

The cover features a white background with a large, abstract red geometric shape on the right side, composed of several overlapping triangles and polygons. The text is centered on the left. The word 'NIC' is in large black letters, with '2026' in red inside the 'C'. Below it, 'SINGAPORE CONFERENCE' is in black, underlined with a red line. The subtitle 'Healthcare, Geopolitics and the Disruptors' is in red. The dates '10 - 11 June 2026' are in black, and 'Programme Booklet' is in blue. A faint dotted pattern surrounds the main text.

NIC
2026

**SINGAPORE
CONFERENCE**

**Healthcare, Geopolitics
and the Disruptors**

10 - 11 June 2026

Programme Booklet

NIC 2026

SINGAPORE CONFERENCE

Healthcare, Geopolitics and the Disruptors

Contents

Conference Programme

Wednesday, 10 June 2026	2
Thursday, 11 June 2026	2

Speakers' and Moderators' Biographies	8
--	----------

Acknowledgements	23
-------------------------	-----------

General Information	23
----------------------------	-----------

Useful Contacts	24
------------------------	-----------

Conference Programme

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Venue: Coriander Leaf; 20 Craig Rd #01-01, Craig Place, Singapore 089692

Time	Welcome Dinner
6:00pm – 6:30pm	Registration
6:30pm – 9:00pm	Welcome Dinner hosted by Dr Raja KAMAL, PhD <i>Senior Director, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i>
	End of Day 1

Thursday, 11 June 2026

Venue: Raffles Hotel Singapore, Level 3; Palm Ballroom, 1 Beach Rd, Singapore 189673

Time	Conference Agenda
8:00am – 8:20am	Registration
8:20am – 8:30am	Welcome Remarks by Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i>
8:30am – 9:30am	Predatory Hegemony and the War with Iran by Professor Stephen M WALT <i>Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, United States</i> Professor Walt will discuss how the United States has become a predatory hegemon during Donald Trump's first term, and then consider the implications of the current war with Iran. Moderator: Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i>
9:30am – 9:40am	Intermission

Time	Conference Agenda
9:40am – 10:30am	<p>Healthcare Keynote on “Precision Oncology and the Future of Cancer Care: Personalised Medicine in a Complex World</p> <p>by Professor Giampaolo TORTORA <i>Full Professor of Medical Oncology, Medical School, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Policlinico Universitario Gemelli, Italy</i></p> <p>For decades, cancer treatment relied largely on surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Today, advances in genomics, molecular diagnostics, and targeted therapies are transforming how cancer is understood and treated, bringing medicine closer to the goal of delivering the right treatment to the right patient at the right time.</p> <p>Professor Giampaolo Tortora has been at the forefront of the scientific advances that have transformed cancer treatment worldwide. In this conversation, he examines how the next generation of breakthroughs is reshaping cancer care and improving outcomes for patients worldwide. The conversation explores not only the advances driving this transformation, but also the challenges of ensuring that increasingly personalised therapies remain accessible, affordable, and sustainable in healthcare systems facing growing complexity.</p> <p>Moderator: Professor Glenn BONNEY <i>Adjunct Associate Professor, National University Singapore and Senior Consultant Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Transplant Surgeon, PanAsia Surgery</i></p>
10:30am – 11:00am	Morning Tea Break

Thursday, 11 June 2026

Venue: Raffles Hotel Singapore, Level 3; Palm Ballroom, 1 Beach Rd, Singapore 189673

Time	Conference Agenda
11:00am – 12:00pm	<p>NIC Members' Meeting</p> <p>Update on NUS Medicine by Professor CHONG Yap Seng <i>Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine)</i></p>
12:00pm – 1:30pm	<p>Lunch</p>
1:30pm – 2:20pm	<p>Next Generation Breast Cancer Prevention: Can We See Cancer Before It Happens? by Professor Mikael HARTMAN <i>Head of Division and Senior Consultant, Division of General Surgery (Breast Surgery), Department of Surgery, National University Hospital; Associate Professor, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore</i></p> <p>Modern medicine has transformed the prevention of infectious and cardiovascular diseases, yet cancer prevention remains one of healthcare's greatest challenges. Could advances in genomics, data science, and artificial intelligence finally change that?</p> <p>Drawing on his pioneering work in personalised breast cancer screening and risk prediction, Associate Professor Mikael Hartman discusses how genomics and predictive analytics may enable clinicians to identify women at elevated risk years before cancer develops, opening the door to earlier intervention, tailored screening and even preventive therapies. The conversation explores not only the scientific advances driving this transformation, but also the ethical, societal, and policy implications of a future in which healthcare increasingly seeks to predict and prevent disease before it appears.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Kanwaljit SOIN <i>Orthopaedic and Hand Surgeon (Retired), Former Nominated Member of Parliament of Singapore</i></p>

