

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COHESIVE SOCIETIES
TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR**

Global interfaith conference in Singapore to address the challenges polarising societies by bringing together leaders of faith for dialogue on social cohesion, with focus on youth

29 July 2022 (Friday), Singapore – The International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) will make its return from 6 to 8 September 2022, bringing together leaders from policy, community, academic and religious spheres from around the world to discuss key challenges pulling at our social fabric and approaches to managing them. This is the second edition of the Conference after the inaugural edition in 2019.

2. The ICCS is organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). This year's ICCS will be held at the Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore.

3. Themed “**Confident Identities, Connected Communities**”, the three-day Conference seeks to examine the role of identities in shaping how individuals connect with each other and their communities. Through a series of plenary and breakout discussions, delegates will engage in conversations around three main pillars of faith, identity and cohesion. Delegates will discuss issues including the role of faith in bridging divides, how diversity can be harnessed for the common good, and the ways in which technology can help bridge differences and foster mutual trust.

4. **Mdm Halimah Yacob**, President of the Republic of Singapore, will deliver the opening address, and Singapore's Minister for Finance and Deputy Prime Minister **Lawrence Wong** will be helming a dialogue session on the final day. International and local thought leaders who will be speaking at the event include **André Azoulay**, Senior Adviser to King Mohammed VI of Morocco; **Professor Lily Kong**, President,

Singapore Management University; and **Imam Uzair Akbar**, Imam of Holland Park Mosque in Australia. (*The full list of confirmed speakers and moderators can be found in the Annex.*)

5. Delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in an immersive Community Experience, including visits to various neighbourhoods and places of worship across the island. They will interact with local community partners and get a first-hand taste of Singapore's interfaith experience.

Young Leaders Programme

6. Recognising youth leaders and the key role they play in creating an inclusive society, the Young Leaders Programme (YLP) – a flagship segment of the ICCS – will provide young regional and international leaders the platform to network and collaborate on social cohesion and community-building. The YLP will feature a community showcase of local youth-led initiatives in various mediums (auditory, visual and augmented reality) to spur future collaborations. During a fireside chat with young regional leaders of faith, **Father Fiel Pareja** (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines) and **Reverend Chris Lee** (an Anglican priest-in-charge at St. Saviour's Church in Wendell Park, West London; United Kingdom), as well as with **Yasmin Jay** (a Lebanese-Australian fashion designer and entrepreneur), YLP delegates will engage in a deep exchange on harnessing social media for good.

7. To underscore the importance of building international networks of trust and co-operation, the YLP will be facilitated by overseas speakers **Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand** (Director, Pears Hub), **Krish Raval** and **Denny Braggins** (Faith in Leadership, a UK-based civic body focused on strengthening intra- and inter-faith relations), and local interfaith advocate **Mohamed Imran Mohamed Taib**. They will be supported by local community facilitators, including former delegates who took part in YLP 2019.

8. **Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore**, said, "COVID-19 was not just a health crisis, but also a socio-economic one. In many

countries we are now seeing its impact on various populations, whether that be loss of livelihoods, nationwide mental health issues across the young and old, and disagreements on how to best move forward from the pandemic. The pandemic has also brought polarisation and social isolation to the fore. It has thus reminded us again of the need to come together as a global community and have important conversations on how we can promote social harmony through our shared beliefs, values and aspirations. ICCS 2022 is a timely opportunity to take stock and reflect on how our communities can be brought closer and move forward together.”

9. **Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS and Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs** said, “We are in the digital era with new technologies relentlessly changing the way we live, work and play. We face many challenges as well as opportunities in mutual learning and strengthening common values for the common good. ICCS 2022 will be a useful platform to discuss how technologies can be a positive force in facilitating online worship, especially during a global crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and in managing interfaith exchanges and relationships. The Conference will also build on the youth engagement from the inaugural ICCS 2019 to prepare young leaders for their roles in cementing social cohesion in their respective societies.”

10. More information on ICCS 2022 is available on the official website www.iccs.sg. Further updates and announcements on the Conference will also be released on the website as well as the ICCS official [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) channels.

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About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a global think tank and professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. An autonomous school, RSIS' mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. With the core functions of research, graduate education, and networking, it produces research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-traditional Security, Cybersecurity, Maritime Security and Terrorism Studies.

