



# THE NEXT DECADE

STRENGTHENING  
OUR COMMUNITY'S  
ARCHITECTURE

30 JUNE 2012

3rd

NATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
OF SINGAPORE  
M U S L I M  
PROFESSIONALS

Copyright © 2012 Association of Muslim Professionals

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from AMP. Request for permission should be made in writing to:

**Association of Muslim Professionals**

AMP @ Pasir Ris, 1 Pasir Ris Drive 4, #05-11, Singapore 519457.

**Tel:** (65) 6416 3966      **Fax:** (65) 6583 8028

**Email:** corporate@amp.org.sg      **Website:** www.amp.org.sg

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/AMPSingapore

**Twitter:** www.twitter.com/AMPSingapore

**YouTube:** www.youtube.com/user/AMPSingapore

ISBN 978-981-07-2494-8

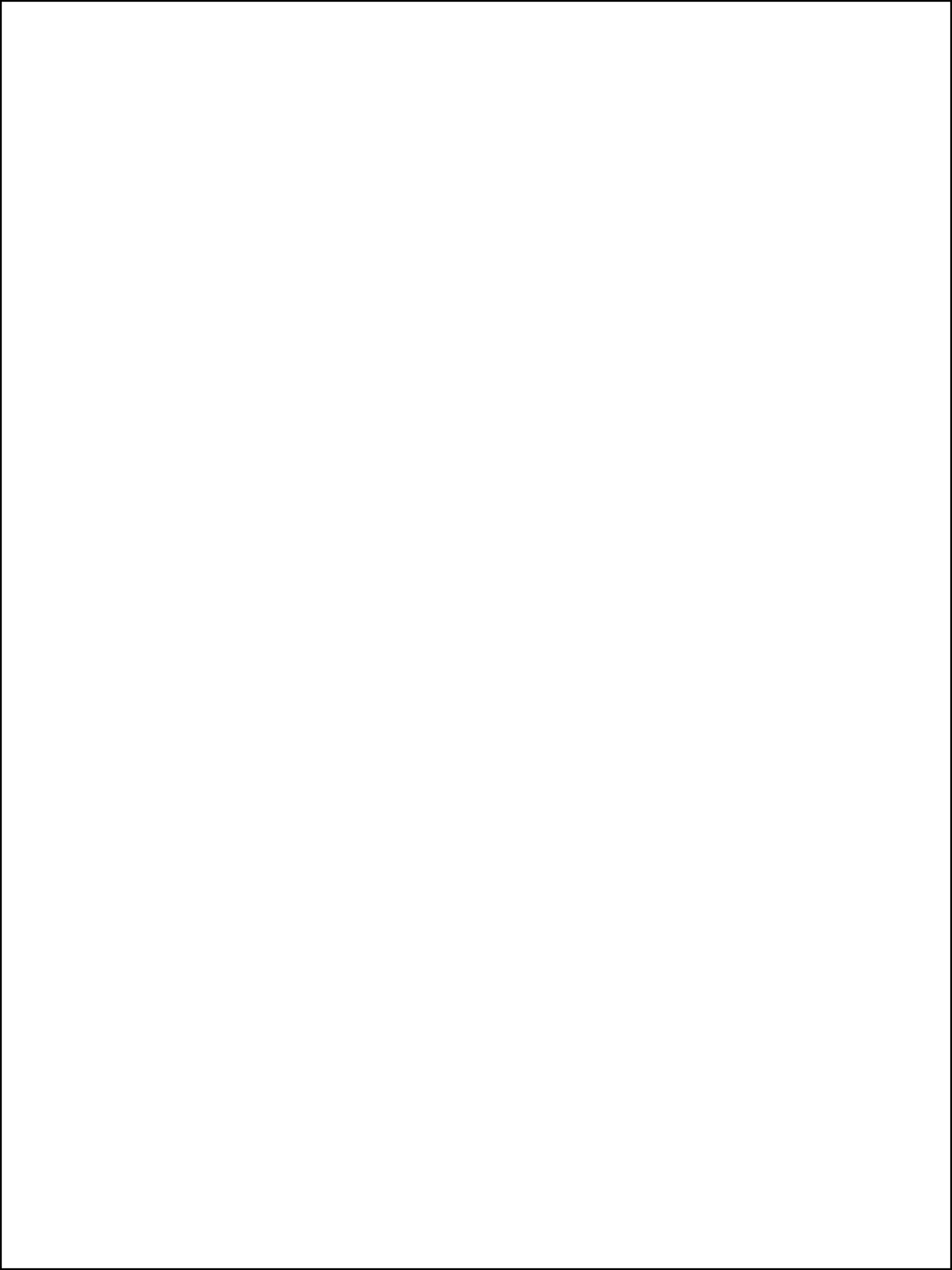




30 JUNE 2012

## Programme

- 8.30 am** Opening Remarks by Chairman, AMP Group
- 8.45 am** Keynote Presentation by Chairman, Convention Steering Committee
- 9.45 am** Break
- 10.00 am** Breakout Sessions
- 12.30 pm** Lunch
- 1.30 pm** Participants to be seated in Auditorium
- 2.00 pm** Speech by Guest of Honour  
*Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong*
- 2.15 pm** Dialogue Session with Prime Minister
- 3.30 pm** Break & *Zuhur*
- 4.15 pm** Sharing Session with Panel Heads
- 5.45 pm** Launch of MEX Portal
- 5.55 pm** Consensus on Communiqué
- 6.25 pm** Sharing Session on Strategies Implementation
- 6.45 pm** Closing of Convention  
End



