



The Dream Future Report

August 2015

apa

Association for Public Affairs

SG100 COMPASS (Youth edition)

at a glance

dream future

subforums

where do you see yourself in 50 years time?

what kind of society do we want SG to be?

are my values shared by all?

what outcomes are important for our desired future?

junior college subforum

29 April 2015
NJC

polytechnic subforum

6 June 2015
SP

university subforum

30 May 2015
NJC

 300 participants
 21 institutions
 1000 suggestions

dream future forum

4 July 2015
SP

 500 participants
 ~50 institutions
 15 polls
 3 surveys



Professor Kishore Mahbubani called on youths to

 make singapore inclusive
'big tent' approach

 promote ASEAN
'strategic umbrella'

 take risks

 read

session one

Youths voted on their most important societal values

'I want a society that...'

session two

Testing the Boundaries

a. how should the government care for its people?

speaker:
desmond choo

b. how open a society do we want?

speaker:
nicholas fang

c. how should our voices be heard?

speaker:
eugene tan

format

 initial poll — presentation of alternative viewpoints —  second poll — Q&A with subject experts —  third poll — + audience suggestions — shortlist top two from third poll —  final poll — consensus reached!



Dialogue with Minister Chan Chun Sing

In SG100, youths want to see a society that



has a strong sense of belonging



has equal rights and opportunities



is gracious and caring



is open-minded and accepting



is safe and secure



has a stable economy



everyone is entitled to quality education



has affordable costs of living



has good governance



has good work-life balance

how should the government care for its people?

take a flexible approach: broader social assistance during recession targeted social assistance during stable economy

how open a society do we want?

accept but do not encourage alternative family structures

how should our voices be heard?

freedom of speech with consequences (rather than proactive ban)

How youths think Singapore is faring at SG50

doing well



higher education



basic education

room for improvement



community



housing



environment



leisure and culture



safety



health



connectivity



political engagement



career progression



family



basic income



Survey on civic attitudes & policy awareness of Singaporean youth leaders

81% interested in politics

interest in order of priority

global national community regional

9/10

want to be 'very' or 'fairly' involved in decision making

BUT

45%
31%
30%
24%

think the system does not allow them to have an influence
think decisions are made without talking to the people
think public consultation is only done after a policy has been deliberated
think consultation is done before policy deliberations

What do youths do when faced with a policy issue?

60% talk about it with friends 50% do volunteer work 47% express views to local leaders when given a chance

What are youths' views on some contentious issues?

86% should support single parents

70% should not abolish death penalty

undecided should legalise LGBT marriage

Why isn't there more public participation in Singapore?

65% think the public is willing but don't know how

52% think the government wants to involve the public but don't know how

45% think the public is afraid to do so

33% feel they don't know enough about politics

what's next ?

think future

100 outstanding students proceed

22
Aug

policy skills training workshop

mentorship

service
learning

workgroups

jobs and
economy

family and
demography

society and
identity

liveable cities

Jan

think future forum

policy recommendations for government and youth sector

seed best ideas into projects

How the SG100 COMPASS project came about

As Singapore approached its 50th year since independence, the nation entered a period of reflection on what made Singapore successful, and of showing gratitude for the people who pioneered Singapore. Inspired by the spirit of our forefathers, a group of students decided that our generation of youths should take ownership of our destiny and work towards realising our dreams for Singapore, just as the pioneer generation had done since 1965.

Association for Public Affairs (APA) was established at the **Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)** to lead the movement in empowering youths across Singapore with the public policy knowledge and skills to offer holistic policy suggestions sensitive to Singapore's context to our policymakers.

As its first project, APA launched the **SG100 COMPASS (Youth Edition)** (henceforth referred to as SG100 COMPASS). Youths could leverage on the project to take the lead in setting the compass and charting the journey to SG100. The youths of today have a vital stake in Singapore's nation-building over the next 50 years. It is timely for youths to begin the conversation on the Singapore they would like to grow up and grow old in till SG100.

SG100 COMPASS is not just another 'talk shop' for youths to merely air their views and aspirations. Instead, it seeks to empower youths with skills and

knowledge to provide more considered policy suggestions, provide the platform to engage with youth and policymakers, and potentially turn ideas into actionable projects. This is achieved through a policy skills training workshop, mentorship by senior policy practitioners, policy workgroups composed of students from diverse backgrounds, culminating in the 'Think Future' forum where students can present their ideas to Singapore's current leaders.

Report Contributors

Michelle Khoo



Samantha Ng



Koh Wern Chieh



Alexandra Chan



SG100 COMPASS Org Comm

*Phua Chao-Rong,
Charles*

Koh Ee Wen

Michelle Khoo

Jessica Loo

Mavis Tan

Knowledge-empowered active youth citizenry can be a supporting pillar in nation-building and policymaking. We want to create a virtuous cycle where youths put in due effort and produce useful suggestions that are taken up by policymakers. Youths then feel a sense of pride and ownership towards Singapore, and will continue to be passionate about being involved in contributing ideas as a knowledge-empowered active youth citizen. Meanwhile, policymakers get a steady source of creative policy suggestions and youth energies in implementing seed ideas in communities.

The first step, of course, is in deciding what direction Singapore should move towards. Through the first phase of SG100 COMPASS, 'Dream Future', we built consensus among youths from diverse backgrounds on what they would like to see in Singapore in SG100. Hence, we proudly present to you - [The Dream Future Report](#).

Foreword

This SG100 'Dream Future' Report reflects the aggregated aspirations and envisaged values of Singaporean students and youth leaders on the Singapore they want to grow old in. Through three subfora dedicated to Junior College, Polytechnic and University student leaders, one 'Dream Future' forum for 500 students and youth leaders from Junior College, ITE, Polytechnic, University and young working adults, and two voluntary surveys, this SG100 Compass Phase I process methodically diverges for ideas and converges for consensus. The key discussion points from subfora solely set the agenda for 'Dream Future' Forum: the common values and three key contentious issues for Singapore, welfare vs workfare, openness of society, freedom of speech/democratisation. Top 10 values for SG100 society include (1) strong sense of belonging; (2) equal rights and opportunities; (3) gracious and caring society; (4) open-minded and accepting society; (5) safe and secure society; (6) stable economy; (7) quality education for all; (8) affordable cost of living; (9) good governance and (10) work-life balance.

The proceedings from 'Dream Future' Forum demonstrated the nurturing effects of 'intervention' by both student leader-presenters who were tasked to rhetorically 'sway votes', and panel chairs who shared deeper insights into issue at hand. Maturity of thinking of these youth leaders was apparent from the alternative positions proposed and results of the polls. For example, on the topic of welfare vs workfare, participants proposed a mixture of positions 2 (social assistance to most needy) and 3 (broader social assistance to ALL to cope with uncertainties in life) depending on the economic climate. This illustrates their view that exact policy stance depends on context and

changing circumstances. On freedom of speech, the youths shared the idea of right with responsibility where in place of explicit OB (out-of-bounds) markers, there should be freedom of speech with consequences. Notably, they highlighted that norms of speech be defined by community, rather than legislation; such preference for social norming is an indication of a maturing civil society and 'civic' spirit in Singapore.

Taking Stock

We conducted a survey on youth leaders' current appraisal of Singapore across 15 policy domains. Singapore has done well in the primary assurances especially in basic education, peace and harmony, low crime which also aptly reflects the returns of investment of our budgetary emphasis in these areas. It is natural as a developmental process for Singapore to fare better in primary assurances than in addressing personal aspirations of citizens and creating a purposeful society. On personal aspirations, while higher education, equal work opportunities and strong family ties appear to be fairly well regarded, equal respect for all career paths and financial and emotional support for all families (including non-conventional family structures) has much room for improvement (criterion: more than 33% noting it as area of focus. On purposeful society, a compassionate and kind society, good work-life balance, politically informed society and 'clean', not 'cleaned' Singapore is much desired in the next bound.

Are youths politically apathetic?

The Civics Attitudes and Policy Awareness Survey, a confidential survey, measured youth leaders' awareness, motivation and attitude towards civic and political participation (a detailed report is available upon request). Of significance are the following

observations:

(1) 81% are interested in politics albeit 91% do not feel they know a great deal about politics;

(2) while there is confidence in the political system (to get involved in politics and change the way Singapore is run) with 66% in agreement, 90% expressed willingness to be involved in national decision-making but 93% felt that had some, not very much or no influence over national decision-making;

(3) of the many controversial issues asked, a notable 74% agreed to support single parents;

(4) more youths (30%) felt that public consultation was done after policy deliberations, rather than prior (24%);

(5) 68% agreed that government's role is to foster involvement in policy process by other civic organisations;

(6) on public participation, 65% are willing to be involved in public participation but do not know to do so, 53% thinks the Government wants public to be involved in policymaking process but does not know how to do so, 45% thinks that public is keen to be involved but fearful, 34% thinks the public is apathetic;

(7) 61% wants Government to actively involve public in major decisions (including sensitive areas) in the form of public inputs to policymaking and prior public consultation before policy is debated in Parliament (despite noting that sensitive areas can compromise Singapore's security);

(8) interestingly 43% reckon that grassroots leader should be in charge of enhancing public participation, 34% for citizens, which is higher than 25% (for civil servants) and 14% (for civil society leaders), the given is Government political office holders (67%) and MPs (47%).

Being grateful

I would like to thank our partners: Young NTUC and National Youth Council, Singapore Polytechnic, Facilitator Network Singapore, Pigeonhole,

National Junior College, NUS Political Science Alumni, Thought Collective, amongst others. Many thanks to our volunteers and participants from all walks of life who came to us with a desire to do something for Singapore. Many thanks also to the advice and guidance from theorists and practitioners in Singapore who are passionate about Singapore and our future; some of whom have agreed to join our APA Advisory Board but many chose to remain anonymous but contributing advisors. To Dean Kishore and Minister Chan Chun Sing for gracing our Forum and panel chairs Desmond Choo, Nicholas Fang and Eugene Tan for sharing insights with our participants. We also thankfully acknowledge that the framework for domains and categories for Mood Survey was adapted from a LKYSPP Policy Analysis Exercise paper, written by Lina Tang, Rahul Advani and Michelle Khoo.

Moving forward

After Dream Future, selected students and youth leaders will participate in Think Future Programme, a 5-month training and mentorship programme by civil service directors and professors on selected challenges for Singapore: (1) Jobs and Economy (SkillsFuture); (2) Family and Demography (Aging and Population); (3) Society and Identity (Integration, Singaporean identity); (4) Liveable Cities. In our next issue, we will report on policy recommendations from 'Think Future' Forum, that will move Singapore towards the envisaged vision articulated in 'Dream Future' Forum.

Onward Singapore! (Majulah Singapura)



Phua Chao Long, Charles

President, Association for Public Affairs (APA)

survey

Civic and political attitudes¹

The Survey on Civic Attitudes and Policy Awareness of Singaporean Youth Leaders seeks to understand the civic attitudes and policy awareness of Singaporean youth leaders. The same survey will be conducted at different phases of the programme in order to ascertain any changes in civic attitudes and policy awareness and evaluate the effectiveness of APA's programmes.

Of significance in the survey conducted on 4 July 15 are the following observations:

1. **Interest in politics:** 81% are interested in politics albeit 91% do not feel they know a great deal about politics, Surprisingly, 49% never visited Parliament House despite their strong interest;
2. **Interest in current affairs:** in ranked order were international issues (40%), national issues (33%), community issues (21%), regional issues (6%), signaling a gross apathy for Singapore's immediate region;
3. **Interest in national policies:** ranked priorities of interest are education (70%), health (45%), social and family welfare (44%), business and economics (41%), albeit one should acknowledge the bias of these students towards education;
4. **Confidence in the political system:** While there is confidence in the political system (to get involved in politics and change the way Singapore is run) with 66% in agreement, 90% expressed willingness to be involved in national decision-making but 93% felt that had some, not very much or no influence over national decision-making;
5. **Most effective method of influencing decision-making:** 93% agreed on the effectiveness of voting in election in influencing decision-making; 83% (for policy consultations) and 76% (contacting an MP);
6. **Essential traits of a good citizen:** interestingly 89% considered being informed about current affairs as being very important or essential to be a good citizen; conversely only 20% felt so for joining a political party;
7. **Position on controversial issues:** a notable 74% agreed to support single parents; 69% supports death penalty; 74% for caning, 63% for punishing Amos Yee which suggests a form of enlightened conservatism;
8. **Sincerity of public consultation:** more youths (30%) felt that public consultation was done after policy deliberations, rather than prior (24%);
9. **Government's role in promoting public participation:** 68% agreed that government's role is to foster involvement in policy process by other civic organisations;
10. **Involvement in public participation:** 65% are willing to be involved in public participation but do not know to do so, 53% thinks the Government wants public to be involved in policymaking process but does not know how to do so, 45% thinks that public is keen to be involved but fearful, 34% thinks the public is apathetic;

¹ The Civics Attitudes and Policy Awareness Survey is a confidential survey. As such, only key points were highlighted in this report. A detailed report is available, on a need-to-know basis, upon request.

11. **Involvement of the public in decision-making:** 61% want Government to actively involve the public in major decisions (including sensitive areas) in the form of public inputs to policymaking and prior public consultation before policy is debated in Parliament (despite noting that sensitive areas can compromise Singapore's security);
12. **Who's responsibility is it to enhance public participation:** interestingly 43% reckon that grassroots leader should be in charge of enhancing public participation, 34% for citizens, which is higher than 25% (for civil servants) and 14% (for civil society leaders), the given is Government political office holders (67%) and MPs (47%).

Contents

Survey: Civic and political attitudes

Subfora

The Dream Future Forum

- **Session one: What common values do we want in our society?**
- **Session two: Testing boundaries**
- **Survey: How do we think Singapore is faring**
- **Dialogue with Minister Chan Chun Sing**

Annexes

- **Annex A: Association for Public Affairs**
- **Annex B1: Junior College Subforum**
- **Annex B2: Polytechnic Subforum**
- **Annex B3: University Subforum**
- **Annex C: Student position papers for dream future forum session two**
- **Annex D: How Singapore is faring: Survey results**
- **Annex E: Information sheet for SG100 'see future' video competition**
- **Annex F: Process for SG100 'Think Future' Programme**
- **Annex G: Media Coverage**

SUBFORA

We conducted 3 subfora in the lead up to the Dream Future Forum targeting different student segments - Junior College, Polytechnic and University. Ideas and views generated from these subfora were key inputs to the Dream Future Forum.

Subfora Activities

How do I envision myself in 2065?

Participants shared what they would like to achieve or the life they hope to have led in the next 50 years.

What kind of society would I like Singapore to be?

In order to realise their aspirations, participants brainstormed in groups on the values that need to underpin Singapore's society.

Are my values shared by all?

Within their groups, each participant was assigned a character to role play. The characters represented the diverse social groups in Singapore, including 'elderly retiree', 'female professional', 'school drop-out', 'wealthy businessman', and many others. The characters tested the rigour and inclusiveness of the envisaged society. The group had to come to a consensus on the top 5 values for Singapore that every single character could agree on, and that would not adversely affect any of the characters.

The top 5 values from all the groups were consolidated, and the audience was polled on the top 5 values everyone could agree on. These values defined the Singapore youths wanted to have.

What policy outcomes are important to make the desired SG100 society a reality?

In World Cafe style, participants brainstormed on important outcomes within different policy domains that need to be achieved in order to make their desired SG100 society a reality.

The domains are:



Basic Income



Safety



Housing



Basic Education



Health



Career Progression



Higher Education



Leisure & Culture



Political Engagement



Connectivity



Environment



Family



Community



Top societal values for SG100

Junior College Sub-forum

Wang Chiew Hui, Victoria Junior College

Let us fast forward to the year 2065! It doesn't matter whether you're born in Singapore or whether you have immigrated. It doesn't matter if you were born with any disabilities. You have the freedom to love. There should be no belittling glances or any avoidance of eye contact as someone with cerebral palsy, or a couple of the same gender walk down the street. The glares of social stigma - well, it isn't as harsh, because there is a mutual respect for all in society.

In 2065, **government** would still remain efficient, incorrupt and perhaps more transparent. Essentially this would allow for a larger platform for Singaporeans to engage and contribute with the government, for active citizenry where Singaporeans play a part in nation-building. In this, we can also develop and maximise Singaporeans' potential to contribute!

Polytechnic Sub-forum

Abdullah Farid, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.

As youths of Singapore, it is important to dream of the future and work towards it. Therefore, with this in mind - Singaporeans have to agree on the common stances that will embody us in the future.

Having **diverse and progressive education**: In line with having an equality of opportunities, different education paths should be accommodated and accepted by society.

As we move forward with time and develop, we will not lose sight of our societal fabric - racial harmony and cohesion between Singaporeans. It is only together can we ensure **safety and security** within our country, and even beyond our waters, to protect national sovereignty.

Lastly, as Singapore enters her fifties and celebrates her golden jubilee, we recognise the importance of family, and the role it plays in strengthening societal bonds. Even as we maintain economic prosperity, we are looking towards a **better work life balance**, more comfortable pace of life, because there are other things beyond economic growth!

There is a sea of uncharted waters lying in front of us. With this, there will definitely be challenges, but the future is bright! All of us here have the potential to make a positive change, and we'll head towards the possibilities together!

To be **accepting and liberal**: Society cannot avoid discussion on controversial issues and should accept people of all races, religions, gender and culture. It also accepts different definitions of success. This is beyond the current scope of tolerance; it implies an intrinsic ability to include those who are normally excluded. However, such a discussion must be properly grounded and that people should still be sensitive when expressing their views and opinions.

