

# 2025

**MTI  
ECONOMIC  
DIALOGUE**

**25 AUG  
3PM - 5PM**

**SMU Mochtar  
Riady Auditorium**

**NAVIGATING  
ECONOMIC  
UNCERTAINTY**  
*in a Polarised World*

# PROGRAMME

TIME	PROGRAMME
<b>1.00pm</b> (ongoing until 3.00pm)	<b>Registration</b>
<b>PRE-EVENT</b>	
<b>1.30pm</b> (ongoing until 2.30pm)	<b>Economist Service (ES) Engagement Session</b>
<b>MAIN EVENT</b>	
<b>3.10pm</b>	<b>Arrival of Guest-of-Honour</b> Mr Gan Kim Yong Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Trade and Industry
<b>3.15pm</b>	<b>Opening Address</b> Professor Lily Kong President Singapore Management University
<b>3.20pm</b>	<b>Keynote Speech by DPM Gan</b> <i>"Navigating Economic Uncertainty in a Polarised World"</i>
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Dialogue with DPM Gan</b>
<b>4.15pm</b>	<b>Scholarship and Awards Presentation Ceremony</b>
<b>4.25pm</b>	<b>Refreshments and Networking Session</b>

## MTI ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Started in 2008, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (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 policymaking.

This year, the MTI Economic Dialogue 2025 will be graced by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Gan Kim Yong. The theme of DPM Gan's keynote address is "Navigating Economic Uncertainty in a Polarised World". Following the address, students will have the opportunity to engage DPM Gan in a dialogue session.

In recognition of the academic achievements of top economics students in the local universities, the following MTI-Economist Service (ES) Academic Awards will be presented:

- a) MTI-ES Best Thesis Award for the student(s) with the best economics thesis; and
- b) MTI-ES Book Prize for the best third-year economics student.

The ES Scholarship, awarded by MTI to promising young talent to pursue their undergraduate studies in economics, will also be presented to the recipients.



# GUEST-OF-HONOUR



**Mr Gan Kim Yong**  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister for Trade and Industry

Mr Gan Kim Yong is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry. He is also concurrently the Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore and is responsible for the Strategy Group in the Prime Minister's Office, where he oversees the National Climate Change Secretariat and the National Population and Talent Division. In addition, Mr Gan is a member of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council and the National Research Foundation Board.

Mr Gan entered politics in 2001. He has held positions in the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Health. He also helmed the Ministerial Committee on Ageing, which drove the formulation and implementation of ageing policies in Singapore, and co-chaired the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19 from 2020 to 2023, which directed and coordinated Singapore's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Gan started his career in the Singapore Civil Service at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 1989, he left the civil service for the private sector and joined NatSteel Ltd as a manager for Corporate Planning. He was promoted to Executive Vice President of NatSteel and CEO of NatSteel Resorts International and NatSteel Properties in 1996. In 2005, he became the CEO and President of NatSteel.

Mr Gan was awarded the Overseas Merit Scholarship to read Engineering in Cambridge University and graduated with a bachelor's degree (honours) in 1981. Mr Gan subsequently obtained his master's degree in Engineering from Cambridge University in 1985.

Born in 1959, Mr Gan is married with two daughters.

# MTI-ECONOMIST SERVICE (ES) SCHOLARSHIP AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

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

The MTI-ES Best Thesis is awarded to economics students with the best economics thesis, as assessed by the academic selection committees from the local universities.

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

## Economist Service Scholarship

Zhao Yuxuan	University of Cambridge
Chen Jing Xuan	To be confirmed ( <i>currently serving National Service</i> )
Lee Kuo Rei	To be confirmed ( <i>currently serving National Service</i> )

## MTI-ES Best Thesis Award

NTU	Foo Shu Chen, Su Qi, and Wang Yutong “Heterogeneous Sentiment Contagion Among Firms During Financial Crisis”
NUS	Tan Min Yi “Predicting Critical Illness with Machine Learning-Applications in Health Insurance Underwriting”
SMU	Don Toh Jia Yi “Effectiveness of a Small-Open Economy's Monetary Conduct amidst a Twin Supply-demand Shock”

## MTI-ES Book Prize

NTU	Tan Chin Siang, Benedict
NUS	Caleb Goh
SMU	Josiah Chacon Garcia

# ORGANISED BY

## Ministry of Trade and Industry

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is one of 16 ministries in the Singapore Government. Its vision is for Singapore to be a leading global city with a dynamic economy, world-class enterprises and innovative and productive small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It aims for Singapore to offer a conducive environment for entrepreneurs and enterprises to tap on its diverse opportunities, and to provide good jobs that 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 nine 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 (ES) is a community of professional economists in the Singapore Government who shape Singapore's development through rigorous economic research and analysis of public policies. While the Service is headquartered in MTI, ES officers are also deployed to other ministries and statutory boards, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Central Provident Fund Board and Land Transport Authority, to work on a wide spectrum of policies. The economic sub-specialities in the ES include industrial organisation, international trade, public finance, labour economics, health economics, environmental economics, transport economics, and more.

## Singapore Management University

Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is recognised for its disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research that addresses issues of global relevance, impacting business, government, and society. Its distinctive education, incorporating innovative experiential learning, aims to nurture global citizens, entrepreneurs and change agents.

With more than 13,000 students, SMU offers a wide range of bachelors, masters and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with six of its eight schools - Accountancy, Business, Computing, Economics, Law and Social Sciences. Its seventh school, the SMU College of Integrative Studies, offers degree programmes in deep, integrative interdisciplinary education. The College of Graduate Research Studies, SMU's eighth school, enhances integration and interdisciplinarity across the various SMU postgraduate research programmes that will enable students to gain a holistic learning experience and well-grounded approach to their research.



SMU also offers a growing number of executive development and continuing education programmes. Through its city campus, SMU focuses on making meaningful impact on Singapore and beyond through its partnerships with industry, policy makers and academic institutions.


SMU celebrates its 25 years of meaningful impact this year, and remains committed to its vision of driving innovation, transcending boundaries and transforming lives.

## **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 over 50 full-time faculty with extensive experience from around the world. It has an enrolment of more than 1,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and offers the following degree programmes – Bachelor of Science in Economics, Master of Science in Economics, Master of Science in Financial Economics, Master of Philosophy in 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. Faculty members in the School of Economics are active in research, and have published in journals such as *Econometrica*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, *International Economic Review*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of International Economics* and *Journal of Development Economics*.





# SUPPORTED BY

## **NUS Department of Economics**

The Department of Economics is part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It traces its origins to 1934, when economics was first taught at Raffles College. Today, it has a reputation as one of the largest and leading economics departments in Asia. With more than 50 faculty members, its research contributions span all the major fields of economics. It also contributes to public policy discussion in Singapore through research in policy-relevant fields.

The flexible system of undergraduate education at NUS allows students to pursue their interest in economics along different pathways. Students can take economics as a major or minor subject. There are also special programmes where economics is studied alongside other disciplines; this includes cross-disciplinary programmes (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and Data Science and Economics) as well as double degree programmes with business administration, engineering, law, business analytics, and information systems. Each year, around 400 undergraduates take up economics as a major or in one of the special programmes involving economics.

At the graduate level, the Department offers a popular one-year taught masters' course that admits more than 100 students. It also maintains a doctoral programme that admits more than ten students each year.

## **NTU Economics Programme**

The NTU Economics Programme is the largest programme in the School of Social Sciences. It offers robust training in economic theory and statistical methods and offers a wide choice of economics courses to suit students' interests and mathematical aptitude. Economics electives cover all the significant fields of economic knowledge as well as recent developments in areas such as Internet Economics and Behavioural Economics.

It is a powerful discipline that cuts across interdisciplinary landscapes of business, health, human behaviour, technology, and society. The curriculum emphasises a solid and rigorous foundation in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics in theory and with applications to policy and practice.

The economics programme comprises diverse and international faculty holding degrees from top universities around the world. Faculty members are active in research and publish widely in leading journals; regularly contribute to and participate in major international conferences; and serve as consultants to prominent international organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank. Its faculty is also regularly called upon to give advice and expertise to local institutions and government ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Trade and Industry. They have also made their expertise available to statutory boards such as the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Economic Development Board, Enterprise Singapore, and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.





Presented by:



Supported by:

