

ESS-MOE Economics Seminar 2023 “Challenges of a Post-Covid World”

About the speakers:



Mr 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. Mr. Bhaskaran is a well-regarded commentator on Asian financial and economic affairs and has regular columns in business weeklies such as the Edge in Singapore/Malaysia. He serves as Member of the Regional Advisory Board for Asia of the International Monetary Fund; Senior Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies; Council Member of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs; and Vice-President of the Economic Society of Singapore. Mr. Bhaskaran has a Master's degree in Public Administration from the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a Bachelor's degree in economics from Cambridge University. He has also qualified as a Chartered Financial Analyst.



Mr Francis Tan is an Investment Strategist with UOB Private Bank, where he is responsible for contributing to the asset allocation decisions for clients' portfolios across both the advisory and discretionary mandates. Before this, he was an economist with UOB's Global Economics and Markets Research team, where he was responsible for ASEAN economics. Francis is a familiar face in the speaking circuit and has been invited to seminars and conferences as keynote speaker on economic and investment topics. He also provides regular economic commentaries in English and Mandarin through local and international print and broadcast media. Before joining UOB, Francis held roles in Asian and global financial institutions as an investment strategist and an investment manager. His career also included stints as an economist at the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Singapore Tourism Board, where he specialised in Tourism Economics. Francis holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Economics and a Master of Social Science in Applied Economics from the National University of Singapore. Continuing his academic interests in the field of applied economics, Francis also contributed a chapter titled "Tourism Demand in Singapore: Estimating Neighbourhood Effects" in the Handbook of Tourism Economics (2013) and published a paper titled "Growth and Environmental Quality in Singapore: Is There Any Trade-off?" in the Ecological Indicators journal (2014).



Ms Selena Ling is the Chief Economist for OCBC Bank. As Head of Treasury Research & Strategy, she leads a research team that is responsible for Treasury market research, forecasts and trading recommendations for the bank, covering fixed income, interest rates, corporate credit, foreign exchange and macroeconomic commentary. Under her leadership, OCBC's research capabilities have been greatly valued by customers and highly ranked in surveys. She is a member of the OCBC Wealth Panel for Singapore and Malaysia, as well as a Vice President and council member for the Economic Society of Singapore. She also sits on the Institute of Valuers and Appraisers (IVAS), Singapore, which was set up by the Singapore Accountancy Commission. She was conferred the IBF Fellow Award in Financial Markets in 2017. Her research writings has been extensively quoted and published by prominent media across print, television and radio. Prior to joining OCBC in August 2000, Selena was with the Fiscal Policy Unit under the Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Economics Department in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI).



Dr Walter Edgar Theseira is Associate Professor of Economics, School of Business, Singapore University of Social Sciences. His Ph.D. is in Applied Economics and Managerial Science from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. His areas are applied microeconomics, behavioural, and experimental economics. His research has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organisation. His policy research covers housing integration with the Ministry of National Development, vehicle quota auctions with the Land Transport Authority, and the Singapore Retirement and Health Survey. He has served as an economics research advisor for several Singapore Government agencies, and is a Board Member of the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore. He was a Nominated Member of Parliament in the 13th Parliament of Singapore.