

CONTENTS

Introduction to Singapore Model Parliament (SMP) 2018

Foreword

Programme

Delegate Information – Dress code and Venue

Singapore’s Legislature, Executive and Judiciary

Additional Information on Singapore’s Parliamentary System

Roles of Participants

Sample Bill Template for SMP 2018

Considerations for Proposed Bills

Awards and Judging Criteria

Guests of Honour and Guest Speakers

Judges and Facilitators

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Singapore Model Parliament (SMP) 2018!

The Parliament in Singapore is a crucial institution in our democracy, and one of the three crucial pillars that forms the Singapore Government. Among the key functions of Parliament include law-making, control of the state's finances and playing an inquisitorial role in maintaining checks and balances. The heart of Parliament comprises Members-of-Parliament (MPs) who are elected by Singaporeans to represent them. When presented with new policies or bills, MPs study their implications and impact on Singaporeans, weigh the potential trade-offs involved and present their constituents' views on any given Bill in the House.

Before a Bill is tabled in Parliament, it needs to go through many rounds of discussions, deliberations and refinement by the Government. When a policy or Bill is eventually tabled in Parliament for discussion, it will be the duty of the MPs to examine the matter closely. However, every policy landscape is vastly different from the next and comes with different considerations. On top of this, there are other inherent principles to uphold such as policy consistency and whether the policy in question benefits the most people. Every choice comes with consequences and it is up to the MPs to speak out honestly, rationally and constructively.

The SMP 2018 attempts to replicate this experience for student-participants. As a premier REACH event in its fifth year, SMP 2018 is designed as a platform to expose Singaporean youths to the workings behind Singapore's parliamentary system. While previous editions of the SMP were held at The Arts House (formerly the Old Parliament House), this year marks the first time the SMP will be hosted at the actual Parliament House.

Through a carefully-curated intensive 3-day programme, student-participants will gain real-world insights into the workings of this respectable institution. Student-participants will be put through a series of structured activities that will simulate the process of Bill drafting and parliamentary debates to better allow everyone to appreciate the policy feedback, formulation, legislation and implementation processes. It is hoped that this exposure will give student-participants a deeper understanding of the trade-offs and complexities of actual policy formulations.

We believe you will find the SMP 2018 to be a meaningful and invigorating personal experience.

We wish you success!

Yours,
The Organising Committee

FOREWORD BY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

Welcome to the Singapore Model Parliament 2018 or SMP 2018.

Though not a new concept, this is the first time Singapore Parliament is working directly with REACH to launch a new series of the SMP to help young Singaporeans understand the role and inner working of the Parliament - an important institution where laws are made, and political office holders are held accountable for their decisions and actions in managing the State's finances and the policies they introduce.

From 3-4 February, participants will gather in the Parliament House, assume the roles of political office holders and parliamentarians and debate on difficult but important policy issues that will impact on Singaporeans for many years to come. I hope that by the end of the session, participants will have a better appreciation of the complexity of governance in Singapore, the interactions between Government, MP and NCMPs, and the trade-offs involved in every decision made.

I look forward to hearing your debate during the session.

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin
Speaker of Parliament

FOREWORD BY REACH CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the Singapore Model Parliament (SMP) 2018!

Over the course of the programme, you will experience first-hand how a Bill becomes the law of the land. This is no simple or straightforward process, as you shall find out through a series of thoughtfully-designed activities and role play to simulate actual Parliamentary processes. You will be given the opportunity to craft Bills, present them to your peers and debate them with the opposing team. Hopefully, by the end of the session, you will gain a better understanding into how Parliament works and become more familiar with the respective roles and responsibilities of our Ministers, MPs and NCMPs.

The two policies that will be debated in the SMP this year are 'Mandatory CPF contributions for private-hire car drivers' and 'taxing the e-commerce industry.' These significant national issues are brought about by the advent of disruptive technologies and are relevant issues facing our young people today. It is now up to you and your team members to weigh their potential trade-offs, and explain and convince why you agree or disagree with turning these Bills into law.

I hope that, under the guidance of our dedicated mentors and through an engaging debate with your fellow young Singaporeans, your SMP experience will be an invigorating and fulfilling one. I wish you all the best!

Mr Sam Tan
REACH Chairman
Minister of State
Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PROGRAMME

Pre-SMP Workshop

13 January 2018, Saturday

Esplanade Room, Level 2
Ministry of Communications & Information,
140 Hill Street
Old Hill Street Police Station,
Singapore 179369

TIME SLOT	AGENDA
9.00am	Registration and Breakfast
9.30am	Context-setting (Students sit in Bill 1 groupings)
10.00am	Sharing on Judiciary Function Guest Speaker: A/P Eugene Tan
11.30am	Sharing on Legislative Function Guest Speaker: Mr Amrin Amin
1.00pm	Working Lunch (Bill 1 Discussion)
2.00pm	Sharing on Executive Function Guest Speaker: Mr Janadas Devan
3.30pm	Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures
4.00pm	Policy Skills Sharing
4.45pm	Bill 2 Discussion
5.15pm	Administrative Briefing by REACH
5.45pm	End of Programme

[^]The above programme and timings are subjected to change to suit the flow of our programme and our Speakers' timings.