About the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth seeks to inspire Singaporeans through the arts and sports, strengthen community bonds, and promote volunteerism and philanthropy. Since its inception in November 2012, MCCY has been actively engaging the arts, heritage, sports, community, and youth sectors. The Ministry aims to bring into sharper focus the efforts to build a more cohesive and vibrant society, and to deepen a sense of identity and belonging to the nation. MCCY works with its stakeholders to create an environment where Singaporeans can pursue their aspirations for a better quality of life and together, build a gracious and caring society we are proud to call home.

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Day 0

Mon, 5 Sep 2022



Community Dialogue

Day 1

Tue, 6 Sep 2022

- Opening Address by President Halimah Yacob
- Special Presentation: Perspectives on social cohesion
- 1st Plenary: How faith can bridge divides



Young Leaders Programme: Community Showcase



Community Exploration

Day 2

Wed, 7 Sep 2022

- 2nd Plenary: How diversity can be harnessed for the common good
- 3rd Plenary: How technology can be leveraged to foster mutual trust
- Breakout Session 1



Young Leaders Programme: Fireside Chat – How social media fosters cohesion

Youth Dialogue



Community Exploration

Day 3

Thu, 8 Sep 2022

- Breakout Session 2
- In Conversation with Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong
- Breakout Session 3
- Closing Address



Young Leaders Programme: Workshop by Faith in Leadership



Community Exploration

Special Presentation: Perspectives on social cohesion (Day 1)

Setting the stage for ICCS 2022, the keynote address will cover how differences in culture, beliefs, value systems and the many identities we have as individuals impact social cohesion.

1st Plenary: How faith can bridge divides (Day 1)

This Plenary seeks to critically examine the reasons for the rise and endurance of social polarisation due to ideological or religious beliefs. With a stronger understanding of these divides and the reasons behind them, we hope that some of the lessons gleaned can be applied to foster inter-religious peace and harmony in plural societies both across the region and well beyond.

2nd Plenary: How diversity can be harnessed for the common good (Day 2)

This Plenary seeks to discuss the issue of super-diversity and get a better understanding of intersectionality. It will discuss the tools for interactions with people of different and overlapping identities. An appreciation of the complex but important role of intersectionality in social cohesion would allow us to increase social capital, for people to form deep bonds despite differences towards creating common good.

3rd Plenary: How technology can be leveraged to foster mutual trust (Day 2)

This session will ask: given that we know digital platforms can create echo chambers and be used for divisive ends, how can we employ them to promote social cohesion? People's identities are part of this, including their religious identities, but practical examples of how cohesion is built online, and with technologies such as social media, is central to this plenary. Looking from different global angles and focusing on areas such as community-building, preventing and countering violent extremism, and mapping global peacebuilding, this session will seek to show how online platforms may be beacons of cohesion and hope, rather than division and hatred.

Breakout Session 1 (Day 2)

Delegates will choose one to attend

Faith 1: Religion, Resilience & Cohesion (International Perspective)

This breakout session looks at different faith-based strategies in identifying and safeguarding vulnerable individuals or communities from radicalisation, and building resilience against divisive, even extremist, religious narratives.

Identity 1: Languages, Identity and Belonging

This breakout group examines how languages shape our perceptions on reality and our understanding of linguistic identities. Identity and language are key in building one's sense of belonging. This breakout group can explore how the limits in languages, the evolution of vocabulary and use of colloquialism affect the way we see ourselves and build our sense of belonging, and how we differentiate ourselves from others.

Cohesion 1: Hate & Conspiracy Online

This breakout session further investigates issues raised during Plenary 3 around hate, prejudice, and conspiracy online, with a key focus on conspiracy theories.

Breakout Session 2 (Day 3)

Delegates will choose one to attend

Faith 2: Religion, Resilience & Cohesion (Regional Perspective)

This breakout session focuses on building dialogue on faith at a regional level. It seeks to understand how religious leaders and communities are working to develop cohesion beyond their traditions to build resilient societies and communities.

Identity 2: Diversity & Intersections (Public Policy & Common Space)

This breakout session discusses public policies across the world that have helped identify and safeguard vulnerable individuals and communities from radicalisation, and how common spaces have been found to build resilience against divisive, extremist and religious narratives in communities.

Cohesion 2: Connectivity and Connectedness

This breakout session examines good practices and case studies of people who have used online platforms to build connections between different groups and to strengthen social cohesion. The session will also be used to understand what social media companies have been doing to promote social cohesion.

