

EMBARGOED TILL DELIVERY OF SPEECH. PLS CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY.

**Chairman's Speech by Party Chairman Gan Kim Yong
People's Action Party Conference and Awards 2022
Sunday 6 November 2022**

Secretary-General Lee Hsien Loong

Fellow Comrades, brothers and sisters of the NTUC,

Introduction

1. Good morning and welcome to our 37th Party Conference and Awards 2022.

Turning challenges into opportunities

2. The last two years had been very challenging for all of us as we faced the crisis of a generation. The pandemic is not completely over, but we are thankful that Singapore is in a good position with most of our people well protected by vaccination.
3. We are now adjusting to a new normal in the way we live, work and play. We are all learning to live with Covid19.

4. But even as we emerge from the pandemic, we are facing new challenges: increasing geo-political tension arising from the US-China competition as well as the Ukraine war, rising cost of living driven by the energy crisis and supply constraints, and a slowdown in global economy as a result of tightening monetary policies. As an open economy, Singapore has not been spared from the impact of these developments.

5. As we gather today, I would first like to thank each of you, Comrades, for your trust, your dedication and hard work, and for taking all these challenges and pressures in your stride. Over the last two years,

a. You remained steadfast and kept faith in the face of uncertainties;

b. You stepped up to help our community selflessly during difficult times;

c. You did your utmost to take care of fellow Singaporeans;

d. Each of your efforts helped deepen the trust that Singaporeans have in the Party and the government, which we must never take for granted.

6. The road ahead remains challenging. We must be prepared for a more volatile and uncertain world. But we can remain optimistic and confident of the future if we stay together and work together.
7. ***Stronger Together : Opportunities For All*** is the theme for this year's conference. While there are uncertainties, challenges and even risks as we journey forward, there are also immense opportunities for Singapore and Singaporeans.
8. As the People's Action Party, we must continue to create opportunities for our people, and prepare them well so that they can seize these opportunities and better their lives. This is what we do.
9. Action is the middle name of our Party. Our actions will differentiate us from other parties – not just the actions of the Party leaders but that of every member, every activist, and every one of you.
10. We have the mandate to make a difference in every Singaporean's life, and we must do all we can to achieve that.

Recognising our people

11. Today, we are also recognising the dedication and contributions of 421 of our Party comrades. I thank you all for being exemplary. Your big-hearted generosity to step up to serve Singapore and Singaporeans, on weekdays and weekends, in both good times and bad, across all hours of the day, is an inspiration to us all. I am not able to name everyone, but allow me to share with you some of the important causes our activists champion on the ground.

12. Every individual – regardless of your background – can make a difference in the lives of others. This was the belief that led Comrade Jason Salim to first join the Party 11 years ago. Jason has translated this belief into impactful causes for his community. Jason supports the Party’s key sustainability initiative – Action For Green Towns and he also plays an important role in enabling and empowering the next generation, our youths in the community, to take action together with us. He even met his wife while serving at the MPS! Jason receives the Youth Medal today. Congratulations, Jason!

13. Comrade Thang Leng Leng has been with the Party for 38 years, although she hardly looks 38 today. She has been involved in the Party’s various community engagement groups

and presently serves as a member of the PAP Seniors Group Executive Committee. Her experience and passion in healthy aging and inter-generation relationships have led her towards taking action for our seniors in Singapore. She was involved in the co-writing of the PAPSG's Ambassador handbook, which was produced to assist activists across the island in explaining schemes and providing advice to senior residents and their families in a timely and relevant manner. Today, Leng Leng receives the PAPSG Medal. Congratulations, Leng Leng!

14. Comrade T. Porchelvi is particularly familiar with the diverse challenges women in Singapore face, especially those who carry heavy caregiving responsibilities. She is the sole caregiver for her elderly mother and autistic son. During a period where she felt she was alone with her struggles, she received assurance, care and support from her community and our Branch at Nee Soon East. Today she pays it forward, looking out for residents who similarly need a helping hand. She also links them up with flexible employment opportunities that still allow them to fulfil their caregiving duties at home. She has been tirelessly supporting the PAP Women's Wing initiatives. She represents our hope to enable every woman to succeed in their lives. Comrade Porchelvi receives a Bronze Medal today. Congratulations!

15. Every one of us can make a difference to those around us. Let's work together to uphold our Party values and strengthen the trust and support of our people.

Charting the way forward

16. My fellow Comrades, because we have good people like you, the People's Action Party will be able to deliver on its promises to Singaporeans and Singapore. But we cannot afford to be complacent. We need to work doubly hard to maintain a strong mandate to lead and serve Singapore.

- a. There is so much more we can do and we must do to inspire and journey with each other and look out for one another as fellow Singaporeans.
- b. Your commitment to the Party, to Singapore and to Singaporeans is immensely valued and this is what makes us unique as a Party.
- c. We would not be where we are today without your unwavering support.

17. As I step down as Chairman of the Party, I want to thank you for all your support given to me over the years. I also want to thank Secretary General and my fellow CEC members for their guidance and their trust. I have full confidence that my comrades in the new CEC will continue to serve our people well and will enjoy your full support. So let us put our trust in one another, and hold fast to our shared vision as we move forward and prepare ourselves for the next general election.

a. We are a Party of action, and a Party for the people.

b. Together, let us strive for a fair, inclusive, and caring Singapore – for many more generations to come.

18. Thank you.