PROGRAMME

Conference Day 1

3 February 2018, Saturday

Parliament House
1 Parliament Place
Singapore 178880

TIME SLOT	AGENDA	VENUE
8.15am	Registration and Breakfast	Parliamentary Auditorium, Level 2
9.00am	Sharing and Dialogue by Speaker Tan Chuan-Jin	
10.30am	Tour of Parliament House	Various rooms
12.00pm	Lunch	Meeting room beside Auditorium, Level 2
1.00pm	Bill 1 – 2 nd Reading	Moot Parliament Room, Level 3
2.00pm	Bill 1 – 2 nd Reading (Q&A)	
3.00pm	Tea Break	Meeting room beside Auditorium, Level 2
3.45pm	Bill 1 – 3 rd Reading	Moot Parliament Room, Level 3
4.00pm	Bill 1 – 3 rd Reading (Q&A)	
5.00pm	Bill 1 – Wrap-up (AAR)	
5.30pm	End of Day 1	

[^]The above programme and timings are subjected to change to suit the flow of our programme and our Speakers' timings.

PROGRAMME

Conference Day 2

4 February 2018, Sunday

Parliament House
1 Parliament Place
Singapore 178880

TIME SLOT	AGENDA	VENUE
8.15am	Registration and Breakfast	Meeting room beside Auditorium, Level 2
9.30am	Bill 2 – 2nd Reading	Moot Parliament Room, Level 3
10.30am	Bill 2 – 2nd Reading (Q&A)	
11.30am	Lunch	Meeting room beside Auditorium, Level 2
1.00pm	Bill 2 – 3rd Reading	Moot Parliament Room, Level 3
1.15pm	Bill 2 – 3rd Reading (Q&A)	
2.15pm	Bill 2 – Wrap-up (AAR)	
2.30pm	Tea Break	Meeting room beside Auditorium, Level 2
3.00pm	Wrap-up (AAR) Closing and Conclusion	Parliamentary Auditorium, Level 2
4.30pm	Closing Dialogue with Minister Ong Ye Kung and Prize Presentation	
6.00pm	End of Day 2	

[^]The above programme and timings are subjected to change to suit the flow of our programme and our Speakers' timings.

DELEGATE INFORMATION - DRESS CODE AND VENUE

Dress Code

Participants are required to wear formal attire throughout the duration of the conference.

MALE	FEMALE
Long sleeve buttoned business shirt and long pants	Formal pants / Dress / Skirt of appropriate length
Covered business shoes	Covered court shoes / Flats / Heels
Blazer and neck tie	Blazer

Guidelines and Restrictions

The Parliament House is a national institution with access restrictions and security measures in place. Thus, there are some restrictions on photography, filming, videography, and mobile phone use. Such restrictions are expected to be strictly followed.

- Participants are required to bring their Identity Cards (ICs) for registration.
- Arrangements have been made to allow SMP participants to bring in non-bulky bags and their mobile phones into Parliament House's premises.
- Lockers are also available beside the Parliament Visitor Centre area, chargeable at 40 cents (small-sized lockers) and 60 cents (medium-sized lockers) for one-time use only. The lockers only accept 20-cent coins.
- A number of laptops will be permitted for use on 3-4 February 2018 for student participants to conduct online research for the purpose of the conference.
- Photos and videos will be taken for publicity purposes.

Note: Photo-taking by participants is strictly not allowed on the grounds of Parliament House, unless advised otherwise by the organisers.

The Venue - Parliament House

Nearest MRT Stations: City Hall and Clarke Quay

Bus commuters from the eastern part of the city and Orchard Road should alight at the Supreme Court bus-stop along North Bridge Road while those from the western part of the city should alight in front of the Ministry for Communications and Information (MCI) Building at Hill Street.

Parking is not allowed in the premises of Parliament House.

Visitors enter via the Public Entrance which is located along Parliament Place. Parliament House is located next to the Supreme Court and within walking distance to the Treasury Building.

LEGISLATURE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIARY

The Executive (also known as the Government and comprising Cabinet Ministers and office-holders) administers the law. The Judiciary interprets the law through the Courts.¹

1. Legislature

The Legislature comprises the Parliament and is the legislative authority responsible for enacting laws. As a unicameral Parliament, the Parliament of Singapore has only one House.

Before a law is passed, it is first introduced in Parliament as a draft called a "Bill". Bills are usually introduced by a Minister on behalf of the Government. However, any Member of the House can introduce a Bill known as a Private Member's Bill. All Bills must go through 3 readings in Parliament and receive the President's assent to become an Act of Parliament or a law.

At the start of each Parliament sitting, one and a half hours are reserved for Question Time. This is a chance for MPs to raise questions with the Ministers on their respective Ministries' responsibilities.

Through questioning the Ministers, MPs make the Government accountable for its actions and allows the public to listen to a spectrum of views and opinions to find out how decisions affecting them are made. This forms an integral part of Parliament's role. Questions may be filed by any MP who can seek either oral or written replies from Ministers.

2. Executive

The Executive comprises the Cabinet, which is responsible for the general direction of the Government and accountable to Parliament.

The Cabinet is the central decision-making body of the executive government. It is an organ of state and central to Singapore's system of government. In practice, all significant decisions or actions taken by the Executive are first discussed and collectively agreed by Cabinet.

3. Judiciary

The Judiciary's function is to independently administer justice. The Judiciary is safeguarded by the Constitution.

The Supreme Court consists of the High Court and the Court of Appeal and hears both criminal and civil cases.

