

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COHESIVE SOCIETIES (ICCS)
DRAWS TO A CLOSE**

8 September 2022 (Thursday), Singapore – The second edition of the International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) drew to a close today. Key highlights include *In Conversation with* Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Mr Lawrence Wong; the closing address by Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law; as well as *The Pitch* under the ICCS' Young Leaders Programme (YLP).

2. In his speech, **DPM Lawrence Wong** said: “Social cohesion does not come about by chance, but it is achieved only through a deliberate and consistent effort to understand one another, to accommodate one another, and to flourish together.” DPM Wong also highlighted the Forward Singapore exercise, because “building a better, more inclusive Singapore is not just the Government’s responsibility, but also that of every community and every citizen.”

3. This was followed by *In Conversation with Deputy Prime Minister*, where DPM Wong had a dialogue with the delegates. He elaborated on the importance of continuous engagement and dialogue with one another and finding avenues to bridge differences. The session was moderated by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU).



4. **Mr Edwin Tong** delivered the closing address. He said: “One common thread across our discussions that I have seen in our dialogues and practice sessions about Faith, Identity and Cohesion has been that mutual trust and shared experiences are critical in building cohesive societies.”

5. He added that: “We must leave today with a clear notion that ICCS does not end here. It does not end at the conclusion of ICCS 2022. We want the conversations that we have started here, the relationships that we have forged here, to continue to grow and to spur our collective action, not just in Singapore but in the region, and well beyond it.”



5. Under the Young Leaders Programme, supported by Temasek Foundation, the youth delegates attended a leadership workshop "Leadership in a Diverse World" to equip them with tools and skills to manage polarity and build strong communities. It was led by Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand, Krish Raval OBE and Denny Braggins from Faith in Leadership, and facilitated by local interfaith facilitators.

6. The YLP will conclude with a pitch this evening. Three selected teams will receive SGD5,000 in seed funding from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth for their cohesion projects.

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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 will work 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.

About Temasek Foundation

Temasek Foundation supports a diverse range of programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond. Temasek Foundation's programmes, made possible through philanthropic endowments gifted by Temasek, strive towards achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities now, and for generations to come. Collectively, Temasek Foundation's programmes strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and regional capabilities, advance science, and protect the planet.

For more information, visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg.

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