Breakout Session 3 (Day 3)

Delegates will choose one to attend

Faith 3: Faith Overcoming COVID-19 Pandemic

This breakout session explores how traditions have evolved over this challenging global COVID-19 pandemic in relation to practice rituals and ways to worship.

Identity 3: Religion & Social Justice

This breakout session discusses some of the ways that religious identities inform social justice work, which in turn helps to deepen connections across various groups in society and promote socially cohesive bonds. Areas explored may include overcoming racial and ethnic prejudice, protecting vulnerable individuals and communities beset by a lack of environmental justice, and countering radical and extremist narratives. It will seek to demonstrate examples of good practice and provide practical steps for working towards social justice from within various religious worldviews and identities.

Cohesion 3: Youth Work Initiatives

This breakout session looks explicitly at the work of youth leaders in social cohesion across Asia.

Special Presentation: Perspectives on cohesive societies



Professor Lily Kong
President, Singapore Management University

An award-winning researcher and teacher, Professor Kong has received five international fellowship awards including the Commonwealth Fellowship Award and the Fulbright Fellowship Award. She has also won the Robert Stoddard Award from the Association of American Geographers for her contributions to the study of religion. Professor Kong was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2006 and Public Service Star (Bintang Bakti Masyarakat) award in 2020.



Professor Katherine Marshall
Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs
Professor of the Practice of Development, Conflict, and Religion
Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Professor Katherine Marshall, a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, leads the center's work on religion and global development. She is also professor of the practice of development, conflict, and religion in the Walsh School of Foreign Service, teaching diverse courses notably on the ethics of development work and mentoring students at many levels. She helped to create and serves as the executive director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue, an NGO that works to enhance bridges among different sectors and institutions.



Moderator
Dr Farish Ahmad-Noor
Academic at the University of Malaya
Adjunct at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Farish Noor is a political scientist and historian of Southeast Asia, whose focus has been on the impact of colonialism in Asia. He has written extensively about the power of ideas and how colonisation was never simply a case of violent conquest but also subtle transformation and coercion. He is also a member of the United Nations Panel of Experts on Religion and Politics.

Plenary 1: How faith can bridge divides



Dr Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati
Secretary-General, Global Interfaith Clean Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Alliance

Dr Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati serves on the United Nations Advisory Council on Religion and on the steering committees of the International Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) and the Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty, a campaign by the United Nations and World Bank.



Lord John Alderdice
First Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Lord John Alderdice was the founding Chairman (now Emeritus Chairman) of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building in Belfast and now heads up the Changing Character of War Centre at Pembroke College, University of Oxford. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, Director of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict, and founding Chairman of The Concord Foundation, an independent peace building organisation.



Professor Suwanna Satha-Anand
Professor Emerita in Buddhist and Chinese Ethics at the Philosophy Department,
Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University
Secretary General of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies
Former President, Philosophy and Religion Society of Thailand

Professor Suwanna Satha-Anand is professor in Philosophy Department, Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Suwanna's teaching and research interests cover the fields of Buddhist and Chinese Philosophy, Philosophy of Women, Social Change and Religion. She has participated in numerous international forums in Asia, Europe, Australia and the United States.



Imam Uzair Akbar
Imam, Holland Park Mosque
President, Council of Imams Queensland (CIQ)
Head, Shariah Advisory Board with Amanah Islamic Finance Australia (AIFA)
Director, Centre of Excellence (Australian Youth Welfare Trust)
Director, ISHP Youth Club
Member of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)

Imam Uzair Akbar is a well-known respected scholar, dynamic speaker, and prominent leader in the Muslim community of Australia. Imam Uzair has been gifted with a unique way of connecting to the common audience through his Islamic lectures, Tafseer, and sermons. His forte includes connecting with the youth and giving common life analogies that really strike into the heart of his listeners.



Moderator
Dr Kumar Ramakrishna
NTU Provost's Chair, National Security Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna is a tenured Associate Professor, Provost's Chair in National Security Studies, Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies, as well as Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), in the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Plenary 2: How to harness diversity for the common good



Mr André Azoulay

Senior Adviser to King Mohammed VI of Morocco
President, Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
President of the Executive Committee, Foundation for the Three Cultures and Three Religions
Founding Member, C-100 Davos Forum for the Dialogue of Civilisations and Religions

Mr André Azoulay is an ardent ambassador of Morocco throughout the world. He is a strong advocate for peace and dialogue between the Arab Muslim World and Jewish Communities in Europe, USA, Morocco as well as the global Arab and Jewish diasporas. He is also well-known for contributions to the peace process in the Middle East and for the many interfaith cross-cultural initiatives he spearheaded.