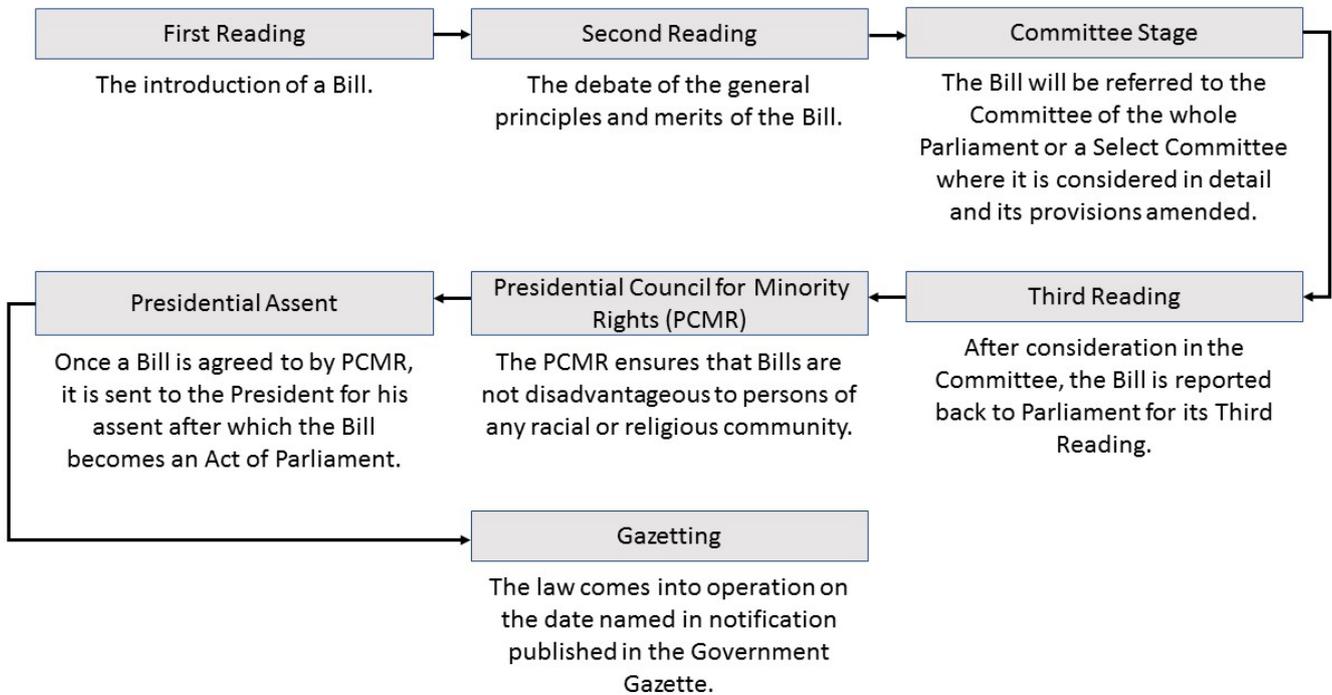
The State Courts of Singapore comprise the District Courts and Magistrate Courts—both of which oversee criminal and civil matters—as well as the Coroner's Courts and a small civil claims court called the Small Claims Tribunal.

¹ <http://www.parliament.gov.sg/about-us/structure/system-of-government/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

How Laws Are Made

The principal stages in the consideration of Bills are as follows:



Financial Control

Parliament exercises financial control by requiring the Government to seek the approval of the House for its annual Budget. The annual Budget Statement is usually delivered in Parliament in late February or early March before the start of a new financial year on 1 April. The Budget Statement and the individual Budgets for each Ministry are debated rigorously in the Chamber before MPs give their approval.

The Minister for Finance presents the annual Budget Statement in Parliament. He will review the country's economic performance in the previous year and announce economic proposals, including any taxes or incentives to be introduced for the coming year. Time is allocated for MPs to make speeches to question the annual Budget Statement.

Accompanying the annual Budget Statement is the Budget Book which sets out, in detail, the Estimates of Expenditure showing how each Government Ministry proposes to use the public monies allocated to it in the new financial year. Time is set aside for MPs and Ministers to debate the Estimates of Expenditure, and the policies and programmes of each Ministry. These debate sessions stretch over 7 to 10 days following which the Supply Bill will be passed. The Supply Bill authorises the Government to withdraw the necessary monies from the Consolidated and Development Funds to finance public services as allocated in the Estimates of Expenditure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

Bills

Parliament makes laws or legislates. Scrutinising and debating proposed legislation is one of the main functions of Parliament. Before any law is passed, it is first introduced as a draft version known as a Bill by the Minister in charge of it. Bills are draft Acts of Parliament. A Bill may be introduced to enact a new Act, or to amend an existing Act, or to repeal an existing law. A Bill must undergo three readings in Parliament before it is passed.

Structure of a Bill

A Bill is broken down into many parts. Each part contains clauses which are identified by numbered paragraphs. Each paragraph deals with a certain aspect of the law. The various parts and clauses help to organise a Bill and make it easier to understand.

Short Title and Long Title

A Bill has both a short title and a long title. A Bill is referred to by its short title in a Notice Paper or Order Paper, for example, Income Tax (Amendment) Bill. The short title will be read for a Bill's three readings in Parliament. The long title of a Bill sets out the intention and scope of a Bill, for example, "A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act to provide for". The long title is important as every clause must fall within its scope.

Enacting Clause

Every Bill must contain an enacting clause. The clause reads: "Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:".

Body of a Bill

The body of a Bill is divided into clauses. When a Bill becomes law, the clauses of a Bill become sections of an Act. For Bills which are more complex, the clauses may be arranged according to parts, divisions or sub-division

Schedule

Some Bills contain one or more Schedules. A Schedule is an attachment or appendix to the Act. It is given legislative effect by an "activating clause" in a Bill.

Explanatory Statement

An Explanatory Statement is published together with the Bill. It explains in non-technical language the purpose and operation of each clause of the Bill.

Expenditure of Public Money

An Expenditure of Public Money statement will be found at the end of a Bill, stating whether the Bill will incur any public expenditure.

