



**“ENGLISH IN SINGAPORE”
Symposium & Announcement of Funding Support**

15 July 2017 – The Speak Good English Movement held its first ever public symposium this afternoon at The Arts House.

At the fully subscribed symposium, Adrian Tan, Irene Ang, Dr Gwee Li Sui, Susan Ng and many other speakers shared insights and perspectives, provided tips on improving one’s English and shared suggestions on ways to help others improve their command of the language. The importance of using Standard English and the need for conscious learning of the language was brought up during both panel discussions – “English in the Singaporean Home” and “Effective English at Work”.

Singlish, regarded as a cultural marker for many Singaporeans, was also addressed at the plenary discussion on English, Singlish and Broken English. The panellists engaged in a lively discussion as they deliberated on what makes English, Singlish and Broken English distinct.

In his opening address, Mr Goh Eck Kheng, Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement, urged those who wish to champion the English language to connect with the Movement.

“If you want to be a champion of the English language, if you are helping someone to be more fluent in English, email us at nhb_speakgoodenglishmovement@nhb.gov.sg to receive updates on resources. Write to us to share tips. Tell us your success stories to inspire and encourage others.”

Announcement of Availability of Funding Support

To support community partners and language interest groups, the Speak Good English Movement is offering funding support for programmes that can raise awareness on the importance of using good English and encourage the use of Standard English in Singapore. The Movement hopes that the availability of these funds would inspire groups or individuals to grow their ideas or create initiatives to support a good language environment.

Announcing the availability of the funding support at the symposium, Mr Goh stressed that the responsibility of creating a good language environment resides with everyone.

“Creating a good English language environment in Singapore is a collective goal. It is as much the Movement’s role as it is the responsibility of every Singaporean. Those who are fluent in English must be role models to those who wish to improve. Those who are weak in spoken and written English should seek help and apply themselves.”

Applicants to the scheme may download the Programme Proposal & Funding Support Request Form from <http://goodenglish.org/programme-support> and submit the completed form to the Speak Good English Movement Secretariat by 31 August 2017. The next submission period will be from 1 September to 31 December 2017.

Examples of proposed programmes include workshops, seminars, reading programmes and English-language based games. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to meetings with an evaluation panel.

For more enquiries please contact nhb_speakgoodenglishmovement@nhb.gov.sg.

About Speak Good English Movement

The Speak Good English Movement is a nationwide movement to encourage Singaporeans to appreciate the importance of using good English. The Movement shares English language resources on its website, and its partners support with programmes to help people experience English in engaging and interesting ways. To learn more, visit www.goodenglish.org.sg.

ANNEX A: WRITE-UP OF SPEAKERS, PANELLISTS AND MODERATORS



Goh Eck Kheng

Publisher, Landmark Books

Chairman, Speak Good English Movement

Moderator – English, Singlish and Broken English

Goh Eck Kheng is the publisher of Landmark Books. He studied at the Anglo-Chinese Schools and read law at the National University of Singapore. He is a founding member of the theatre company, TheatreWorks, and was a Board Member of the Media Development Authority from 2006 to 2008. He has been Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement since 2008.



Jennifer Lewis

Managing Director, Communications, GIC

Moderator – Effective English at Work

Jennifer Lewis is responsible for the strategic management of GIC's internal and external communication activities. She joined the sovereign wealth fund in 2007 after more than twenty years as a journalist with television, print and online experience. She was a founding Editor of both Straits Times TV, Singapore's first television news organization owned by a newspaper, as well as STOMP (Straits Times Online Mobile Print), a news website that leveraged online tools to change the way news was received and distributed in Singapore.

Jennifer served on the board of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) from 2007 to 2015. She remains active with the SIF and currently chairs the 'Arts for Good' Advisory Panel. She also serves on the board of OnePeople.sg, an organization launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loon to champion racial harmony initiatives in Singapore.



Susan Ng

Producer – Presenter, Parenting Made Easy, 938 LIVE

Moderator – English in the Singaporean Home

Susan started her broadcasting career in 1977 with the then Radio & Television Singapore (RTS) as producer-presenter, and her career as a television presenter in 1978. Up till 1985, she was a full-time broadcaster with Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), and thereafter continued working part-time in radio and TV. Susan is currently a part-time presenter and features producer/presenter (*Parenting Made Easy*) with 938LIVE, Mediacorp. For about 40 years now, she has been a familiar face and voice with local TV and radio audiences.



Adrian Tan

Litigator, Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC

Keynote Speaker

Adrian Tan is a litigator at Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC and writer of two best-seller books, *The Teenage Textbook* and *The Teenage Workbook*. These were also adapted by Monster Films as *The Teenage Textbook Movie*, which became a box-office hit at the cinemas. He is also the creator of *The Pupil*, a television series about lawyers in Singapore.



Jeff Cheong

President, Tribal Worldwide Asia Pacific

Member, Speak Good English Movement

Keynote Speaker and Panellist – English in the Singaporean Home

Jeff Cheong is the Head of Tribal Worldwide Singapore since 2008. He was named President Tribal Worldwide Asia after serving a year as Vice President. He has produced some of the most memorable works locally for SG50, including ‘The Future of Us’ showcase, Changi Airport, Jewel Changi Airport, Pioneer Generation Package, Singapore Memory Project and Singapore Airlines.

Jeff is an active member of various advisory committees for various organisations, including Temasek Polytechnic, Institute of Technical Education, Families for Life, National Integration Council, Singapore Media Festival, Social Development Network and Media Literacy. He is also a member of the Speak Good English Movement Committee.



Gwee Li Sui

Poet, Graphic Artist and Literary Critic

Panellist – English, Singlish, Broken English

Gwee Li Sui is a poet, graphic artist, and literary critic. His works include the graphic novel *Myth of the Stone* (1993), poetry books *Who Wants to Buy a Book of Poems?* (1998), *One Thousand and One Nights* (2014), *Who Wants to Buy an Expanded Edition of a Book of Poems?* (2015), *The Other Merlion and Friends* (2015), and *Haikuku* (2017), and several acclaimed literary anthologies. A familiar name in Singapore’s literary scene, he has also written and lectured on a wide range of subjects. He wrote a popular and widely debated op-ed on Singlish for *The New York Times* in 2016.



Irene Ang

Founder/CEO, FLY Entertainment

Panellist – English, Singlish and Broken English

Photo Credit: by Joel Low

Irene Ang is Founder and CEO of FLY Entertainment Pte Ltd since 1999. The epitome of a true Singaporean, Irene built her reputation as an actor as Rosie Phua in Singapore's longest running sitcom, Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd for more than 10 years where she was awarded Best Comedy Performance by an Actress at the Asian Television Awards (2002). Her last performance on Spouse for House as an overbearing mother-in-law also garnered an award for Best Comedy Performance by an Actor/Actress at the Asian Television Awards (2014)

As a driven business woman with a dynamic personality, Irene Ang has been nominated for several awards, including: Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (2004), Top 25 Most Powerful Businesswomen (2008) by The Executive Magazine, as well as being hailed as one of the 'Great Women of Our Time 2010' by Singapore's Woman's Weekly magazine.

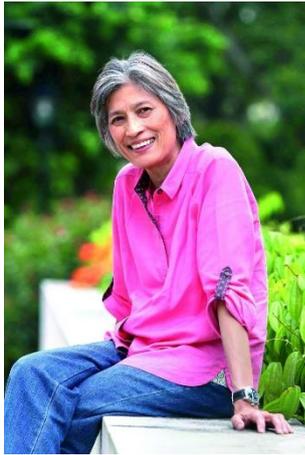


Jack Sai

Owner, Coffee Break at Amoy Street

Panellist – Effective English at Work

Before taking over the family's coffee shop business, Jack worked as a freelance writer for business magazines, a script editor for cable news channel CNBC, and a part-time teacher. He is a compulsive reader and a purveyor of the idea that reading is to the mind what eating is to the body.



Judith d'Silva

Director (Plans and Content Group), Nexus

Member, Speak Good English Movement

Panellist – Effective English at Work

Judith d'Silva has been in the civil service since 1975 and is currently Director (Plans and Content Group) in Nexus, MINDEF. As part of Nexus' engagement efforts targeted at lower primary students, Judith contributed the books *Little Red Dot Come s Home* and *Things So Singaporean*. She was co-chairperson of MINDEF's Clear Communications Committee, set up to oversee the development of resources to help MINDEF officers communicate effectively through good and clear English.

An active member in the Speak Good English Movement, she has given talks on writing clearly to be understood at the Civil Service College and contributed an article on *How You Can Be Simple and Clear in Public Service*.



Kon Yin Tong

Managing Partner, Foo Kon Tan LLP

Panellist – Effective English at Work

Kon Yin Tong is a Chartered Accountant of Singapore and has been practising for more than 25 years. He is a first-class honours graduate from the London School of Economics and is currently Vice-President of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants, where he is a Fellow. He is also Deputy Chair of Sport Singapore, a council member of the English Language Institute of Singapore and an audit committee member of the Singapore Academy of Law.

His areas of practice include those in litigation support and dispute resolution, including acting as expert witness and as assessor to the Court. He has also conducted investigations into corporate transgressions, locally as well as overseas. Yin Tong is a regular speaker at seminars and conferences on topics related to his expertise and passion.



Melanie Lee

Digital Writer, The A-List

Associate Faculty, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Panellist – English in the Singaporean Home

Melanie Lee is the award-winning author of *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien*, a six-part picture book series on adoption published by MPH Group Publishing. She is currently the digital writer for *The A List* and is also an Associate Faculty at the Singapore University of Social Sciences teaching media writing courses.



Peter K W Tan

**Senior Lecturer, Department of English Language and Literature,
National University of Singapore (NUS)**

Panellist – English, Singlish and Broken English

Peter K W Tan is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore, where he teaches modules on the history of English, discourse, dramatic language and names. One of his research interests is change in English, including changes involving the 'New' English varieties and how language can index identities.



William Anthony Grosse
Master Teacher, English Language Institute of Singapore

Panellist - English in the Singaporean Home

William was a Teacher, Discipline Master, Pupil Counsellor, Subject Head, Head of Department, Senior and Lead Teacher in primary schools for 28 years and has now been a Master Teacher for the past six years. He has been constantly trying to take 'more loving looks at the real' (GK Chesterton). He only wears reading glasses. He was an Inspiring Teacher of English Award (ITEA) winner in 2010 and a recipient of the Distinguished Fulbright Award in Teaching Programme in 2013 and derives greatest inspiration from the batches of pupils he had the honour and pleasure to teach and learn from since 1983. He has given workshops and presentations on reading, writing and assessment at various cluster, zonal, national and international platforms. He has sharp intakes of breath for books, music, stand-up comedy, movies, motorcycles and his wife and daughter. He is still breathing.