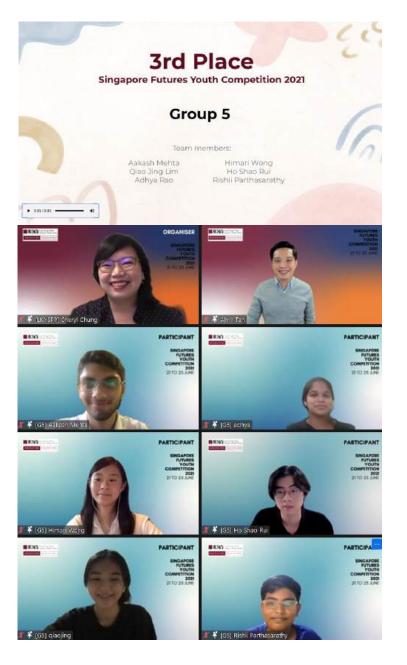


PRIZES AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

Through this competition, we hoped that participants had a meaningful and enjoyable time to make new friends, learn from one another, and network with experts and leaders from the public and private sectors. More importantly, we hoped that insights and experience gained during this competition would be valuable resources for the participants as they navigate their own futures in Singapore in 2040!

Cash prizes of \$500, \$1000, \$1500, and \$2000 were given to the Top 4 groups. There were also 2 fan-favourite groups that were awarded a cash prize of \$200 per group. In addition to the cash prizes, participants were also entitled other benefits including a certificate of participation and an opportunity to join LKY School's events network.









TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS



ALOYSIUS LEE

I joined the Singapore Futures Youth Competition to learn and gain experience in Futures Thinking and to meet diverse groups of youths to understand their views on current and future policies. The competition definitely met my expectations by mixing us with students and facilitators from diverse backgrounds with different views and perspectives. The competition also provided workshops to let the participants understand Futures Thinking. The most memorable part of the competition was definitely during the planning session on our focal concern, as it challenged our coordination and critical thinking skills. My main takeaways from the competition were the tools imparted to me by the various trainers, such as KANCIL and how to analyse emerging trends.



CHRISTY NG

My interest was piqued when the SFYC was introduced to me by my teachers. It was an opportunity not often presented to us especially as athletes with a busy schedule. Hence, I knew I would have to give it a shot. Through the workshops and interactions I had with other participants, it was truly an eye opening experience and I gained valuable insights from not only my peers but leaders. My favourite part of the entire week was meeting many people who come from all walks of life and expressing their divergent interpretations on current affairs. My main takeaway was an enrichment of knowledge on policymaking and a deeper understanding as to the thinking behind the making of a Singapore for everyone as well as a newfound fascination for politics.

TESTIMONIALS FROM FACILITATORS



NICOLE LIM

Working with the LKYSPP team on the Singapore Future's Youth Competition was fulfilling. It was both an opportunity for me to learn from them about Futures Thinking, as well as an opportunity to facilitate conversations and lead youth in developing new skillsets and mindsets. The trainers and organisers were thoughtful in the way the whole program was planned such that participants, as well as facilitators like myself, were able to take home new frameworks to use in thinking deeper about problems and envisioning a future for ourselves. My favourite part of the competition was seeing the participants break away from the fixation on finding solutions, and choosing to understand the problem first and work from there. It was a great experience working with the team, and would appreciate being able to contribute in such a capacity again!



ISAAC NG

Big thank you to the LKYSPP team for executing the SG youth competition smoothly, I had a great time being the facilitator working with the LKYSPP team and having this opportunity to learn a lot from the various policy frameworks. Having such an event for students across different pre-tertiary institutions was an excellent opportunity for ideas to flourish and engage our youths to think about the possible problems we would face in the future, giving them the avenue to collaborate with other likeminded youth and apply their creativity to tackle these issues. The youths in my team greatly enjoyed themselves and the collaborative culture present over the few days. Would also like to thank LKYSPP for the scrumptious welfare and look forward to working with them in the future.



GROUP 1: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL CULTURE IN SINGAPORE 2040

In 2040, the future of the educational culture in Singapore would nurture the spirit of the youth where academic grades are not a priority, the curriculum would be flexible, and students are provided opportunities to pursue entrepreneurship through new approaches to teaching and learning. The curriculum would give time for self-exploration and allow students to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit and concretise plans to launch innovative products or services. Teachers will also be freed from tedious administrative tasks and have dedicated time to mentor and guide their students. With technology being an increasing part of our lives, artificial intelligence and virtual reality would not replace human interactions, but be used to enhance more interactions with other people. A focus on moral values as part of the education would also be an important factor.

