



MTI ECONOMIC DIALOGUE 2016

Programme Booklet

Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium,
Singapore Management University
6th September 2016, Tuesday
6pm - 8pm

PROGRAMME

- 5.30pm** ● **Registration**
- 6.00pm** ● **Arrival of Guest of Honour**
Mr S Iswaran
Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry)
- 6.05pm** ● **Opening Address**
Professor Arnoud De Meyer
President
Singapore Management University
- 6.10pm** ● **Keynote Speech**
"Seizing Global Opportunities in our Future Economy"
- 6.25pm** ● **Panel Discussion with:**
Minister S Iswaran
- Mr Vincent Chong
President & CEO (Designate)
Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd
- Ms Candice Ong
Managing Director, Regional Marketing
ZALORA Group
- Professor Hoon Hian Teck
Professor of Economics and Associate Dean (Faculty, Research)
School of Economics
Singapore Management University
- Moderator:
Mr Aaron Maniam
Director, Industry Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry
- 7.25pm** ● **Awards and Scholarships
Presentation Ceremony**
- 7.30pm** ● **Dinner and Networking Session**



THE MTI ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Started in 2008, the MTI Economic Dialogue is a platform for students to gain insights into pertinent economic issues and challenges facing Singapore, and the role of economics in policy making.

This year, the MTI Economic Dialogue 2016 will be graced by Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Ministry of Trade & Industry (Industry). The theme of his keynote address is "Seizing Global Opportunities in our Future Economy". Students will also have the opportunity to engage Minister, as well as panellists from the academia and the private sector, in an interactive dialogue session after the address.

In recognition of the academic achievements of top economics students in the universities, the MTI Academic Awards - the MTI Book Prize for the best 3rd year economics student, as well as the MTI Best Thesis Award for the student(s) with the best economics thesis - will be presented. The Economist Service Scholarship, awarded by MTI for students to pursue their undergraduate studies in economics, will also be presented to the recipients.



GUEST OF HONOUR

MR S ISWARAN

Minister, Prime Minister's Office
Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry

Mr S Iswaran joined the Singapore Administrative Service in 1987. He served in the Ministries of Home Affairs and Education, was seconded to the National Trade Union Congress, and later to the Singapore Indian Development Association as its first Chief Executive Officer. Mr Iswaran was Director for International Trade at the Ministry of Trade and Industry in the lead up to Singapore's hosting of the WTO Ministerial Conference in 1996.

He then joined the private sector, as Director for Strategic Development at Singapore Technologies Pte Ltd. Later, as Managing Director at Temasek Holdings, he undertook investments, takeover, buy-out and merger transactions in the pharmaceuticals, biotech, hi-tech manufacturing, transport and logistics sectors.

Mr Iswaran has been elected as a Member of Parliament in five General Elections since 2 January 1997. Prior to his Cabinet appointment in 2006, he served on several Government Parliamentary Committees, and as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament from September 2004 to June 2006.

Mr Iswaran is currently the Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), focusing on economic restructuring, productivity growth, and creating a vibrant domestic economy and enterprise ecosystem. He also oversees the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Energy Market Authority, International Enterprise Singapore, Singapore Tourism Board, Sentosa Development Corporation and SPRING Singapore.

Mr Iswaran read Economics at the University of Adelaide and graduated with First Class Honours. He also holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University.



PANELLISTS

MR VINCENT CHONG

President & CEO (Designate)
Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd

Vincent Chong is President & CEO (Designate), overseeing ST Engineering's four business sectors and the corporate functions. Prior to this, Mr Chong was ST Engineering's Deputy CEO (Corporate Development) and before that he was President of Strategic Plans & Business Development at ST Aerospace, the Group's aerospace arm.

Mr Chong brings with him 20 years of global business experience from his career at ExxonMobil where he spent more than half of this time located outside Singapore in Hong Kong, Japan, UK and the US. He held a wide span of positions from refinery process engineering, product marketing, industrial and retail operations to strategic planning. Among his appointments was Global Director, Marine Fuels (located in Surrey, UK) where he was responsible for ExxonMobil's business in more than 200 ports across the world. As Downstream Senior Advisor, Corporate Strategic Planning (located in Irving, Texas), Mr Chong was involved in the development of ExxonMobil's global business plans.

