


THE HEAD FOUNDATION PUBLIC EVENT SERIES



Will Universities Survive, Thrive in the 21st Century?

WITH DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS

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- ▶ **DR. MOLLY N. N. LEE**
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- ▶ **PROFESSOR N. V. VARGHESE**
Director, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education (CPRHE), National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), India

There have been extraordinary developments in higher education, particularly in Asia, over recent decades. While this has increased access to universities, it has also raised concerns over instructional and research quality, employability of graduates, and the value of a university degree today. World scholars will tackle these issues along with others such as privatization, university rankings and the role of technology in a lively panel exchange.


FREE ADMISSION

DATE : 12 MAY 2015, TUESDAY
TIME : 6PM ONWARDS (Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm)
VENUE : 20 UPPER CIRCULAR ROAD, THE RIVERWALK, #02-21, SINGAPORE 058416

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This free lecture is presented by The HEAD Foundation, a Singapore-based think tank focused on education and leadership for development in Asia.

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Faster treatment for seniors with hip fractures

By LINETTE LAI

FOR seniors with hip fractures, getting treatment as soon as possible is key to a speedy recovery.

This is why Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) has prioritised admissions and surgery for this group of patients, reducing the average length of hospitalisation by a third.

In 2008, the average hip-fracture patient was warded for 15 days. Now, he stays in hospital for only 10 days.

The changes are part of a scheme to make sure elderly hip-fracture patients are better taken care of at all levels – from admission, to a year after surgery.

Known as the integrated hip-fracture programme, the initiative was praised by Health Minister Gan Kim Yong in a speech at the Singapore Trauma Conference last month.

The average hip-fracture patient is 80 years old, and delays can cause his condition to worsen quickly, said orthopaedic surgeon Hitendra Doshi.

“If you just keep them lying on a bed, their muscles will start getting weak,” Dr Doshi



Adjunct teacher Goh Seng Soon, 73, fractured his hip last year after falling in a public carpark, and had to undergo surgery. He was warded for less than a week and says life is now back to normal. ST PHOTO: MARK CHEONG

said. This makes them more prone to infections of the lung and urinary tract, which could lead to complications after surgery, he added.

Under the programme, geriatricians, surgeons, nurses and care managers all pitch in to make sure every aspect of a patient’s health is addressed.

Dr Rani Ramason, a senior consultant at TTSH’s geriatric medicine centre, said: “When we first started, we had a lot of problems with seniors who will say they are too old and they

don’t want an operation.

“But we explain that those without surgery will end up wheelchair-bound.”

Another factor is making sure patients have adequate financial support and have a place to go after being discharged.

“One of the challenges is getting them to go to day rehabilitation after they are discharged,” said Dr Ramason.

Care managers continue to follow up with patients up to a year after the operation to

make sure that they are adjusting well.

Adjunct teacher Goh Seng Soon, 73, fractured his hip last year after falling in a public carpark, and had to undergo surgery.

“My knee is not very good, so when I missed one step, I fell. It was quite a heavy fall, but I still managed to drive myself home.”

He was warded at TTSH for a less than a week, and said life is now back to normal.

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LEE MAN FONG | *Hen and Rooster*
Oil on board | 102 x 50 cm



AFFANDI | *Oxen Carts* | 1965 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 130 cm



LEE MAN FONG | *Boys and Buffalo*
Oil on board | 105 x 51 cm



SRIHADI SOEDARSONO | *Energy of the Mask Dance*
1998 | Oil on canvas | 130 x 100 cm



FINN JUHL | *Chieftain Chair* | 102 x 91 x 94 cm



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Drones, taxi apps on MPs’ agenda

Parliament’s sitting on Monday to include queries on SkillsFuture scheme

By LIM YAN LIANG

PROPOSED laws on the use of drones in Singapore and third-party taxi booking services like GrabTaxi will be debated when Parliament sits on Monday.

They set out, for the first time, guidelines, restrictions and fines on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and taxi-calling apps such as Uber, Hailo and GrabTaxi.

The Unmanned Aircraft (Public Safety and Security) Bill requires an operator to apply for a permit to fly a drone that weighs more than 7kg or is within 5km of an aerodrome, or when it is used for commercial purposes.

The Third-Party Taxi Booking Service Providers Bill says these providers must apply for a Land Transport Authority licence to operate. They must also provide basic customer support such as lost-and-found services, and avenues for complaints. Other rules include banning bidding and pre-trip tipping for taxi services.

Both Bills were introduced in Parliament last month by the Ministry of Transport.

The Parliamentary Order Paper released yesterday shows MPs have filed questions on various issues. These include the SkillsFuture programme, Singaporeans buying property in Iskandar Malaysia and transport operator SMRT collaborating on a bid for Singapore’s fourth telco licence.

The SkillsFuture programme gives each Singaporean a credit account to fund training courses. Its Earn and Learn initiative, which features tie-ups between schools and industry partners, will initially target 17 sectors, including aerospace engineering.

Nominated MP Thomas Chua is concerned other sectors, like the motor vehicle industry, will not be able to attract new blood as institutes of higher learning focus on the “future growth” areas.

He wants to know how long it will take before the others come under the programme.

SMRT’s announcement, meanwhile, has led Mr Baey Yam Keng (Tampines GRC) to ask whether the Government intends to set conditions to ensure public transport services are not compromised.

The penalty system for transport disruptions may have to be adjusted, he said.

Returns from other businesses like telcos, which can be very lucrative, could bring about a change in business priorities, he noted. “If the fines don’t cause enough pain for them to take it seriously and focus on their core business of providing public transport, then the regulator has to do something.”

And concerns over a residential property glut in Iskandar Malaysia have led Ms Lee Bee Wah (Nee Soon GRC) to ask how Singapore banks will be safeguarded against major loan defaults by buyers.

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