Professor Ashiwa Yoshiko

Professor of Anthropology and Global Studies
Founding Director of Institute for the Study of Peace and Reconciliation
Hitotsubashi University

Professor Ashiwa Yoshiko's research interests include religion, arts, culture and values, modernity, globalisation, and social movements mainly in Asia, especially Sri Lanka, China and Japan. She is co-editor of Making Religion, Making the State: The Politics of Religion in Modern China (2009, with David Wank).



Dr Iyad Abumoghli

Founder and Director of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Faith for Earth Initiative

With more than 35 years of experience with international organisations, the private sector and scientific institutions, Dr Abumoghli's expertise focus on strategic planning, sustainable development, natural resources management, interfaith collaboration and knowledge and innovation. He is also the Lead Principal Advisor on Engaging with Faith-Based Organisations at UNEP.



Moderator

Associate Professor Jack Meng-Tat Chia

Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Jack Meng-Tat Chia specialises in Buddhism in maritime Southeast Asia and has broader research interests in migration, diasporas, transnationalism, pilgrimage and religious diplomacy. He is also an associate of the Religion and Globalisation Cluster at the Asia Research Institute and co-chairs the Theravada Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies.

Plenary 3: How to leverage technology to foster mutual trust



Mr Jasvir Singh

Founding Chair of City Sikhs, United Kingdom

Mr Jasvir Singh is a prolific community activist and a leading figure within the British Sikh and British South Asian communities. City Sikhs is one of the main Sikh organisations in the UK and provides a voice for over 10,000 members across the country. He is also the former Co-Chair of the Faiths Forum for London that encourages and promotes interfaith social initiatives.



Professor Patrice Brodeur

Associate Professor, Institute of Religious Studies, University of Montreal (Canada)

Professor Patrice Brodeur's expertise includes contemporary Islamic thought and interreligious dialogues. He is also Senior Adviser, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Vienna and has lectured academically to a variety of audiences and conducted trainings on different forms of dialogue in over fifty countries around the world.



Dr Shashi Jayakumar

Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Dr Shashi Jayakumar's research and publications span a range of interests, including extremism, disinformation, social resilience, cyber and Singapore politics. He is also Singapore's representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Breakout Session 1

Faith 1 – Religion & Resilience



Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim
Abbess of The Seon (Zen) Centre

Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim, an Australian Buddhist Nun for over forty years, lived and trained twenty years in South Korea. In 1998, after cultivating knowledge in textual studies and meditative experience, she returned to live in Australia and established a Buddhist Temple in Kinglake, Victoria. Here she serves a local and multicultural Buddhist community. Chi Kwang Sunim has co-founded several Buddhist organisations, chaired the Australian Sangha Association (ASA) and the Buddhist Council.



Swami Samachittananda
President, Ramakrishna Mission

Swami Samachittananda is the President of Ramakrishna Mission Singapore, a branch of the Ramakrishna Order of India, worldwide spiritual and welfare organisation. Like the other branches in Asia-Oceania, North & South America, Europe and Africa, the Centre is a self-sustaining unit that looks to the Ramakrishna Order for spiritual guidance.



Moderator

Dr Mohamed bin Ali

Assistant Professor, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Mohamed bin Ali studied Islamic law at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, International Relations at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, and the University of Exeter in United Kingdom where he completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Arab and Islamic Studies. He has published widely on Islamic law, Islamist ideology, religious extremism and terrorism, inter-religious relations and rehabilitation of Muslim extremists.

Identity 1 – Languages, Identity & Belonging



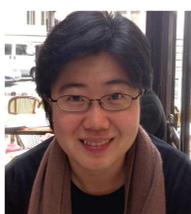
Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann
Professor of Linguistics & Endangered Languages, University of Adelaide

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (DPhil Oxford; PhD Cambridge, titular; MA Tel Aviv, summa cum laude) is Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Since the beginning of 2017 he has been the President of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies.



Reverend Terry Kee
Bishop, Lutheran Church in Singapore
Vice-President, National Council of Churches of Singapore

Reverend Terry Kee was president of the National Council of Churches of Singapore from 2012 to 2014. Reverend Kee has been involved in Interfaith dialogue in Singapore as a representative of Christianity for the Inter-Religious Organisation in Singapore and has also served as a missionary to Thailand.