Before joining the ST Engineering Group in 2014, he was Director of Asia Pacific Lubricants Sales at ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Private Limited, responsible for automotive and industrial lubricants business across more than 20 countries in the region. Mr Chong sits on the Committee on the Future Economy, made up of 30 members who will develop economic strategies for Singapore's future. He graduated in 1994 with First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering from the National University of Singapore. He has also attended executive leadership programmes at the Thunderbird School of Global Management and the Columbia Business School.

TO BE UPDATED

PANELLISTS

MS CANDICE ONG

Minister, Prime Minister's Office
Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry

TO BE UPDATED



PANELLISTS

PROFESSOR HOON HIAN TECK

Professor of Economics and Associate Dean
School of Economics
Singapore Management University

Hoon Hian Teck is Professor of Economics and Associate Dean at the School of Economics, Singapore Management University. He obtained his PhD in economics at Columbia University. He specialises in macroeconomics, international trade, and economic growth. He is the author of *Trade, Jobs and Wages* published by Edward Elgar Publishing. Since 2000, he has published several op-eds on issues of policy interest with relevance to the Singapore economy dealing with the nature and challenges of growth and business fluctuations, joblessness, and rewards to low-wage earners. He is a past Vice-President of the Economic Society of Singapore (2002-2004) and has served as co-editor of the *Singapore Economic Review* since January 2002.



MODERATOR

AARON MANIAM

**Director, Industry Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry**

Aaron Maniam was awarded the Singapore Public Service Commission's Overseas Merit Scholarship in 1998, graduating in 2001 with double First Class Honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Somerville College, Oxford, where he was a Coombs Scholar and held the Mary Somerville prize for academic excellence. In 2002, he received a Master of Arts degree in International and Development Economics from Yale University. In 2014, he received a Master of Public Policy degree from Oxford's new Blavatnik School of Government (BSG), which he won on a Lee Kuan Yew Postgraduate Scholarship, graduating at the top of his class with a Distinction.

Prior to his current role at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where he oversees policy on manufacturing, services and tourism, he served as a diplomat from 2004-2008 (including at Singapore's Embassy in Washington DC); as the inaugural Head of the Singapore Government's newly-formed Centre for Strategic Futures (CSF) from 2008-2011, and as Director of the Institute of Policy Development at the Civil Service College (CSC), which organizes leadership training programmes for public sector talent (the top 1% of the public sector workforce). He speaks regularly on public sector careers and was appointed a Public Service Brand Ambassador in 2010.

Aaron was identified by the US-based Asia Society as one of 200 "Asia 21 Young Leaders" in 2006. In 2008, he was one of 25 "Asia 21 Fellows" selected from across the Asia Pacific. In 2010, he was identified by the Society as one of two Next Generation Policy Leaders from the Asia Pacific, and named a Richard C. Holbrooke Fellow in a new initiative to promote young and emerging Asian and American foreign policy leaders. In June 2012, he was conferred the Singapore Youth Award, the highest national honour for young people who exemplify excellence in their professional lives and community work, by the Prime Minister.

In March 2013, he was named by the World Economic Forum as one of 200 Young Global Leaders (YGL), selected from a worldwide pool. In May 2014, he was named a member of the "Purpose Economy Asia 100" by the US-based firm Imperative, which identifies pioneers and innovators in purpose-driven management in the Asia-Pacific.

MTI ACADEMIC AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The MTI Book Prize is awarded to third year students with the highest cumulative grade point average (CGPA) at the end of three years of study. An optional internship with MTI is also offered to the award recipients.

The MTI Best Thesis Award is granted to fourth year economics students with the best economics thesis at each university. The recipients are selected by academic selection committees at their respective universities. Both awards are open to Singaporeans and non-citizens.

The ES scholarship is a scholarship tied to the Economist Service under the Public Service Commission (PSC). It was launched in 2011 by MTI to attract promising young talent to become public sector economists.