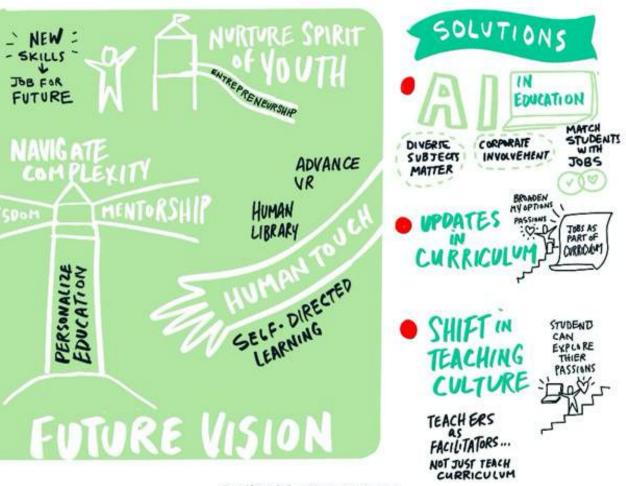
To achieve this future, artificial intelligence will be used to create a platform to match students to opportunities with corporations so "real skills" can be applied and streamline the curriculum. Furthermore, necessary updates to the curriculum will be made to increase the diversity in subjects. This will include the option to choose a subject or module from a different tertiary education institute so that students can pursue their interests and encourage self-directed learning. Lastly, in order to change educational culture, it is important for a greater societal recognition of the value of educators, and a shifted focus on the development of students rather than purely academic achievements.





JOB FOR

SINGAPORE **FUTURES** YOUTH COMPETITION 2021 21-25 JUNE

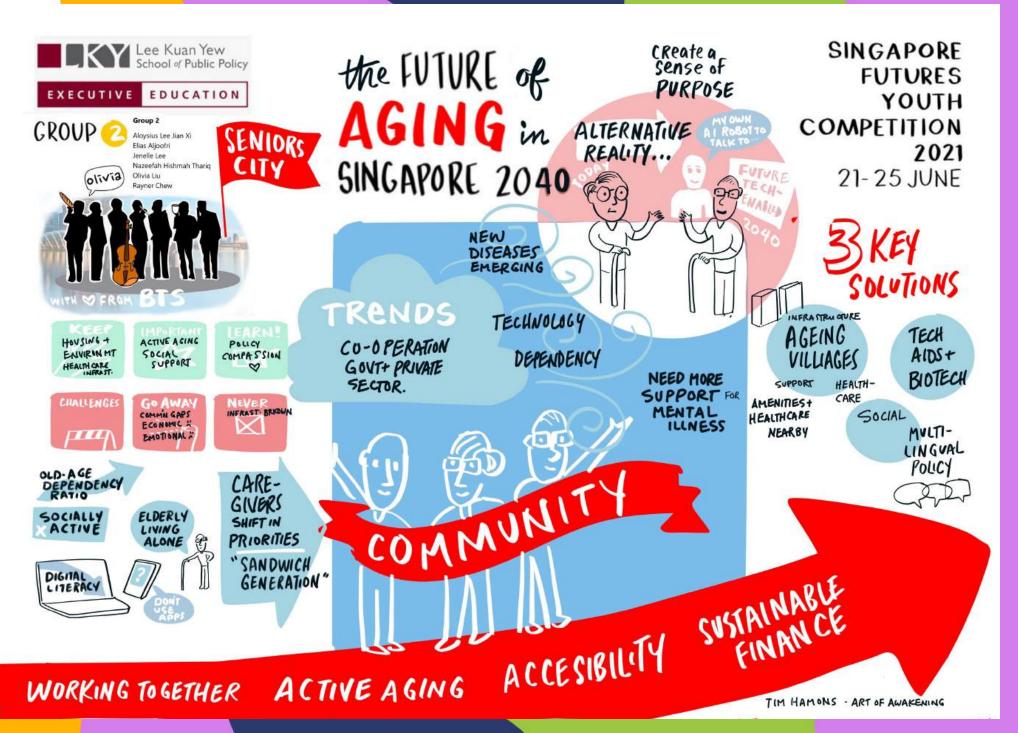


TIM HAMONS - ART OF AWAKENING

GROUP 2: THE FUTURE OF AGEING IN SINGAPORE 2040

The future of ageing in Singapore would include elements such as accessible integrated medical services and remote eldercare technology to support independent living, active ageing through social integration of elderly in the workforce and community, and new financing methods for government-run eldercare. Through this future, these solutions will address current-day issues of low digital literacy rates as technology is becoming an integral part of our society, increase in dependency ratios, and the problem of increasing numbers of elderly left to live alone.

