

PRESS RELEASE

First Meeting of National Jobs Council

1. As announced by Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat in the Fortitude Budget, the National Jobs Council has been formed to identify and develop job opportunities and skills training for Singaporeans amidst the COVID-19 situation. Chaired by Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, the Council will mobilise the tripartite partners' networks and schemes to maximise support for jobseekers. The Council will include other political office holders and leaders from industry and unions, with Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat as Advisor. (Please refer to the [Annex](#) for the list of Council members.) The National Jobs Council will also align its work and implementation strategies with that of the Future Economy Council and the Emerging Stronger Taskforce.

2. The Council met for the first time today. It took account of the impact of COVID-19 on the outlook for jobs, and discussed priority areas for achieving the SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package. The Council confirmed the following Terms of Reference:

- a. Identify and develop job opportunities for Singaporeans amidst COVID-19 and its aftermath;
- b. Rally and mobilise tripartite partners and training providers to establish a sizeable bank of SGUnited Jobs and Skills opportunities, catering to various sectors and every skill level; and
- c. Enable Singaporeans to take full advantage of the scaled-up opportunities, through tight coordination across Government and tripartite partners and effective implementation of:
 - i. Job creation and matching;
 - ii. Attachments and training for re-skilling; and
 - iii. Job redesign in support of enterprise transformation.

3. The Council will oversee the design and implementation of the SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package announced in the Fortitude Budget. The Council aims to support close to 100,000 jobseekers through the SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package over the next 12 months.

4. Chairman of the National Jobs Council, Senior Minister Tharman said: “We must work together as a national team to grow jobs and training opportunities in the coming months, on a scale well beyond any past experience. It is a challenging task, but achievable with tight coordination, and the tripartite partners going beyond established ways. We will use every way possible to create these opportunities, in both the public and private sectors, and pay special attention to our middle-aged and older workers.”

5. Ng Chee Meng, Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) said: “NTUC fully supports the National Jobs Council to secure our workers’ livelihoods and enhance their long-term employability. NTUC previously surfaced our unions’ feedback and recommendations to help workers and jobseekers. I am glad that the Government has considered our feedback, recommendations and introduced the National Jobs Council. We are committed to continue working closely with our tripartite partners and do our best to support this whole-of-nation approach to job preservation, job matching, job advocacy as well as job creation and training.”

6. Robert Yap, President, Singapore National Employers Federation said: “The Singapore National Employers Federation is fully on board with the national effort to support our employees. Our members will look at how we can provide opportunities for existing and incoming employees to upskill themselves so that they can safeguard their livelihoods, not only in the near term but for the long-term.”

7. Chong Yoke Sin, President, Singapore Computer Society said: “The urgency of digital transformation has been brought to the forefront amid the COVID-19 situation. We will push for this critical digitalisation across all sectors, and for more workers to undergo training to gain digital skills.”

NATIONAL JOBS COUNCIL
3 JUNE 2020

ANNEX

The National Jobs Council will comprise the following members:

Advisor: Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat

1. Tharman Shanmugaratnam (Chairman) Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies
2. Chan Chun Sing Minister for Trade and Industry
3. Masagos Zulkifli Minister for the Environment and Water Resources
4. Ong Ye Kung Minister for Education
5. Indranee Rajah Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Education
6. S. Iswaran Minister for Communications and Information
7. Josephine Teo Minister for Manpower

8. Mary Liew President, National Trades Union Congress
9. Ng Chee Meng Secretary-General, National Trades Union Congress

10. Chong Yoke Sin President, Singapore Computer Society
11. Douglas Foo President, Singapore Manufacturing Federation
12. Arthur Kiong 1st Vice-President, Singapore Hotel Association
13. Lim Ming Yan Council Member, Singapore Business Federation
14. Chaly Mah Chairman, Singapore Accountancy Commission
15. Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara CEO, Temasek International
16. Samuel N. Tsien Chairman, The Association of Banks Singapore
17. Robert Yap President, Singapore National Employers Federation