A lower cost of living: As wages are barely keeping up with the rise in cost of living, income inequality becomes a pressing problem, as are fears of

affording basic necessities such as housing, healthcare and education. One important need is to lower costs of living relative to income levels so as to eliminate insecurity about one's livelihood.

Lastly, to have **stable economy**: To continue to enjoy a comfortable standard of living while having confidence in the future, the economy

must remain stable. A stable economy provides opportunities for individuals to prosper, and at the same time be able to support other unconventional careers and take more risks.

As stated, these are the many concerns of youths today which we can all ponder about. I hope that you might agree on some of these points as it may be of relevance to you.

University sub-forum

Edieusdi Ahmad, Nanyang Technological University

50 years has passed since independence, and we, Singaporeans are still in the search of an identity unique to us. What are the things that can bind all of us together? During the university subforum, some has said that there is a little shred of nationalism among the youths, who probably hasn't tasted what bitterness Singapore had to experience during its national building years.

When I met Prime Minister Lee last year at the Asia Pacific Economic Forum, we shared our thoughts about the youth in recent years, who does more talking than taking actions and in talking i mean complaining. Singapore is our fore father's masterpiece, drawn from a used canvas. It is about time, that all of us here, extends his or her hand in shaping the future together. There is a strong need to build **a sense of belonging**, a connection between the individual and the society, where everyone feels an intrinsic pride in their identity of being a Singaporean, and treating others as family members.

Equality would be perfect if everyone has the same start but now, what we should truly seek is equity. Success has always been equated with economic progress. Making big in life has always been a goal but perhaps making full of life would be far more satisfactory. It is about achieving the best of an individual.

Another wish we have for Singapore would be the existence of a society that stretches beyond being **gracious and kind**. It is a society that accepts everyone for who they are and everyone would treat each other as family members and neighbors. This also extends to foreigners by reducing xenophobia. The ultimate goal would be a truly multicultural society unlike the tolerant multi-ethnic we are in which many think it is sufficient. Being tolerant does not mean being accepting and understanding.

Refer to Annex B1, B2 and B3 for the full articles.

4 July 2015, Singapore Polytechnic The day started out dark and gloomy, but most youths still turned out in force. Surely, a sign of their passion for contributing to Singapore, rain or shine. 500 youth leaders from about 50 different institutions and organisations including ITE, polytechnics, junior colleges, universities, young NTUC, the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and the Young Women's Leadership Connection (YWLC) amongst other organisations participated in the lively discussions. This was a truly bottoms-up forum where youth leaders decide what they want to see in Singapore, having heard different perspectives from fellow students, subjectmatter experts and a Cabinet Minister.

The Dream Fut

Opening Remarks

Sharing snippets from his book, Can Singapore Survive?, Prof Kishore shared 3 reasons why Singapore would succeed, 3 scenarios on why it could fail, and 3 things youths should do to ensure Singapore survives and succeeds in SG100



Prof Kishore Mahbubani
Dean, Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy

session one

Envisioning SG100 - Common Values

We present youths' common vision for SG100.

session two

Testing Boundaries

There are some universal principles that everyone can agree on. But how far do these principles go? Can we all agree?

How should a government care for its people?



Mr Desmond Choo
Director of Youth
Development, NTUC

How open a society do we want?



Mr Nicholas Fang
Executive Director,
Singapore Institute of
International Affairs

How should our voices be heard?



AP Eugene Tan
Associate Professor of
Law, Singapore
Management University

session three

Dialogue with the Minister

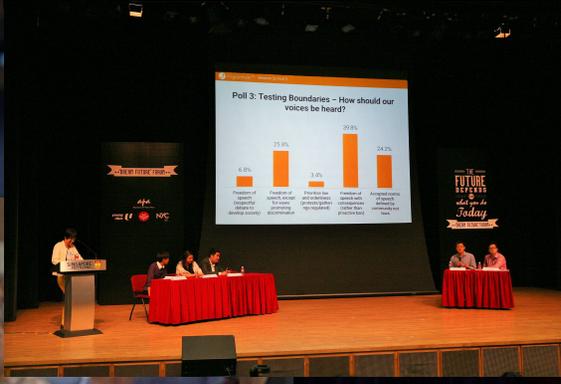
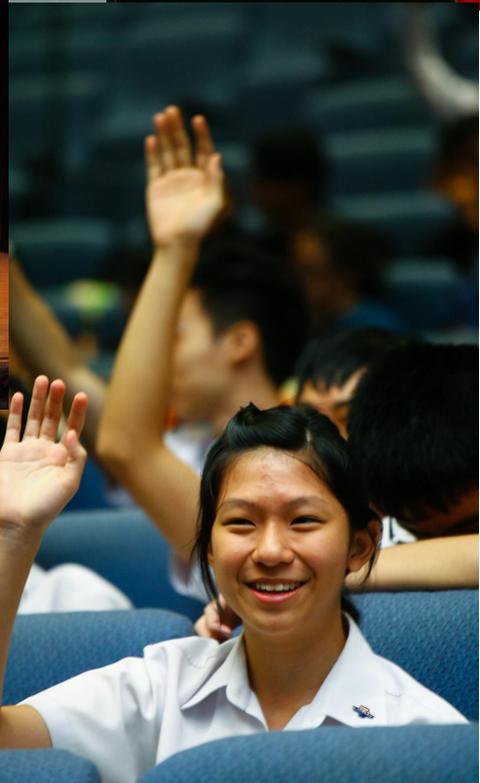
A candid dialogue with student leaders.



Minister Chan Chun Sing
Minister in the Prime
Minister's Office;
Secretary-General, NTUC



ure Forum



session one

What common values do we want in our society?

From the respective subfora, we distilled the most important societal values for each student group...

Junior College Subforum

1. *Open-minded society*
2. *Equal opportunities and rights*
3. *Good governance*
4. *Safe and secure*
5. *Work life balance*

Polytechnic Subforum

1. *Equality of opportunities*
2. *A more gracious and caring community*
3. *Diverse and progressive education*
4. *Accepting and liberal*
5. *Lower costs of living*
6. *Stable economy*

University Subforum

1. *Sense of belonging*
2. *Equitable life opportunities and life chances*
3. *Everyone is entitled to a quality education*
4. *Gracious and kind*
5. *Safety and Security*

... and consolidated them into the Top 10, representing our common vision for SG100

FORGING A CONSENSUS ON



SG
100

In SG100, youths want to see a society that



has a strong sense of belonging



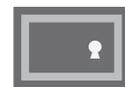
has equal rights and opportunities



is gracious and caring



is open-minded and accepting



is safe and secure



has a stable economy



everyone is entitled to quality education



has affordable costs of living



has good governance



has good work-life balance

session two

Testing Boundaries - Polling Methodology

In session two, we discuss some of the contentious issues that piqued the student leaders' interest during the subfora. Through a series of polls, facilitated by pigeonhole® and aided by mobile devices, we sought to build consensus on the way forward in approaching these issues.

Session two was divided into three sections, each addressing one issue:

- How should a government care for its people?
- How open a society do we want?
- How should our voices be heard?



We began each section with an **initial poll**, presenting 3 or 4 possible positions, and obtaining a sensing of the audience's preconceived opinions on the topic.

We then invited student presenters to **present arguments for each of the positions**, to ensure the audience had a more balanced understanding of the issue. We polled the audience a second time to see if the audience was swayed in a different direction.

Next, we invited a **subject matter expert** (namely, Mr Desmond Choo, Mr Nicholas Fang and Associate Professor Eugene Tan, respectively) to address questions from the audience, and provide deeper insights and perspectives. Audience members were invited to **propose alternative positions** and vote for alternatives they support through pigeonhole®. The 1 or 2 most popular alternative positions, which were distinct from the existing positions, were added to the third poll.

Finally, we shortlisted the **top two options** from the third poll and conduct a **final poll**, to confirm the audience's choice.

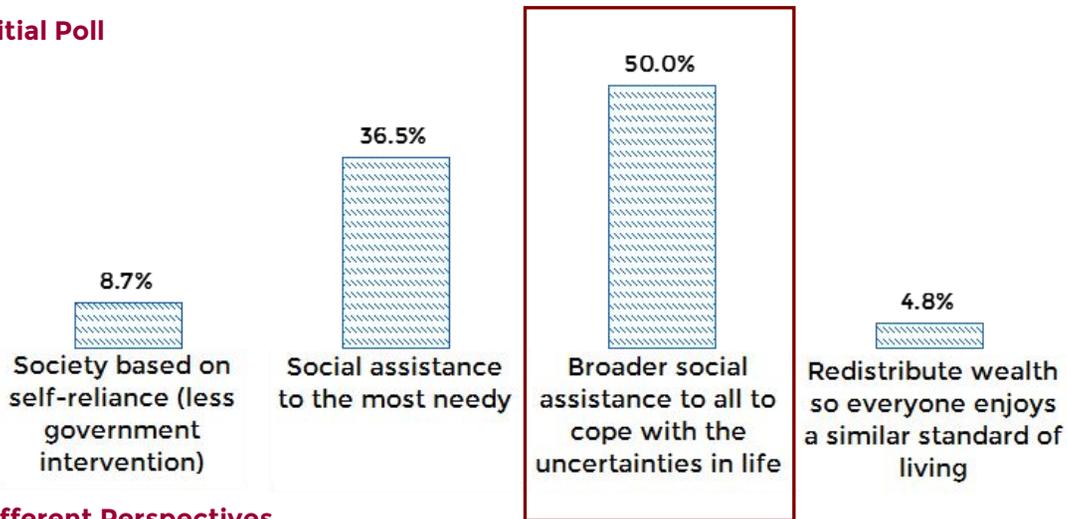


session two

How should the government care for its people?

Income inequality has been on the rise. This raises debate on the extent to which the government should care for the bottom rung of society. On one end of the spectrum, we see the government possessing a certain responsibility to the people by ensuring the welfare of all. However, to increase the social benefits would mean a heavier burden on the government finances, which may be translated to higher taxes for the working population. Is this fair? Such measures have also been argued to indirectly erode certain existing work values such as meritocracy. No matter what decision the government undertakes, it will bound to have an effect on both the economic prosperity and social cohesiveness of our nation.

Initial Poll

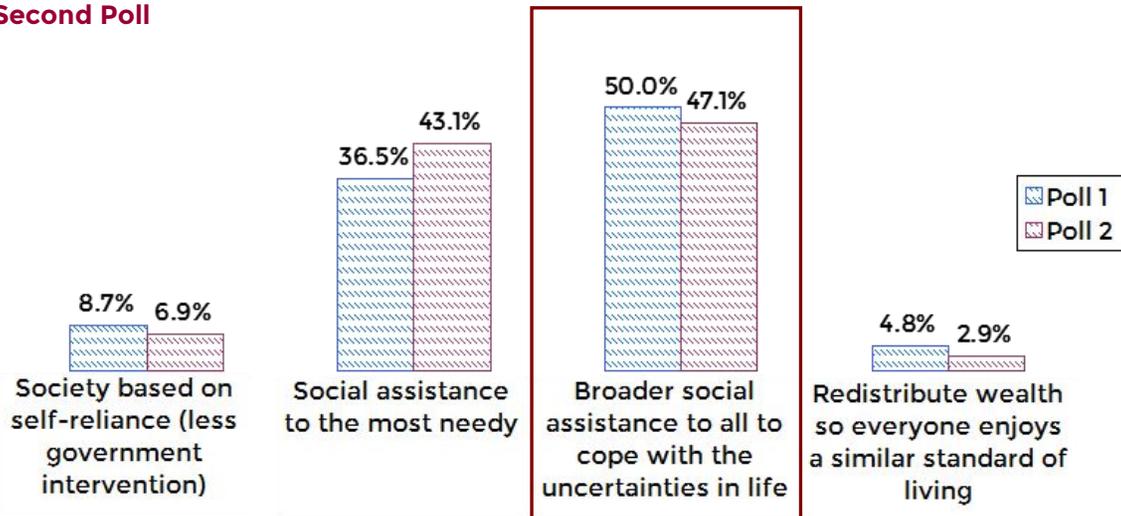


Different Perspectives

Society based on self-reliance	Our society should be based on self-reliance with minimal government intervention. It is only fair that everyone is rewarded based on their hard work and talent.
Social assistance to the most needy	We should seek to level up the low income by providing social assistance. But those who are physically and mentally able but do not work should not receive any benefits.
Broader social assistance to ALL to cope with uncertainties in life	We should not only help the low income and vulnerable but also provide greater assurances to help everyone cope with the uncertainties in life, including providing assistance to tide through unemployment or poor health.
Redistribute wealth so everyone enjoys a similar standard of living	The stronger ones in society should help the weaker ones. Hence, we should have much more redistributive policies to ensure everyone enjoys a similar standard of living.

Refer to Annex C for the full position papers by each student.

Second Poll



Most of the participants' **initial positions** tended towards the moderate positions, with the most in favour of **providing social assistance to all**. However, after hearing the different perspectives from the student presentations, we see a significant increase in the number of votes for social assistance to the most needy, although still fewer total votes compared to broader social assistance.

Q&A with the experts: Mr Desmond Choo

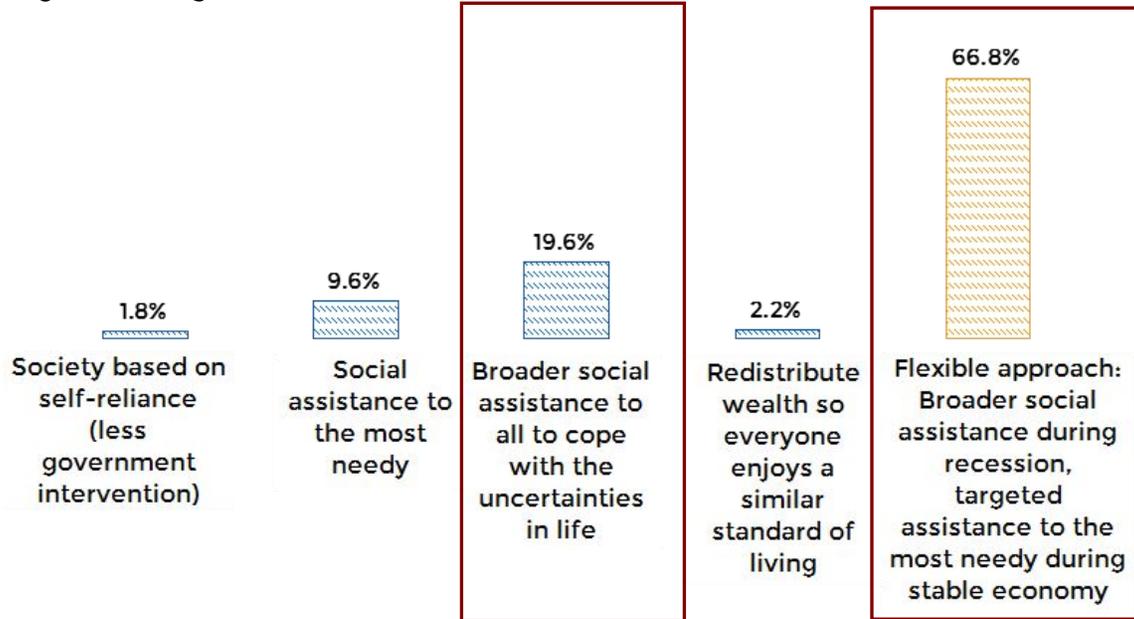
How do we raise the wages at the bottom without allowing wages at the top to run away? Because of global interconnectivity, remuneration becomes globally capped. Hence, the larger concern is how to raise wages at the bottom to a reasonable wage for all. This led to a discussion on having a minimum wage. The minimum wage benefits those earning below what they rightfully deserve, and it has a signaling effect for employers. However, Mr Choo pointed out that minimum wage is a tax in itself, which may end up causing the poorest to lose their jobs. Often, minimum wages end up below the market rate, hurting the very workers it purports to help. We should also be careful that the minimum wage does not become the maximum wage. A system that has seemed to work better, not only in Singapore but in other countries as well, in supplementing the incomes of the poor while maintaining a strong work ethic is workfare.

One participant countered that there are jobs in Singapore that do not pay a living wage, and the underlying problem is the wealth gap. Do we need to change our tax structure? A capital gains tax might be worth revisiting as wealth becomes entrenched over time, leading to a reduction in social mobility.

When asked to what extent the poor are responsible for their plight, Mr Choo highlighted the challenges and opportunities presented by technological changes. It has led to a small number of people accumulating wealth very quickly, while those at the bottom struggle. Technology has eroded traditional jobs, bringing in different sorts of challenges. Globalization has led to more competition and a race to the bottom for wages. The inequality of outcomes is often discussed, but the bigger issue is inequality of opportunities. When asked if there is a need to help the poor who are not contributing to the economy, Mr Choo concluded by saying our society is only as good as how it treats the weakest members of society. We must help those who may be struggling due to reasons out of their control, and encourage those out of the workforce to return. This is premised on our cherished value of inclusiveness.