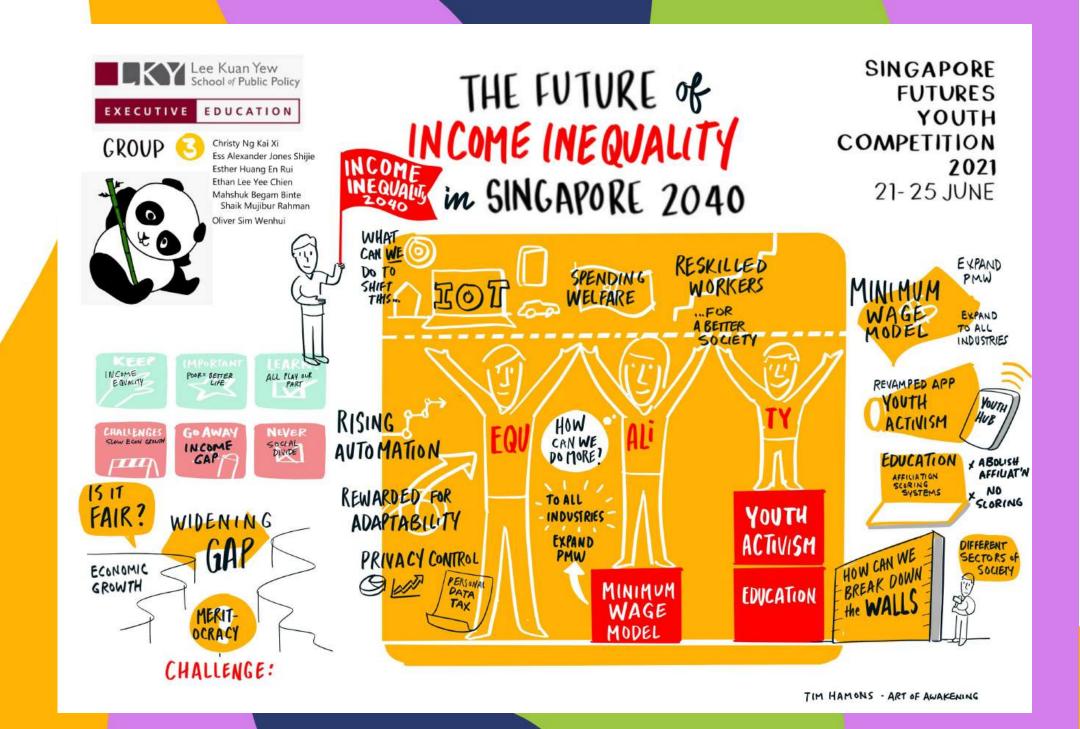
To achieve this future, steps can be taken to create an ageing village and build a community with new dedicated clustered housing for the elderly. These villages will centralise all the essentials the elderly need as well as provide a sense of community. Technological advancements such as augmented reality and artificial intelligence eldercare robots can help with social isolation issues among the elderly. Implementing a multi-lingual policy ensures that nothing is lost in translation and the learning curve to learn new technology is not as steep. A greater emphasis and focus on fostering more social integration by providing lifelong learning opportunities can be done by creating more community events to engage the elderly.



GROUP 3: THE FUTURE OF INCOME INEQUALITY IN SINGAPORE 2040

Group 3 envisions that the future of income inequality would show greater integration of the Internet of Things in daily life and redefine everyday life and work. There would also be a changing definition of meritocracy where people would be rewarded for adaptability rather than achievements. Moreover, reskilling workers to maintain relevance and constantly update their skill sets in an age of automation would become the norm. Lastly, increased youth activism and volunteerism would be more common as an alternative platform to help alleviate the impacts of income inequality.

To get to this future, a different minimum wage for every sector is needed to replace the current Progressive Wage Model (PWM) in Singapore. To aid with this, there will be increased government spending by enacting new personal data tax laws. The creation of apps for youth activism and volunteerism will help increase accessibility to the vulnerable in our community. This will help create a community of like-minded youths and stimulate greater discourse for social causes. Lastly, there needs to be a restructuring of the education system to remove school affiliations and address the current scoring system. This would alleviate the widening income gap that is a result of the disparity in access to opportunities.

