

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

**4th South Asian Diaspora Convention (SADC)
to Identify Growth Opportunities Through Innovation in South Asia**

Singapore, 12 November 2019 – The 4th South Asian Diaspora Convention (SADC) will return to Singapore from 15-17 November 2019. Hosted by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at National University of Singapore, the convention is themed *Vibrant South Asia – Innovative Diaspora* and is expected to bring together more than 800 distinguished guests and more than 30 of the region’s leading policymakers, business leaders, academics and civil society leaders as speakers. Singapore’s Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean, will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session on Saturday, 16 November 2019, followed by an interactive session with participants.

A welcome gala dinner will precede the convention on Friday, 15 November 2019. The evening will witness the honouring of a distinguished member of the South Asian Diaspora. Launched in 2013, the Outstanding Member of the South Asian Diaspora (OMSAD) Award recognises the award recipient’s outstanding lifetime achievements, which have left an indelible mark on his or her field as well as on society-at-large. Past award recipients include Mr Murli Kewalram Chanrai in the 2013 and the late former Singapore President, Mr S R Nathan in 2016.

This year, the Special Lifetime Achievement Award is introduced for the first time and will also be presented on the evening of the gala dinner. The Special Lifetime Achievement Award recognises an individual for his or her significant contributions in his or her field of profession. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, Singapore, will be the Guest-of-Honour for the gala dinner reception and will present these two awards that evening.

On Saturday, 16 November 2019, the full-day convention will consist of seven sessions that cover various geopolitical and economic topics pertaining to South Asia and its diaspora. The sub-themes include:

- Business in South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges
- Infrastructure and Smart Cities
- Innovation, Start-ups and Youth
- Women Empowerment in South Asia
- South Asian Diaspora: A Strategic Asset?
- Technology in Financial Services
- Trends in Education Technology

This year, we have introduced a session on women empowerment in South Asia, which brings together several female political leaders and change makers in one session. Ms Indranee Rajah, Singapore’s Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Finance and Education, will deliver her keynote address for this session.

Also gracing the event is Mr Lawrence Wong, Singapore’s Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance. He will deliver his keynote speech and participate in an interactive session for the plenary on Infrastructure and Smart Cities.

These sub-themes have been carefully chosen in view of their current significance to South Asia and how the South Asia diaspora can contribute in these areas. As the SADC is held in Singapore, a key element of the event is how Singapore and Singapore corporates and organisations can also be involved economically in some of these key areas.

The convention will reinforce Singapore's position as a hub for international commerce and business connection and entrench Singapore's position as a global thought leader. More specifically, Singapore serves as an important node for business networking amongst the South Asian diaspora as well as between the diaspora and business communities in East Asia and beyond. The convention will provide participants an opportunity to forge binding relationships that will enable them as a community to participate in the rapid growth of a resurgent South Asia.

Moderators, chairpersons and speakers at the convention include:

Ms Rasheda K Choudhury

Executive Director (CEO), Campaign for Popular Education; and
Former Adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh

Mr Md Shahidul Haque

Foreign Secretary
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Mr Bharat Rajesh Joshi

Director
Joshi Group/J-Curve
India

Mr Sopnendu Mohanty

Chief FinTech Officer
Monetary Authority of Singapore

Mr Pang Yee Ean

Director General, Investment Operations
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
China

Mr Ajay Tyagi

Chairman
Securities and Exchange Board of India

Mr Jonathan Yap

President, CapitaLand Financial
CapitaLand Group
Singapore

Please refer to the full list in the [Annex](#).

This year, for the first time, we have also planned for an exciting cricket match on Sunday, 17 November 2019 with corporate teams and top-notch South Asian cricket celebrities who are:

India

1. Mohammad Azharuddin
2. Harbhajan Singh
3. Zaheer Khan
4. Irfan Pathan

Sri Lanka

1. T M Dilshan

Bangladesh

1. Mohammad Ashraful
2. Abdur Razzak

An In-conversation session with Indian cricket legends Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, moderated by Boria Majumdar, will be held on the evening of 17 November 2019, as the finale to SADC 2019.

