

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**“ENGLISH IN SINGAPORE”
Symposium Registration Now Open**

(Registration period: Now to 14 July 2017)

15 June 2017 – For the first time ever, the Speak Good English Movement will be organising a symposium, titled “English in Singapore”, to discuss key issues related to the use and standard of English in Singapore, as well as provide tips on improving one’s English and ways to help others improve theirs.

This free event will be held from **2.30pm to 5.30pm on Saturday, 15 July 2017 at The Arts House**. With speakers from various backgrounds and experiences, the event will offer two panel discussions and a concluding plenary discussion.

Event Outline	
2.30pm	Opening Address - by Chairman, Speak Good English Movement
2.35pm	Keynote Dialogue by Adrian Tan and Jeff Cheong
3.00pm	Panel Discussion – (1) English in the Singaporean Home <u>OR</u> (2) Effective English at Work
4.00pm	Tea Break
4.30pm	Concluding Plenary Session – “English, Singlish, Broken English”
5.30pm	End of Programme

Adrian Tan, litigator at Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC and author of the bestselling novel, *The Teenage Textbook* (1988), and **Jeff Cheong**, President of Tribal Worldwide Asia Pacific, will conduct a keynote dialogue on how English plays a key role in their professional lives. They will also share their experiences of growing up learning English and how they managed to acquire an excellent command of English.

After the keynote dialogue, participants can choose to attend either of two panel discussions– *English in the Singaporean Home* or *Effective English at Work*.

English in the Singaporean Home focuses on the role of parents in imparting good language use in their children. Parents will be able to pick up strategies from Jeff Cheong, **William Anthony Grosse**, Master Teacher at the English Language Institute of Singapore (ELIS) and **Melanie Lee**, award-winning

author of *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien*. This session will be moderated by **Susan Ng**, Radio Presenter with 938 LIVE.

Effective English at Work seeks to discuss how English may be used effectively at work and in doing business in Singapore. Participants can also learn how to create a good English language environment at work from panellists **Jack Sai**, third generation hawker and owner of Coffee Break at Amoy Street, **Kon Yin Tong**, Managing Partner at Foo Kon Tan LLP and **Judith d'Silva**, Deputy Director (Plans) at Nexus, MINDEF. This session will be moderated by **Jennifer Lewis**, Managing Director, Communications, GIC.

The symposium will conclude with a plenary discussion on English, Singlish and Broken English with **Gwee Li Sui**, poet, graphic artist and literary critic, **Irene Ang**, famous for her role as Rosie Phua in the sitcom *Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd*, and **Dr Peter Tan**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore. The panellists will engage in a lively discussion as they deliberate on what makes English, Singlish and Broken English distinct. This session will be moderated by **Goh Eck Kheng**, Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement.

Members of the public who are interested to attend *English in Singapore* may register via Peatix at the following link - <http://englishinsingapore.peatix.com>. Registration is free and tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

About the Speak Good English Movement

The Speak Good English Movement is a nationwide movement to encourage Singaporeans to appreciate the importance of speaking good English. The Movement shares English language resources on its website, and its partners support with programmes to help people experience English in fun and interesting ways. To learn more, visit www.goodenglish.org.sg.

ANNEX A: LIST OF SPEAKERS, PANELLISTS AND MODERATORS



Adrian Tan
Litigator, Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC

Keynote Speaker

Adrian Tan is a litigator at Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC. His two novels, *The Teenage Textbook* and *The Teenage Workbook*, were bestsellers that were adapted by Monster Films as *The Teenage Textbook Movie*, a box-office hit. He is the creator of *The Pupil*, a television series about law practice in Singapore.



Goh Eck Kheng
Publisher, Landmark Books
Chairman, Speak Good English Movement

Moderator for English, Singlish and Broken English

Goh Eck Kheng is the publisher of Landmark Books. He studied at the Anglo-Chinese Schools and read law at the National University of Singapore. He is a founding member of the theatre company, TheatreWorks, and was a Board Member of the Media Development Authority from 2006 to 2008. He has been Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement since 2008.



Gwee Li Sui
Poet, Graphic Artist and Literary Critic

Panellist for English, Singlish and Broken English

Gwee Li Sui is a poet, a graphic artist, and a literary critic. His works include the graphic novel *Myth of the Stone* (1993), poetry books *Who Wants to Buy a Book of Poems?* (1998), *One Thousand and One Nights* (2014), *Who Wants to Buy an Expanded Edition of a Book of Poems?* (2015), *The Other Merlion and Friends* (2015), and *Haikuku* (2017), and several acclaimed literary anthologies. A familiar name in Singapore's cultural scene, Gwee has also written and lectured on a wide range of subjects. He wrote a popular and widely debated op-ed on Singlish for *The New York Times* in 2016.



