

Foreword

Singapore Perspectives is a flagship event of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). Through the years, it has achieved a good standing and has a good following as the conference systematically addresses issues of significance to Singapore's society and its future.

In organising Singapore Perspectives 2009, the IPS team decided to build on the theme of the 2008 Conference, that is, the future of Singapore, and pull together the various threads of “heartware” and economic concerns. Hence, we posed the four questions of the rising cost of living and doing business in Singapore, the rootedness of Singaporeans, sustaining Singapore's hub role, and the engagement of citizens in national development.

The four questions we chose to address are inter-related fundamental issues. With this focus on “The Heart of The Matter”, we anticipated interesting ideas and recommendations. Such “remedies”, though they may not be conclusive or even immediate, would in turn play an important role in shaping future policy planning in Singapore.

The dialogue should enliven public discourse and enrich Singaporeans' understanding of the dynamics which characterise our society. An active exchange and reflection to create a better tomorrow helps to strengthen the openness of one's mind and clarity, clarity of thoughts and to maintain the balance of individual perspectives and community attitudes.

Singapore is a unique multiracial society, geographically small but mentally big, driven by a constant sense of security and a passionate “can-do” spirit. The governance is exceptional and its paradigm has not been seen elsewhere. We need to enlarge our mindshare on how to go

forward in an effective manner so that we preserve what has been accomplished as we manage the changes around us.

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