Passage of a Bill

A Bill must be read three times in Parliament before it can be considered to be "passed" and submitted for President's Assent. Please refer to Figure 1: Passage of a Bill at a subsequent page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

Introducing a Bill (First Reading)

In introducing a Bill, the Member shall read aloud the long title of the Bill and then present a copy of the Bill by placing it on the Table.

The Member will then be asked to indicate when he wishes the Bill to be read a second time. The Bill will be gazetted by the Clerk and copies made available to Members. There must be a period of at least 7 clear days between the date of the gazetting and date for the second reading of a Bill, when the debate on the Bill takes place.

Second Reading

On the date for the second reading of a Bill, the short title of the Bill will be published in the Order Paper as an Order of the Day.

The Member in charge of the Bill moves the second reading of a Bill by saying, "Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time." The debate at this stage is on the general merits and principle of the Bill. The rules on the time and content of debate apply (see Rules of Debate).

At the end of the debate, a vote will be taken as to whether the Bill should be read a second time. If agreed to, the Clerk will read out the short title of the Bill and it moves on to the Committee stage. If the second reading of the Bill is not agreed to, the Bill is considered to have been negatived, and cannot be reintroduced in the same session of Parliament.

Committee Stage

A Bill is considered by a Committee following its second reading. At the Committee stage, each clause of the Bill will be disposed of first followed by the schedules, if any, in a Bill. Any amendment to a clause or schedule in a Bill is dealt with in this stage. Such scrutiny may take place either in a Committee of the whole Parliament or a Select Committee.

Committee of the whole Parliament

A Committee of the whole Parliament comprises all Members and is chaired by the Speaker. Where there is no intention of seeking further consultation from the public on a Bill, the Bill will be committed to a Committee of the whole Parliament. The proceedings in Committee will usually follow immediately after Parliament has agreed to the second reading of the Bill.

Select Committee on a Bill

A Select Committee on a Bill may comprise about seven to nine Members to be appointed by the Committee of Selection or by a resolution in Parliament. Bills are usually sent to a Select Committee to obtain representations from the public.

Procedures in a Committee

An amendment to a clause in a Bill is taken either in a Committee of the whole Parliament or Select Committee. The Member moving the amendment will explain the reasons for his motion, and other Members may take part in the debate. A vote will be then taken on the amendment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

After consideration in Committee, a Bill is reported back to Parliament. For Bills before a Select Committee, this is usually done by submitting the Select Committee's Report to Parliament. The Report includes the report of any meeting with representors and the Select Committee's recommendations for any amendments to the Bill.

Third Reading

After a Bill has been reported to Parliament, the Member in charge may move that the Bill be read a third time. Unlike the second reading, there is a limited scope for debate at the Third Reading. At this stage, a Member may propose amendments for the correction of errors or oversight, but amendments of a material character cannot be introduced.

If there are material amendments to be made or new provisions to be introduced, such amendments must be proposed before the third reading of a Bill is moved. The Bill will then be recommitted to a Committee of the whole Parliament. Upon recommitment, the Committee will decide whether to consider the amendments immediately and vote on it or at a future date.

A vote is taken for the third reading of the Bill. If agreed to, the Clerk will read the short title of the Bill. The Bill is then considered to have been read a third time and passed by Parliament.

Presidential Council for Minority Rights

In considering a Bill, the Council's function is to determine whether the provisions of the Bill contain any measure which is likely in its practical application to be prejudicial to persons of any racial or religious community in Singapore and not equally prejudicial to persons of other such communities.

Presidential Assent

After a Bill is passed by Parliament and the Council has not presented an adverse report on the Bill, it is sent to the President for his assent. The assent signifies that the President agrees with Parliament in passing the Bill. With the President's assent, the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament.

Voting

At the end of a debate, the question is "put" by the Speaker, to the House, for a decision. This is done by the Speaker rising from his Chair and putting to the House, "The Question is, 'That' ". The decision is then made for or against the question by voting.

There are two methods of voting, namely, a collection of voices and a division. Most questions proposed for decision in Parliament are determined by a majority vote of Members present. Where the vote of Members is equally divided, the motion is lost. Some votes may require a two-thirds majority of all elected Members. Such instances are usually provided for by law.

Collection of Voices

Votes are usually determined by a collection of voices ("ayes" and "noes"). At the end of a debate, the Speaker will put the question, "As many as are of that opinion say, 'Aye'". Those Members supporting the motion comply. He then continues, "To the contrary say 'No'", and those who are not in favour of the motion will express their opinion.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

Based on the strength of the respective responses, the Speaker will state his opinion and say, "I think the Ayes (or Noes, as the case may be) have it". At this point, a Member may, with at least four other Members supporting him, claim a division. If no division is claimed the Speaker then declares, "The Ayes (or Noes, as the case may be) have it".

Recording of Dissent or Abstention

Instead of claiming a division, a Member may inform the Chair that he wishes his dissent or abstention to be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings and the Official Report. His dissent or abstention shall then be recorded as such.

Division

Any Member may call for a division, after the Chair has stated its opinion on the collected voices and before it declares the result of the voice vote. At least four other Members must rise in their places in support of the call for a division.

