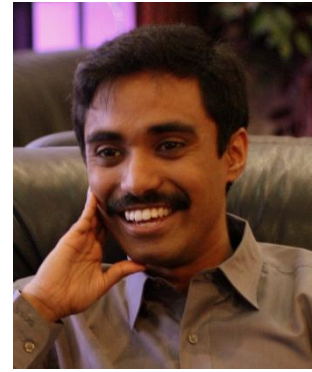


Panel 1: Applying Foresight in Organisations

Moderator: Aaron Maniam

Director, Industry Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)



Aaron Maniam was awarded the Singapore Public Service Commission's Overseas Merit Scholarship in 1998, graduating with double First Class Honours in Philosophy, and Politics & Economics from Somerville College, Oxford University, where he was a Coombs Scholar and held the 'Mary Somerville' prize for academic excellence. In 2002, he received a Master of Arts degree from Yale University in International and Development Economics. In September 2014, he received a Masters in Public Policy (with Distinction) from Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, which he attended on a Lee Kuan Yew postgraduate scholarship.

Aaron joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 2004. He served with the North America Desk (2004-2006) and at Singapore's Embassy in Washington DC (2006-2008), where he covered Congressional outreach and issues relating to the Middle East. He was posted to the Strategic Policy Office (SPO) at the Public Service Division in 2008, where he began working on scenario planning and analysis of long-term trends and emerging issues relevant to Singapore. He was appointed the first Head of the Singapore Government's newly-formed Centre for Strategic Futures (CSF) in January 2010, while retaining his SPO portfolio. Aaron continued to serve the CSF as an Associate Fellow until November 2011. In July 2011, he was appointed Director of what is now known as the Institute of Public Sector Leadership at the Civil Service College, which organises leadership training programmes for public sector talent in Singapore. He convened the College's multi-sector interest groups on Governance and Complexity, which explored the nexus between policy work and academic research on governance and complexity science. In his current role with MTI, he coordinates policy on manufacturing, services, tourism and economic transformation.

Aaron has also served on inter-agency teams dealing with such cross-cutting issues as Singapore's economic regulation system, how Singapore can be a 'reference voice' in Asia; how to manage Singapore's evolving social compact; and how to restructure the government's leadership/talent development. He speaks regularly on public sector careers and was appointed a Brand Ambassador for the public service in 2010. He teaches and facilitates modules at the Civil Service College on principles of policymaking, security and foreign policy, governance in complex situations and other topics relating to Singapore's public sector. He is a volunteer Adjunct Faculty member of the NUS's University Scholars Programme, where he teaches a module on 'Leadership in a Complex World'; and at the Singapore Management University, where he facilitates a roundtable on 'New Thinking in Public Policy'.

Aaron was identified by the U.S.-based Asia Society as one of 200 'Asia 21 Young Leaders' in 2006 and has attended the annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit since. In 2008, he was one of 25 'Asia 21 Fellows' selected from across the Asia Pacific. In 2010, he was identified by the Society as one of its inaugural two Next Generation Policy Leaders from across the Asia Pacific, and named a Richard C. Holbrooke Fellow in a new initiative to promote the next generation of Asian and American foreign policy leaders. In January 2011, Aaron was one of eight young leaders named 'Outstanding Young Singaporean' by the Orchid Jayceettes, a local chapter of the Junior Chamber International. In June 2012, he received the Singapore Youth Award, Singapore's highest accolade for youth excellence, from the Prime Minister.

In 2013, he was identified by the World Economic Forum as one of 199 Young Global Leaders from around the world. In January 2014, he was named a 'World Cities Summit' Young Leader, in recognition of his work on urban governance issues. In May 2014, he was named a member of the 'Purpose Economy Asia 100' by the U.S.-based firm Imperative, which identifies innovative pioneers in purpose-driven management in the Asia-Pacific.