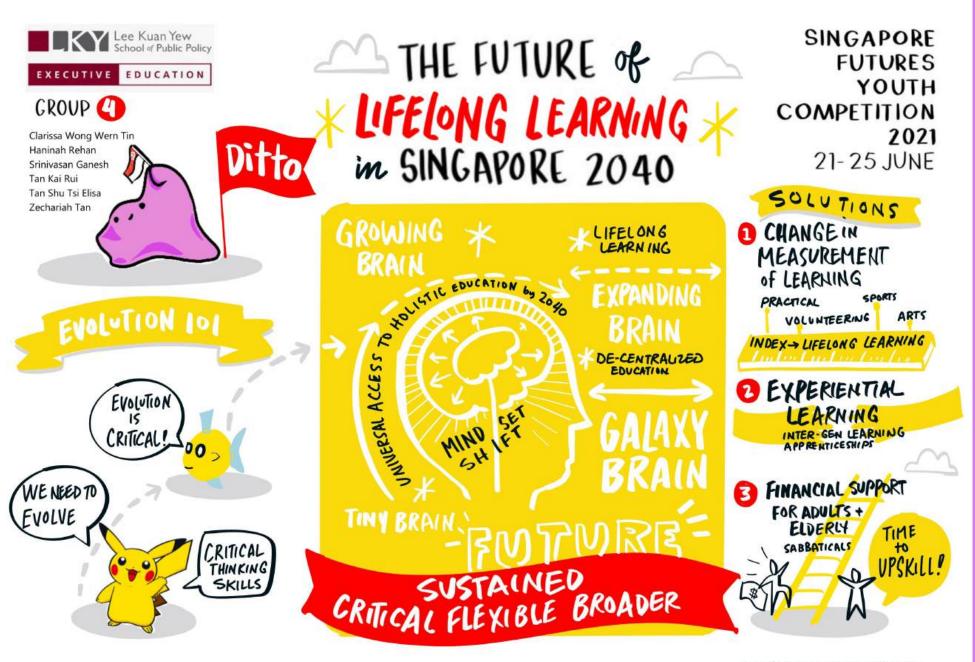


GROUP 4: THE FUTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNING IN SINGAPORE 2040

In 2040, the future of lifelong learning would focus on a critical, flexible, broader, and sustained education. The end goal is to give everyone regardless of age the access to holistic education. Group 4 utilizes the motif of a "Galaxy Brain" to represent the ever-expanding and decentralised nature of learning and education that will exist in this future.

To achieve this future, a mindset shift is fundamental to see a systematic change in the measurement of growth and learning. The Singapore index for lifelong learning would develop to look similar to that of our European counterparts. As such, learning will be evaluated not

only on academic performance and will include participation in practical courses, involvement in volunteering, and participation in sports and the arts. It will also be vital to shift the paradigm of key performance indices in the current education system towards a stronger focus on decentralised education. Introducing financial support for upskilling would be more effective in making education and learning more accessible for all people. Lastly to achieve this future, a stronger focus should be placed on experiential learning, intergenerational learning, apprenticeships, and a greater legitimisation of online degrees.