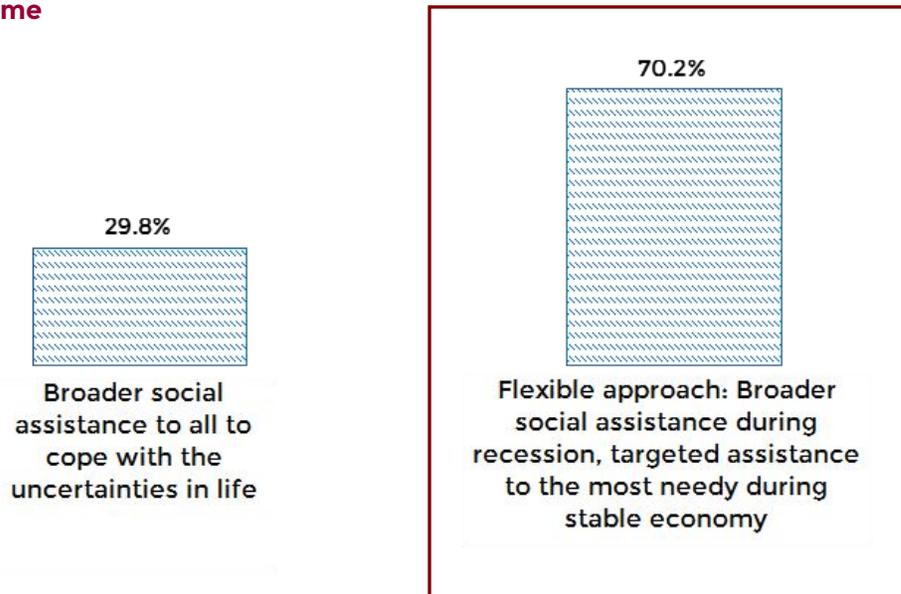
Alternative Options

The **alternative option** that garnered the most votes among the participants was to adopt a **mixture of positions 2 and 3 depending on the economic climate** (that is, to provide broader support in a recession when unemployment is a valid concern but more targeted assistance when economic growth is stable). This explains the **dynamism** of public policies and on how the participants also believe that policies ought to **change with circumstances**.



The new option, as suggested by an audience member, proved the most popular, with 66.8% support. Comparing the top 2 options from the third poll, it is clear that the **youth leaders prefer a pragmatic approach**, and do not believe in a one-size-fits-all approach.

Final outcome

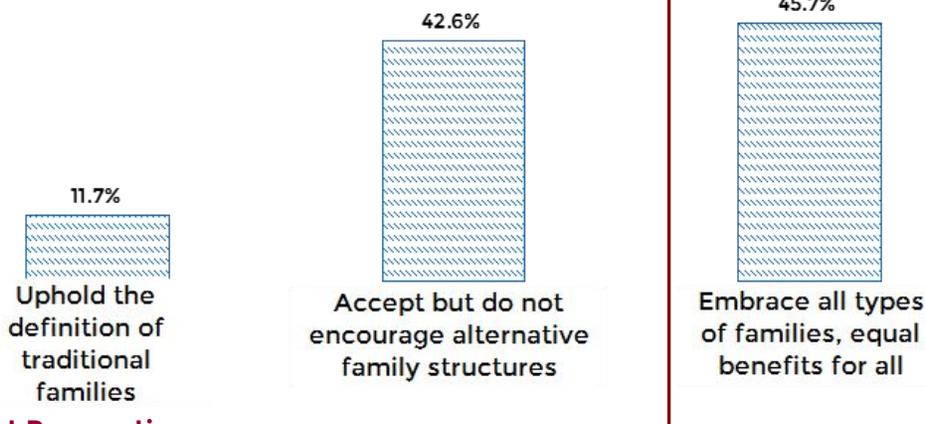


session two

How open a society do we want?

As globalization becomes increasingly pertinent in society today, there is a widespread proliferation of ideas, which leads to increasingly diverse viewpoints. Such views permeate all sectors of society, ranging from professions, lifestyles to family choices. However, liberal beliefs and values stand in stark contrast to the past conservative, creating disagreements and debates on the extent to how open Singapore should be. In this session, we take the issue of family choices to test the boundaries of how open the youths want society to be.

Initial Poll



Different Perspectives

Uphold the definition of traditional families

We should uphold the definition of traditional families, and only recognise the rights and benefits of traditional families

Accept but do not encourage alternative family structures

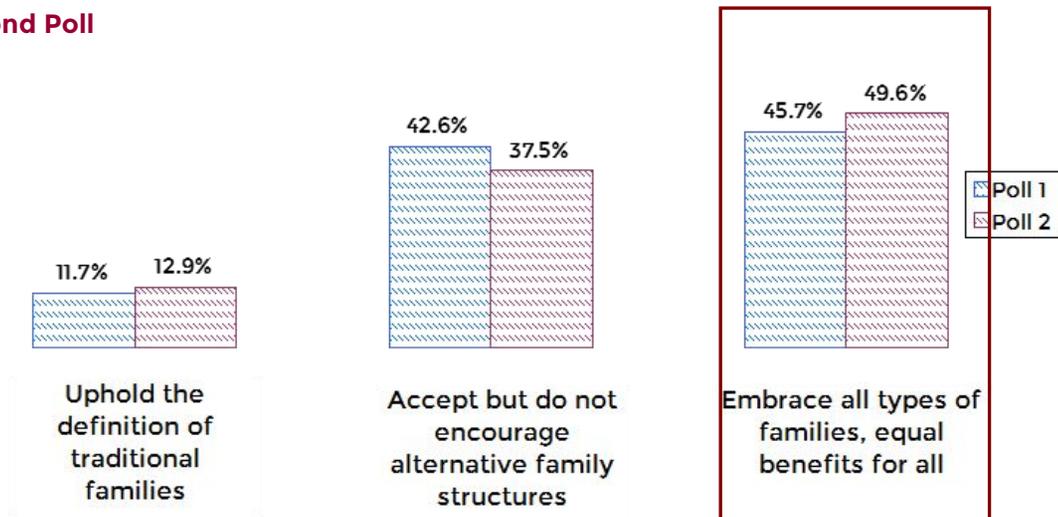
We should accept the existence of alternative family structures (e.g. Single parent, underaged parents, cohabiting adults) as a fact of life and ensure they are not unduly discriminated against. But neither do we need to promote or encourage them.

Embrace all types of families, equal benefits for all

We should embrace individual choice on family structure. In other words, we should consider changes such as legalising gay marriage, allowing gays or singles to adopt children. The same benefits (such as housing, etc) should be accorded to all types of families.

Refer to Annex C for the full position papers by each student.

Second Poll



From the results, we see **most of the participants taking on a liberal stance** when it comes to openness of the society. Close to half of the participants are keen to embrace all types of families with equal benefits of all. However, one must note that an almost equally sizeable population do not support the notion of alternative family structures, with even close to a tenth of the population believing in the strict enforcement of traditional families.

Q&A with the experts: Mr Nicholas Fang

Mr Fang started by stating that in terms of human nature, we instinctively will say we want an open society. Intrinsicly, that is a good thing. But societies are complex, and such issues unavoidably come into contact with government policies, and the beliefs and practices of other groups. While he acknowledged that we definitely need to improve education and awareness around these issues, he also reminded the audience that we should not expect the government to solve everything. Have the people who advocated for option 3 done a lot to understand and engage with other social groups? His wish is to see a society where everyone's views in society are considered. Take the developments on LGBT marriage in America for instance, there is almost a stigma about voicing out that you are not supportive of the ruling in favour of the LGBT group. The society is not necessarily more open, but just shifting to a different popular view. He also reminded us to be more discerning when we read articles on social media, and to understand different viewpoints. Is Singapore still conservative? It is definitely more open than before, but there is still a significant conservative population. Some argue that it is a matter of time before Singapore has to follow the trend in other (Western) countries. But does our society need to follow trends elsewhere all the time? On the flipside, is being conservative part of our identity that we cannot change? Either of the extremes are probably not true.

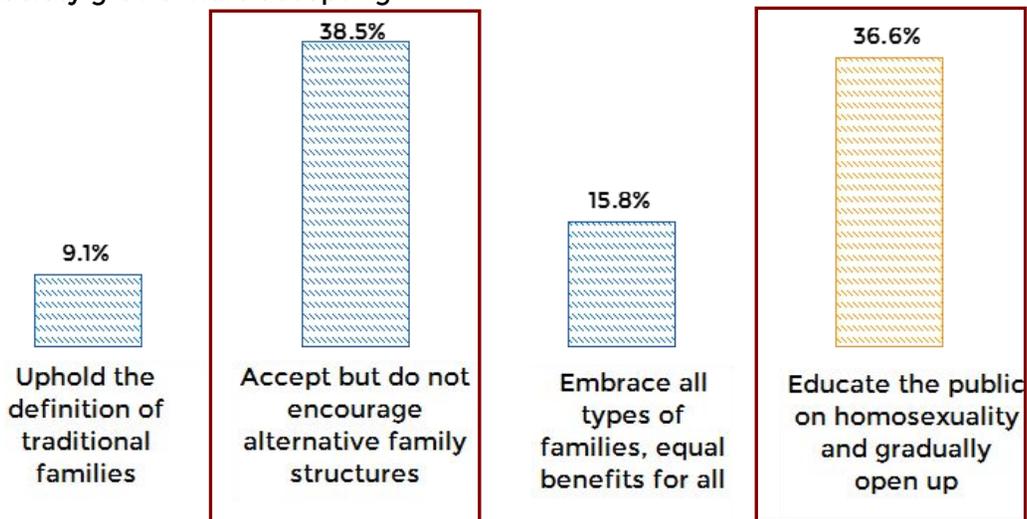
Turning to questions from the audience, someone asked why children of single parent families should be discriminated against, as it was not their choosing? Mr Fang shared that government leaders are quite sympathetic of those who find themselves in difficult situations, but when the government tries to come up with government policies as a whole, they also need to signal what is right for the country.

Another asked why we had to take religious objections into account when Singapore is a secular society. Mr Fang responded that the government was taking the current approach not because it was giving into the objections of a particular religion or

group, but that it had to take into account the practical reality on the ground and weigh the importance of social cohesion. Finally, a participant raised a question that captured the crux of the issue: How do we strike a balance between being more tolerant while keeping in mind the views of a conservative majority?

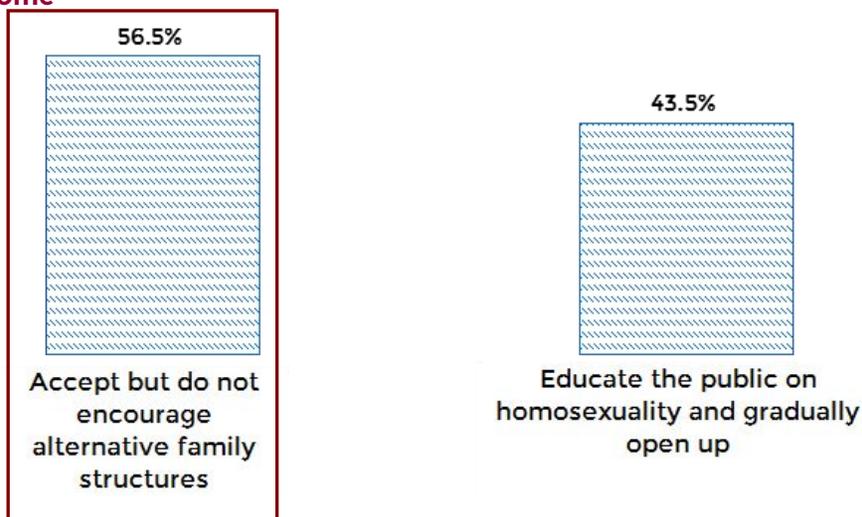
Alternative Options

The alternative option that garnered the most votes among the participants was a **phased approach**, to educate the public on homosexuality, and gradually open up as the society grows more accepting.



Interestingly, with the inclusion of the additional option, the sentiment **moved to the middle ground of accepting, but not encouraging alternative family structures**. Clearly, through the free flow discussion with the speaker and among audience members, participants recognised that not everyone was ready to open up, and hence were more willing to take a more balanced and gradual approach.

Final outcome

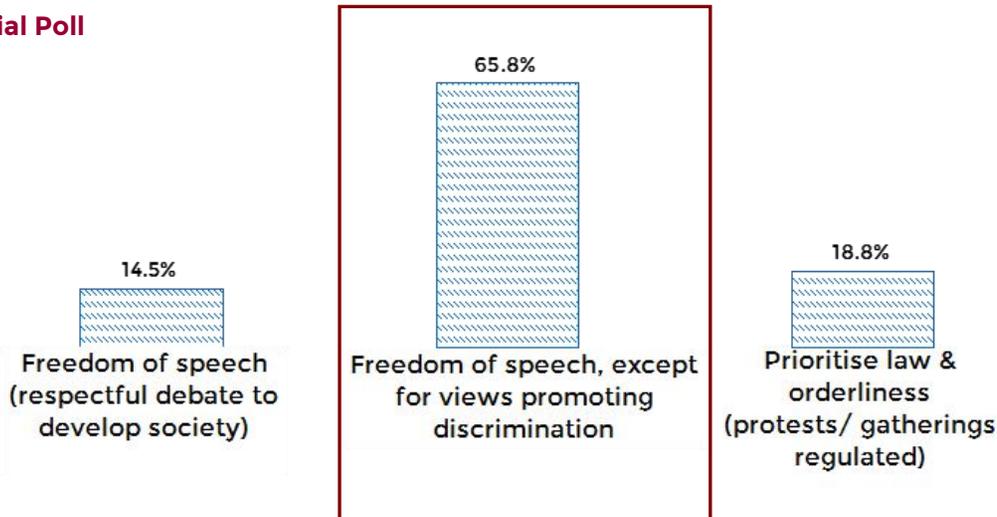


session two

How should our voices be heard?

As political awareness among youths becomes increasingly prevalent, there are heightened call for greater political transparency as well as less regulated communication channels to vent frustrations. However, debates are ongoing on which is the best way to do it. A number of young people have been in the news recently for expressing their views in a rather extreme manner. In addition, the widespread use of internet in Singapore today permits the use of individual voices under anonymity. Where do we draw the line?

Initial Poll

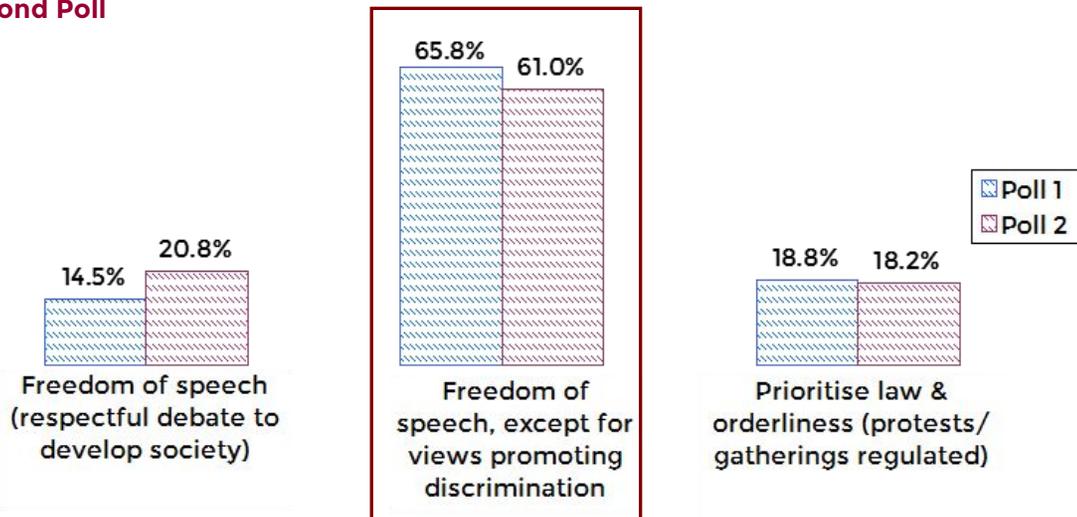


Different Perspectives

Freedom of speech (respectful debate to develop society)	We should allow complete freedom of speech, because it is through open, respectful debate that we develop as a society.
Freedom of speech, except for views promoting discrimination	Except for comments promoting discrimination, hate, or violence, we should allow complete freedom of speech and expression.
Prioritise law & orderliness (protests/ gatherings regulated)	We should prioritise law and orderliness, all protests or public gatherings should be regulated and approved.

Refer to Annex C for the full position papers by each student.

Second Poll



Looking at the results, we see most participants adopting a **moderate stance**, with a **certain extent of freedom but limits when it comes to discriminatory speeches**. About an equal number of participants lie on both ends of the spectrum, where one end supports the prioritization of law and orderliness over freedom while the other advocates a complete freedom of speech.

Q&A with the experts: Associate Professor Eugene Tan

Numerous questions were raised over the Amos Yee case² and its implications on the freedom of speech in Singapore, particularly since the video was aimed at Singapore's former leader. Associate Prof Tan reflected that this was a unique case due to his young age, and reminded the audience that his conviction was due to religious insensitivity rather than because of who the video was targeted at. He recognised that young people were concerned over whether Amos deserved to be punished for merely expressing his views. However, this case showed how divided people's opinions were on the issue. Associate Prof Tan mused that freedom of speech is a fundamental freedom, but to what extent is our society ready for absolute freedom of speech? We should keep in mind that there is no society anywhere with complete freedom. Singapore is unique given our religious, racial, language, and even inter-generational diversity. Although it is true citizens may not be able to grow and learn to appreciate different values if society continues to restrict what we know, but we also see examples overseas where insensitive comments over religion has sparked violence. Hence, it is a balance we need to carefully manage and the government has always chosen to err on the side of caution.

Who then should regulate? We vote for the government to do these basic but important tasks. But the government does not act on its own whims and fancies, and makes its assessment based on what is acceptable and tolerable to society.

