

Foreword

Gerald Giam has been a prolific writer about Singapore for several years. As can be seen from this exciting compilation, the topics which have gained his attention are diverse, from the political system to the plight of the low income, education and even food contamination.

While everyone is prone to have pet peeves about Singapore, Gerald has set himself apart by writing regularly, backed up by references and figures, despite holding down a full-time job and being a family man as well. In his pieces, my sense is that he deliberately reminds himself to be constructive, suggesting some alternatives to approaching the issues. Anyone who has ever tried to propose viable alternative policies without a vast machinery of support knows how challenging it can be.

There is no doubt that Singapore faces new challenges today, whether it be from an ageing population or increasing income disparity. Reasonable people can justifiably differ as to the correct approach to take to meet these challenges. Nevertheless, it is so important to have a Singaporean dialogue, and to continue that dialogue even after decisions have been made.

Gerald has tellingly dedicated the book to all those who fight to carve out a stronger and better Singapore for future generations, regardless of political affiliation. I hope that by this book, Gerald also encourages all who care about Singapore's future to articulate their views and take the further step of participating in public life, as he has done.

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