ROLES OF PARTICIPANTS

Political Office Holder (POH):

- POH and other participants to decide on which 10 ministries are relevant to their bill
- POH to share justification for choices during the 2nd reading
- Role of POH is to consider Singapore's present and future circumstances (Principles, Strategy, Vision)

Ruling Party:

- Advocate for a Bill that is sharp in analysis, creative in its solution, inclusive of Singapore's stakeholders and realistic of resource constraints
- Maximising scarce resources

Opposition and Non-Constituency MPs (NCMPs):

- Advocate against the Bill with the aim of being sharper in analysis and creative in their solution. They should likewise be inclusive of SG stakeholders (more realistic of resource constraints)
- Should offer critique of substance, and not of mere form, to prevent groupthink
- May present a differing Vision, Principle and Strategy, if it differs from the Ruling party

Nominated MPs (NMPs)

- Advocate against Bill in aim to be sharper in analysis, more creative in their solution, **more inclusive** of SG stakeholders (more realistic of resource constraints)
- Critique of substance, not form
- Represent views of different sectors of community (e.g. arts, community, union, business, sports)
- In Singapore, the NMPs represent seven sectors of the House: business and industry, the professions, the labour movement, social service organisations, the civic and people sector, tertiary education institutions, and the arts, media and sports.

SAMPLE BILL TEMPLATE FOR SMP 2018

XXXX BILL

Bill No. 1/2018

Read the first time on 4 February 2018

A BILL

intituled

An Act to _____XXXXXXXX_____

Short title and commencement

1.XXXXXXXXX

2.XXXXXXXXX

Amendments (if any)

3.XXXXXXXXX

4.XXXXXXXXX

New sections

5.XXXXXXXXX

6.XXXXXXXXX

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

XXXXXXXXXXXX

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROPOSED BILLS

In your bill recommendations, come up with key solutions that demonstrate creativity and critical inclusive thinking. Also, consider the trade-offs and mitigate the negative implications.

Take into account the implementation process, including but not limited to:

- How you intend to implement and enforce the proposed changes
- Resources required (manpower, time and money)
- Challenges foreseen and proposed ways to mitigate them
- Communication of policy change to the public: What are the key messages that you would emphasise when engaging the public? What platforms will you use? Is there any potential backlash?

AWARDS

The Best Speaker will be determined by the Judges Panel at the end of the Third Reading of each Bill of SMP 2018. Broadly, there are three categories of awards and total of 8 awards for two bills:

Best POH Award

- Two (2) awardees
- Assessment Criteria: Decision-making and Conduct

Best Parliamentarian Award (Ruling)

- Four (4) awardees
- Assessment Criteria: Mastery of Content (Advocate & Defend)

Best Parliamentarian Award (Opposition; NCMPs; NMPs)

- Two (2) awardees
- Assessment Criteria: Mastery of Content (Contest of the Debate)

The rubrics for the Best Speaker Award (POH and Parliamentarian) are on the following pages.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Rubrics for Best Speaker Award (POH)

CATEGORY	SCORES (19-25)	SCORES (11-18)	SCORES (0-10)
Decision-Making (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructs detailed arguments with substantial evidence and principles behind decision-making to support/not Bill • Constructs sound arguments quickly to respond to new issues in Parliament • Demonstrate sophisticated and nuanced understanding of policy context, issues put forth • Critiques underlying assumptions and/or offers alternative perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands and follows Ministry's position consistently but some assertions do not have sufficient reasoning and/or evidence • Constructs some arguments to respond to new issues in Parliament • Identifies obvious issues; misses nuanced or complex issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers assertions with negligible reasoning or evidence • Poor or no principles behind decision-making • Likely to have one or more fallacies in main arguments
Advocacy (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A persuasive presentation that captures attention of audience from beginning to end • Outstanding verbal and nonverbal skills, including pace and clarity • Maintains eye contact with audience almost all the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaks in a clear, comprehensible way, with no poor body language but no or few special elements to persuade an audience • Speech errors noted by audience, though not in a way that undermines content • May be ineffective or exclude two or more obvious presentation elements (eye contact, volume, gestures, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mumbles and does not look up from notes; lacks presence • Speech loses clarity for sustained periods of time • Poor eye contact and body language; • Does not engage teammates

JUDGING CRITERIA

Rubrics for Best Speaker Award (Parliamentarian)

CATEGORY	SCORES (19-25)	SCORES (11-18)	SCORES (0-10)
Content (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructs detailed arguments with substantial evidence and sound principles to advocate for/against Bill • Constructs sound arguments quickly to respond to objections in Parliament • Demonstrate sophisticated and nuanced understanding of policy context, crux of issue • Demonstrate creativity, critical thinking in solutioning (content of Bill) • Demonstrate ability to include varied perspectives and mitigate in solutioning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands and follows said position consistently but some assertions do not have sufficient reasoning and/or evidence • Constructs some arguments to respond to objections in Parliament • Identifies obvious issues; misses nuanced or complex issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers assertions with negligible reasoning or evidence • Poor or no principles behind solutioning • Likely to have one or more fallacies in main arguments
Advocacy (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A persuasive presentation that captures attention of audience from beginning to end • Outstanding verbal and nonverbal skills, including pace and clarity • Maintains eye contact with audience almost all the time • For non-advocates, precision in articulating amendments and reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaks in a clear, comprehensible way, with no poor body language but no or few special elements to persuade an audience • Speech errors noted by audience, though not in a way that undermines content • May be ineffective or exclude two or more obvious presentation elements (eye contact, volume, gestures, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mumbles and does not look up from notes; lacks presence • Speech loses clarity for sustained periods of time • Poor eye contact and body language; • Does not engage teammates

GUESTS OF HONOUR AND GUEST SPEAKERS



Guest of Honour: Mr Ong Ye Kung

Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence

Mr Ong Ye Kung was elected Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC in Sep 2015, and appointed to the Cabinet of Singapore as the Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) on 1 Oct 2015. He also held the concurrent appointment of Senior Minister of State for Defence. On 1 Nov 2016, he was promoted to Education Minister (Higher Education and Skills), and concurrently Second Minister in the Ministry of Defence.

