



SEAH CHOO MENG

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2025

SG60: Building Our Past, Shaping Our Future

Established in 2023, the Seah Choo Meng Public Lecture brings together renowned experts and leading practitioners from the built environment industry to share insights on Project Management, Quantity Surveying, Building Law, Sustainability and Facilities Management. Marking Singapore’s significant SG60 milestone, this year’s lecture series invites us to reflect upon past accomplishments, evaluate current practices critically, and collaboratively envision a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future. We are honoured to feature three esteemed pioneers whose contributions have profoundly influenced Singapore’s urban, economic, and social growth.

Event Details



Friday, 12 September 2025



1:00pm to 5:30pm



The Star Gallery, The Star Performing Arts Centre
1 Vista Exchange Green #04-01
Singapore 138617



sst@suss.edu.sg

CPD Points

- Professional Engineers Board (PEB) - Pending
- Singapore Contractors Authority Limited (SCAL) - Pending
- Board of Architects (BOA) - Pending
- Singapore Institute of Valuers & Surveyors (SISV) - Pending
- Society of Project Managers (SPM) - Pending

Programme Overview

1 : 00 pm	Registration (Coffee and Tea provided)
2 : 15 pm	Opening Address
2 : 30 pm	Lecture by Speakers
3 : 15 pm	Networking Break (Beverages and Light Snacks provided)
4 : 00 pm	Lecture by Speakers (con't)
5 : 30 pm	Closing

Event Registration is Free



Limited on a first-come first-served basis.

Featured Speakers



Mr. Wong Heang Fine

Independent Board Director,
GISI Consulting Group;
Asia Advisory Board Director,
GISI; Chairman Singapore, AIS



Dr. Liu Thai Ker

Founding Chairman of
Morrow Architects &
Planners



Mr. Basskaran Nair

Author, “Marketing Public
Policy” (Routledge).
Was Adjunct Associate
Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School
of Public Policy, NUS

Dr. Liu Thai Ker - Topic: "Planning and Designing Singapore: Past, Present and Future"

Synopsis

In the 60 years since Singapore's independence, Dr. Liu dedicated 23 pivotal years (1969-1992) to lay a robust foundation for the nation's urban development. In this insightful lecture, Dr. Liu will share his experiences and approaches to planning and designing Singapore, highlighting the critical role played by strong political support and guidance. He will discuss how these efforts shaped the city we see today and present his personal aspirations and recommendations for guiding Singapore's future urban growth and development.

Biography

Known as the "Architect of Modern Singapore," Dr. Liu Thai Ker significantly shaped Singapore's urban landscape during his tenure as Chief Architect and CEO of the Housing Development Board and later as Chief Planner and CEO of the Urban Redevelopment Authority. He oversaw the planning and development of over 20 new towns and half a million homes and spearheaded the development of the 1991 Concept Master Plan. Today, he continues his impactful work as the Founding Chairman of MORROW Architects and Planners, contributing to urban projects in over 50 global cities. Dr. Liu also holds prominent advisory positions at the Centre for Liveable Cities and the School of Architecture at NUS, and serves as adjunct professor at NTU's School of Design & Environment, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Liu has received numerous awards recognizing his extraordinary contributions to architecture and urban planning.

Mr. Wong Heang Fine - Topic: " Vision Beyond Sight: Shaping Cities in an Uncertain Future"

Synopsis

In this lecture, Mr. Wong reflects on the importance of visionary thinking in shaping sustainable cities—drawing inspiration from Singapore's transformation from swampland to metropolis. As AI and machine learning redefine the built environment, he asks: will these tools replace the role of architects and engineers, or help us build better? In an era of uncertainty and global change, he urges professionals to lead with foresight, adapt to disruption, and continue shaping the future of our cities.

Biography

Mr. Wong Heang Fine is Chairman of Asia Infrastructure Solutions Singapore and a Director on the Asia Advisory Board of Global Infrastructure Solutions Inc. With over 40 years of leadership experience across the built environment sector—as a developer, contractor, and consultant—he has played a key role in transforming leading organisations, including CapitaLand and Surbana Jurong (SJ).

As the Founding Group CEO of SJ, Mr. Wong led the firm's rapid global expansion, growing it into one of Asia's largest urban and infrastructure consultancies. He currently serves on the boards of the National University Health System (NUHS) and the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and has held advisory and academic roles at NTU and the World Green Building Council. Mr. Wong has been recognised with accolades such as the NTUC Medal of Commendation, iBuildSG Distinguished Fellow, and RICS Fellowship.

Mr. Basskaran Nair - Topic: "Hearts, Homes, and Hope: Crafting Singapore's Social Fabric"

Synopsis

In this thought-provoking presentation, Mr Nair examines Singapore's "3H Vision" of Hearts, Homes and Hope an enduring framework that has shaped the nation's development and the Singaporean identity. He further explores the present "3H Vision" among core Singaporeans and naturalised citizens, and enquires on the future of the nation regarding belonging, national sentiments and social cohesion. While "Homes" and "Hope" are linked closely to the built environment and economic prosperity, the "Hearts" issue is more complex and challenging. Looking ahead, can we build the emotions, feelings and attitudes as we did in the past for a tightly-knitted Singaporean identity, especially among naturalised citizens, in the midst of the visceral pull created by the distraction of social media and geopolitical tensions?

Biography

Mr Nair is a well-regarded communication practitioner, with a distinguished career in government, the private sector, academia and international consultancy. Prior to holding senior positions at DBS Bank and CapitaLand, he headed the government's press department where he was actively involved in national campaigns, national anniversary events, and crisis management like the Laju Hijacking.

Besides managing an international communication agency as Equity Partner and CEO, he also taught in several tertiary institutions including at NUS, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Public Policy in Kazakhstan. Mr Nair has served on several boards including IMDA and Certis Cisco and was awarded the Public Service Media (PBM) in 2010. He is an author and thought leader on strategic communication, marketing and public policy and was inducted into the Singapore Media Industry Hall of Fame in 2022 and is a recipient of the IPRS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Organised as part of Singapore University of Social Sciences' SG60 Lecture Series:



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