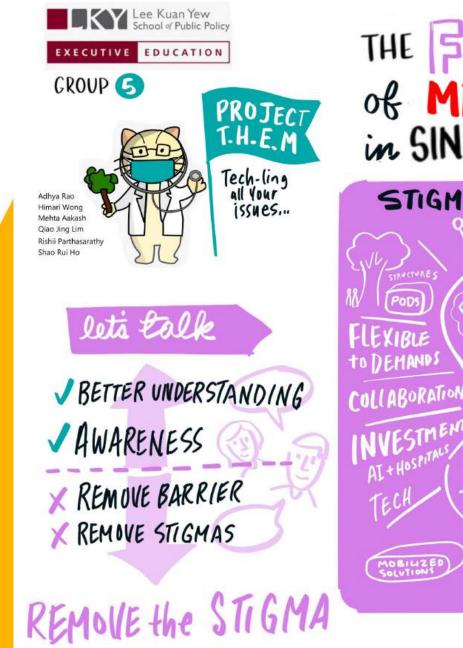


TIM HAMONS - ART OF AWAKENING

GROUP 5: THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN SINGAPORE 2040

In 2040, perceived and personal mental health stigma would be at an all-time low. There would be a greater integration of mental wellness into academic curriculums. There would be a proliferation of open and honest conversations about mental wellness to curb discrimination surrounding mental health. Technological advancements will be used to help people cope with mental health issues such as biological implants designed to regulate chemical imbalances in the brain. Moreover, virtual reality headsets can be used to collect data about the individual's neural network which will be sent to a therapist to be analysed. A revamping of the healthcare system to transform into a decentralised model where algorithms will be used to optimise resources and offer healthcare to the community at a scale. Artificial intelligence (AI) will make way for virtual reality therapy in wellness pods that will allow citizens to remotely connect with a counselor, reducing the barrier to entry and eliminating long waiting times.

To get to this future, the government would shift towards greater investment in artificial intelligence and healthcare, primarily centered on hospitals to expand their psychiatric care departments and research, and growing the national AI strategy. It is vital to encourage interindustry collaboration, build mental wellness friendly villages such as specially demarcated communities that provide caring and inclusive societies for individuals with various mental health conditions, and to develop industry-wide standards to certify effective mental wellness technology.





LEXIBLE

to DEMAND!

NVESTM

EMOTIONS

ENVIRONMI

RE-ENALTMENT

NUERALINK TECH

2021 21-25 JUNE SOLUTIONS INTER-CONNECTIONS DEVELOPERS MENTAL-WELLNESS FRIENDLY VILUAGES neighborhood care GUIDANCE & REGULATION PRIVACY REGULATION

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GROUP 6: THE FUTURE OF FOOD SECURITY IN SINGAPORE 2040

In Singapore's current reality, the nation is heavily reliant on food import with 90% of our food being imported. The 'Ever Given' blockage in the Suez Canal in 2021 demonstrated the supply chain weakness. The border restrictions due to COVID-19 revealed the vulnerability the nation is to unpredictable events. Moreover, the US-China trade war has led to increased protectionism which makes the nation even more vulnerable to changing dynamic international relations. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change showed the decreased viability and quality of crops. With personal habits not changing, food wastage is still high, with 744,000 kg of food wasted in 2019 alone.

In 2040, Singapore would optimise the usage of available land to do farming such as vertical and urban farming on HDB facades and underground farming. There will be a diversified and improved food supply and a heavy emphasis on local production of food. To get to this future, agriculture jobs will be attractive careers for young and bright minds, and there would be increased government incentives for local agricultural companies. Moreover, to mitigate the problem of overconsumption and food wastage, we can improve food storage equipment like refrigeration, focusing on the development of new superfoods that are compact and packed with nutrients, improve the yield of crops using technology, and encourage greater redistribution of food surplus through the enactment of new laws.



TIM HAMONS - ART OF AWAKENING

GROUP 7: THE FUTURE OF RECREATION IN SINGAPORE 2040

In 2040, the future of recreation would be accessible everywhere using virtual reality and hologram technology. There will be peoplecentered recreation taps on social media to promote global connectivity, with more companies integrating holography on social platforms to create digital recreational space, and social media using their resources to develop the tourism recreation sector. There would be greater integration of augmented and virtual reality to promote improved social relations within the comfort of people's homes. The state will play a vital role in leading discussions and integrating voices of people into an ideal space for all. Using technology to connect people and make recreation accessible for all, the kampong spirit will transcend physical spaces and face-to-face interactions.

Moreover, spatial development of recreation involves transforming current public spaces such as malls to act as large recreational spaces rather than for commercial shopping. Workplaces will be required to integrate compulsory recreation into their working environment. Recreation can be built vertically or underwater while self-driving cars will increase demand for recreation on the go.