Prior to his Cabinet appointment, he held the position of Director of Group Strategy at Keppel Corporation, overseeing long term strategic planning of the Group's activities.

Before joining Keppel Corporation, he was the Deputy Secretary-General of National Trades Union Congress, overseeing the Labour Movement's employment and employability programmes.

He also held various positions in the Government earlier. These include the Chief Executive of Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), during which he spearheaded many initiatives to build up the Continuing Education and Training infrastructure.

He was the Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong from 2003-2005, and Press Secretary to Prime Minister Lee from 1997-2003. Mr Ong was also the Deputy Chief Negotiator for the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

Mr Ong graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) with a Bsc(Econs) First Class Honours, and holds a Master of Business Administration from the Institute of Management Development, Lausanne, Switzerland. He is married with two teenage children.²

²<http://www.pmo.gov.sg/cabinet/mr-ong-ye-kung>

GUESTS OF HONOUR AND GUEST SPEAKERS



Photo credit: Parliament of Singapore

Guest of Honour: Mr Tan Chuan-Jin Speaker of Parliament

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin is the current Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore. He has been elected to the post by Members of Parliament (MPs) on 11 September 2017, making him the 10th Speaker of Singapore since the First Legislative Assembly of 1955.

Mr Tan has been an elected MP in the Marine Parade GRC since 7 May 2011. He served as the Minister for Social and Family Development from 9 April 2015 until his election as Speaker on 11 September 2017. He had also been the Minister for Manpower from 1 May 2014 to 8 April 2015.

Prior to his election to Parliament, Mr Tan had served in the Singapore Armed Forces for nearly 24 years. He holds a Master's Degree in Defence Studies from King's College in London and a Master's Degree in Public Management from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

Mr Tan is married with two children. He enjoys running and photography. In 2014, he published a book capturing his travel photographs and has auctioned his prints in support of charitable causes.³

³<https://www.parliament.gov.sg/about-us/structure/speaker-of-parliament>

GUESTS OF HONOUR AND GUEST SPEAKERS



Guest Speaker:
Mr Amrin Amin

REACH Vice-Chairman and
Parliamentary Secretary (Ministry of Home
Affairs & Ministry of Health)

Mr Amrin Amin was newly appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Health in 2017, and concurrently holds office as Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs.

He has been a Member of Parliament representing Sembawang Group Representation Constituency (Woodlands) since 2015, and has been active in grassroots work since 2004. He has served in various grassroots committees such as the Citizens Consultative Committee and Community Club Management Committee. Mr Amin has long been involved in education and social causes, serving on boards of Nanyang Polytechnic, National Council of Problem Gambling, bursary and scholarship body Prophet Muhammad's Birthday Memorial Scholarship Fund Board (LBKM) and the Association of Muslim Professionals' "Ready for School" Programme that assists underprivileged children with their education costs. Currently, Mr Amin is also the Vice-Chairman of the REACH Supervisory Panel, and is involved in setting the strategic direction of the government feedback unit.

Prior to political office, Mr Amin was a corporate lawyer at the Joseph Tan Jude Benny LLP, specialising in mergers and acquisitions. He received his education at Dunman Secondary School and Tampines Junior College. He then read law at the National University of Singapore, LLB (Honours) and at the Columbia University in New York (LLM) on a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholarship. He worked as a corporate lawyer in New York from 2007 to 2010.⁴

⁴ https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/dam/moh_web/About%20Us/Mr%20Amrin%20Amin_May%202017.pdf

GUESTS OF HONOUR AND GUEST SPEAKERS



Guest Speaker:
Mr Janadas Devan

Chief of Government Communications

Mr Janadas Devan, 58, has been the Chief of Government Communications since 1 July 2012.

He coordinates the Government's public communication efforts and leads the Information Service in enhancing its public communication network across the public sector.

Educated at the National University of Singapore and Cornell University (US), Mr Devan taught in various institutions before joining The Straits Times (ST) in 1997. He was the newspaper's leader writer, and columnist on public policy and language, before becoming its review editor in 2008 and an associate editor in 2010. Mr Devan also did a weekly broadcast for Radio Singapore International from 2000 to 2008.

Mr Devan is concurrently Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

The Information Service supports governance by engaging stakeholders and communicating policies and programmes. The Service draws talent at both entry and senior levels to staff public communication and related departments in Ministries and statutory boards.⁵

⁵<https://www.mci.gov.sg/pressroom/news-and-stories/pressroom/2012/6/appointment-to-the-government-information-service?page=90>

GUESTS OF HONOUR AND GUEST SPEAKERS



Guest Speaker:
A/P Eugene K B Tan

Associate Professor, Singapore Management
University (School of Law)

Associate Professor Eugene K B Tan teaches at the Singapore Management University's School of Law. He also teaches regular courses at the business and social sciences schools at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive education levels. He also teaches a course on ethics and social responsibility at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. He has also taught, as a visiting professor (2013 & 2014), at the Yonsei University Law School in Seoul, South Korea.

An advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore, Prof Tan was educated at the National University of Singapore, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Stanford University where he was a Fulbright Fellow. His inter-disciplinary research interests include constitutional and administrative law, law and public policy, the regulation of ethnic conflict, business ethics and corporate social responsibility, and the government and politics of Singapore.

Prof Tan was a Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) in the 12th Parliament from February 2012 to August 2014. As an NMP, Prof Tan spoke on a wide variety of issues, ranging from governance to immigration, to education and labour. He is also actively involved in civil society where he serves on the boards of three Institutions of Public Character (IPC).

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



Co-Chair/Chief Judge: Charles Phua Chao Rong

Charles Phua Chao Rong is the President of the Association of Public Affairs. Charles is a pracademic and civil society leader: Deputy Director for Centre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development (Singapore), concurrently Lee Kong Chian scholar at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP).