Moderator

Professor Tan Ying Ying

Associate Professor, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, School of Humanities
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Professor Tan Ying Ying works on issues pertaining to language use and perception in bilingual and multilingual communities within the frameworks of sociophonetics and sociolinguistics. Her initial research focused on the phonetic and prosodic features of Singapore English, inquiring into what these features can say about Singapore English as a legitimate variety of English that has some form of global status and recognition.

Cohesion 1 – Hate & Conspiracy Online



Father Philip Larrey
Chair of Logic and Epistemology, Pontifical Lateran University, The Vatican

Father Philip Larrey is currently Dean of the Philosophy Department. His publications deal with the philosophy of knowledge and critical thinking. For years he has been following the philosophical implications of the rapid development of artificial intelligence. He has also published several books concerning the effects of the new digital era on society.



Mr Fritjof Knier
Project Manager, Integreat

Mr Fritjof Knier's multilingual interaction platform, Integreat, provides understandable information for refugees and migrants arriving in a city. It has been implemented in collaboration with over 80 of Germany's 400 municipal governments throughout the country and most recently launched in Lesbos, Greece as well.



Moderator

Dr Gulizar Haczyakupoglu

Research Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Gulizar Haczyakupoglu's research concerns online harms, trust and advocacy. She is also the co-editor of a forthcoming edited volume titled Gender and Security in Digital Space: Navigating Access, Harassment, and Disinformation.

Breakout Session 2

Faith 2 – Faith & Cohesion



Master Benjamin Tan Xianda
Singapore Taoist Federation

Master Benjamin Tan was initiated into Taoism ZhengYi Sect in 2013, ordained as a Luo generation ZhengYi Taoist priest in TianShi Mansion Mount Longhu (Jiangxi China) in 2018. He has represented the Taoist Federation (Singapore) at prayers, engagements, conferences, seminars and interfaith work. In addition, he is a leader of the Taoist Federation (Singapore) Prayer and Blessing Group, Council Member of Inter Religious Organisation representing Taoism, mentor to 3rd batch of Ambassador of Roses of Peace and Eunost IRCC Chairman.



Mr Dicky Sofjan
Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS)
Graduate School of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia

Dicky Sofjan is a Core Doctoral Faculty in the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) based in the Graduate School of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta. His main research interest mostly covers the nexus between religion and politics in Indonesia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He has been involved in many interfaith initiatives and programmes with the Indonesian Ministries of Religious and Foreign Affairs as well as with the White House, European Union and others.



Moderator
Professor Tan See Seng
President and CEO of International Students Inc.
Research Advisor at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and
Senior Associate at Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Professor Tan is President and CEO of International Students Inc., a faith-based non-profit organisation that works with international students in over 1,100 universities across the United States. He is concurrently Research Advisor at RSIS and Senior Associate at the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, both at Nanyang Technological University.

Identity 2 – Diversity & Intersections (Public Policy & Common Space)



Professor Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi
Professor of Islamic Architecture, UCSI University

Professor Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi is a prolific writer and speaker in architecture, politics, social issues, religious matters and education. He was educated in the USA at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where he obtained his Masters and Bachelor of Science in Architecture. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Professor Tajuddin has authored and published 56 books to date on architecture concerning Islam, the mosque, housing, community building and planning of administrative centres.



Mr Krish Raval OBE
Founder Director, Faith in Leadership

Krish Raval is the Founder Director of Faith in Leadership, Britain's principal leadership development organisation for religious and lay leaders across the main faith communities. Based at St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford, Krish supports and mentors Faith in Leadership's extraordinary alumni network and has worked across the globe to this end. Krish read law at the Universities of Cambridge and Sheffield and has worked as a leadership consultant for several Fortune 500 companies.



Moderator
Mr Shane Pereira
Research Associate, IPS Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies
National University of Singapore

Shane Pereira is Research Associate at IPS Social Lab in the Institute of Policy Studies. He specialises in applied ethnography and social research methods, and holds qualifications in Sociology and social research methods, which he taught for the last 11 years in both the National University of Singapore and King's College London.

Cohesion 2 – Connectivity & Connectedness



Dr Yang Mee Eng
Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation

Dr Yang worked in private and government sectors for over 26 years. She was most recently the Senior Vice President at Alphacap. There, she assisted SME companies and led the development and execution of Bloconomic Expo 2019, a platform aimed at creating a vast network of blockchain entrepreneurs and developers in the fast-evolving blockchain companies. Prior to that, she was the CEO of Gameview, the largest mobile game publisher in Malaysia, where she oversaw more than 50 staff members in their three offices in Malaysia, China and Thailand.