# CONTENTS

<b>6</b>	The Way Forward
<b>10</b>	The National Convention of Muslim Professionals: Charting the Direction for the Community
<b>14</b>	The Next Decade: Strengthening Our Community's Architecture
<b>33</b>	Strategies at A Glance
<b>34</b>	Panel Papers
<b>35</b>	Muslim Expatriates
<b>56</b>	Leadership, Civil Society and Young Professionals
<b>66</b>	Social
<b>85</b>	Education
<b>107</b>	Religion
<b>120</b>	Economics
<b>144</b>	Annexes
<b>145</b>	Perception Survey on the Malay/Muslim Community in Singapore
<b>191</b>	Demographic Study on Singapore Malays
<b>211</b>	Pre-Convention Activities
<b>214</b>	Convention Contributors
<b>218</b>	Acknowledgement



# A Note from Chairman AMP Group

## THE WAY FORWARD

IT has been more than a decade since we held our last National Convention of Singapore Muslim Professionals in the year 2000. Numerous changes and key events have taken place within the community, some arising directly from the various propositions put forth during the Convention, others from individuals, organisations and groups who have worked towards catalysing the progress of the community. Although a new group of individuals is at the helm of AMP and the Convention Steering Committee, we remain steadfast and continue with our commitment to work for the betterment of the Muslim community. We are ever more determined to be the conscience of the community by providing alternative views and pursuing issues that matter.

### ***Chain of Continuity***

This year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of Singapore Muslim Professionals will take place after more than two years of preparation. We hope to provide opportunities for professionals and emerging leaders of the Malay and Muslim community to stake a claim in our future. Moving forward, this is also an opportunity for us to think and work together within the community towards looking for breakthrough strategies that will prepare us for the challenges that lie ahead.

More than 350 individuals have contributed – directly and indirectly – their thoughts, ideas and time. Various key areas of concern have been identified. Divergent brainstorming sessions finally converged and culminated into concrete strategies. All these are shared in this journal and will be further discussed during the Convention. Regardless of individuals or institutional affiliations, I encourage you to share your views, make your voices heard and your presence count. It is my hope that participants will play their part and contribute constructively wherever possible in catalysing the progress and charting the future of our community with the following objectives in mind:

- Focus on and prioritise strategies that will bring us through the current and potential challenges into the next decade;
- Adopt a pragmatic and feasible community-level action plan;
- Strengthen and enhance community's working network; and
- Provide capacity and efforts at the community and national levels to implement the Convention plan.

### ***Thematic Approach***

Our vision of a model Muslim community led us to the formation of six panels, namely (i) Muslim Expatriates, (ii) Leadership, Civil Society & Young Professionals, (iii) Social, (iv) Education, (v) Religion and (vi) Economics. Findings from two research works conducted recently by external consultants commissioned by AMP show that our community has generally made progress in most areas since the last decade.

Many programmes have already been made available by numerous Malay and Muslim organisations to elevate our economic status and tackle the perennial educational and social problems that we face. However, as

the world becomes more globalised, issues that we have faced over the past few decades are now more complex and require new strategies to manage them.

As such, even though we have made significant progress over the years, we must not rest on our laurels and be contented with our achievements. We must continue to persevere and work towards strengthening our community's architecture to meet these new challenges, which is the central theme of the Convention.

### ***Moving Forward***

It is my hope that we converge to a set of strategies to strengthen our community and agree collectively – individuals and community organisations alike – to take on the challenge to implement them. Let us put our differences aside, take ownership of the challenges and move forward into the future, together.

I aim to make the agreed actions alive by initiating the following pragmatic approaches in the implementation and execution of the Convention plans:

#### *1. Formation of the AMP Programme Office (PO @ AMP)*

PO @ AMP will be formed as a follow-up to the Convention. It will coordinate and monitor the progress of adopted Convention strategies from initiation to completion. It will work collaboratively with individuals and organisations who share the vision of concretising the Convention strategies into actionable programmes or services for the community.

2. *Platform for sharing progress of Convention strategies*

The Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs (RIMA), AMP's research arm, will extend its role to provide a platform through its annual Community in Review (CIR) forum (to be relaunched as Community Forum - ComFor) to share the progress of the adopted Convention strategies and action plan with the community in the years after the Convention. The CIR will enable members of the community to review and provide feedback on the programmes and services developed from the Convention strategies. A yearly review would also allow the community to assess whether the strategies need to be renewed or tweaked to meet the changing needs of the community.

I am confident that the community will spare no effort in working to chart and navigate towards our future of choice together.

**Azmoon Ahmad**

*Chairman*

*AMP Group*