

NAVIGATING THE FUTURE

SIIA DINNER
22 November 2022



60th Anniversary Dinner
Programme

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE



Welcome to our dinner to mark the 60th anniversary of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs. On behalf of the SIIA Council, I thank you for taking the time to mark this special occasion.

Our Past and Present

The SIIA was established in 1962 before Singapore was fully independent. Our founders included a very young Professor Tommy Koh as well as expats such as Professor Leslie Greene and G.G. Thomson. The SIIA served to engage the region in “Track II” diplomacy. In 1965, soon after separation, the SIIA organised a first foreign visit to Cambodia, one of the first countries to recognise our independence. Since 1984, when the SIIA was chaired by then MP Dr. Lau Teik Soon, the SIIA represented Singapore in the network of ASEAN think tanks. Then and still, SIIA’s *raison d’être* is to bridge across borders and across sectors – engaging not only the government but also businesses, and citizens.

In the last decade, the SIIA has been ranked as a leading think tank in ASEAN and the No.1 *independent* think tank across all of Asia. This recognises our work on key issues in the politics, economic policy, and sustainability of our region especially ASEAN. We have worked consistently on helping manage the transboundary haze since 1997. The Haze Outlook has now become a reference publication and call to action. Similarly, we initiated the first survey on Green Finance in Singapore with the UN in 2017, working with the encouragement of the MAS to position Singapore as a green finance hub. Following the Asian Financial Crisis, we advocated the effort to Reinvent ASEAN in 2001 and were delighted to welcome the Declaration in 2003 to establish an ASEAN Community. In 2017, the SIIA reviewed “Global Megatrends: Implications for the ASEAN Economic Community”, partnering

with the ASEAN Secretariat. The SIIA analyses key economies around us and engages key decision-makers. As our society confronted the pandemic, the SIIA was the knowledge partner for the Emerging Stronger Taskforce, convening New Horizons dialogues among business leaders to consider the future of Singapore's economy, post-COVID-19. It is in SIIA's DNA to bring key stakeholders together, across borders and across sectors, especially the private sector. This approach distinguishes our two flagship events – the ASEAN and Asia Forum (AAF), and the Sustainable Dialogue for Sustainable World Resources (SDSWR).

Looking Ahead

A 'poly-crisis' is facing us. While affected, Singapore can be resilient and find a way forward. As Singapore and our region respond to the poly-crisis, the SIIA stands ready to contribute. As it evolves, we will continue to assist our people in understanding the key issues and responding to the risks and opportunities that arise. As our country ushers in a new generation of political leaders, we will do our part to support this transition. Going forward, we will seek to broaden our engagement, especially among the emerging generation of private sector leaders and professionals—those in their 30s and 40s. We hope to contribute to greater social cohesion and deeper and broader public understanding.

We aim to cultivate a circle of regional leaders and engage more multinational CEOs, business leaders, and investors based in Singapore. We aim to foster dialogues and nurture a community that while diverse, is centred by interest, purpose, and practice. Though independent, the SIIA is committed to assisting our country for the next decade and beyond, keeping Singapore cohesive, open, and resilient.

While 60 years is considerable history, what is most important and can make the most difference to work together towards, is the future. I thank you all, especially our DPM Lawrence Wong for being with us. Your encouragement, engagement, and support are essential.

Simon Tay

Chairman

Singapore Institute of International Affairs

GUEST OF HONOUR



Mr. Lawrence Wong
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Finance,
Singapore

Mr Lawrence Wong is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. He co-chairs the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19 and is the Deputy Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). He is also a member of the GIC Board, the Future Economy Council, the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council and the National Research Foundation Board, and co-chairs the Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council.

Mr Wong was first elected as a Member of Parliament in May 2011. Mr Wong has held positions in the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Communications and Information, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, the Ministry of National Development, and the Ministry of Education.

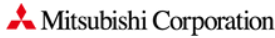
PROGRAMME

- 1900-1910 **INTRODUCTION & ANNIVERSARY VIDEO**
- 1910-1920 **WELCOME REMARKS**
Associate Professor Simon Tay, Chairman, SIIA
- 1920-1950 **DINNER COMMENCES**
First & Main Course to be Served
- 1950-2020 **IN-CONVERSATION**
with **Mr. Lawrence Wong**, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Finance, Singapore

Facilitator: **Associate Professor Simon Tay**, Chairman,
SIIA
- 2020-2030 **TOAST TO SIIA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY**
Toast with SIIA Advisors and Council Members
- 2030 **DINNER RESUMES**
Dessert buffet & Networking
- 2100 **END**
Guests to leave at their convenience

KEY BENEFACTORS & BENEFACTORS

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BENEFACTORS





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