Is Singapore's society mature enough for freedom of speech? Wouldn't greater freedom of speech accelerate the maturing process? This is where we see a feedback

² Amos Yee, 17, had released a YouTube video criticising Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew shortly after the latter's death in March 2015, comparing him to Jesus and casting both in an unfavourable light. He was subsequently found guilty of having the "intention of wounding the religious feelings of Christians", and was sentenced to four weeks in jail. Sentencing was backdated to include 53 days served in remand, and Yee was freed immediately after the trial. The case garnered much public interest and criticisms from human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, over his imprisonment.

effect. We see issues of race and religion being discussed a lot more. We see criticisms of government policies a lot more. Greater liberalisation has happened and will happen and it is up to the government to balance competing and even conflicting interests. Greater access to information is also important for freedom of speech. It is with access to more information that people can make sound and reasonable arguments.

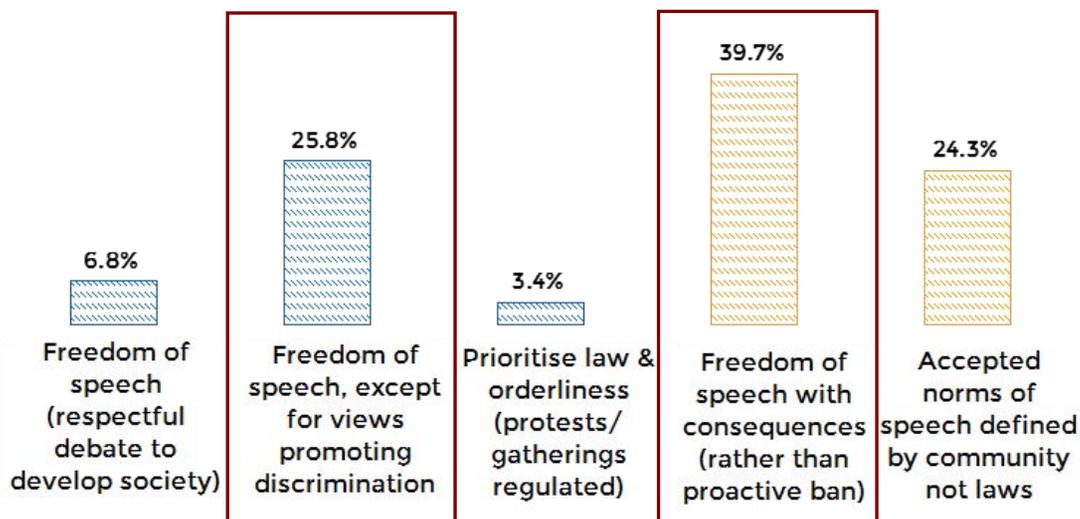
Associate Prof Tan was gratified about the enlightened view of the audience that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand. Rights are meaningless if there is no one responsible for ensuring rights are respected. A view that is not mainstream in society does not mean it needs to be punished. Even though democracy is the rule of majority, we must be guard against tyranny of the majority. There will always be diverse views but we need to develop a culture of respect. We do not have to accept these views, but respect that other individuals have an autonomy to have a view different from ours.

A question about the need for media censorship was raised, given access to the internet. Associate Prof Tan recognised that censorship may be increasingly futile, but may be more symbolic as it demonstrates certain values that we do not endorse in society. In particular, we need to ensure minorities are assured that their views and beliefs are respected and will not be overwhelmed by the majority.

Alternative Options

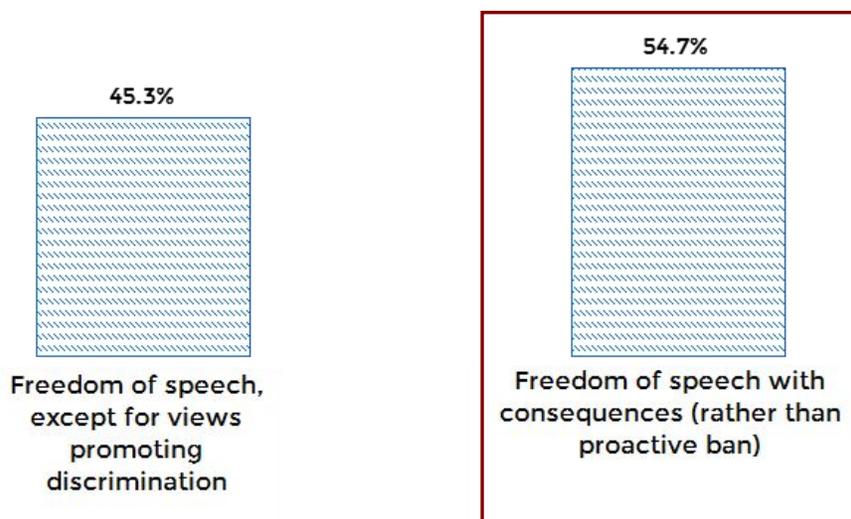
One participant suggested that freedom of speech is essential in today's society but it is a **right with responsibility**. People can have the freedom of speech on all platforms but they should be responsible for their own actions. Hence, an option was added where, in place of explicit OB ("out-of-bounds") markers, there should be **freedom of speech with consequences**. The idea that people have to accept responsibility for their words and actions.

Another participant took a more cynical view - that there can be no true freedom of speech because even if there are no legal limitations, social stigma may function in its place. Thus, an option where **accepted norms of speech are defined by the community** and not by laws was added



Looking at the results, we see a significant decrease in the proposed options and strong support for the alternative options, which include **freedom of speech with consequences** and also, to define the norms of speech by social norms rather than the government. This shows that participants recognise the personal responsibility, as well as the collective responsibility, to define accepted rules of engagement. In total, participants felt that there must be some limits to speech and expression, with slightly more preferring a **less prescriptive approach**.

Final outcome

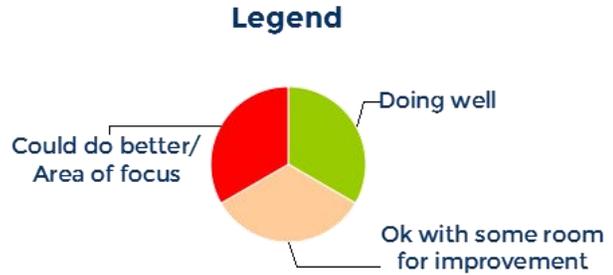


survey

How do we think Singapore is faring?

244 student leaders participated in our survey on how they thought Singapore was faring across policy domains. We classified these domains into three categories:

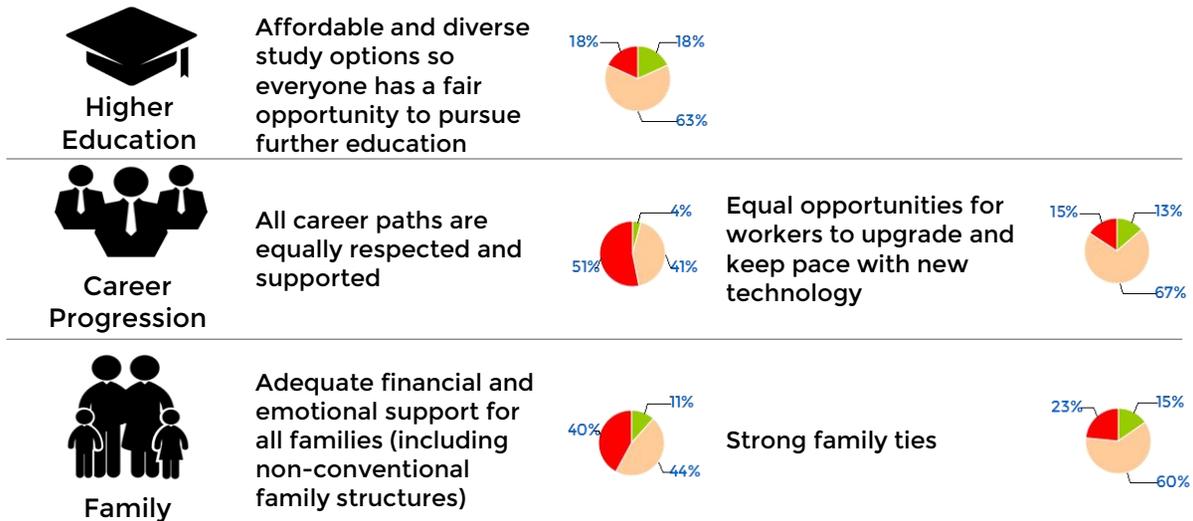
- **Personal Aspirations** which measures the opportunities every citizen has to maximise their individual potential regardless of where they are on the social ladder
- **Primary Assurances** which measures how well a country provides basic needs for its people
- **Purposeful Society** which measures how well citizens engage and contribute to society.



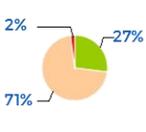
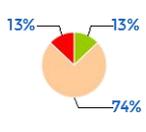
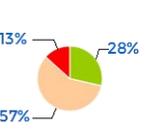
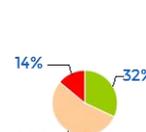
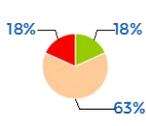
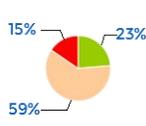
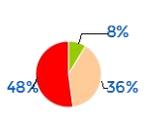
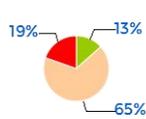
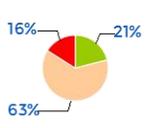
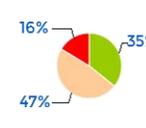
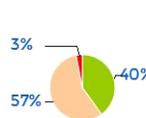
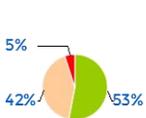
Within each domain, student leaders were asked to rate how Singapore was faring in 1 or 2 aspects: Doing well, OK with some room for improvement, or Could do better.

One interesting observation about the results is that in the primary assurances category, Singapore seems to have done well in all domains especially in basic education and safety, which is reflective of the government’s investment in these areas. This is the exact opposite of the personal aspirations category, where Singapore is deemed to have fared poorly in all domains, except in Higher Education. A greater diversity of results is seen in the achievement of a purposeful society. This goes to show how Singapore can further progress as a nation, where even though primary assurances are already met, more could be done to address the personal aspirations of the citizen and to create a purposeful society. Hot-button issues include career progression, financial and emotional support for all families, building a compassionate society, work-life balance, level of political discourse, and having a clean (not “cleaned”) Singapore.

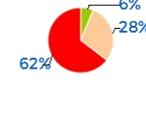
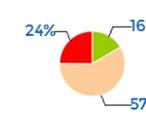
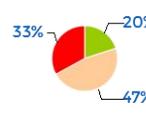
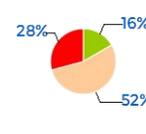
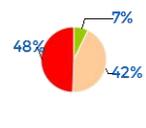
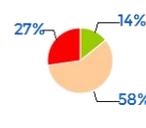
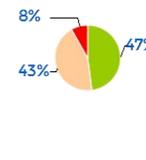
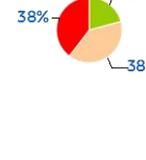
Personal Aspirations



Primary Assurances

 Basic Education	<p>Every child has access to good quality education for an equal headstart in life</p>		<p>Our education system develops us holistically, equips us with practical skills and prepares us for the future</p>	
 Health	<p>We invest adequately in the areas that matter (e.g. supporting healthcare professionals, mental health, preventive care)</p>		<p>Affordable and accessible healthcare for all</p>	
 Housing	<p>Equitable housing conditions for every citizen, regardless of social background</p>		<p>Quality homes and neighbourhoods with good social integration, community bonding and are disabled/elderly-friendly</p>	
 Basic Income	<p>Low income inequality</p>		<p>Every citizen has the means to afford a basic cost of living</p>	
 Connectivity	<p>Access to affordable, reliable and convenient transport (including the elderly and disabled)</p>		<p>No one is socially excluded because of poor access to internet, computers, mobile and social media</p>	
 Safety	<p>Peace and harmony (e.g. Racial/Religious harmony, good bilateral relations)</p>		<p>Low crime and accidents (e.g. cyber security, personal security, road safety, work safety, etc)</p>	

Purposeful Society

 Community	<p>A compassionate and kind society with the 'kampung' spirit</p>		<p>Strong national identity forged from the bottom-up</p>	
 Environment	<p>A 'clean' Singapore, not 'cleaned' Singapore. Everyone is responsible for maintaining Singapore's environment</p>		<p>Widespread adoption of green technology and practices (including individuals, businesses, building owners, and residential planners)</p>	
 Leisure & Culture	<p>Good work life balance</p>		<p>Adequate support for sports and arts</p>	
 Political Engagement	<p>Transparent, effective, efficient and incorruptible government</p>		<p>A politically informed society where citizens can engage in mature political discourse</p>	

Dialogue with Minister Chan Chun Sing

After being brought up to speed on the forum's progress in discussion and established viewpoints, Minister Chan gamely introduced a poll of his own. He asked the audience how they would prioritise Singapore's 3 biggest challenges in nation building - survival and sovereignty, economic security and social cohesion. From SG0-SG50, audience reckoned basic security came first, defending the nation and ensuring its survival is the foundational goal. Economic security, to take care of citizens and provide them with opportunities and livelihood, came second and social cohesion, helping people to stay together as one people, third. However, from SG50-SG100, the audience gave the reverse order, which intrigued the Minister to find out why.

Students expressed that times have changed; Singapore had to stake her place in the world previously, whereas now, Singapore has received recognition worldwide, and achieved a measure of economic success. This is evident in the improved standard of living for the low income. The Central Business District area is also a representation of Singapore's progress so far. On the other hand, environmental sustainability is an important concern for the future, as well as developing the Singaporean identity and social mobility. Some feel security should not be compromised, while others thought national threats such as the Greater Indonesia Plan was behind us.



Minister Chan concluded that all three challenges are equally important, although **social cohesion has gained more prominence in recent years. Security in today's context is more relevant** than ever. Singapore's independence has never been easy and has to be continually fought for, in light of cyber threats, terrorism and military contest. Creating various job opportunities with good working conditions is also an ever-present challenge. Turning back to the social issues that were of most interest to the audience, Minister Chan highlighted the **importance of equality** of speech, where people's opinions are not measured by the person's status or wealth. This is not always present in other countries, and it is something valuable we should all preserve.

Minister Chan then introduced another poll, asking the audience if they agreed with the statement "To those with less, we should do more to help". Unsurprisingly, there was almost unanimous agreement. However, when Minister Chan turned the statement around and asked if the audience would accept "To those with more, we should do less to help", there was more hesitation. Minister Chan explained that **hard**

decisions will have to be made on how to allocate finite resources to do the most good, and it will be based on the value system the society has, and this affects policies made. He commended the sense of social justice the audience had, recognising the trade-offs when sharing Singapore's resources. He hopes that the audience will continue this spirit to share more for those with less, while accepting that the distribution of resources may not be equal for everyone, but this is important to ensure no one gets left behind.

On the issue of how open or conservative our society should be, Minister Chan stressed that this was something we needed to decide for ourselves, as a family would. Our generation would have to make our own choices on the type of value system we want to have, but let us do so with mutual respect and not let such issues divide us.



This leads to the third issue on freedom of speech. If everyone pushes their own rights to the limits, we will have many challenges on building consensus and finding common ground. Minister Chan agreed that the audience position on 'freedom of speech with responsibility' was a valuable principle to preserve. Regardless of our views, this is our country - it is for us to build, it is also for us to lose. We must make sure the choices we make are for the good of, not only our personal interests, but also of the community at large.

Addressing a question from the audience on whether our education system was too academically focused, the discussion turned towards the purpose of education. Suggestions from the audience could be summed up into utilitarian purposes (e.g. Find a job, prepare students for the future, gain valuable skills) and inculcating values (e.g. social mobility, build character and moral values, encourage independent thinking through knowledge). Minister Chan added his own perspective - that the education system was to help us discover our own potential, in order to fulfil that potential. "Do you think you have done justice to the blessings that you have?" was the Minister's key reply. To measure yourself by other's yardsticks will not lead to success. But finding your personal and innate talents through the education system so as to build a better future for yourself, for your family and your country, will make for a more beautiful society.

To conclude the dialogue, the Minister asked, if all of the values and societal attributes that the audience hoped to see in Singapore in 50 years time did not come to fruition, would everyone still stay and make Singapore a little less imperfect? The answer "yes" is the key in achieving SG100.

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**Vision**

Be a catalyst in building the society's capability for informed debate on public policy through creating a knowledge-empowered active (youth and student) citizenry in Singapore, and beyond.

Mission

Be the premier Singapore tertiary student association, leading a 'whole-of-Singapore-tertiary-students' effort to promote the theory and practice of public and international affairs for the betterment of society, local and beyond.

Three Strategies

- *Apply Theory to Practice.* Encourage Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) students to apply public and international affairs (PIA) knowledge to solve policy problems in Singapore & beyond, by offering theoretically-informed, practically-grounded, constructive & concrete policy to policymakers.
- *Educate to Inspire.* Gradually, educate & raise public awareness of the importance of PIA knowledge & skills, amongst Singapore's Tertiary Institutions (Universities, Polytechnics, and JCs) and youth sector, so as to foster well-informed, active citizenry. Through civil discourse, citizens will forge a shared understanding of the issue and ownership for the outcomes, thus building a cohesive citizenry.
- *Empower to Act.* Where external funding avails, enable LKYSPP students to walk the talk and spearhead social changes in small but scalable ways.