Time	Conference Agenda
2:20pm – 3:10pm	<p>From Innovation to Impact: Building the Future of Cancer Care</p> <p>by Professor CHEE Cheng Ean <i>Executive Director and Senior Consultant, Department of Haematology-Oncology, National University Cancer Institute, Singapore; Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore</i></p> <p>Cancer care is undergoing profound transformation. Advances in artificial intelligence, genomics, and precision oncology are reshaping what is possible in the fight against cancer. At the same time, ageing populations, workforce constraints, and rising healthcare demands are challenging healthcare systems worldwide to rethink how care is delivered.</p> <p>At the helm of Singapore’s only public academic cancer centre caring for both adults and children, Associate Professor Chee reflects on how healthcare systems can harness innovation to create meaningful and lasting impact. From prevention and early detection to survivorship and emerging therapies, she explores the opportunities and challenges of building cancer services that are not only innovative, but also equitable, sustainable, and deeply human.</p> <p>As healthcare enters a new era, this conversation considers what it will take to ensure that scientific progress translates into better outcomes, better experiences and healthier futures for the populations we serve.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Harish MITHIRAN <i>Senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Neumark Lung and Chest Surgery Centre, Singapore</i></p>
3:10pm – 3:40pm	Afternoon Tea Break

Thursday, 11 June 2026

Venue: Raffles Hotel Singapore, Level 3; Palm Ballroom, 1 Beach Rd, Singapore 189673

Time	Conference Agenda
3:40pm – 4:30pm	<p>A Conversation with Mr YEO Whee Jim on “(Re)Defining Singapore: Is There Heart in Our Competence?” <i>CFS “Everyday Heroes of Philanthropy” and Founder of the Lok Yan and Whee Jim Fund</i></p> <p>In an increasingly uncertain world, what values will sustain us as individuals and as a society? Through reflections on living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), caregiving, vulnerability, and dependence on others, this conversation explores resilience, compassion, and the Singapore we hope to build. Drawing inspiration from Mr Yeo’s determination to embrace life with humour, grace, and purpose despite immense challenges, it considers how Singapore can cultivate not only excellence and achievement, but also dignity, inclusion, and hope.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Bianca CHEO <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Mewah International Inc and Co-Author of the “(Re)Defining Singapore” book, Singapore</i></p>
4:30pm – 5:20pm	<p>The Iran War and the New Geometry of US–China Relations by Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i></p> <p>While headlines focus on the immediate consequences of the Iran war, the deeper significance of the conflict may lie in the long-term shifts it reveals. As the global balance of power evolves and new centres of influence emerge, are we witnessing the gradual transition into a post-American era? Professor Mahbubani explores how the war is reshaping perceptions of power, accelerating geopolitical realignments, and challenging assumptions that have underpinned the international order for decades.</p>

Time	Conference Agenda
5:20pm – 6:30pm	Free & Easy
6:30pm – 9:00pm	<p>Special Highlight Dinner Programme: Launch of Aileen Wee Professorship in Liver Diseases</p> <p>6:30pm Registration and Reception</p> <p>7:00pm Launch of the Aileen Wee Professorship in Liver Diseases</p> <p>7:30pm Dinner Commence</p> <p>9:00pm Dinner Ends</p>
	End of Day 2

The page features abstract, overlapping red geometric shapes in the top-right and bottom-left corners, creating a modern, dynamic background. The rest of the page is white.

Speakers' and Moderators' Biographies

Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI


Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore



Professor Kishore Mahbubani has dedicated three decades of his life to public service: 33 years in the Singapore Administrative Service, 13 years as the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (NUS), and now as a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, NUS, where he has launched the Asian Peace Programme and created an MOOC on US-China relations.

In his 33 years as a Singapore diplomat, Professor Mahbubani took on many challenging assignments, serving for example in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 1973/74 when the city was shelled almost every day. Shrapnel penetrated the walls of his house. He also served in Kuala Lumpur and Washington DC and had two stints as Singapore's Ambassador to the UN (1984-1989 and 1998-2004). He held the apex position of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1998 and was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) by the Singaporean Government in 1998.

