Tuesday, 28 January 2014
Venue (TBC)

DRAFT PROGRAMME
(As of Friday, 13 Dec 2013)

7.45 am – 8.30 am Registration

8.30 am – 8.45 am Opening Remarks
Mr Janadas Devan
Director
Institute of Policy Studies

8.45 am – 9.15 am Presentation
IPS Survey on Race, Language and Religion
Dr Mathew Mathews
Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

9.15 am – 10.45 am PANEL I
From Differences, Unity

Singapore’s demographic diversity was the driving force for our founding leaders as they forged a nation. They sought to navigate the many differences in our ancestral, social and cultural affiliations even as they embarked on the urgent task of nation-building.

We invite two scholars to discuss the differences arising from our history, cultures and economy; and how we have dealt with them in the first half-century of our existence. What differences persist or have been accentuated; what differences have we overcome or softened?

Chairperson
Dr Sharon Siddique
Director
Sreekumar.Siddique & Co Pte Ltd
and
Visiting Professorial Fellow
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities
Singapore University of Technology and Design
Speakers

Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon
Associate Provost (Student Life), President’s Office
Division of Sociology
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University

Dr Leslie Teo
Chief Economist and
Director of Economics & Investment Strategy
GIC Private Limited

Question and Answer Session

10.45 am – 11.15 am Tea Break
11.15 am – 12.45 pm PANEL II
Living With New Differences

A decade into the new century, many of our traditional understandings of differences – CMIO, for instance – are being challenged, even as new differences, spawned by immigration, new media and globalisation, have emerged.

The speakers in this session will address these emergent differences and how we cope with new complexities.

Chairperson

Professor Tommy Koh
Special Adviser
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Professor David Chan
Director
Behavioural Sciences Institute and
Professor of Psychology
School of Social Sciences
Singapore Management University

Ms Sim Ann
Minister of State
Ministry of Communications and Information &
Ministry of Education

Question and Answer Session

12.45 pm – 1.45 pm Lunch
1.45 pm – 3.15 pm
**DEBATE**
*Consensus / Contest*

Diversity can bring opportunity, agility and new imaginings; diversity can also accentuate fault-lines and the sense of separateness. How then should we draw strength from our differences and continue in the never-ending task of giving substance to our common dream of becoming “one united people, regardless of…”?

Two speakers will debate the motion: “This conference resolves that consensus rather than contest will secure Singapore’s future.”

**Proposer**

Professor Kishore Mahbubani
Dean
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

**Opposer**

Professor Chua Beng Huat
Department of Sociology
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

**Chairperson**

Ms Debra Soon
Managing Director
Channel NewsAsia
MediaCorp Pte Ltd

3.15 pm – 3.45 pm **Tea Break**

3.45 pm – 5.15 pm **PANEL III**
*Panel Discussion with Guest of Honour*

**Chairperson**

Mr Janadas Devan

**Speaker**

Mr Heng Swee Keat
Minister for Education

**Question and Answer Session**

5.15 pm **End of Conference**