

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SPEECH BY MR ABDUL HAMID ABDULLAH, CHAIRMAN OF AMP GROUP, AT THE COMMUNITY IN REVIEW 2018 SEMINAR ON SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2018 AT 9.15 AM AT GRAND HYATT SINGAPORE

Esteemed speakers

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

1. I would like to warmly welcome you to the Community in Review 2018 Seminar.
2. The Community in Review or CIR is an event held annually by AMP and its research subsidiary, RIMA, to discuss issues that are pertinent to the Malay/Muslim community as well as the larger Singaporean society.
3. It is a platform that we provide for intellectual discourse on a regular basis on issues that concern the community and Singaporeans in general.

4. The theme for this year's CIR is Education Strategies in the New Era: Sustaining Progress.
5. The importance of education can never be overstated. At the macro-level, it is impossible to ignore the fact that economic progress is inextricably linked to education.
6. Over the years, education has shifted from one paradigm to another – from survival-driven education to efficiency-driven education to ability-driven education – as economic and societal circumstances change. It played the critical role of equipping Singapore with the competence and capabilities needed to keep the economy flourishing despite the challenging terrains it had to negotiate.
7. Now, we are facing a future that is expected to present some unprecedented challenges. For instance, disruptive technologies will radically change the way people work and live, and how businesses are conducted. Industries will have to adapt and people will have to reskill to remain relevant.
8. The education sector too will have to respond. Pedagogy, curriculum and co-curricular activities in schools will have to evolve so that attributes that will be valued in the future can be nurtured, such as deep knowledge and skills, creativity and innovativeness, lifelong learning, risk taking behaviour and resilience.

9. At the micro-level, needless to say, education remains a conduit of upward social mobility. The future landscape raises some concerns. In particular, what would be its impact on children from low-income families? Given that deep skills will come to be better appreciated than mere educational attainments, will it spell an era of more equitable education outcomes for all Singaporeans regardless of socioeconomic status?
10. The Malay/Muslim community has made encouraging strides in education over the last three decades. This progress must be sustained well into the future. But we need to better understand the implications of emerging trends and challenges in Singapore's education system for the Malay/Muslim community.
11. Today, we have invited four eminent speakers to share their thoughts on the theme. What are the critical success factors of the future; what is crucial in negotiating school literacy; what are the implications of the emerging landscape on the education of Malay/Muslims; and what would the future of education of children from low-income families be like? These questions will be discussed today. No doubt we will have a fruitful and engaging session.
12. I would like to also take this opportunity to announce that we are very honoured to have Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung, engage the

audience in a dialogue in the next segment. We ask that you participate actively in this dialogue.

13. It is my hope that we will leave this hall today better informed and engaged with the issues presented, as well as a better understanding of the educational challenges and opportunities faced by the community. I hope that this can then lead to policies and strategies that will better prepare our community for what promises to be a radically different future.

14. Thank you.

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