

Topics and Speakers

1. Post-Pandemic ASEAN Economy

Synopsis: As the global economy recovers from the pandemic, Asian economies should enjoy a recovery but at diverging speeds. Beyond COVID, there are important structural changes in the region which should be largely positive. Singapore is likely to be a beneficiary of the region's improving long term prospects.



Speaker: Manu Bhaskaran is Director of Centennial Group International and the Founding Director and Chief Executive Officer of Centennial Asia Advisors. Mr. Bhaskaran has more than 30 years of expertise in economic and political risk assessment and forecasting in Asia. Before joining the Centennial Group, he was Chief Economist for Asia of a leading international investment bank and managed its Singapore-based economic advisory group. He is the Vice President of the Economic Society of Singapore.

2. COVID-19 and The Global Economy

Synopsis: The pandemic has resulted in a deep recession in the global economy with a recovery profile that is divergent and uncertain. At the same time, it has accelerated many trends that were prevalent pre-COVID, such as de-globalisation, digitisation, and the rise in overall indebtedness. Three key questions impact the outlook for the economy and markets: What are the long-term implications of the COVID-19 crisis? Are interest rates going to be zero forever? And, what is the outlook for Asia?



Speaker: Prakash Kannan is Managing Director, Chief Economist and Head of Total Portfolio Management at GIC. He is responsible for medium-term global macro and asset allocation strategy for the firm. He also serves as member of GIC's Investment Management Committee and Currency Risk Management Group. Prior to GIC, he was with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) where he was a member of the World Economic Outlook team and participated in missions to Turkey, the United Kingdom, Norway and Cyprus. He has published in peer-reviewed journals such as the European Economic Review, the Journal of International Money and Finance, and the BE Journal of Macroeconomics. He has also written several Book chapters including in NBER Conference volumes and in the IMF's World Economic Outlook. He started his career with the Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara Malaysia) during the Asian Financial Crisis. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is also a CFA charterholder. He is a Council Member and Chair of the Investment Committee of the Economic Society of Singapore and was formerly on the Advisory Board for the Centre for Asset Management Research & Investments (CAMRI) at the National University of Singapore Business School.

3. Competition in Post-Pandemic Network Industries

Synopsis: The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted physical connectivity in many facets, from municipal to global levels. On the other hand, the pandemic has also accelerated digital connectivity, leading to a range of new market opportunities online. In the post-pandemic world, we expect to see an increasing trend of business collaborations, integrations and consolidations to reap greater network benefits. In this talk, the speaker will share CCCS's experiences in respect of various network industries such as ride-hailing, delivery, airlines, liner shipping and e-commerce platforms, and explore how Singapore can stay competitive under the new normal.



Speaker: Herbert Fung is Senior Director (Business and Economics) at the Competition & Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS). He supervises the Data Monitoring and Analytics Unit and the Consumer Policy Unit and at CCCS. He has supervised a range of cases including the Grab-Uber merger, SISTIC's abuse of dominance, the Singapore Medical Association Guidelines of Fees, and the Petrol Market Study. Prior to joining CCCS in 2008, he was Senior Economic Advisor at the Office of Telecommunications Authority in Hong Kong, and before that, Associate (Equity Research) at Credit Suisse. Herbert graduated with a dual-degree in economics and statistics from the University of Chicago and holds a post-graduate diploma in EU Competition Law from King's College London, as well as a Certificate in Data Science – Artificial Intelligence from HarvardX.