He is a Fulbright Fellow with resident fellowships at Columbia, Johns Hopkins and Brookings Institution, and non-resident Senior Fellow at East West Institute (New York), WSD-Handa non-resident Fellow at Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) PacForum (Hawaii). Charles also serves as Assistant Editor for Comparative Public Policy Series (Cambridge University Press) and sits on the Editorial Boards of POINTER (SAF Journal) and International Relations and Diplomacy. He studied International Relations at London School of Economics, and Public Policy at LKYSPP. His current research is on Pragmatism in the foreign policy of US, China and Singapore.

A practitioner in the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) for 16 years, he spent the past five years training Captains and Majors in research work. He spearheaded two military start-ups, was Deputy Lead for Singapore's contingent in Afghanistan, and served as President's Honorary Aide-de-Camp for 6 years. He was absorbed into civil service to spearhead infrastructural diplomacy.

Charles' spearheaded seven civil society start-ups, being the first Singaporean to run the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Malta. He also led two MINDEF-wide charity carnivals, the Global Social Innovators Forum, and recently the nation-wide SG100 for Singapore's youths to discuss vision and policy recommendations for SG100 nation-building.

The first Singaporean recipient of Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Award and HSBC Youth Excellence Awardee, Charles was named a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and a CSIS Pacific-Forum Young Leader.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



Speaker Panel: Dr. Graham Ong-Webb

Dr. Graham Ong-Webb is a Research Fellow with the Future Issues and Technology Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore. He also teaches the undergraduate module “Singapore: Imagining the Next 50 Years” at the College of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at NTU. His areas of research are diverse, ranging from regional geopolitics, economics, security, and counter-terrorism to national-level topics such as resilience, and the impact of artificial intelligence. He has published in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *The Journal of International Studies*, *Jane’s Intelligence Review*, and *The World Today*. He has held consultant and research positions with the Control Risks Group, the Jane’s Information Group, the Centre for Science and Security Studies (King’s College London), the Centre of Excellence in National Security (RSIS), and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

A Commonwealth Scholar, Graham completed his Ph.D in Strategic Studies at the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King’s College London. He also earned his Associate of King’s College, a three-year qualification in theology, ethics, and philosophy, which he read concurrently with his doctoral studies, winning the First Leathes Prize. Graham also read for his Master of Science in International Relations at the London School of Economics, on a Sir Tan Cheng Lock Master of Arts Scholarship, and earned his Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Political Science from the National University of Singapore (NUS), supported by a NUS-Shaw Foundation Scholarship.

Dr Graham has been involved as a volunteer at the Eurasian Association (EA) since the late 1990s, later becoming Chairperson of its Youth Committee and now as Chairperson of the Education Committee. He actively volunteers at Sembawang GRC (Woodlands) and the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. He was appointed as a Member of the External Placement Review Board of the Singapore Prison Services under the Ministry of Home Affairs, and as a Member of the Compulsory Education Board under the Ministry of Education.

He is also currently an Honorary Aide-De-Camp to the President of the Republic of Singapore.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



Coordinating Facilitator/Speaker Panel: Nur Azhar Ayob

Nur Azhar AYOB is the Acting Assistant Director in the Office of the Executive Director in the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore. The IGCI provides innovative training and operational support for law enforcement across the globe, especially in the field of technology-enabled crime. Nur Azhar assists the Executive Director in developing global capabilities and strategic partnerships for the identification of crimes and criminals, including the development of its Cybercrime Directorate's global strategy, and its Innovation Centre's strategic foresight capabilities.

Azhar is a Senior Police Officer in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) with more than 14 years of policing experience. Prior to his secondment to INTERPOL, he was a Senior Assistant Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs, formulating strategic priorities and developing strategic capabilities to combat emerging transnational threats at the national and regional level (ASEAN). He was also a member of the Safety and Security Industry Programme Office collaborating with the Economic Development Board on Whole-of-Government developmental projects like the National Cybersecurity R&D Programme.

Azhar has held various appointments in investigations, frontline police operations, crisis management and capability development units, including strategic planning and technology development at the Police HQ. He was also an Honorary Board Member of the Home United Football Club (HUFC) facilitating the creation of the HUFC Youth Football Academy in 2013. The HUFC is a community engagement platform for the Ministry of Home Affairs. Azhar also served as Secretary and Ex-Co Member in the Mendaki Club (2007-2011), engaging in strategic youth development activities for the community.

Azhar obtained his Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) in Information & Communications Management from the National University of Singapore and his Master in Science (Strategic Studies) from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in the Nanyang Technological University.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



**Facilitator:
Jansen Tham**

Jansen Tham is a Master in Public Policy (MPP) candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), National University of Singapore (NUS). Prior to reading his Master's, he worked in the Singapore Ministry of Home Affairs for three years, formulating and implementing border security policy, working closely with members of the Home Team including the Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force, and Immigration and Checkpoints Authority to keep Singapore safe and secure. He graduated with First Class honours for his undergraduate degree in NUS, majoring in Chemical Engineering and minoring in the Life Sciences, and was a practising engineer for half a year prior to his switch to public service.