MTI Book Prize

SMU	Ms Goh Wan Yun Kelly
NTU	Ms Christine Toh
NUS	Mr Toh Yong Hui Desmond

MTI Best Thesis Award

SMU	Mr Tan Bing Yang "The Skill Wage Premium, Labor Demand and Labor Supply in Singapore: A Structural Approach"
NTU	Mr Hu Zehui, Mr Yang Yi, Mr Long Zijie, "An Economic Model of Shadow Banking: Double Tranches and Heterogeneous Risk Tolerance"
NUS	Mr Ng Woon Chian "Absence for a Cause? A Study on Pre-School Attendance Rates of Children from Low-Income Households"

Economist Service Scholarship

Ms Liu Sixuan, Sarah	Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science
Mr Joshua Wong Hsien-Chien	To be confirmed

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Ministry of Trade and Industry

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is one of the 16 ministries in the Singapore Government. Our vision is for Singapore to be a leading global city with a dynamic economy, world-class enterprises and innovative and productive SMEs. Singapore will offer a conducive environment for entrepreneurs and enterprises to tap its diverse opportunities, and provide good jobs which are attractive to talent at all levels. MTI does this by facilitating the development of industry sectors with strong growth potential and fundamentals, enhancing access to global markets for Singapore's goods, services and investments, and providing a good understanding of the current state and outlook of the economy for policy formulation and refinement. MTI has 10 statutory boards and one government department under its purview. MTI is also the parent ministry of the Economist Service.

The Economist Service

The Economist Service is a community of professional economists in the Singapore Government who shapes Singapore's development through rigorous economic research and analysis of public policies. While the Services is headquartered in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, officers are also deployed to other ministries and statutory boards, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of National Development, to work on a wide spectrum of policies. The economic sub-specialities ranges from industrial organisation, competition policy, international trade, public finance, labour economics, energy, and more.

Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 9,300 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community.

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SMU School of Economics

The School of Economics and Social Sciences was established on 1 July 2002 to launch the Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree programme in Economics, and subsequently the Bachelor of Social Science undergraduate degree programme majoring in Psychology, Sociology, or Political Science.

In April 2007, the School of Economics and the School of Social Sciences were established as separate schools to better focus on the development of the undergraduate and graduate curricula and programmes, as well as faculty research in the respective disciplines.

Today, the School of Economics has a total of 44 full-time faculty with extensive experience from around the world. It has an enrolment of more than 1000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and offers the following degree programmes:

- Bachelor of Science in Economics
- Master of Science in Applied Economics,
- Master of Science in Financial Economics, and
- PhD in Economics.

The mission of the School of Economics is to accelerate the growth of SMU by creating a world-class centre of research and teaching in economics. Economic research forms a key factor in the development of SMU as a foremost academic institution in generating cutting-edge research with global impact and producing broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. One area of current research that several of the school's faculty members are actively engaged in concerns the economics of ageing. This research is conducted under the auspices of SMU's Centre for Research on the Economics of Ageing, which leads a \$10 million multidisciplinary project on Singapore's ageing population secured under MOE's Tier 3 competitive grant programme.

SUPPORTED BY

NTU Division of Economics

The Division of Economics is the largest division in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. It has its roots in the Division of Applied Economics in the Nanyang Business School, which was established in 1993.

The Division comprises diverse and international faculty holding degrees from top universities around the world. Faculty members regularly contribute to and participate in major international conferences, and serve as consultants to prominent international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank. Our faculty is also regularly called upon to give advice and expertise to local institutions and government ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Manpower, the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and the Ministry of Health. They have also made their expertise available to statutory boards like the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Economic Development Board, the International Enterprise Singapore and the Maritime and Port Authority.

NUS Department of Economics

Established in 1934, the Department of Economics is a department in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). The Department conducts courses in Economics leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours), Master of Social Sciences (Research), Master of Social Sciences (Applied Economics), and Doctor of Philosophy (Economics). It also offers special programmes such as the Joint Honours Degree Programme in Actuarial Studies and Economics with the Australian National University (ANU); Joint Honours Degree Programme in Economics with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH); and Double Degree Programmes in Economics & Law, Economics & Business and Economics & Engineering. Besides these, the Department also offers double major and minor programmes in Economics. At the undergraduate as well as the graduate level, the teaching programmes in the Department aim to achieve both depth and breadth in the discipline, with a wide range of specialisation fields built around a strong core of micro- and macro-economic theory and econometrics.

The Department of Economics has an established reputation as one of the leading departments of Economics in the Asia-Pacific region in research and education. Faculty members' research areas span a wide range of economics fields, with strengths in the core areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics, as well as in particular fields such as game theory and industrial organisation, labour economics, financial economics, and growth theory and development with special reference to Asia. Many of our colleagues have continued to publish well in internationally-recognised journals. In terms of publication numbers in well-known economics journals, NUS ranks among the very top in Asia. The Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE) in the Department spearheads policy-related research and is a forum for perspectives on economic policy formulation in Singapore and Asia.



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