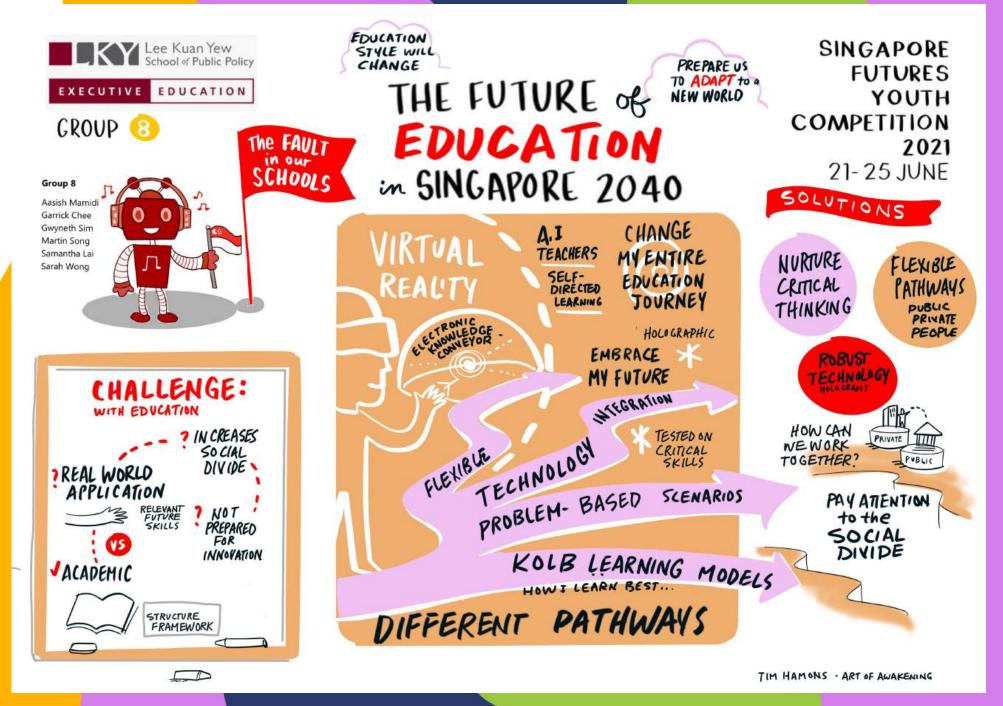
Lastly, integrating mental wellness in recreation will involve introducing hologram technology into public spaces. Work environment will have relaxation services like virtual reality pods, faster identification of distress symptoms, and integration of elements of therapy and exercise into public spaces.



GROUP 8: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN SINGAPORE 2040

The future of learning in Singapore in 2040 would include the usage of virtual reality and environmental simulation to enable students to learn at their own pace. Students will be subjected to testing at critical junctures, where they will apply skills learned in virtual reality into real world scenarios. Moreover, educational pathways would be more diverse and flexible, and would lead to various opportunities in the public, private, and social sector. There would be less stigma in society for niche careers, an increasing freedom of choice for students, merit provided to students who enter into non-STEM faculties, and evaluating admissions into higher education institutions through means other than academic results.

Furthermore, education will be more seamlessly integrated with technology. Holographic and virtual reality performance analysis will be utilised to enhance experiential learning. This greater investment in technology would be financed by government-led investment and private-public partnerships. Finally, students will be taught 21st century skills and problem-based scenario testing, with the aim to nurture critical thinkers for the public and people sector. The curriculum will include more holistic learning and scenario-based assessments in place of rote-memorisation. These changes have to be facilitated through government legislations, with more emphasis on making problem solving and real-world skills default learning goals in schools, as well as using media campaigns to facilitate changes in societal mindsets towards education and learning.



HUGE THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

We would like to extend our gratitude to teachers and staff from the following institutions for their support during our inaugural Singapore Futures Youth Competition 2021:

Anderson Serangoon Junior College Anglo Chinese School (Independent) Eunoia Junior College Hwa Chong Institution Institute of Technical Education (ITE) East National Junior College Nanyang Junior College Nanyang Polytechnic NUS High School of Mathematics and Science Madrasah Alsagoff Al-Arabiah Raffles Institution Republic Polytechnic School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA) Singapore Polytechnic Singapore Sports School St Andrew's Junior College Tampines Meridian Junior College Temasek Junior College Temasek Polytechnic Yishun Innova Junior College

The support from these institutions as well as other partners from private and public organisations were instrumental in shaping the successful outcomes of our competition. We look forward to the continued collaborations and support from our partner organisations in our future competitions and programmes.



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ABOUT LKYSPP EESF

Incubated within the Executive Education department, the Executive Education Singapore Futures (EESF) seeks to strengthen engagements with the Singapore public service and build on its existing Futures Thinking and scenario planning capacity to enhance our executive programmes and consulting projects. EESF serves a key node for equipping Singaporeans on key governance challenges of the future, through capability development and community engagements. EESF also endeavours to amplify the School's thought leadership on Singapore's emerging strategic issues and expand the network of futures and policy practitioners in Singapore and beyond.

For more information, you can check out our Executive Education website or follow us on Linkedin and our YouTube channel. You can also reach us at lkysppfutures@nus.edu.sg.