Throughout the course of his education and work, Jansen has travelled widely, staying in Helsinki for six months, studying at the Aalto University of Technology as part of his undergraduate program, and most recently, studying in Washington D.C. at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) as part of his postgraduate education. He also interned in Japan at Mitsui Chemicals, in Washington D.C. at the foreign and security policy think-tank Asia Society Policy Institute, and in Singapore at the economic policy think-tank the Milken Institute. His academic interests are in international politics and security in Northeast and Southeast Asia (including, among others, the issues involving North Korea, Taiwan and the South and East China Seas), and social welfare and development policy interventions regarding health and poverty issues. Jansen is also an active student leader, serving as Senior Editor at the LKYSPP's Asian Journal of Public Affairs, Committee Secretary of the Singapore Experience Committee, and volunteering at ARC Children's Centre, receiving the Dean's Leadership Award (Silver) in AY2016/17 for his contributions.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



Facilitator:
Nisha Francine Rajoo

Nisha Francine RAJOO is presently a candidate for a Master in Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore. She holds the position of Senior Editor at the Asian Journal of Public Affairs, and Assistant Editor at the Asian Journal of Comparative Law. Nisha graduated from the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore in 2014.

She was admitted to the Singapore Bar in 2015, and practiced as a criminal and civil litigator before joining a German think-tank and political consultancy, where she researched on and coordinated projects focusing on the promotion of democratic governance, the rule of law, and human rights in Asia. She has also worked with KPMG Singapore's Global Infrastructure Advisory department.

As part of a capstone module for her Masters' programme, Nisha is presently working on a policy analysis project with the regional office of the International Committee of the Red Cross, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on developing effective responses to challenges in Asia's humanitarian landscape, in particular, mitigating the humanitarian consequences of conflict in the region. Nisha is also a member of the Emerging Scholars' Network at the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales, Australia.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



**Facilitator:
Gan Kwang Lee**

Gan Kwang Lee is a final year Master in Public Policy student at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), NUS.

Kwang Lee graduated Summa Cum Laude with a double degree in Political Science (Distinction) and English (Distinction) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in 2015. He received a Public Service Commission Master's Scholarship in 2016.

Kwang Lee is the Founding President of The Grey Area, LKYSPP's student panel discussion club, and is a Managing Committee member of a MCCY funded non-profit project that seeks to gamify volunteerism through a digital matching platform. At Syracuse University, he was the Founding President of the school's competitive debate club (ranked 12th in the largest US intercollegiate debate league in 2015).

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



Facilitator:
George Wong Boon Keng

George Wong Boon Keng is currently pursuing his PhD in Sociology at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and is currently one of the two founding members spearheading the Association for Public Affairs (NTU Chapter).

Before his candidature, he was a doctoral fellow at the Graduate Center, City University of New York after completing a Masters of Arts in Political Sociology from NTU and a B.Socsc in Political Science and Sociology from the Singapore Management University. He is a recipient for numerous scholarships and awards which includes the Ho See Beng Scholarship in 2013 and Award for Best Political Science Student in 2014, as well as the Graduate Center Doctoral Fellowship Award. George has held several student leadership positions during his stints in various universities. In SMU, he was a Liaison Director under the Special Interests and Community Service Sodality (SICS) and held a portfolio for overseeing the development of 11 clubs spanning over 400 student members over two years. He was also the Vice-Chairperson (Communications) for SMU Challenge 2012 which helped raised \$55,000 over three months for its beneficiaries and received media coverage for its contributions. Currently he is the Honorary General Secretary of the 1st Social Sciences Graduate Student Committee.

Outside of academia, George also serves as a town councillor for the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



**Facilitator:
Jason Tey**

Jason Tey holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Highest Distinction) in Economics from the National University of Singapore, graduating with a double minor in Political Science and Philosophy. He is an Economics Society of Singapore Medalist for being the best graduate with the highest CAP in the Applied and Policy Economics Specialisation. He is also an MND EDGE scholar, and is currently working with a government statutory board.

Jason is the current Vice-President of the Association of Public Affairs. As the Vice-President, Jason was involved in the coordination of the LKYSPP Singapore Experience Fireside Chat, and assisted with the Singapore Model Cabinet 2017 as a facilitator. He is currently leading a team of youth leaders in organising a skills marketplace event with partners from the civic society.

At NUS, Jason was the Vice-President for the 26th Junior Common Room Council of Temasek Hall, Captain for the hall and the faculty's Basketball team, and was actively involved in various student activities in the university. He was part of the team that won the inaugural EU-ASEAN Policy Challenge in 2015 and chaired the sub-workgroup that came up top for the SG100 Think Future Forum.

Outside of work, Jason is involved in volunteering research work for a social enterprise and enjoys playing basketball, handball, swimming, and reading.

JUDGES AND FACILITATORS



Facilitator:
Narayanan s/o Velayutham

Narayanan s/o Velayutham is a Graduate Student with the LKYSPP, currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Prior to joining the school, Narayanan was with the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA), a self-help group where he held management positions and shaped key programmes for the Indian community in Singapore.

Beyond SINDA, Narayanan has also served as a freelance journalist and simultaneous interpreter with MediaCorp News (Tamil Desk) and Parliament of Singapore (Languages Division). Adding to his strong proficiency of bilingualism in English and Tamil, he has been the Simultaneous Interpreter for Prime Minister's National Day Rally for the past six years.

Besides his interest in current affairs, Narayanan has also exhibited a strong interest in the arts, particularly the literary and performing arts where he runs a not-for-profit organization, IVANN Theatre, which specialises in Tamil Theatre making among the children and youth. With over 25 play productions to his credentials, he is credited with organising the National Tamil Theatre Festival for students for the past 10 years.

Narayanan holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science obtained from National University of Singapore, where he was also part of the University Scholars Programme. Adding on, he holds a Master's Degree in Project Management and Knowledge Management obtained from University of Northern Ireland and Nanyang Technological University respectively.

Moving forward, Narayanan endeavours to pursue a career in the public service shaping the lives of common citizens through policy-making.