The range of activities lined up over the three days will make for an event that is robust and exciting. SADC 2019 will provide a platform for the South Asian diaspora and the rest of the world to engage in inventive conversations, thus keeping in line with the theme of Vibrant South Asia – Innovative Diaspora.

For the latest information on the event, please visit www.southasiandiaspora.org.

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About ISAS

The Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) was established in July 2004 as an autonomous research institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS). The establishment of ISAS reflects the increasing economic and political importance of South Asia, and the strong historical links between South Asia and Southeast Asia.

ISAS is dedicated to research on contemporary South Asia. The Institute seeks to promote understanding of this vital region of the world, and to communicate knowledge and insights about it to policy makers, the business community, academia and civil society, in Singapore and beyond.

For more information, visit <http://www.isas.nus.edu.sg>

Appendix

SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

MINISTERS

- Mr Teo Chee Hean
Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security
Republic of Singapore
- Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies
Republic of Singapore
- Mr Lawrence Wong
Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance
Republic of Singapore
- Ms Indranee Rajah
Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and
Second Minister for Finance and Education
Republic of Singapore

ORGANISER – INSTITUTE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (ISAS)

- Ambassador Gopinath Pillai
Chairman
Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore; and
Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singapore
- Professor Tan Tai Yong
President, Yale-NUS College; and
Deputy Chairman, Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS
- Professor C Raja Mohan
Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS
- Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury
Principal Research Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS; and
Former Foreign Advisor (Foreign Minister) of Bangladesh
- Mr Vinod Rai
Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS; and
Former Comptroller and Auditor General
India
- Dr S Narayan
Visiting Senior Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS; and
Former Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of India

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- Mr Chandrajit Banerjee
Director-General
Confederation of Indian Industry
India

- Dr Francis Chong
Senior Director, Emerging Markets Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Singapore
- Ms Rasheda K Choudhury
Executive Director (CEO), Campaign for Popular Education; and
Former Adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh
- Mr S Chandra Das
Managing Director, NUR Investment & Trading Pte Ltd; and
Non-Resident High Commissioner of Singapore to Sri Lanka
- Ms Karuna Gopal
Founding President
Foundation for Futuristic Cities
India
- Mr Md Shahidul Haque
Foreign Secretary
People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Mr Shaikh Ismail
Managing Director
Communications, Media & Technology
Accenture; and
Member, Board of Governors of the
Institute of Technical Education
Singapore
- Mr Bharat Rajesh Joshi
Director
Joshi Group/J-Curve
India
- Ms Aisha Khan
Chief Executive, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change
Pakistan
- Mr Enayetullah Khan
Founder and Managing Director
Cosmos Group
Bangladesh
- Professor Fatimah Lateef
Professor in Emergency Medicine, SingHealth; and
Member of Parliament
Singapore
- Ms Anne Lochoff
Senior Advisor (Partnerships)
Global Centre for Technology, Innovation
And Sustainable Development
United Nations Development Programme
Singapore

- Professor Kishore Mahbubani
Distinguished Fellow
Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore

- Ms Roshni Mahtani
Founder and
Group Chief Executive Officer
theAsianparents
Jakarta, Indonesia

- Mr Sopnendu Mohanty
Chief FinTech Officer
Monetary Authority of Singapore

- Ms Pranoti Nagarkar
Founder, Inventor, Chief Executive Officer
Rotimatic

- Mr Ng Yi Ming
Managing Partner
Tribe Accelerator
Singapore

- Mr Pang Yee Ean
Director General, Investment Operations
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
China

- Professor Anju Mary Paul
Associate Professor and
Head of Studies of the Global Affairs
Yale-NUS College
Singapore

- Mr Hadi Rahmad
Chief Commercial Officer
WhatsHalal
Singapore

- Ms Vani Tripathi Tikoo
Actor/Producer
Member, Central Board of Film Certification
India

- Mr Ajay Tyagi
Chairman
Securities and Exchange Board of India

- Professor Wang Gungwu
University Professor, National University of Singapore; and
Emeritus Professor, Australian National University

- Mr Jonathan Yap
President, CapitalLand Financial
CapitalLand Group
Singapore

The speaker list is updated as of 12 November 2019 and is subject to change.