Professor Mahbubani had an equally illustrious career in academia. He was appointed the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in August 2004. Within five years, the LKY School was admitted to the Global Public Policy Network, a small elite club of Schools of Public Policy (with the other members coming from Columbia University, London School of Economics, and Sciences Po, Paris). Despite his heavy administrative duties, Professor Mahbubani proved to be a prolific author. He has published ten books: *Can Asians Think?*, *Beyond The Age Of Innocence*, *The New Asian Hemisphere*, *The Great Convergence*, *Can Singapore Survive?*, *The ASEAN Miracle* (co-authored with Jeffery Sng), *Has the West Lost It?*, *Has China Won*, *The Asian 21st Century* and *Living the Asian Century*. *The Asian 21st Century* is an open access book which has been downloaded over 4.35 million times since it was published in 2022.



Professor Mahbubani has received global recognition for his intellectual contributions, having been listed several times in the list of top global thinkers by Foreign Policy and Prospect magazines. *The Financial Times* listed him as one of fifty individuals who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism. Perhaps the best summary of Professor Mahbubani's contributions was made in the citation for the US Foreign Policy Association Medal he received in June 2004: "a gifted diplomat, a student of history and philosophy, a provocative writer and an intuitive thinker".

Professor Mahbubani has held positions in several globally significant committees. He was the founding chairman of the nominating committee of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize (2009 to 2019). He also served on the Commission of Eminent Persons to revive the future of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2007/08, under the chairmanship of the former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo. In April 2019, he was the second Singaporean to be elected as an honorary international member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which has honoured distinguished thinkers, including several of America's Founding Fathers, since 1780.

Professor CHONG Yap Seng


Lien Ying Chow Professor in Medicine and Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore; and Deputy Chief Executive (Education & Research), National University Health System (NUHS), Singapore



Professor Chong Yap Seng is the Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore. Since assuming the deanship in 2019, NUS Medicine has risen to 13th place in the 2026 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (Medical & Health) and 17th place in the 2026 QS World University Rankings for Medicine.

As Deputy Chief Executive for Education and Research at the National University Health System (NUHS), Professor Chong advances NUHS' academic mission by overseeing academic and research development across its institutions. Recently appointed the Executive Director of Singapore's first RIE Grand Challenge (RIE GC) on Maximising Healthy and Successful Longevity (MHSL), he will spearhead the development of scientific innovations and evidence-based solutions to extend healthspan in a super-aging Singapore. As the Chief Clinical Officer at the Institute for Human Development and Potential, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), he oversees clinical programmes that seek to promote health and human capacity in Singapore and beyond.

Professor Chong is the lead principal investigator of two of Singapore's most prominent birth cohort studies: Growing Up in Singapore Towards healthy Outcomes (GUSTO) and the Singapore Preconception Study of long-Term maternal and child Outcomes (S-PRESTO). He has co-authored close to 700 research publications in leading international journals to date. His research excellence has been recognised with numerous honours, including the National Outstanding Clinician Scientist Award (2017) from Singapore's Ministry of Health and the Public Administration Medal (Silver) at the 2022 Singapore National Day Awards.



Driven by a lifelong belief in the power of science to optimise human potential and by his interest in the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, Professor Chong's energies throughout his career have been focused on bridging medicine with other disciplines and sectors, both locally and internationally. His efforts to refocus medical education on health was recognised with an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich and in recognition of his longstanding contributions to medical science and global health, Professor Chong was conferred the ATOM Lifetime Outstanding Achievement Award for Healthcare.

An obstetrician by training, Professor Chong continues to serve as Senior Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the National University Hospital and still takes joy in welcoming newborns into the world.