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- A/P Bilveer Singh, NUS Political Science Dept; Author of 'Politics and Governance in Singapore'

ANNEX B1**JUNIOR COLLEGE SUBFORUM**

Event Details	
Date	29 April 2015
Time	8.30am - 2.30pm
Participant Details Project leaders	Number: 5 Age range: 21 - early 30s Nationalities: 4 Singaporeans, 1 Egyptian Schools: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Masters and PhD students), Nanyang Technological University Background: Association of Public Affairs committee members Role: Lead facilitators
Volunteers	Number: 30 Age range: 17 Nationality: Singaporean School: National Junior College Background: Student leaders. 75% Female, 25% Male Role: Logistics, Registration, Photography, Ushering, Group facilitation, Note-taking, Presentation of group discussion
Participants	Number: 81 Age range: 16-20, majority 17-18 Nationality: Singaporean School: HCI (6), MJC (6), DHS (5), TJC (6), VJC (9), RJC (15), JJC (6), PJC (7), NYJC (10), NJC (11) Background: Student leaders from various junior colleges. Diverse representation of all races and gender. 1 wheel-chair bound. Role: Engaged in lively group discussions during subforum sessions, present group findings to the subforum.
External Partners/ Organisations	National Junior College: Sponsored venue and catering. Event coordination and secretariat support from the teachers. Other Junior Colleges: 10 Junior Colleges nominated and sent down their students to participate in the sub-forum.

Part 1: Aspirations: “How do you envision yourself in 2065?”

Some participants want to have had pursued a career of their interest, achieving mastery and assuming a mentorship role in their sector, impacted/continuing to impact the lives of people, be it people in their sector or the general public, positively. Some even wanted to make an impact overseas, whether through professional achievements, business or volunteerism. They also wanted to be financially secure, healthy and continue to be active even after retirement.

Others spoke of leading a happy, well-balanced life, spending quality time with family, children and friends, and on other hobbies or pursuits such as travelling the world. However, they were concerned that rising cost of living and a widening income gap posed obstacles to fulfilling these aspirations.

Junior College Sub-forum: Top societal values for SG100

Wang Chiew Hui, Victoria Junior College

We aspire for a society that has trust. We aspire for a society that functions with mutual respect for all. We aspire to develop a society that goes beyond business and economics, into culture, shared values, warmth. We aspire to build our future together.

Let us fast forward to the year 2065! It doesn't matter whether you're born in Singapore or whether you have emigrated. It doesn't matter if you were born with any disabilities. You have the freedom to love. There should be no belittling glances or any avoidance of eye contact as someone with cerebral palsy, or a couple of the same gender walk down the street. The glares of social stigma - well, it isn't as harsh, because there is a mutual respect for all in society.

Respect - it's another key thing as we discuss issues, controversial or not! With the help of ground rules and a level of sensitivity, we can tackle issues that are closer to home and where comments can get abrasive. We are looking forward to an **open-minded and accepting society**.

In light of this, we're also hoping for a functional meritocracy, in the name of a more inclusive, **equal society**. There will be ample opportunities for Singaporeans to pursue their interests - as an open society, we work towards lesser elitism, and ultimately, not just equal opportunities but equal rights as well, for all.

In 2065, **government** would still remain efficient, incorrupt and perhaps more transparent. Essentially this would allow for a larger platform for Singaporeans to engage and contribute with the

government, for active citizenry where Singaporeans play a part in nation-building. In this, we can also develop and maximise Singaporeans' potential to contribute!

As we move forward with time and develop, we will not lose sight of our societal fabric - racial harmony and cohesion between Singaporeans. It is only together can we ensure **safety and security** within our country, and even beyond our waters, to protect national sovereignty.

Aside from that, with technology becoming increasingly relevant, it is also important for us to protect ourselves in the cyberspace, so we'd also include data security when we talk about safety and security!

Lastly, as Singapore enters her fifties and celebrates her golden jubilee, we recognise the importance of family, and the role it plays in strengthening societal bonds. Even as we maintain economic prosperity, we are looking towards a **better work life balance**, more comfortable pace of life, because there are other things beyond economic growth!

We want to place a greater emphasis on values and developing a happier, more gracious Singapore as well. Work and life aren't mutually exclusive, so why don't we look towards integration?

There is a sea of uncharted waters lying in front of us. With this, there will definitely be challenges, but the future is bright! All of us here have the potential to make a positive change, and we'll head towards the possibilities together!

Part 2: Values: "What kind of society would you like Singapore to be?"

The top 5 values participants voted for were (starting with the one with the most votes):

1. *Open-minded society*: Almost every group submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. An open-minded society is one that accepts people of all races, gender, culture, sexual orientation, jobs, nationalities, language, physical ability. It accepts different definitions of success, and there is good integration of citizens and foreigners. Another aspect of an open-minded society raised by a few groups was that everyone can voice their opinions without fear of prosecution. Society does not avoid discussion on controversial issues. But there was a recognition that such open discussion still required some ground rules, and people should still be sensitive when expressing their views and opinions even if they strongly disagree with other parties. Hence, such an open-minded society must be based on a strong foundation of a cohesive society.

2. *Equal opportunities and rights*: This was another value that was submitted by almost every group. Everyone should have equal rights and be recognised as equals. Everyone should have equal opportunities to pursue their interests in life (for example, art is now not seen as a legitimate career). To achieve equal opportunities, there was a recognition that the meritocratic ideal was still very important. But we must be careful that meritocracy is not supplanted by elitism. Importance of inclusive growth, rather than just improving the "good" to be even better. Participants want a true, functional meritocracy rather than an academic meritocracy. Reducing income inequality is one important way to achieve this.

3. *Good governance*: Only one group brought this up initially although many participants voted for this in the end. Many groups expressed a desire for an environment that is more conducive for political engagement, and an active citizenry. However, there was a realisation that good governance was necessary to create such an environment. Besides the incorruptibility and efficiency aspects of good governance, the participants saw transparency and more ground engagement as important aspects of good governance.

4. *Safe and secure*: While this popped up in the discussion among several groups, only one group submitted this as a top 5 value. However, there were numerous votes for this in the final tally. Groups understood safe and secure to mean: low crime rates, a country free from violence, war and riots, national sovereignty. Participants recognised that racial harmony and non-discrimination was important for security. One group also mentioned data security - that private information is not misused by corporations for profit.

5. *Work life balance*: While economic prosperity was still important, some were willing to trade some economic growth for a slower, more comfortable and relaxed pace of life. They believe this will strengthen families and the social fabric of our society (as people become more gracious and giving). One group suggested job redesign to integrate of work and life, rather than seeing them as mutually exclusive. A few participants felt this will enable women to climb the career ladder but also have children.

Part 3: Outcomes: “What outcomes are important to achieve our vision of the future?”

#	Domain	Desired National Outcomes for SG100
	<i>Primary Assurances</i>	
1	Basic Education (Pri/ Sec)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shift policy focus and societal mindset from academic excellence to more holistic development (such as soft skills and creative thinking) ● More level playing field for Secondary School, and changing mindset about PSLE ● Introduce subjects at the secondary level for students to be better adapt to changing landscape (such as technology courses and computer language) ● Equal opportunities to develop skills (separate competition from interest)
2	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mindset shift “For Singapore to be clean and not cleaned” – for Singaporeans to be socially responsible and keep Singapore clean without relying on cleaners. ● Create a green city by integrating greenery into our buildings ● Build more green buildings and technology to reduce wastage and pollution ● Greater integration of recreation and nature. ● Greater recycling rates through self-motivation to practise 3’R’s, towards zero waste and green corporate practices. ● Greater water security ● More education on the importance of the environment
3	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to be effective, efficient, incorruptible ● Provision of safety nets that carefully balance the needs of the various groups in society ● Increased political engagement and transparency while staying pragmatic instead of populist ● More political power for NMPs ● More boldness in starting ground-up initiatives, and less bureaucratic red tape ● Making local resources more productive while reducing dependency on foreign resources to make Singapore less vulnerable ● More policies geared towards more harmonious society (through better work-life balance and more help given to those in most need of help)
4	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More training and recognition for healthcare professionals ● Flexible subsidies for healthcare ● Better R&D support and acceptance of mental health patients ● Greater focus on preventive care and better nutrition and fitness education for the individual’s health ● Push for higher fertility rates

5	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More equitable housing conditions for every citizen, regardless of their social or marital status (despite limited space, for example, can consider encouraging single persons to room together or underground housing) ● Increased Communal Engagement for greater social integration ● Less cramped housing conditions ● More elderly-friendly facilities ● More security and surveillance measures
6	Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raise wages of low-income earners ● Address issue of income equality ● Better subsidies and reliefs for the needy
7	Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stronger public support for MINDEF and NS ● Strengthen and maintain racial and religious harmony (to tackle potential terrorist issues) ● Leverage on technology to increase surveillance ● Maintain positive bilateral relations (For global assurance of our relevance and security)
8	Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Embrace an open-minded society (Develop platforms for discussion) ● Develop greater connectivity with people from all walks of life (via social media) ● Enhance communication or suitable feedback mechanism for government to understand about thoughts on the ground ● Transport connectivity to be improved on; provide transport services that are more elderly friendly and affordable
<i>Personal Aspirations</i>		
9	Higher Education (JC/Poly/ITE/Uni)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shift from content-based learning to skill-based learning in JCs, Poly, ITE (instead of cramming knowledge and information) ● More emphasis on holistic development (Provide adequate support for more than just grades: Co-curricular activities) ● Increase affordability to enhance competitiveness compared to other overseas universities; allow a more equal society ● Increase availability of university courses to allow for diversity
10	Career Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outwards rather than upwards (Increase exposure of Singaporeans) ● Assure opportunities to progress is made available by merit ● Develop a culture which focuses more on career fulfilment rather than purely on career progression
11	Standard of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost of living manageable with cash and asset rich ● Reduced income gap ● Increase Happiness Index, defined as Work-Life Balance (to leave work at work, involvement in kids'

		growth, slower pace of life, greater room for failure)
12	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pro-Family Support Policies (accessible and affordable quality childcare, paid childcare leave to increase by number of kids by fixed ratio, adequate support for non-conventional family structures such as single parent, adoption, homosexual parents)
<i>Purposeful Society</i>		
13	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to work after retirement (retirement as personal choice) ● Bottom-up approach towards forging national identity, with emphasis on unity amidst cultural, racial and religious diversity ● Rekindle the kampong spirit ● Develop a compassionate and kind society thru bottom-up approach of genuine kind acts and thru nurturing genuine volunteering, from young age, in long term, focused projects to effect quality change over time.
14	Political Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More mature political discourse with social media moderators to guard against irresponsible comments. Our quality press should host more mature political discourse. ● More transparency on data access and rationale of government policies, where non-classified. ● More vibrant political scene with credible alternative parties ● SG to play more leading roles in regional and international affairs
15	Leisure & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building a unique SG culture and soul, beyond rojak combinations of existing racial cultures, and materialism ● Art as reflection of SG's culture, Art for Art's sake, Art for Community expression, raise educational level of art appreciation for cultivation of soul and identity, depoliticising art (less censorship). ● Need for mindset shift to SG as preferred leisure/recreational activities

ANNEX B2**POLYTECHNIC SUBFORUM**

Event Details	
Date	30 May 2015
Time	8.30am - 2.30pm
Participant Details Project leaders	Number: 5 Age range: 21 - early 30s Nationalities: 4 Singaporeans, 1 Egyptian Schools: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Masters and PhD students), Nanyang Technological University Background: Association of Public Affairs committee members Role: Lead facilitators, Photography, Logistics
Volunteers	Number: 30 Age range: 19-26 Nationality: Singaporean School: Nanyang Technological University Background: Student leaders. Role: Logistics, Group facilitation, Note-taking, Presentation of group discussion
Participants	Number: 55 Age range: 19-30, majority 19-24 Nationality: Singaporean School: NTU, NUS, SMU, UniSIM, SIM, SIT Background: Student leaders from universities. Diverse representation of all races and gender. Role: Engaged in lively group discussions during subforum sessions, present group findings to the subforum.
External Partners/ Organisations	National Junior College: Sponsored venue and catering. Event coordination and secretariat support from the teachers. Universities: 6 Universities nominated and sent down their students to participate in the sub-forum.

Part 1: Aspirations: “How do you envision yourself in 2065?”

Many participants shared that they wanted to live happy, fulfilling and purposeful lives. They talked about giving back to society, defending the marginalised and helping the less fortunate. They also spoke of the importance of a close-knit family and staying active in retirement so as not to be a burden on future generations.

Polytechnic Sub-forum: Top 6 societal values for SG100

Abdullah Farid, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.

As youths of Singapore, it is important to dream of the future and work towards it. Therefore, with this in mind – Singaporeans have to agree on the common stances that will embody us in the future.

During the polytechnic sub-forum, our student representatives have identified, discussed and elected 6 areas that they wished to see in the future society of Singapore. It was a meticulous process with many intense debates however, I am sure many would agree with the outcomes.

Equality of opportunities: Employers should not be biased against people with different educational backgrounds. This includes more opportunities for polytechnic students in a university education. There was a consensus that meritocracy was important.

However, we want a fair meritocracy rather than the perceived status quo at present. There needs to be greater recognition of the vocational training provided in the polytechnics.

Next, a more **gracious and caring community:** The community can do more to foster a kampong spirit, through looking after vulnerable groups in society, such as the elderly and accepting people regardless of their backgrounds. However, ultimately there also needs to be a mind-set shift for people to start opening their doors to their neighbors.

Having **diverse and progressive education:** In line with having an equality of opportunities, different education paths should be

accommodated and accepted by society. A modular system of education was proposed instead of a standardized one. This allows students of different abilities to learn at their own pace leaving no one behind, thus fostering a cohesive and inclusive society.

To be **accepting and liberal:** Society cannot avoid discussion on controversial issues and should accept people of all races, religions, gender and culture. It also accepts different definitions of success. This is beyond the current scope of tolerance; it implies an intrinsic ability to include those who are normally excluded. However, such a discussion must be properly grounded and that people should still be sensitive when expressing their views and opinions.

A lower cost of living: As wages are barely keeping up with the rise in cost of living, income inequality becomes a pressing problem, as are fears of affording basic necessities such as housing, healthcare and education. One important need is to lower costs of living relative to income levels so as to eliminate insecurity about one's livelihood.

Lastly, to have **stable economy:** To continue to enjoy a comfortable standard of living while having confidence in the future, the economy must remain stable. A stable economy provides opportunities for individuals to prosper, and at the same time be able to support other unconventional careers and take more risks.

As stated, these are the many concerns of youths today which we can all ponder about. I hope that you might agree on some of these points as it may be of relevance to you.

Part 2: Values: "What kind of society would you like Singapore to be?"

The top 5 values participants voted for were (starting with the one with the most votes):

6. *Sense of belonging*: Only two groups brought this up, although many participants voted for this in the end. There is a strong need to build a connection between the individual and the society, where people feel an intrinsic pride in their identity of being Singaporean, and treat other Singaporeans as family. This should be cultivated from young, and instilled in youth in more organic initiatives instead of campaigns.

7. *Equitable life opportunities and life chances*: Almost all groups submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. Equal opportunities should be given to everyone, regardless of races, gender, culture, sexual orientation, jobs, nationalities, language, and physical ability. Society should also accept different definitions of success. Meritocracy is a cornerstone of this ideal, but society has to be careful that it is not academic meritocracy, and is a true, functional meritocracy that recognises everyone of every and any background.

8. *Everyone is entitled to a quality education*: Only one group brought this up initially although many participants voted for this in the end. Human capital is Singapore's only natural resource, and it cannot be wasted with a lack of investment into providing quality education for even one person. Education must be utilized to build a strong, skilled workforce to contribute to Singapore's economic output and cultivate a comfortable standard of living. There is also a need for broader based education to expose students to the globalised world and to reduce emphasis on rote learning and memorisation.

9. *Gracious and kind*: Almost all groups submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. A gracious and kind society is an accepting one that does not discriminate any individual for who they are as a person, and where citizens treat one another as family, not competitors. This also includes being less hostile to foreigners and being more understanding and accepting of various cultures, instead of just tolerating those who are different, and moving towards a truly multicultural society.

10. *Safety and security*: Almost all groups submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. National security is not just law enforcement military; groups that brought this up understood safety and security to also include cyber security, economic security, and environmental security. Privacy and cyber issues are a big concern in today's increasingly interconnected world, and there is a need to find more economically and environmentally sustainable practices in order to instil confidence and security in the future.

Part 3: Outcomes: “What outcomes are important to achieve our vision of the future?”