Ms Teresa Tan
Head of Public Policy, Singapore and Southeast Asia, TikTok

Ms Teresa Tan is the Head of Public Policy, Singapore and Southeast Asia at TikTok. Through Money FM 89.3 podcasts, she has spoken about the significance of TikTok's involvement in addressing mental health issues in Singapore and how social media can be a force for good.



Moderator
Ms Teo Yi-Ling
Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Teo Yi-Ling is a Senior Fellow with the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at RSIS. She is part of the Cyber and Homeland Defence Programme of CENS, and engaged in researching strategies of national cybersecurity resilience, data protection and governance regimes, online regulation regimes, and ethics and governance related to artificial intelligence and disruptive technology, with a view to informing policy responses for Singapore's national security.

Breakout Session 3

Faith 3 – Faith overcoming COVID-19 pandemic



Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan
Deputy Mufti, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS)

Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan specialises in History and Philosophy of Islamic Higher Education, Muslim-Jewish relations, interfaith relations, and history and philosophy of Islamic law in the Malay Archipelago.



Reverend Dr Edmund Fong
Lecturer, Trinity Theological College, Singapore
Lecturer in Systematic Theology (Christology and the reception of salvation)
Lecturer in Presbyterianism
Dean of Students

Reverend Dr Edmund Fong is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore. Edmund joined the pastoral team of Adam Road Presbyterian Church in 2009. Edmund continues to participate actively in the pastoral and teaching ministries at Adam Road Presbyterian Church.



Moderator
Master Chung Kwang Tong
Board Member, Character & Leadership Academy

Master Chung is a Taoist priest of the Quan Zhen Long-men (Dragon Gate) Tradition. He is also a Deputy Executive Director at the Character and Leadership Academy, and sits on several public and people advisory committees.

Identity 3 – Religion & Social Justice



Mr Somboon Chungprampree
Executive Secretary, International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)

Somboon Chungprampree (Moo), is a Thai social activist working for Peace and Justice in Asia. He is a civic leader and serves on the Board of a number of international and national foundations.



Sister Julia Walsh
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Sister Julia Walsh is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and part of her congregation's formation team, serving women who are discerning their vocation. Along with another Franciscan Sister, she co-founded The Fireplace, an intentional community and house of hospitality on Chicago's southside that offers spiritual support to artists and activists.



Moderator
Dr Mathew Mathews
Head, Research Associate, IPS Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies
National University of Singapore

Dr Mathew Mathews is Head of IPS Social Lab, a centre for social indicator research and a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore. In addition to other projects, Mathews is currently leading a study on Religious Spaces and Practices in Singapore. This project utilises a large scale survey to understand the religious profiles and worship patterns of Singapore residents and non-residents.

Cohesion 3 – Youth work initiatives



Ms Arizza Ann Nocum
Founder, KRIS

Arizza Ann Nocum is the Co-Founder and President of KRIS, a non-profit organisation that utilises education as a pathway to peace in the Philippines. KRIS has built libraries and provided scholarships for young people victimised by conflict and poverty. Today, KRIS educates, empowers, and inspires young peace-builders through summits, training programmes, and offline and online information campaigns.



Ms Farahnaz Ali Ghodsinia
Peace Ambassador to the Office of the Philippine Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

Farahnaz Ali Ghodsinia was born and raised in the Philippines. Farah graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of the Philippines-Diliman with a degree in Broadcast Communications. Currently she is working to pursue her graduate studies while serving as the Peace Ambassador to the Office of the Philippine Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.



Mr Shukul Raaj Kumar
Chairperson, Inter-Religious Organisation Youth Committee

Shukul Raaj Kumar is currently the Chairperson of the Inter-Religious Organisation Youth Committee. A Certified Scrum Master, he is also the Vice-Chairperson leading the Programmes team in Hindu Youth Network, that falls under the auspices of Hindu Endowment Board. He will also be doing his Masters in International Relations in August 2022 from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University.



Moderator
Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad
Founder, Roses of Peace

Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad is tackling the issue of apathy towards religious harmony among young people in Singapore with his interfaith nonprofit group Roses of Peace. He encourages them to engage in difficult conversations about religion, a crucial topic in multi-ethnic Singapore, and other issues they face such as the rising cost of living and the mismatch between skills and job opportunities.