Professor Stephen M WALT

Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School; Faculty Chair, International Security Program; Member of the Board, Belfer Center; Faculty Affiliate, Future of Diplomacy Project; Faculty Affiliate, Middle East Initiative



Professor Stephen M. Walt is the Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he served as Academic Dean from 2002 to 2006. He previously taught at Princeton and at the University of Chicago, where he was Master of the Social Sciences Collegiate Division and Deputy Dean of Social Sciences. He is a Contributing Editor at *Foreign Policy* magazine, Co-chair of the editorial board of *International Security*, and Co-editor of the *Cornell Studies in Security Affairs* book series. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in May 2005 and received the International Studies Association's Distinguished Senior Scholar award in 2014. His books include *The Origins of Alliances*, which received the 1988 Edgar S. Furniss National Security Book Award, and *Taming American Power: The Global Response to U.S. Primacy*, which was a finalist for the Lionel Gelber International Affairs Book Award and the Arthur Ross Book Prize. His book *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007, co-authored with John J. Mearsheimer) was a New York Times best seller and has been translated into more than twenty foreign languages. His most recent book is *The Hell of Good Intentions: America's Foreign Policy Elite and the Decline of U.S. Primacy* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2018).

Professor Giampaolo TORTORA

Full Professor of Medical Oncology, Medical School, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Policlinico Universitario Gemelli, Italy



Professor Giampaolo Tortora, MD, PhD, is a member of the Ultrastructural Biophysics Research Institute (UBRI) Scientific Committee, a full professor of Medical Oncology at the Catholic University, Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of Europe's largest cancer centres, and the Medical Oncology Division at the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Gemelli of Rome. The leading oncologist in the world, his research helped pioneer the modern era of precision cancer medicine, contributing to targeted therapies now used worldwide.

His areas of expertise are: the development of antitumor drugs from the laboratory to the clinic; the identification of molecular biomarkers of response and resistance to treatment; the treatment of patients affected by tumours of digestive tract, genitourinary tract, lung, and breast; the organisation and management of Comprehensive Cancer Centers.

He trained for five years at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, United States of America (USA) and then staged in other USA and European scientific Institutions.

Professor Tortora headed Medical Oncology in several Italian Universities and academic hospitals. He is/has been member of several international Directorates including, among the others: the Executive and Steering Committee of the International Consortium for the Genome of Cancer (ICGC), the Translational and Personalized Medicine working group of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), the Foundation of Pancreas Diseases (FIMP); the Committee for Education and training in the Joint Action Network of Experts (JANE2) European project.

He is the author of over 600 international peer-reviewed papers with an H-index of 94 and 51,500 citations (Scopus).

Professor Glenn BONNEY

Adjunct Associate Professor, National University Singapore and Senior Consultant Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Transplant Surgeon, PanAsia Surgery, Singapore



Adjunct Associate Professor Glenn Bonney is a distinguished Senior Consultant General Surgeon with a specialist interest in liver, pancreas and transplant surgery as well as Adjunct Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Department of Surgery. With over two decades of experience, he has participated in more than 3,000 surgeries, including over 500 transplants across major academic institutions in the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Professor Bonney has held several pivotal leadership roles within Singapore's healthcare landscape at the National University Hospital (as Senior Consultant for hepatopancreatobiliary (Liver, Pancreas, Gallbladder), National Cancer Institute Singapore (Chair of the Liver, Gallbladder, and Pancreas Tumour Group) and the National University Centre for Organ Transplantation (Senior Consultant Liver and Pancreas Transplant Surgeon) also serving as a Visiting Consultant for the Liver Transplant Programme at Singapore General Hospital (SGH).

A pioneer in advanced surgical techniques, Professor Bonney initiated a Robotic Liver and Pancreas Programme, specialising in minimally invasive procedures that accelerate patient recovery. He has directly been involved in training specialist surgeons across Asia, Australasia, Europe, Africa and South America. His commitment to clinical translation is evidenced by securing over \$30 million in research grants in his laboratories based in NUS, focussed on precision cancer care, including cancer vaccines and longevity, with patented technology in translational start-up companies.

With over 100 publications and international speaking engagements, including global guidelines for pancreatic cancer and liver transplantation, Professor Bonney is an international thought leader and council member in the field of liver and pancreatic surgery. He is also a recognised leader in Value-Based Care, advocating for enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) and prehabilitation to ensure patient-centric outcomes.

Professor Mikael HARTMAN

Head of Division and Senior Consultant, Division of General Surgery (Breast Surgery), Department of Surgery, National University Hospital; Associate Professor, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore



Associate Professor Mikael Hartman has been practising in Singapore since 2009 and is originally from Stockholm, Sweden where he received his training at Karolinska Institute. That is also where he received his board certification in General Surgery in 2005. Having completed his doctoral studies in the field of epidemiology in 2007, he specializes in the field of breast cancer etiology and prognostication as well as inheritance of cancer prognosis.