#	Domain	Desired National Outcomes for SG100
	Primary Assurances	
1	Basic Education (Pri/ Sec)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a short current affairs program in primary schools with more interactive and ungraded curriculum ● Social media literacy ● More skills learning incorporated in subjects ● More motivational talks ● More awareness of financial literacy
2	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More funds for research and development into green technology ● Better adoption of green technology by businesses ● Better adoption of green technology in residential areas ● Encourage more green attitudes across all age groups ● Costs to the environment should be made clearer ● Better use of existing infrastructure ● Greater water independence in Singapore
3	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greater transparency with discretion (with national security concerns) ● Increased independence between the 3 branches of power
4	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More affordable healthcare, especially for the less well-off ● More outpost doctors and nurses ● Ensure a basic standard of quality for all healthcare personnel ● Greater access to healthcare through bringing healthcare to the immobile and infirm
5	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friendlier housing policies for singles ● Friendlier housing policies for families ● More aesthetic look for neighbourhoods ● Better financial and emotional assistance for single-parent and non-nuclear families ● Stronger Kampong spirit ● Better use of HDB rooftops for community bonding ● Greater flexibility for home design ● One-house-one-owner to prevent private house investments from depriving others of a home
6	Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower income taxes ● Higher disposable incomes with increased real income ● Have a minimum wage in place ● Passive income stream more accessible to people ● More competitive incomes to attract foreign talent ● Better performance-based incomes ● More flexible CPF contribution rates ● Reduce the income gap ● More financial literacy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More protection for all jobs in terms of unfair retrenchment
7	Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Every citizen has a shelter ● No political unrest, externally and internally (greater sensitivity and mutual respect of different groups) ● Females serving the nation in National Service and law enforcement ● Children educated in first aid ● Good work-life balance for psychological safety ● Greater cyber security measures for the individual and nation ● Greater road safety ● Greater economic safety
8	Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greater internet connectivity all over the island ● Students taught internet literacy ● More reliable public transport system ● Greater ease in getting a taxi during peak hours ● Increased frequency of wheelchair friendly buses ● More initiatives to encourage cycling
<i>Personal Aspirations</i>		
9	Career Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More opportunities for training to develop employees and cope with new technology ● More staff compensation and benefits ● Companies should practice internal promotion of staff before hiring new ones to occupy higher ranks ● Better career transitional courses and programmes made available to students to make clear how their learned skills can be applied in their jobs for better career progression
10	Standard of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement a minimum wage while being cognizant of the concerns of unproductive workers ● More pay-it-forward initiatives, but must understand the concerns of possible lack of regulations and supervision ● Strong social security with less crime and greater trust within communities ● Increase the happiness index through the protection of minority rights
11	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower divorce rates ● More financial and/or emotional support for single-parent families ● Better awareness of financial assistance schemes for lower-income families ● More acceptance of the LGBT community, also reflected in legislation

UNIVERSITY SUBFORUM

Event Details	
Date	30 May 2015
Time	8.30am - 2.30pm
Participant Details Project leaders	Number: 5 Age range: 21 - early 30s Nationalities: 4 Singaporeans, 1 Egyptian Schools: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Masters and PhD students), Nanyang Technological University Background: Association of Public Affairs committee members Role: Lead facilitators, Photography, Logistics
Volunteers	Number: 30 Age range: 19-26 Nationality: Singaporean School: Nanyang Technological University Background: Student leaders. Role: Logistics, Group facilitation, Note-taking, Presentation of group discussion
Participants	Number: 55 Age range: 19-30, majority 19-24 Nationality: Singaporean School: NTU, NUS, SMU, UniSIM, SIM, SIT Background: Student leaders from universities. Diverse representation of all races and gender. Role: Engaged in lively group discussions during subforum sessions, present group findings to the subforum.
External Partners/ Organisations	National Junior College: Sponsored venue and catering. Event coordination and secretariat support from the teachers. Universities: 6 Universities nominated and sent down their students to participate in the sub-forum.

Part 1: Aspirations: “How do you envision yourself in 2065?”

Many participants shared that they wanted to live happy, fulfilling and purposeful lives. They talked about giving back to society, defending the marginalised and helping the less fortunate. They also spoke of the importance of a close-knit family and staying active in retirement so as not to be a burden on future generations.

University sub-forum: Top societal values for SG100

Edieusdi Ahmad, Nanyang Technological University

50 years has passed since independence, and we, Singaporeans are still in the search of an identity unique to us. What are the things that can bind all of us together? During the university subforum, some has said that there is a little shred of nationalism among the youths, who probably hasn't tasted what bitterness Singapore had to experience during its national building years.

When I met Prime Minister Lee last year at the Asia Pacific Economic Forum, we shared our thoughts about the youth in recent years, who does more talking than taking actions and in talking i mean complaining. Singapore is our fore father's masterpiece, drawn from a used canvas. It is about time, that all of us here, extends his or her hand in shaping the future together. There is a strong need to build a **sense of belonging**, a connection between the individual and the society, where everyone feels an intrinsic pride in their identity of being a Singaporean, and treating others as family members.

The second point raised up was with regards to **equitable life opportunities and life chances**. To many the hallmark of the Singapore, is our unparalleled meritocracy that values results. You reap what you sow would be an apt saying. However, the income disparity gap among Singaporeans makes it difficult for many as they have little or none to sow at all.

Equality would be perfect if everyone has the same start but now, what we should truly seek is equity. Success has always been equated with economic progress. Making big in life has always been a goal but perhaps making full of life would be far more satisfactory. It is about achieving the best of an individual.

Recently Singapore has attained the status of the best provider of education in the world with its holistic hard skills. **Everyone in Singapore is entitled to quality education**. Social stigmas do exist among the universities when one compares one undergraduate over another. With the ASPIRE program, the government has taken effort in addressing what are the skills and knowledge that are truly needed in the current and future job market.

Education must be maximized in building a strong and robust human capital that contributes greatly to Singapore's economic output and cultivate a comfortable standard of living. Broader-based education should be supplemented to expose students to the globalized world and to reduce the emphasis on rote learning and memorization.

The fourth point would be the existence of a society that stretches beyond being **gracious and kind**. It is a society that accepts everyone for who they are and everyone would treat each other as family members and neighbors. This also extends to foreigners by reducing xenophobia. The ultimate goal would be a truly multicultural society unlike the tolerant multi-ethnic we are in which many think it is sufficient. Being tolerant does not mean being accepting and understanding.

Lastly, the concern for many is **security**. Security comes in many forms such as cyber security, food security, physical security, economic security and also environmental security. Privacy and cyber issues are a big concern in today's increasingly interconnected world, and there is a need to find more economically and environmentally sustainable practices in order to instill confidence and security in the future.

Part 2: Values: "What kind of society would you like Singapore to be?"

The top 5 values participants voted for were (starting with the one with the most votes):

1. *Sense of belonging*: Only two groups brought this up, although many participants voted for this in the end. There is a strong need to build a connection between the individual and the society, where people feel an intrinsic pride in their identity of being Singaporean, and treat other Singaporeans as family. This should be cultivated from young, and instilled in youth in more organic initiatives instead of campaigns.

2. *Equitable life opportunities and life chances*: Almost all groups submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. Equal opportunities should be given to everyone, regardless of races, gender, culture, sexual orientation, jobs, nationalities, language, and physical ability. Society should also accept different definitions of success. Meritocracy is a cornerstone of this ideal, but society has to be careful that it is not academic meritocracy, and is a true, functional meritocracy that recognises everyone of every and any background.

3. *Everyone is entitled to a quality education*: Only one group brought this up initially although many participants voted for this in the end. Human capital is Singapore's only natural resource, and it cannot be wasted with a lack of investment into providing quality education for even one person. Education must be utilized to build a strong, skilled workforce to contribute to Singapore's economic output and cultivate a comfortable standard of living. There is also a need for broader based education to expose students to the globalised world and to reduce emphasis on rote learning and memorisation.

4. *Gracious and kind*: Almost all groups submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. A gracious and kind society is an accepting one that does not discriminate any individual for who they are as a person, and where citizens treat one another as family, not competitors. This also includes being less hostile to foreigners and being more understanding and accepting of various cultures, instead of just tolerating those who are different, and moving towards a truly multicultural society.

5. *Safety and security*: Almost all groups submitted this as one of the top 5 values agreed on by the whole group. National security is not just law enforcement military; groups that brought this up understood safety and security to also include cyber security, economic security, and environmental security. Privacy and cyber issues are a big concern in today's increasingly interconnected world, and there is a need to find more economically and environmentally sustainable practices in order to instil confidence and security in the future.

Part 3: Outcomes: “What outcomes are important to achieve our vision of the future?”

#	Domain	Desired National Outcomes for SG100
	<i>Primary Assurances</i>	
1	Basic Education (Pri/ Sec)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have less standardized testing ● Shift to more creative-based learning and work on problem-solving skills ● Allow a more creative space for students to build solutions to problems ● Allow students autonomy to choose
2	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Widespread adoption of renewable energy e.g. Solar, tidal wave harvesting, etc ● Zero discharge of industrial waste ● Individuals (especially for households) are aware of the importance of conservation, environmental issues and recycling ● Earmarking of important (National) species of flora and fauna for conservation and prevent the extinction of these species ● Switch to biodegradable products (from Styrofoam boxes) ● Adoption of environmentally friendly vehicles (hybrid, electric cars etc.)
3	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allow partial freedom of speech ● Improve political transparency ● Push for greater connectivity between political leaders and citizens via social media platform ● Justify salary grade of MPs
4	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fund on research for diseases that are less known (e.g. eating disorders, mental health) ● Provide greater support for healthcare professionals ● Better maintain healthcare facilities
5	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More responsible allocation of land for commercial and environmental use ● Allow the development of sustainable rooftop gardens ● Review racial quota system
6	Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce income gap ● Increase pay of working elderly ● Moderate income based on standards of living
7	Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase education of cyber threats and enhance cyber protection ● Ensure greater workplace protection ● Continue punishment as a deterrence to safety issues
8	Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fully established cycling paths ● Allow connectivity within neighborhoods ● Enhance smart city development such as wifi everywhere ● Develop more connected transportation network
	<i>Personal</i>	

<i>Aspirations</i>		
9	Higher Education (JC/Poly/ITE/Uni)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change traditional sense of higher education (e.g. reduce focus on degree holders) ● Encourage alternative careers and entrepreneurship
10	Career Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have more transparent evaluation methods ● Be more accepting of mid-career switches
11	Standard of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand minimum wage to include more sectorial coverage ● Provide distance based COE ● Maintain affordable cost of food through regulating low hawker rental
12	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide support for non-conventional families ● Promote stronger family ties and put in place more family service centres ● Adapt smart city concepts and technology to assist the aged
<i>Purposeful Society</i>		
13	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allow more awareness of social enterprises ● Have corporate volunteering events ● Cultivate a community mindset from young ● Engage at-risk youths and link them with mentors
14	Political Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A politically informed society where citizens know what their roles are and how the decisions of government will affect them. ● Wide-scale engagement between government and citizens to increase political literacy ● Improved communication channels to deliver key messages behind political decisions
15	Leisure & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have more professional and educational avenues related to the arts scene ● Have more representation in the media industry ● Increase funding for programmes ● Increase availability of cultural events

ANNEX C**STUDENT POSITION PAPERS FOR DREAM FUTURE FORUM SESSION TWO****Session 2a: How should a government care for its people?**

Standpoint: Our society should be based on self-reliance with minimal government intervention. It is only fair that everyone is rewarded based on their hard work and talent.

Shawn Wong, Republic Polytechnic

Meritocracy, the concept where one is being rewarded based on hard work and talent. It isn't really a bad idea, being that everyone in this hall today, is almost definitely here because of our hard work and talent.

The world itself, be it work or studies, has always been the strong being predominant over the weak. The means to becoming 'strong', is really, for us to practice meritocracy.

This helps us in a manner where it motivates people to get back up after a setback and work for what they intended to achieve. If we introduce systems to support them, it will create a sense of dependency on the government, thus giving them less reason to improve their situation.

This could have a domino effect where people take advantage of the system and rely on the government to support them instead of working to earn a living. Others who had been working hard before, may feel unjust as some people are living off government welfare. It will in turn make them less motivated to work. We would have created a class of people that does nothing but survive off the government.

This will not only affect the economy but also the rate of growth that Singapore has had. This will also create an unsustainable burden on the country's finances. Instead, the money could be used for other things such as to further improve healthcare, education etc.

Let's look at it from another perspective, such as the newer generations that are to come, as they are what we should focus on to prevent a government dependent Singapore.

Helping them develop an independent nature early on in their life would be of the best interests for them at their present and their future. As the saying goes "no one owes Singapore a living" and similarly it can also be said that "no one owes Singaporeans a living".

Some would say that a competitive nature in our society is not beneficial in the long run but the hard truth is that it has always been a competition. For example, different schools have different entry minimum requirements or prestigious schools versus the average ones. In the workforce, companies that have good reputation as compared to those

who are less prominent. Hence I believe that all of us can see that life itself is a competition, so why not prepare ourselves for it?

There is one more thing I would like to share with you all. There is dignity in allowing people to reap the rewards of their own hard work, rather than relying on social assistance or affirmative action.

My father who is a simple workman works three times as hard as the

next guy to support my family of 4 but he have never complained or asked for handouts. It gives him great pride that he is able to put a roof above my family's head and food in our bellies through his own hard work and undying perseverance.

Life is only as unfair as you think it to be, fairness comes in when we all put effort into doing the things that we want or need to do, and getting, in return, what we worked for.

Standpoint: We should seek to level up the low income by providing social assistance. However, those who are physically and mentally able but do not work should not receive any benefits.

Phyllis Hui, SIM University (UniSIM)

Being the next speaker, I will be asserting on the notion that we should seek to level up the low income by providing social assistance. However, those who are physically and mentally able but do not work should not receive any benefits.

Social assistance here isn't aim to help the poor live a comfortable life but rather to help them move up the social ladder. Over the past decade, ComCare has aided many low income families better cope with life challenges by providing childcare subsidies, medical assistance and even unemployment assistance such as searching for jobs. Therefore, it's important that social assistance should continue to be available to them to ensure social mobility. I think social mobility must continue to be part of the Singaporean identity in the next 50 years in order to have a fair and inclusive society, where no one gets left behind.

Furthermore, we should build a society where everyone including the low income feels that he or she has a valued place and is respected. The poor shouldn't be made to feel that his choices are limited and his poverty would hamper his ability to progress in his or her life, such as the choice of pro-creating, job opportunities and even opportunities to do higher quality job. Instead, the society should enable him to say 'tomorrow will be better'.

As for the fit and able, these people are able to contribute to the workforce and economy. We should help upgrade their skillset instead of providing social assistance and make these people aspire to earn higher wages. Initiatives such as SkillsFuture and WDA courses allow them to gain new skills that are relevant to today's jobs. In the long run, they're well-equipped with

relevant skills to take on better jobs and be self-reliant.

By doing so, the pressure faced by the government to fund these schemes will reduce. Eventually it will trickle to the the working population. Social assistance funds surely has to be funded from somewhere. Here in Singapore, portion of the taxes from the working population funds such social assistance scheme.

That being said, we could explore the other end of the spectrum where we ask why not let's have redistribute our earnings and wealth? Yes, you may no longer have lower income- families, everyone gets the same share of the pie. However, this approach jeopardises productivity. The workforce don't strive hard because at the end of the day, you might put in a substantial amount of effort, but you know that the returns going to be redistributed. We become passive and less self-reliant. Well, a little more jaded too.

There's the other opposite which is total self-reliance. You earn yours fully, and I earn my entirely. No help

from the government. The rich continue to thrive and the less fortunate continue to spiral in the poverty trap and lose out in opportunities in life. Not a bad deal if you are in the sandwiched class, an even better deal if you are rich. Income inequality increases and we risk the society fracture into the rich versus the poor.

After much sharing, I would conclude with a food for thought.

What kind of Singapore would you like to see in 50 years? A society whereby we're motivated to strive hard and be largely self-reliant. At the same time, we help the fellow low-income Singaporeans in the form of taxes which in turn becomes aid for them and knowing that they can have the chance to move up the social ladder and escape the poverty trap.

Or would you like to be in a society that is less dynamic and you know the returns from hard labour would eventually be redistribute equally and everyone is the same, no one is different. You get some but you will never get more.

Standpoint : We should not only help the low income and vulnerable but also provide greater assurances to help everyone cope with the uncertainties in life, including providing assistance to tide through unemployment or poor health.

Jeyannathann Karunanithi, Nanyang Technological University

My dear friends,

Here we are at 2015. Looking ahead into the time , trying to visualize a future that is ahead of us in the year 2065, the year when this nation would be celebrating SG 100.

As we all know, future is nothing but the result of the decisions that we make in the consecutive frames of 'presents' that presents itself before us until the moment of the future arrives. Hence, it would be

worthwhile to have an understanding of the 'Present' that is before us to help tune our thinking to visualize a Future.

Here are the recent happenings in this world, which is signaling the kind of future that we may have to deal with.

Firstly, International Monetary Fund (IMF) has finally come to a conclusion that 'Trickle-Down Economic Theories' which were peddled to nations across the world will never help deal with the problem that societies will increasingly face, which is income inequality. It is a path-breaking report from IMF. For decades, many countries were removing regulations and were offering tax breaks for the rich to enable a 'trickle-down effect' so that the poor would benefit from them, many a times under consultation from IMF itself.

In addition, there is a massive churn that is underway in developed economies, where the portion occupied by job generating manufacturing Industry in the overall economy is slowly vanishing. Note that it is this segment of Economy which creates Middle Class in a society.

Next, there is a major change that is currently underway in the domain of nature of jobs that are available. Yes, the nature of job is fast changing and freelancing is touted as the future of work. Increasingly, the new age tech jobs provide an opportunity for the employees to freelance and this presents an interesting conundrum as they would give up two perks which people in stable jobs would

receive- healthcare and retirement.

In fact, a developed Economy like US is already having a workforce, where a one third is comprises of freelancers. This group counts individuals who work in non-traditional, impermanent jobs which includes part-time employees and independent workers.

With change in nature of job from stable and conventional to unconventional and freelancing, up in horizon, we as a nation should increasingly face the changed reality. Nations with advanced, mature economies like US and Australia are now looking into dealing with this systemic change that is currently underway. This implies that we may have to institutionalise a system that acts not just as a safety net but as a trampoline, which is actually a tongue in cheek reference that our Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam gave during an Interview in St.Gallen's Symposium this year.

A system that not only safeguards people by providing them adequate healthcare and a rain check but also provides incentives for people who want to take calculated risks and propel them to innovate would add more value to the society they are part of.

I believe as a nation no longer need to match up to the benchmarks set by the West. Instead we should create our own that enable Singapore to rise as a place that enables dreams and as a place where people are not afraid to take calculated risks to create wealth, in fear of not receiving the next pay

cheque.

There is a saying 'a rising tide lifts all the boats'. With changed rules of engagement in the realm of Finance and changing world economy, IMF Chief Lagarde is forced to counter the previous statement with this. That is, "in too many countries, economic growth has failed to lift these small boats, while the gorgeous yachts have been riding the waves and enjoying the wind in

their sails, in too many cases, poor and middle-class households have come to realize that hard work and determination alone may not be enough to keep them afloat."

