

Welcome Remarks by Associate Professor Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan at the Population Association of Singapore 2023 Annual Meeting

Minister Indranee Rajah,

Dr. Reiko Hayashi,

Mr. Ho Kwon Ping,

Associate Professor Kelvin Low,

Esteemed colleagues, and fellow PAS members.

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the inaugural conference of the Population Association of Singapore.

Speaking on behalf of the Center for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore, my Co-Director Vincent Chua and I are delighted to collaborate with PAS in organizing this important event.

From our beginning in 2014 with Professor Jean Yeung as the founding director, CFPR's key missions have always been to promote cutting-edge and policy-relevant research and training on population and family issues as well as to foster collaborations among academics and policy makers in Singapore and beyond. Our missions are therefore closely aligned with those of PAS.

Over the past 9 years, CFPR has made significant contributions to the population field in Singapore. Our flagship research program, SGLEADS, for example, has generated several insights on how factors such as paternity leave can promote Singaporean children's early childhood development. Another project LEAP tries to find solutions to help Singaporeans age productively. Whereas, an ongoing project CAST has shed light on the growing trends of childless aging in Singapore and how to promote the well-being of those who age without children. I am glad that some research findings from these projects will be shared in this two-day conference.

Today marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to advance the study of population dynamics and related issues in Singapore and beyond.

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the critical importance of population research in shaping policy, improving social welfare, and enhancing our understanding of the complex challenges facing our society and our region.

From fertility trends to consequences of population aging, from migration patterns to family structures, gender roles, and health behaviors, our work as population scholars and practitioners is essential in informing evidence-based decision-making and driving positive social change.

Over the course of this meeting, we will have the opportunity to share our latest research findings, engage in lively debates, and forge new collaborations and partnerships.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Professor Jean Yeung, the Conference Secretariat (particularly Ms. Joyous Tan), the organizing committee which comprise colleagues from NUS, NTU, SMU, Duke-NUS, SUSS, and the Tsao Foundation, our student volunteers, and all of our participants, for your commitment to advancing population research in Singapore and Asia.

In closing, I wish you all a productive and enjoyable conference.

May we use this opportunity to deepen our understanding of population dynamics, to exchange ideas and experiences, and to chart a course towards a more equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.