He heads a research group of more than ten members and is leading the development of the Singapore Breast Cancer Cohort, the Singapore-Malaysia Breast Cancer Working Group and the Breast Cancer Prevention Programme at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH).

He is a father of 3 children with keen interest in skiing, hiking and mountain biking. In 2014, he made an effort to create awareness for breast cancer and research by riding a motorcycle from Singapore to Sweden. As a result of this movement, he initiated the Asian Breast Cancer Research Fund to support breast cancer related research across Asia.

Awards/Honours

- Recipient of NMRC Clinician Scientist Award (Senior Investigator) 2017
- The Digital Mammographic DREAM Challenge 2017 (5th place of Sub-challenge 1 and 4th place of Sub-challenge 2)
- Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Special Recognition Award 2017
- Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Special Recognition Award 2015
- Swedish Business Association of Singapore (SBAS) Recognized Award 2014
- Recipient of NMRC Clinician Scientist Award 2013
- Best Poster Presentation International Surgical Society (ISS) Meeting 2009, Adelaide, Australia

Dr Kanwaljit SOIN

Orthopaedic and Hand Surgeon (Retired), Former Nominated Member of Parliament of Singapore



Dr Kanwaljit Soin is an orthopaedic and hand surgeon. She graduated with MBBS Hons (1966) from the University of Singapore and was top of her class. She won numerous medals in her undergraduate career.

She obtained her Master of Medicine (Surgery) and became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1970. She was a Colombo Plan Scholar to Australia to train in hand surgery.

She was President of the Singapore Society for Hand Surgery and of the Singapore Orthopaedic Association. She has participated in many overseas medical missions.

She delivered the 8th Chapter of Surgeons' Lecture in 1998, the Annual Oration for the Obstetrics & Gynaecological Society (Singapore) in 1999, the Donald Gunn Lecture in 2001 and the Syme Oration for the Australasian Royal College of Surgeons in 2014.

She was Singapore's first female Nominated Member of Parliament (1992-1996). She was inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2014. She was a founding member of the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE) in 1985 and its president (1991-1993). She was the founding chair of the Singapore Chapter of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the founding president of Women's Initiative for Ageing Successfully (WINGS).

She was a board member of United Kingdom-based HelpAge International which serves disadvantaged older people worldwide. She has served as a board member of Washington University International Advisory Council for Asia. She has also been a jury member for the Rolex Awards for Enterprise.

She has received the Singapore Medical Association Merit Award, the International Women's Forum's Women Who Make a Difference Award, a UNIFEM Lifetime Achievement Award and Singapore's Woman of the Year award. She is the author of *Silver Shades of Grey: Memos for Successful Ageing in the 21st Century*. She is a co-editor of the book *Our Lives to Live— Putting a Woman's Face to Change in Singapore*. She is the co-editor of the book, *Why Not? Thinking of Singapore's Tomorrow*.

Professor CHEE Cheng Ean

Executive Director, National University Cancer Institute; Senior Consultant, Department of Haematology-Oncology, National University Cancer Institute; Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore



Adjunct Associate Professor Chee Cheng Ean is the Executive Director of the National University Cancer Institute (NCIS), Singapore. In this role, she provides leadership and direction, and is responsible for implementing strategic initiatives for NCIS (pronounced N-CIS), which is the only public, academic cancer center in Singapore treating both paediatric and adult cancers in one facility.

Adjunct Associate Professor Chee is also a senior consultant, gastrointestinal (GI) oncologist and clinician investigator. Her portfolio includes clinical and research initiatives in precision oncology and clinical trials involving novel therapeutics in GI cancers which have been awarded institutional and national grant funding. She also leads the cancer survivorship programme at NCIS and is a proponent of value-based healthcare initiatives.

Dr Harish MITHIRAN

Senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Neumark Lung and Chest Surgery Centre, Singapore



Dr Harish Mithiran is a senior consultant thoracic surgeon at Gleneagles and Mount Alvernia Hospitals in Singapore.

He completed his medical school in 2004 and after completing his basic surgical training, he joined National University Hospital Singapore in 2009 where he began this training in cardiothoracic surgery.