Let's face the changing circumstances and hence rethink our priorities. It's time to face the shared future.

It's time to shift gears, for the safety of the passenger and the car.

Standpoint: The stronger ones should help the weaker ones. Hence, we should have more redistributive policies to ensure everyone enjoys a similar standard of living.

Godwin Teo, Republic Polytechnic

Having more redistributive policies can ensure everyone have a similar standard of living and it brings a similar form of respect amongst everyone. Stereotypes will also reduce among one another. Furthermore, the weaker ones in Singapore will have a stronger sense of belonging rather than feel unwelcomed in our society.

Singapore is among the top 3 countries with the highest GINI coefficients, a measure of income inequality. The rising trend in the past decade shows that we have to do more to address the problem of inequality. If we allow inequality gap to increase, this may lead to political instability as the poor no longer feel that they have a stake in the country.

With redistributive policies, income gap will be narrowed rather than being widen which is a positive indicator for all types of government because there will be less poverty and therefore there will be lesser poor intending to rebel against the

government as they have nothing to lose. Secondly, it will build a middle class society so as to balance of the standard of living thus, less unhappiness, it will imply that there will be lesser chance of a revoke or rebellion.

However, in order to prevent the rich people's unhappiness, progressive tax should be implemented, with a condition that the rich will not be over-taxed, so that they will not have an intention to migrate. Even if income gap is narrowed, the rich has a high stake on Singapore already, which thus causing them to think twice to have an intention of removal on their investments from Singapore due to paying higher taxes.

Additionally, our society should be family- oriented where the nation is seen as a whole family. Managing a nation is liken to how a family is managed. The breadwinner in the family is required to work and feed the parents and their family.

We can avoid the problems of eroding work ethic and moral hazard if we ensure there is strong social mobility. We should not confine ourselves to the thought that in order to enable everyone to enjoy a good standard of living, we must

necessarily tax the rich exorbitantly. Besides taxes, we can focus on uplifting the poor or weak through education. The weaker ones will be self-sufficient and not dependent on the rich. By enabling them, they are able to move up the social strata easily based on the sociology theory.

Session 2b: How open a society do we want?

Standpoint: We should uphold the definition of traditional families, and only recognise the rights and benefits of traditional families.

Emma He, Raffles Junior College

Today, I'll be talking about why it can be advantageous for Singapore if only traditional families are given rights.

First, what are traditional families? Traditional families are the union of a man and a woman by marriage, plus any children they may have.

So non-traditional families, then, can include single-parent households, families with cohabiting adults, and households with gay parents.

In Singapore's context, traditional families are accorded many rights that alternative families do not have. They're not eligible for Baby Bonus, the parenthood tax relief, or full maternity leave. Unwed singles cannot purchase a HDB flat until they turn 35.

There are many reasons for this.

First, it is often advantageous for society to aim for the norm in family structure. Children brought up in single-parent households are often disadvantaged in terms of resources, guidance, and the stability of their

familial background.

It is therefore important that our government's policies promote traditional families.

After all, such conservative principles – strong familial values, self-reliance, and respectful public discourse – have always laid the foundation of Singapore's social policy. These are tried and tested methods that may have caused us to give up some of our freedoms, but have also enabled us to enjoy a strong, stable and peaceful society.

Another challenge Singapore faces is the diverse range of perspectives that everyone holds. It is true that many of us may be liberals who support alternative family structures, but at the same time there are many in Singapore who remain opposed to gay marriage and adoption.

The Institute of Public Studies survey last year showed that over 70% of Singaporeans were opposed gay marriage.

And each year, even as the Pink Dot movement grows in size, so does the Wear White movement led by Muslims and Christians who believe in the importance of traditional families.

The issue of family values is a sensitive one where there is often no middle ground. We need to tread carefully, and manage these differences in a sensitive manner to ensure stability and cohesion in our diverse society.

The concept of family is often a reflection of a society's culture. As Singapore is still a predominantly conservative society, it is important that we continue to reflect these values in our country's policies and direction as we move forward.

It is also the government's stance that these policies do not exist to penalize individuals who live in alternative families. Instead, the Baby Bonus, parenthood tax relief

and advantages in securing HDB housing are benefits given to traditional families to encourage society to move towards such a norm.

Over the years, the government has given space for all individuals to lead secure lives and share in the success of our country.

Every person, be he gay or straight, has equal opportunities at work and freedom in socializing.

Every child, whether he is from a single-parent household or a traditional family, has an equal chance to rise in our meritocratic education system.

In conclusion, given the current social climate in Singapore, it is still important for a balance to be struck so that we can reflect and preserve Singapore's conservative norm without persecuting those who may make different choices.

Standpoint: We should accept the existence of alternative family structures (e.g. Single parent, underage parents, and cohabiting adults) as a fact of life and ensure they are not unduly discriminated against. However, we need not promote or encourage them.

Saiyidah Sainal, UniSIM College

Today I would be elaborating on the reason and need for the society to accept the existence and not discriminate alternative family structures.

With globalization, different cultures and views are more spread across and exchanged so much that ideas that was once foreign to one culture, become acceptable now. This effect

is being accelerated with movie stars such as Angelina Jolie that had children before marrying and the world champions her for being able to successfully raise her adopted and biological children. A by-product of this has resulted in the build-up and existence of alternative family structures that differ from the usual setting such as single parenthood, underage parents and cohabiting

adults.

Discrimination is not only exclusive to judgement from other members of society but as well as discrimination by government policies against such alternative families. In a recent article by Teo You Yann, it was revealed that there are some benefits that single parenthood does not currently benefit from, such as 8 additional weeks of paid maternity leave and tax incentives. This is also the case for families such as underage parents and cohabiting adults where they are not receiving the same form of benefits such as buying of HDB flats. They would have to wait till they are 35 to do so.

However, the government do take measures to assist children from alternative families by having various policies to help the children in their education programmes. These policies are independent of the marital status of their parent. Thus with such steps, we are slowly but surely showcasing existence of alternative family structures in our society.

Singapore is well known for its meritocratic ruling which does not favour one group over another. By not embracing the different family structures seen today, Singapore is bound to face certain losses especially in this globalised world. Due to the changing global landscape, the concept of family units are evolving and it is widely debated that it shouldn't just be based on a nuclear family structure that has been propagated constantly to us.

Due to the growing number of alternative families such as single parenthood, cohabiting adults and underage parents seen in Singapore, it is high time that society should lend a caring shoulder and hand to aid them away from discrimination.

Though, I would like to stress that although I have been addressing on the need to embrace the existence of such alternative family structures as a part of life, we do not need to promote or encourage such formations. Mr Lee Hsien Loong commented that Singapore still a relatively conservative society that is deeply rooted in traditional family value of a nuclear family. The society is still deeply embedded in the need for our society to hold Asian values as a part of the Singapore identity.

Furthermore, the article explained that such family formations do have a place in Singapore and they are not discriminated for their way of life. However, he mentioned that Singapore is still not ready to legalise homosexual marriages because it still offends a significant group of conservative members of the society such as the ones who advocate traditional family formations and religious groups.

While it seems that the Americans have managed to successfully affect a paradigm shift in the battle for equal rights for homosexual, the same, however, cannot be said for Singaporeans. This is because Singapore is still deeply rooted in Asian values that make it hard for the society to change overnight.

However, over the years, we have seen how globalisation become

more viral; thoughts and preference are slowly evolving. The idea of an alternative formation should be slowly introduced into the society to allow for the older and more traditional people in the society to eventually accept such forms of family structures.

What we need is a caring society that sits on kindness and love. That extends to help families in need even alternative ones. The world is changing and many views are being put across. Regardless of different backgrounds we need to work together as a nation to achieve progress in our society.

Standpoint: We should embrace individual choices on family structure and legalising gay marriage, and allow gays or singles to adopt children. The same benefits (such as housing, etc) should be accorded to all types of families.

Nitish Singh, UniSIM College

Mr. Lee Hsien Loong commented in an article that Singapore is not ready for same sex marriage as a majority of Singaporeans are still conservative.

I do agree with him to an extent because for many of us, our values are based on either religious beliefs or on ideals based on family or community spirit, which has strengthened in the last 50 years as we live peacefully and in harmony regardless of race, language or religion. In other words, we do not practice discrimination towards any group.

However, are we not practicing discrimination when we don't present equal rights and privileges to a different group of minorities/non-traditional families, gays or singles? Instead, we either penalize or stigmatize them because they do not conform to the standards of the majority.

We are a secular state. While we are given the right to practice religion freely, we cannot let any religious views or biasness cloud the judgment for individual rights of

marriage. Otherwise, it would be seen as imposing our beliefs on others which is a form of coercion.

Children are not the foundation for marriage as an institution. If that were the case, shouldn't infertile couples or those that do not want children not get married? As seen in the recent verdict of same-sex marriage in the US, love forms the basis of a marriage and this is exemplified by devotion and family. People should not be treated any less just because of who they fall in love with.

Also, adoption is a viable option for same sex couples to promote family stability. If the couples have the financial capacity and the will, they would provide a good quality of life for the child. If you concern about the upbringing of the child under same sex couples, interestingly, it was found in a study (in the US) that out of 19,000 cases across 37 years, there was an overwhelmingly consensus that children raised by same sex couples were no different in terms of psychological, behavioral and educational outcomes

compared to those raised by heterosexual couples.

Also, we need to consider the economic benefits of same sex marriages. We should also extend equal rights and benefits provided for married couples to same sex couples. Like others, they also contribute to the building of our nation as taxpayers and therefore be entitled to the same privileges granted to the society.

By us accepting individual choice on family structures, we are fostering the true concept of equality where we respect every individual for who they are and not treat minorities as inferior. Also, it does not mean that

by granting all individual rights, we are destabilizing the community spirit and hindering progress. In fact, if we were to accept and embrace non-traditional families, grant equal rights and benefits, they would feel welcome and a part of the community, thus strengthening our bond within.

Ultimately, we all want a happy society. We do not want to stir a sudden upheaval but we need to learn how to embrace the true values of being accepting and including everyone in the community. Perhaps, forging a new sense of identity for Singapore.

Session 2c: How should our voices be heard?

Standpoint: We should allow complete freedom of speech, because it is through open, respectful debate that we develop as a society.

Clarence Ong, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

The issue of free speech has brought about much debate in our increasing diverse and individualistic contemporary society. Looking at the West, the government has seen the destructive power free speech can bring upon a nation, yet they neglect the opportunities it can bring to social progress. I believe that it is important for Singapore to look beyond the quantitative results of its policies, but rather, look at its qualitative factors such as civic engagement and empowerment.

The freedom of speech allows for the growth of public debate and civic discourse, hence allowing the society to progress as a socially cohesive nation. As former NMP Janice Koh mentioned in her speech

last year, the allowing of freedom of expression be it in the arts or not, will develop “a diverse, plural society where mutual respect is built around a Singapore identity that is strongly felt, but at ease with itself”. Such freedom of expression allows citizens to engage in relevant issues, and hence facilitate critical thinking and community involvement.

The suppression of speech, on the contrary will only hinder the social progress of a nation. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter”. The denial and avoidance of sensitive issues such as race and religion will only cause greater polarisation of social groups, thus an indifferent nation of bigots.

Such groupthink mentality and illusionary peace encourages people to set aside personal beliefs and adopt the opinions of the majority and powerful, hence creating a socially myopic society of narrow-minded individuals. This in turn breeds a populace too blatantly oblivious and uneducated to realise what appropriate speech is, which ironically creates a vicious cycle of more political correctness.

Some Singaporeans, including our current Prime Minister, have argued that allowing the freedom of speech forsakes the needs and spirit of the community such as its traditions and cultures. After all the right defamation suits and civic conflicts in other liberal countries, I do understand why many are worried. However, culture is ever evolving and hard to define, and a good for the nation doesn't necessarily equate to a good for its people. I believe the common people should be empowered to collectively decide what is socially acceptable for them, rather than rely on indistinctive counter measures that limit free speech for the sake of public order. These counter measures are based on assumptions of the needs of the community, and furthermore only promote short-term tolerance rather than long-term acceptance.

The facilitation of respectful debate will however, educate citizens on acceptable ways to express oneself by allowing them to step out of their

moral matrix and into that of others, hence the eradication of inconsiderate speech and the need for censorship. This generates a society of socially responsible first-world citizens, ready to engage and progress, rather than enrage and suppress.

I would like to end with a message from a talk by Margaret Heffernan, who states that we need to actively sort disconfirmation and create constructive conflict, and it's only by not being able to prove that someone is wrong, that someone is truly right. While I endeavour for Singapore to be vocally liberated, I do foresee the great responsibility for Singaporeans and the government to be distinctive in knowing the difference between criticism based on carefully curated evidences, and insult based on personal attacks. The freedom of each individual must be balanced with the freedom of others, and I believe that the educated people of Singapore should keep an open-mind, and be inculcated the value of rightful speech, rather than condemn the very idea of free speech itself.

I'll admit that with the freedom of speech comes a high price to pay...but, after a lifetime of gamble on our nation by our founding fathers, would you rather favour public order and risk social and cultural stagnation, or favour public debate and wager on the chance for social and cultural progress?

Standpoint: Except for comments promoting discrimination, hate or violence, we should allow complete freedom of speech and expression

Grace Tang, National University of Singapore

I would like to first define the term “complete freedom of speech”. Absolute freedom of speech would mean no butts, no exceptions. This would connote that one has the freedom to challenge authority, the freedom to confront power, the freedom to disturb public peace and public morality and the freedom to insult and offend. Everyone should be able to say whatever they like, whatever the consequences.

The crux of the argument then lies if one truly has the right to offend? I think not. Almost all countries have laws against harassment, or incitement to commit crimes, as well as restrictions on libel or slanderous speech. If these laws are not in place, we are jeopardizing our personal safety within the community & the country we stay in. With these laws in place, would you still think that there is indeed real complete freedom of speech even in countries like America and France?

It's very easy to say there should be 'no limits' to freedom of speech. But in the first place comments promoting discrimination, hate, or violence do not value add to the community at large. Remember Je suis Charlie? In response to the terrorist shooting of Charlie Hebdo editors, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu once said:

“Turkey will not allow (Prophet) Muhammad to be insulted...Freedom of the press does not mean freedom to insult.”

Typically, upon analysis, you will notice that countries that support the complete freedom of speech are

mainly from the western countries. Ethnocentrism- the act of judging another culture solely by the values and standards of one's own culture, may be at work here. Singapore is still traditionally rooted in Asian values. A key feature of Asian value: to place society before oneself heard of sacrifice oneself for the greater good of all? Complete freedom of speech will not serve to contribute to social progress, a conditional one like my topic suggests does.

Oppositions may be quick to judge that my brand of freedom of speech is not truly free but just think about this, if there is general consensus that democracy varies within the context of countries. Who is then to say that my brand of freedom of speech suggested in Singapore's multi racial and multi cultural context, is not truly free?

The real question should then be who regulates what and the extent in which comments promoting discrimination, hate, or violence are permissible. If speech legislation is overly-strict, can it encroach upon our right to free speech? Who should decide where the limits lie, and what is acceptable?

Many of you may have been following the court case of Amos Yee. He was charged as a criminal as he violated the Penal Code Section 298 and Section 292(1)(a) of the Penal Code. Despite the heavy handed approach that is contentious, the authorities on Section 298 has historically been charging people under the violation of section 298. For example, in 2008, a local blogger was charged for ranting against a

man of another race he saw sitting on the floor of an MRT train and subsequently his race.

The issue that relates to freedom of speech is that where should the line be drawn? With laws laid down, who actively enforces them? Is there a consistent standard in handling these cases? Why in some cases a warning is sufficient while some are charged? Speeches of hate, discrimination and violence should be excluded from free speech but the enforcement of such admittedly, is a difficult task and hence, this brings out the greater issue of if regulations and controls are in place, how will execution of these rules take place.

Perhaps advocating for conditional freedom of speech might be unsettling to the authorities and what might be the most discomfiting to them may be the question that can Singaporeans think? Are we that easily manipulated? Past 50 years, we have had very phenomenal growth, good governance and that as a result has caused us to lose some of our

discernment. As we progress, Singaporeans needs to develop skills to handle and discuss controversies on a more meaningful scale and develop the ability to differentiate valid content from fallacies. This can be achieved via conditional freedom of speech.

All in all, I conclude with this: If you agree with me that no one has the right to offend since it is morally irresponsible to do so, then there can be no complete freedom of speech. Our next best alternative would be exactly what my topic suggests.

If you think that yes you have a right to offend or insult and make comments promoting discrimination, hate, or violence; think deeper. Is this truly beneficial to the community, is this what we value in Singapore and as a society, what is truly at risk.

Finally, if you think that more regulation and controls are to be imposed, how does this then affect our individual media and political literacy. Are we progressing as a nation?

Standpoint: We should prioritise law and orderliness, all protests or public gatherings should be regulated and approved

Colin Chua, Jurong Junior College

Today I am going to try something a little more daring when talk about this grand ideal which is freedom of speech. Now, freedom of speech is, using a straightforward definition, the right to communicate using any medium opinions and ideas without fear of censorship or limitation. Of course this is balanced by the harm principle and other limitations within the law which limit freedom of

speech to prevent it from causing us to descend into total anarchy. However, I feel that freedom of speech has been blatantly abused frequently because of the ambiguous nature of its restrictions. The limitations to freedom of speech are frequently agreed upon to be things such as hate speech, sedition and violation of public order, but the infringement of these limits are

subjective in nature. What is written in the law states that these limitations are subject to cultural and societal standards that are always changing. Singapore is far more complex as there is a mix of different traditional and western values that have complicated what is definitely unacceptable by society. Therefore, it is dangerous to let freedom of speech continue even with legal limitations as they are a multitude of ways a person can simply bypass these laws due to the subjective nature of which a person can be prosecuted under it.

