



2025 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIETIES OF OPPORTUNITY

Orchid Ballroom (Level 4) Sands Expo & Convention Centre

29 - 30 April 2025



PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 29 April 2025

9.00 am – 9.30 am

Registration

9.30 am – 9.45 am

Opening Address by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Gan Kim Yong

9.45 am – 10.15 am

Keynote Speech 1

Speaker

Professor Danny Quah
Dean and Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

10.15 am – 10.45 am

Break

10.45 am – 11.15 am

Keynote Speech 2

Speaker

Professor Raj Chetty
Professor of Public Economics
Harvard University and
Director of Opportunity Insights

11.15 am – 12.00 noon

Dialogue Session: What are the Key Challenges and Opportunities in Ensuring Social Mobility Today?

Speakers

Professor Danny Quah

Professor Raj Chetty

Moderator

Dr Gillian Koh
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer Session

12.00 noon – 1.10 pm

1.10 pm – 1.30 pm

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Lunch

Special Address by Minister of Social Solidarity, Egypt, H.E. Dr Maya Morsy

Plenary Session 1: How Might Government Policies Maximise One's Potential to Pursue Opportunities?

Speakers

Professor Irene Ng
Department of Social Work & Social Service Research Centre
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Terence Ho
Associate Professor (Practice)
Institute for Adult Learning
Singapore University of Social Sciences

Professor Jin Huang
William and Helen Reichmann Research Professor
School of Social Work, Saint Louis University and
Research Director & Research Professor
Center for Social Development
Washington University in St. Louis

Moderator

Professor Paulin Straughan
Professor of Sociology (Practice)
School of Social Sciences and
Dean of Students
Singapore Management University

Question-and-Answer Session

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm

3.30 pm – 5.00 pm

Break

Plenary Session 2: How Might Families and Individuals be Enabled to Make Use of Their Opportunities?

Speakers

Associate Professor Vincent Chua
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Emeritus Professor Esther Ho
Senior Research Fellow
Department of Educational Administration and Policy and
Director
Hong Kong Centre for International Student Assessment
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Mr Ivan Yeo
Senior Director
Social Support Group
Ministry of Social and Family Development

Moderator

Dr Mathew Mathews
Principal Research Fellow and
Head, Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer Session

5.00 pm

End

Wednesday, 30 April 2025

8.45 am – 9.15 am

Registration

[Proceed to the respective Breakout Rooms]

9.15 am – 10.45 am

**Corporate and Philanthropic Groups' Perspectives:
Social Programmes to Encourage Social Mobility**

Breakout Sessions

Venue: Melati Main Ballroom
4101 - 4102 (Level 4)

**Group 1: Role of Finance in Impact Investment &
Social Entrepreneurship**

Speakers

Ms Claire Wong
Team Lead
Business for Impact
DBS Foundation

Ms Sheryl Fofaria
Head of Social Impact & Philanthropy
Singapore & Southeast Asia
UBS

Moderator

Mr Christopher Gee
Deputy Director (Research) and
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Venue: Melati Main Ballroom
4001 - 4002 (Level 4)

Group 2: Encouraging Research & Innovation in Philanthropic Work

Speakers

Ms Joanne Ng
Head
Community Networks & Partnerships
Temasek Foundation

Mr David Thian
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Quantedge Foundation

Moderator

Mr Bruce Liew
Director
Capability Implementation and People Strategy
National Council of Social Service

Venue: Melati Main Ballroom
4103 - 4104 (Level 4)

Group 3: Role of Businesses in Providing Opportunities Through Human Capital & Job Creation

Speakers

Mr Jimmy Ong
Head
Community Impact & Engagement (Singapore & ASEAN)
Standard Chartered

Mr Don Leow
Chief Human Resource Officer
SBS Transit Ltd

Ms Justina Tan
Executive Vice President
Corporate, People & Culture
Changi Airport Group

Moderator

Ms Ang Bee Lian
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Social and Family Development

Venue: Melati Main Ballroom
4003 - 4004 (Level 4)

Group 4: Community Outreach & Skills-based Volunteering

Speakers

Ms Lisa Gainer
Chief Executive Officer
talenTtrust

Ms Sarah Ng
General Manager
Corporate Communications, Investor Relations &
Sustainability
UOL Group Ltd

Moderator

Dr Justin Lee
Senior Research Fellow and
Head, Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

10.45 am – 11.15 am

Break

11.15 am – 12.45 pm

Plenary Session 3: How Might Community Groups and Corporates Support Social Mobility?

Speakers

Ms Tan Li San
Chief Executive Officer
National Council of Social Service

Ms Karen Ngui
Head, DBS Foundation and
Strategic Marketing and Communications, DBS Group

Mr Tom Hall
Global Head, Social Impact & Philanthropy, UBS and
Chief Executive Officer
UBS Optimus Foundation Network

Moderator

Mr Esa Masood
Deputy Secretary (Corporate & Partners)
Ministry of Social and Family Development

Question-and-Answer Session

12.45 pm – 1.00 pm

Closing Speech by Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Masagos Zulkifli

1.00 pm

End

Last updated on 25 April 2025