A specialist since 2014 and focussing in the field of thoracic surgery, he has performed over 2500 thoracic surgery operations. As a forward-thinking surgeon, Dr Mithiran performs many new lung surgery techniques including Uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (U-VATS), Robotic Assisted Thoracic Surgery (RATS), lung localisation techniques, and navigational bronchoscopy. Dr Mithiran was the Associate Program Director for the Cardiothoracic Residency program from 2015 to 2021 and has always been passionate about training the next generation of Asian cardiothoracic surgeons.

A key opinion leader in the field of thoracic surgery, rib fractures, and chest wall surgery tumours, Dr Mithiran is a council member for the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons Singapore, the assistant treasurer for the South East Asian Thoracic Society and a member of European Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Mr YEO Whee Jim

CFS “Everyday Hero of Philanthropy” and Founder of the Lok Yan and Whee Jim Fund



Mr Yeo Whee Jim is a former senior Singapore public servant, leadership educator and founder of Light My Path Consulting. Over a distinguished career spanning more than two decades, he served in a range of leadership positions across the Singapore Public Service, including as Institute Director of the Civil Service College, Senior Director at the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Director at the Public Service Division, and a diplomat with Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has worked extensively in leadership development, public sector transformation, community building and international engagement.

Today, Mr Yeo is also recognised as a Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS) “Everyday Hero of Philanthropy” and founder of the Lok Yan and Whee Jim Fund. Following his diagnosis with ALS, he chose to channel his experience into a lasting legacy of service, establishing an endowment fund in memory of his late wife and in support of disadvantaged children, young caregivers and families. Rooted in his belief that “to live is to give”, the fund seeks to ensure that future generations are empowered through education, sports and the arts.

Widely respected for his reflections on resilience, compassion and human dignity, Mr Yeo has become a thoughtful advocate for caregiving, end-of-life conversations and the importance of building a more caring and inclusive society. His essay, “Is There Heart in Our Competence?”, in *(Re)Defining Singapore* offers a deeply personal reflection on what truly matters when achievement, independence, and certainty can no longer be taken for granted. Through his courage, humour, and unwavering commitment to living life with purpose despite immense challenges, he continues to inspire others to reflect on the values that sustain individuals, communities and societies in difficult times.

To Support the Lok Yan and Whee Jim Fund: <https://www.giving.sg/donate/campaign/the-lok-yan-and-whee-jim-fund-because-no-child-should-walk-alone>

Ms Bianca CHEO

Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Mewah International Inc and Co-Author of the “(Re)Defining Singapore” book, Singapore




Ms Bianca Cheo Hui Hsin is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and an Executive Director of Mewah International Inc, which is listed on the mainboard of the Singapore Stock Exchange. She joined the Mewah Group in 2004 and is involved in the overall strategy of the group with particular focus on the consumer pack segment of the business of which she has overall responsibility.

Since taking over the division, she has focussed on enhancing brand building as well as the sales and development of premium customised oils and fats products. In addition, Ms Cheo has been instrumental in introducing new products to the consumer pack division, leading the Group’s foray into manufacturing and distribution of rice, dairy products, premixes, and soap. She has also expanded the Group’s distribution strength, developing the Group’s presence in Africa, Europe, and South America. In addition, she has spearheaded the setting up of the group’s cashew and cocoa division. Ms Cheo was responsible for executing the Group’s listing on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Prior to joining the Group, she practised law in Singapore with Allen & Gledhill LLP from 2000 to 2003 and with Norton Rose LLP from 2003 to 2004. Ms Cheo graduated from the King’s College University of London, with a Bachelor of Laws in 1998 and was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 2000.

Ms Cheo is an active contributor to the National Cancer Centre Singapore, where she served as chairperson of the Development and Advisory Committee providing advice to the Chief Executive Officer. She was also a trustee of the Board of National Capital Cancer Research Fund (NCCRF) and a member of the Institution Fund Committee.



She is currently the Head of Remuneration Committee, a member of the Audit Committee, and an independent commissioner on the Board of Commissioners of PT Matahari Department Store Tbk, the largest retail platform in Indonesia with stores located across the country and online presence on Matahari.com.

Ms Cheo is also a member of The Salvation Army National Advisory Board (Singapore).

In her free time, Ms Cheo is an avid supporter of the arts and is an executive producer of The LKY Musical, one of the most successful Singaporean musicals of all time. She has also produced a book called *(Re)defining Singapore*, celebrating Singapore's 60 years of independence.



NUS
National University
of Singapore

International Council
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine