

CHAPTER 1

Chairman's Introductory Remarks

TOMMY KOH

Your Excellencies, Governors, Sponsors, Corporate Associates and Friends of IPS, a very warm welcome to Perspectives 2007.

The response to this year's conference has been overwhelming. We have a record number of 750 participants. Irene Lim, our Administration Manager, has had to turn away over 100 requests because of the lack of space. If the number keeps growing each year, we may have to consider moving to a bigger venue. I thank you for your support.

I would also like to thank our two principal sponsors, Temasek Holdings and the Standard Chartered Bank, as well as the other 15 sponsors, which are Asia Pacific Breweries, Housing & Development Board, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Nanyang Polytechnic, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, OSIM International, Philips Electronics Singapore, Shell Companies in Singapore, Singapore Management University, Singapore Polytechnic, SMRT Corporation Ltd, Temasek Polytechnic and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. I congratulate Chang Li Lin, our Public Affairs Manager, for succeeding in increasing the number of sponsors each year.

It is the custom in IPS to have a different colleague from the research wing of the family and one from the administrative wing to take the lead in

organising the annual Perspectives conference. This year, the two leaders are Senior Research Fellow Tan Tarn How and Administration Officer Claris Wang, and I wish to thank them for their outstanding jobs. I would also like to thank Acting Director Arun Mahizhnan and Irene Lim for overseeing the whole process.

The theme of this year's Perspectives is "A New Singapore". The conference will address four new trends and developments:

- (i) How will the large influx of new immigrants and the increasing outflow of Singaporeans affect our social and political compact and our nation-building project?
- (ii) How will the new technologies, such as the Internet and mobile phone, affect our civil society, our media and our political governance
- (iii) How will the trend towards a dual economy — a robust globalised economy co-existing with a sluggish domestic economy — and the widening social divide, affect our social cohesion and harmony?
- (iv) Will ASEAN, which will be 40 years old in August, succeed in seeking to re-invent itself by adopting a legal personality, a charter, embracing deeper integration and strengthening its institutions and effectiveness?

The Singapore government has appointed me to represent Singapore in the High-level Task Force to draft the ASEAN Charter. I will be leaving Singapore tomorrow morning for Cebu, the Philippines, to attend a joint meeting between the Task Force and the ASEAN Charter's Eminent Persons Group (EPG). Our Deputy Prime Minister, Professor S. Jayakumar, represents Singapore in the EPG. I look forward to this endeavour and hope that my colleagues and I will succeed in drafting a good charter for adoption by the ASEAN Summit, when it convenes in Singapore in November this year.

Let me conclude by summarising the Institute's main achievements in 2006:

- (i) It co-organised, with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the highly successful 2006 Programme of Seminars;
- (ii) It commissioned a survey on the 2006 General Elections and organised a Post-Election Forum;

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- (iii) It launched with the Nanyang Technological University the inaugural annual index ranking the 10 ASEAN economies, 35 states and union territories of India, 31 provinces of China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan;
- (iv) It organised the 5th Young Singaporeans Conference;
- (v) It organised three important public lectures for His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Special Envoy of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI; Professor Larry Diamond of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University; and Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter of the Harvard Business School;
- (vi) It co-published two books with the World Bank, one on the impact of China and India on the world economy and the other containing essays on Asia's future by 17 Asian thinkers; published an important new book on madrasah education in Singapore and five other publications;
- (vii) It continued to co-organise, with The Business Times, the Singapore Economic Roundtable twice a year; and
- (viii) It organised 16 breakfast meetings, working lunches and dinners and other events for our 97 Corporate Associates. Our key performance indicator for 2007 is 110 members.

I will now request my colleague, Mr Yeoh Lam Keong, the Chairman of the first panel, to take over the proceedings.

Thank you.