

MEDIA RELEASE

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**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COHESIVE SOCIETIES RETURNS THIS JUNE,
WITH A FOCUS ON BUILDING COHESIVE AND RESILIENT MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES**

18 June 2025 (Wednesday), Singapore – The International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) will return for its third edition from 24 to 26 June 2025 in Singapore, with the ICCS Young Leaders Programme (YLP) held from 26 to 28 June 2025. It will bring together over **1,000 global thought leaders, policymakers, community practitioners and young leaders from more than 50 countries** to exchange ideas, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions that foster cohesive and resilient multicultural societies.

2. The ICCS, themed “**Cohesive Societies, Resilient Futures**”, is organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). The three-day Conference will promote conversations on multiculturalism and what it takes to achieve harmony in diversity in an increasingly divided and polarised world.

3. Through a series of plenaries, breakout sessions, and skills workshops, delegates will explore practical approaches to social cohesion anchored in three key pillars — **Unpacking Multiculturalism, Navigating Uncertainty, and Forging Societal Resilience**. Topics that will be discussed include fostering harmony and resilience, navigating polarisation and extremism, and building practical skills in areas such as futures thinking, conflict mediation and resolution, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and civic conversational skills. ICCS 2025 will also feature the preliminary findings from the Southeast Asian Social Cohesion Radar 2025 edition.

4. **Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, President of the Republic of Singapore, will deliver the opening address, while **His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah**, Malaysia’s Sultan of Perak and Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, will deliver a keynote address on the second day. On the final day, **Mr Edwin Tong**, Singapore’s Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs, will deliver the keynote address on the third day.

5. More than 60 thought leaders from around the world will be speaking at the event, including:

- a) **Prof Dr Nasaruddin Umar**, Minister of Religious Affairs, Indonesia and Grand Imam of Istiqlal State Mosque
- b) **Venerable Napan Thawornbanjob**, Founding Chair of Institute of Buddhist Management for Happiness and Peace (IBHAP) Foundation, Thailand
- c) **Mr Ahmed Aboutaleb**, former Mayor of Rotterdam, Netherlands
- d) **Monsignor Indunil Kodithuwakku**, Secretary of Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican

6. Delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in immersive **Community Exploration** visits that provide a firsthand insight into Singapore's approach to building multicultural and interreligious harmony. These sessions involve visits to Singapore's places of worship, heritage sites, and cultural institutions. By engaging with local communities and exploring Singapore's diverse neighborhoods, delegates will gain invaluable insights into how social cohesion is fostered and how diverse faith and cultural practices enrich life in a vibrant, multicultural society.

Young Leaders Programme (YLP)

7. As a flagship segment of ICCS since 2019, the Young Leaders Programme (YLP) brings together emerging leaders from around the world to ideate and collaborate on initiatives that strengthen social cohesion. For the first time, this year's edition pioneers an inclusive and participatory model with **more than 100 delegates taking on active roles** as co-curators, facilitators and more. The programme is co-curated by the inaugural YLP Working Committee, comprising 10 alumni from past YLPs and youth programmes, ensuring it reflects youth-driven priorities and perspectives.

8. YLP 2025 will kick off with a youth-driven **Cultural Networking Evening on 26 June** where local and international delegates connect through cultural showcases and exchange. Supported by partners including **Dialogue Centre Singapore** and the **Center for Religion and Civic Culture (University of Southern California)**, YLP will feature immersive explorations across cultures and faiths through experiential learning modalities such as Forum Theatre and interactive Heartlands Experiences, as well as applied learning workshops to explore issues youths are passionate about—from unconscious bias in volunteerism to the ethics of AI in faith communities. Delegates will sharpen their critical thinking, negotiation, and mediation skills to lead with confidence and empathy in complex, multicultural settings.

9. More information on ICCS 2025 is available on the official website www.iccs.sg/iccs-2025/, and updates and announcements will also be released on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

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Media Enquiries

For media queries on ICCS and interviews with participating thought leaders	For media queries on the Radar
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About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a global graduate school and think tank focusing on strategic studies and security affairs. Its five Research Centres and three Research Programmes, led by the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, and assisted by the Dean on the academic side, drive the School's research, education and networking activities. The graduate school offers Master of Science Programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, International Political Economy and Asian Studies. As a school, RSIS fosters a nurturing environment to develop students into first-class scholars and practitioners. As a think tank, RSIS conducts policy-relevant and forward-looking research in both national and international security, science and technology, society and economic and environmental sustainability. RSIS also produces academic research on security and international affairs. It publishes scholarly research in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and distributes policy research to a wide range of readers.

About the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth seeks to inspire Singaporeans through the arts and sports, strengthen community bonds, and promote volunteerism and philanthropy. Since its inception in November 2012, the MCCY has been actively engaging the arts, heritage, sports, community and youth sectors. The Ministry aims to bring into sharper focus the efforts to build a more cohesive and vibrant society, and to deepen a sense of identity and belonging to the nation. MCCY works with its stakeholders to create an environment where Singaporeans can pursue their aspirations for a better quality of life and together, and build a gracious and caring society we are proud to call home.

International Conference on Cohesive Societies 2025

All media assets for ICCS 2025 will be accessible at the link
below until 30 June 2025



[Link](#)

*If photos are used in your reporting, kindly credit the
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.*