I for instance think that it is an abuse of freedom of speech to state that unrecognised minorities within the country, such as the homosexual community, are immoral and that they have some form of hidden political agenda. This can be considered hate speech as the wear white movement meets its criteria as it isolates these people as being immoral due to their sexual orientation and their message carries a call to action against them. It can even be considered slander since they keep talking about this supposed homosexual agenda despite there being no concrete evidence to prove it beyond conspiracy theories. It may even be considered sedition as they view that their religious authority places them above the secularist principles of this country allowing them to take independent action. Despite these supposed infringements, nothing is done as this is the societal standard set by a conservative Singapore. So this begs the question, is freedom of speech in Singapore to be the tyranny of the majority? Is only to be used when it suits the agenda of the

larger society?

Okay. Everyone pause and take a breather. Before you all chose to report me to the police, have me jailed, slap me while I'm out on bail and then put me on psychiatric review, let's just consider what was just said. What I said just now clearly agitated some of you and some of you feel that I've just committed the very infringements of freedom of speech that I was talking about. What I have to say is that you're absolutely right. For those of you in what I believe to be the minority in this room who agree with my statement would understand how easily freedom of speech can be manipulated due to its relations to societal standards. For those of you who disagreed with me, I could have just as easily made that argument in reverse stating that the homosexual community using their freedom of speech to propagate their ideals was a threat to our society and I believe you would have the opposite opinion of my whole speech. In the blind eyes of the law if one group is or isn't punished then it must apply to both leading to a moral conundrum from our government.

Hence, moving forward into SG100, the best thing to do is to ensure that we avoid abuse of freedom of speech by implementing stricter and more thorough controls.

ANNEX D**HOW SINGAPORE IS FARING: Survey results**

Questions	Achieved	OK	Poor	Don't know	No. of responses
Primary Assurances					
Basic Education					
Every child has access to good quality education for an equal headstart in life	27%	71%	2%	0%	244
Our education system develops us holistically, equips us with practical skills and prepares us for the future	13%	74%	13%	0%	227
Average	20%	73%	8%	0%	
Verdict	Achieved				
Health					
We invest adequately in the areas that matter (e.g. training and recognising healthcare professionals, support for mental health patients, promoting preventive care/ better nutrition/ fitness)	28%	57%	13%	2%	212
Affordable and accessible healthcare for all	32%	54%	14%	1%	202
Average	30%	55%	13%	1%	
Verdict	Achieved				
Housing					
Equitable housing conditions for every citizen, regardless of social background	18%	63%	18%	2%	191
Quality homes and neighbourhoods with good social integration, community bonding and are disabled/ elderly-friendly	23%	59%	15%	3%	184
Average	21%	61%	16%	2%	
Verdict	Achieved				
Basic Income					
Low income inequality	8%	36%	48%	8%	176
Every citizen has the means to afford a basic cost of living	13%	65%	19%	2%	171
Average	10%	51%	34%	5%	
Verdict	Poor				
Connectivity					
Access to affordable, reliable and convenient transport (including the elderly and disabled)	42%	51%	7%	0%	167
No one is socially excluded because of poor access to internet, computers, mobile and social media	35%	47%	16%	3%	166
Average	38%	49%	11%	1%	
Verdict	Achieved				
Safety					

Peace and harmony (e.g. Racial/Religious harmony, good bilateral relations)	40%	57%	3%	0%	141
Low crime and accidents (e.g. cyber security, personal security, road safety, work safety, etc)	53%	42%	5%	0%	139
Average	46%	50%	4%	0%	
Verdict	Achieved				
Personal Aspirations					
Higher Education					
Affordable and diverse study options so everyone has a fair opportunity to pursue further education	21%	63%	16%	1%	162
Verdict	Achieved				
Career Progression					
All career paths are equally respected and supported	4%	41%	51%	4%	159
Equal opportunities for workers to upgrade and keep pace with new technology	13%	67%	15%	5%	156
Average	8%	54%	33%	4%	
Verdict	Poor				
Family					
Adequate financial and emotional support for all families (including non-conventional family structures)	11%	44%	40%	6%	151
Strong family ties	15%	60%	23%	2%	147
Average	13%	52%	31%	4%	
Verdict	Poor				
Purposeful Society					
Community					
A compassionate and kind society with the 'kampung' spirit	6%	28%	62%	4%	146
Strong national identity forged from the bottom-up	16%	57%	24%	3%	145
Average	11%	43%	43%	3%	
Verdict	Poor				
Environment					
A 'clean' Singapore, not 'cleaned' Singapore. Everyone is responsible for maintaining Singapore's environment	20%	47%	33%	0%	145
Widespread adoption of green technology and practices (including individuals, businesses, building owners, and residential planners)	16%	52%	28%	5%	145
Average	18%	49%	30%	2%	
Verdict	Poor				
Leisure and Culture					
Good work life balance	7%	42%	48%	4%	144
Adequate support for sports and arts	14%	58%	27%	1%	143
Average	10%	50%	37%	3%	
Verdict	Poor				

Political Engagement					
Transparent, effective, efficient and incorruptible government	47%	43%	8%	2%	142
A politically informed society where citizens can engage in mature political discourse	20%	38%	38%	5%	141
Average	33%	40%	23%	4%	
Verdict	Achieved				

INFORMATION SHEET FOR SG100 'SEE FUTURE' VIDEO COMPETITION**About the Video Competition**

As Singapore becomes more diverse, opinions and policy suggestions may pull in different directions or even contradict one another. The video competition seeks to foster transnational policy learning and to encourage international youth in Singapore to be part of the SG50 celebrations. Youth are being asked to identify the one thing they feel other countries can learn from Singapore's first 50 years of nationhood, and on the other hand to pick one item that Singapore can learn from other countries in her next 50.

Who Can Take Part and Why?

Teams are to comprise primarily of foreign youths up to the age of 35. They are encouraged to include their Singaporean friends so as to maximise sharing opportunities. In meeting the above stated vision, the project is expected to help

- Facilitate cross-cultural/national policy learning among Singaporean and foreign youths.
- Broaden Singapore's youths' perspectives by seeing Singapore through an international lens.
- Provide an opportunity for youth to practice and improve upon their communication skills
- It will encourage foreign youths to celebrate SG50 with Singapore.

Each team is limited to having up to 5 members and may submit only one video. However, passionate individuals are free to be part of as many teams as they wish.

What Can be Won?

On top of the 10 finalists receiving SG100 Certificates and free tickets to the SG100 'Think Future' Forum, the three best videos selected at the forum and the most watched video will be awarded reputational prizes and chance to have their policy video loaded in LKYSPP Policy Youtube Channel and be used as teaching material.

How Can They Take Part?

Registrations will be accepted on the competition website with the requirement of written synopsis of the video content. Top 50 synopsis will be selected and will be invited to submit videos. Video submissions are limited in length and size (no than 10 minutes). Teams are free to record or create their video in any location and with any tools available to them. Once vetted, the APA Video Team will upload videos to a dedicated Youtube® channel. At the expiration of the submission deadline, competition entrants will be sent an email with a link to their video.

At this point they are asked to share and promote their submission through Facebook®, Twitter® and other online channels. The APA Video Team will also carry out its own promotions. The ten most watched videos will be shown at the 'Think Future' Policy Forum.

Forum attendants will select the three best videos who, together with the most viewed video, shall be given awards.

ANNEX F**PROCESS FOR SG100 'THINK FUTURE' PROGRAMME (AUG 2015 – JAN 2016)**

'Think Future' Programme is a 5 month long training and practicum for selected student leaders from JC, ITE, Polytechnic, University and young working adult youth leaders.

Training

Leaders will undergo common training phase conducted by LKYSPP professors and IPS research fellows over a one-day workshop (22 Aug). Topics covered will include: (1) Introduction to Public Policy, policymaking process; (2) Singapore's Policy Context; (3) Introduction to Policy Analysis skills; (4) practicums using specific Singapore case studies. Leaders will also attend one to two supplementary lecture on their chosen policy theme, offered by Thought Collective.

Mentorship in Three Phases

Leaders will work choose one of the four policy workgroups:

- **Jobs and Economy**
 - How do we help our workforce stay relevant and productive amidst fast paced technological and global developments?
 - How can Singapore nurture an entrepreneurial core, which will create better paying and interesting jobs in Singapore?
 - Should the education sector make changes to the education system or curriculum to better prepare younger Singaporeans for the future?
- **Family and Demography**
 - What policies can help Singaporeans to better prepare for their retirement?
 - What policies can better support families to cope with raising a family and looking after their aged?
 - How can we introduce more work-life balance and redevelop models of care to allow for a more family-centric environment?
- **Society and Identity**
 - What is it to be "Singaporean"? Is there a common set of values and norms we can point to?
 - How should we introduce national education in the curriculum for students?
 - How do we ensure a sense of belonging given our growing foreign population?
- **Liveable Cities.**
 - What policies will make Singapore a home that Singaporeans love?
 - What infrastructure should we develop to allow Singapore to continually support its population?

They will embark on research culminating in policy recommendations for Government and youth sector (self-help). This practicum will be conducted in three phases,

supported by practitioner (Director level/Deputy Secretary civil servants) and academic (professors) mentors; APA Ops mentor will be present in each workgroup to account for operational progress:

- Research Question/Problem Setting (in early Sep). Both academic and practitioner mentor will be presented at first session to guide leaders in setting the right research question/set the right problem that has significance to Singapore's future. Academic mentor will advise on a feasible research design, methodology and open-source data access. Practitioner mentor will advise on suitability of research question/policy problem, constraints and key considerations faced by policymakers, grant data access, where it is non-classified. The intent is for leaders to embark on a research project that can offer interesting perspectives and suggestions to real policymaking.
- Policy Analysis (by end Oct). Leaders will likely embark on best practice research (looking into success case elsewhere and decide what can or cannot work in Singapore and why, given differences in context). Creativity will be added to produce a rational piece of policy analysis on chosen topic. Academic mentor can advise on whether policy analysis was appropriate and whether other perspectives could have been explored. It is optional for practitioner mentors to be present albeit an exchange of difference between academic and practitioner policy analysis would be useful here.
- Policy Recommendations (by end Nov). After hard-nosed 'rational' policy analysis, the final policy recommendations need to be interact with normative values chosen by 'Dream Future' Forum participants on 4 Jul. These values form the policy considerations calculus in order to strengthen the consultative and citizen-ownership aspects of these policy recommendations. It also helps to ensure coherence between vision/aspirations and policy. Here, practitioner mentor can advise on feasibility of policy recommendations, to give a preliminary reality check so that recommendations presented in Youth Parliament are more palatable, besides being creative and 'out-of-the-box'.

Service Learning

Where funding avails, each workgroup will be given opportunities during Aug to Dec to invite guest lecturers and embark on field visits to strengthen their grasp of their topic and undergo field work. Findings from guest lectures and field trips will be embedded into workgroup report, which forms an Annex for 'Think Future' Final Report.

Peer Competition and Learning

To ensure the peer learning, at Session 1 (Research Question/Problem Setting), each workgroup will be divided into 3 sub-workgroups. There are at least two ways to divide: (1) same research question done by 3 sub-workgroups; (2) 3 different but complementary questions done by 3 sub-workgroups. 3 sub-workgroups will compete to produce the best set of policy recommendations to Government and youth sector (self-help). 1 of 3 sub-workgroups will be selected in Session 3 (Policy Recommendations) to be presented in 'Think Future' Forum.

Finale in Youth Parliament

Each workgroup will anchor a Youth Parliament session with 1200 peers acting as MPs.

Workgroup will present key findings and policy recommendations (relating to values considerations from 4 Jul). An expert panel will be convened to value add, refine and give a sense of reality. Panel is proposed to be chaired by a Permanent Secretary (from relevant Ministry, or a former Permanent Secretary), academic and practitioner mentor. Panel will also comprise of academic and practitioner mentors. Floor will be open for questions and comments to refine the motion/policy recommendations, with the help of IT. Workgroup will then commence dynamic voting, where the motion will be voted upon for consensus, difficult issues will be discussed and motion amended until 51% majority vote is attained. *Where available*, a Minister/MOS from the next generation leadership and covering the relevant portfolio will be invited for a dialogue.

Note: Any advice or comments from Minister/MOS, Permanent Secretaries or practitioner mentors does not equate to Government endorsement. APA recognises that actual policymaking is more complex than this SG100 'Think Future' Programme can emulate. As such, the non-committal comments from Government representatives will be emphasised during the Forum. By design, the invitation of Government representatives in the Programme is intended to motivate student leaders to labour hard on a real Singapore policy problem and to impress upon them that any useful recommendations will be taken up by policymakers. The criterion is feasibility and usefulness of recommendations, rather than source of recommendation. It is with earnest faith that good policy recommendations will be taken up by policymakers in partiality or entirety and student leader will then feel a sense of ownership to have contributed their part as an active citizen in the policy process. This will be a virtuous cycle and useful model for public participation in policy process (right skills and knowledge training + homework + mentorship + citizen creativity = active public participation).

Empowerment to Act: 2016 and Beyond

Beyond SG100, APA will nurture useful seed ideas from the pool of policy recommendation (for youth sector, self-help) and curate them into projects that can be funded by National Youth Council Young Changemakers seed funding grant, and other sponsors such as Young NTUC.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The SG100 COMPASS (Youth Edition) Dream Future Forum held at Singapore Polytechnic on 4th July 2015 had been covered by Singapore Tonight on Channel NewsAsia, Channel NewsAsia Online and Channel 8 News at 10pm. It was also featured in the NTUC newsletter.

SINGAPORE

Youths urged to put national, community interests before own

It is important to continue forging a consensus "to do more for those with less", says Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Chan Chun Sing at a forum with 500 youth leaders.

By Hetty Musfirah Abdul Khamid, Channel NewsAsia
POSTED: 04 Jul 2015 23:00 UPDATED: 05 Jul 2015 00:41

VIDEOS PHOTOS



部长陈振声同500名青年领袖举行对话会

04/07/2015 23:16

SINGAPORE: One of the biggest

新加坡

总理公署部长陈振声同500名来自初级学院和大专学府的青年领袖举行对话会。

陈振声指出,为国人提供良好机会和就业,让大家充分发挥潜能,是我国未来50年最大的挑战之一。

与会者也提出,担心我国的教育体系是否太过注重学术表现。

陈振声回应时表示,我国的教育制度不仅是为了满足经济需要,也希望发掘个人的潜能,并让大家展现这些潜能。

对话会上的临场调查显示,大多数年轻人认为,应该为国人提供更多支援,协助大家应对不确定情况,有需要的人应该获得更多。

- CH8/GW

Links:

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/youths-urged-to-put/1961084.html>

<http://www.channel8news.sg/news/8/latestnews/20150704-sg-100/1961096.html?cid=ch8news-fb>



NTUC Secretary-General Chan Chun Sing having a discussion with youth leaders on the things that should be done for Singapore to achieve SG100.

TOWARDS SG100

The 'Dream Future' Envisioning Forum engages youths to seek out some answers on how to make the future Singapore a better homeland.

By Fawwaz Baktee

economic purpose or inculcating values, but for each and every one of them to discover themselves, to understand their strengths and weaknesses and to do justice to the blessings they have been given," said SG Chan on the sidelines of the forum.

He also said that Singapore has more resources to tap on today, as compared to 50 years ago and this would bring about the challenge of forging consensus on the way Singaporeans share resources, encouraging those who are well-off to take care of those in need, and using resources to bring out the best in Singaporeans.

ENGAGING YOUTH LEADERS

The forum is the first of a three-phased SG100 Compass (Youth Edition) project, giving youths a platform and an opportunity to take the lead in setting Singapore's journey towards SG100.

NTUC Youth Development Unit Director Desmond Choo said: "The project is about understanding youths' aspirations on a deeper level; and sharing national imperatives. This is important if the Labour Movement wants to develop programmes relevant to the next generation.

"We heard from the youths that they not only wanted a Singapore that continues to provide good jobs but also platforms for them to fulfil aspirations such as volunteerism and deepening our sense of identity. This is useful in designing our engagement. In the upcoming edition, we will deepen our discussion on the central role that LM can play in our youths' future."

Chairing the closing dialogue of the 'Dream Future' Envisioning Forum on 4 July 2015, NTUC Secretary-General (SG) Chan Chun Sing had this message to share with over 400 youth leaders in order for Singapore to achieve SG100.

"Every society will have its fair share of imperfections and challenges. The question is if we will still want to be Singaporeans given our various imperfections. Will we stay and overcome our imperfections together and build a better home for our children and their children?"

"Our commitment to overcome our challenges together will define us as a nation. It is not just about how good our country is and therefore we stay. It is also about how great we want our country to be and how we contribute to realising that vision. If we can do that well, we can look forward to celebrating SG100 with pride and confidence," said SG Chan.

Held at the Singapore Polytechnic Convention Centre, the forum was organised by the Association of Public Affairs (APA) and Young NTUC to engage youth leaders from universities, junior colleges, polytechnics, Institutes of Technical Education (ITEs), youth organisations and young working adults.

EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

The forum also saw SG Chan address issues raised by youth leaders such as the nation's

education system and the allocation of national resources.

"During the discussion on education, the youth leaders were asking about the purpose of education, and I wanted to encourage them to think of education as not just fulfilling an



Youth leaders listening attentively to issues such as the purpose of education and the way Singapore's resources should be allocated.

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