Irene Ang
Founder/CEO, FLY Entertainment

Panellist for English, Singlish and Broken English

Photo Credit: by Joel Low

Irene Ang is Founder and CEO of FLY Entertainment Pte Ltd since 1999.

The epitome of a true Singaporean, Irene built her reputation as an actor as Rosie Phua in Singapore's longest running sitcom *Phua Chu Kang* Pte Ltd for more than 10 years where she was awarded Best Comedy Performance by an Actress at the Asian Television Awards (2002). Her last performance on *Spouse for House* as an overbearing mother-in-law also garnered an award for Best Comedy Performance by an Actor/Actress at Asian Television Awards (2014).

As a driven business woman with a dynamic personality, Irene Ang has been nominated for several awards including; Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (2004), top 25 Most Powerful Businesswomen (2008) by *The Executive Magazine*, and as well as being hailed as one of the "Greatest Women of Our Time 2010" by Singapore's *Woman's Weekly* magazine.



Jack Sai
Owner, Coffee Break at Amoy Street

Panellist for Effective English at Work

Before taking over the family's coffee shop business, Jack worked as a freelance writer for business magazines, a script editor for cable news channel CNBC, and a part-time teacher. He is a compulsive reader and a purveyor of the idea that reading is to the mind what eating is to the body.



Jeff Cheong
President, Tribal Worldwide Asia Pacific

Keynote Speaker & Panellist for English in the Singaporean Home

Jeff Cheong is the Head of Tribal Worldwide Singapore since 2008. He was named President Tribal Worldwide Asia after serving a year as Vice President. He has produced some of the most memorable works locally for SG50, including 'The Future of Us' showcase, Changi Airport, Jewel Changi Airport, Pioneer Generation Package, Singapore Memory Project and Singapore Airlines.

Jeff is an active member of various advisory committees for various organisations, including Temasek Polytechnic, Institute of Technical Education, Families for Life, National Integration Council, Singapore Media Festival, Social Development Network and Media Literacy. He is also a member of the Speak Good English Movement Committee.

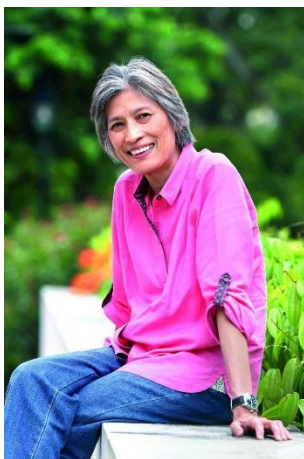


Jennifer Lewis
Managing Director
Communications, GIC

Moderator for Effective English at Work

Jennifer Lewis is responsible for the strategic management of GIC's internal and external communication activities. She joined the sovereign wealth fund in 2007 after more than twenty years as a journalist with television, print and online experience. She was the founding Editor of both Straits Times TV, Singapore's first television news organisation owned by a newspaper, as well as STOMP (Straits Times Online Mobile Print), a news website that leveraged online tools to change the way news was received and distributed in Singapore.

Jennifer served on the board of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) from 2007 to 2015. She remains active with the SIF and currently chairs the 'Arts for Good' Advisory Panel. She also serves on the board of OnePeople.sg, an organisation launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to champion racial harmony initiatives in Singapore.



Judith d'Silva
Deputy Director (Plans), Nexus

Panellist for Effective English at Work

Judith d' Silva has been in the civil service since 1975 and is currently Deputy Director (Plans) in Nexus, MINDEF. As part of Nexus' engagement efforts targeted at lower primary students, Judith contributed the books *Little Red Dot Comes Home* and *Things So Singaporean*. She was co-chairperson of MINDEF's Clear Communications Committee, set up to oversee the development of resources to help MINDEF officers communicate effectively through good and clear English.

An active member in the Speak Good English Movement, she has given talks on writing clearly to be understood at the Civil Service College and contributed an article on *How You Can Be Simple and Clear in Public Service*.



Kon Yin Tong
Managing Partner, Foo Kon Tan LLP

Panellist for Effective English at Work

Yin Tong is a Chartered Accountant of Singapore and has been practicing for more than 25 years. He is a first-class honours graduate from the London School of Economics and is currently Vice-President of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants, where he is a Fellow. He is also Deputy Chair of Sport Singapore, a council member of the English Language Institute of Singapore and an audit committee member of the Singapore Academy of Law.

His areas of practice include those in litigation support and dispute resolution, including acting as expert witness and as assessor to the Court. He has also conducted investigations into corporate transgressions, locally as well as overseas. Yin Tong is a regular speaker at seminars and conferences on topics related to his expertise and passion.



Melanie Lee
Digital Writer, The A List
Associate Faculty, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Panellist for English in the Singaporean Home

Melanie Lee is the award-winning author of *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien*, a six-part picture book series on adoption published by MPH Group Publishing. She is currently the digital writer for *The A List* and is also an Associate Faculty at the Singapore University of Social Sciences teaching media writing courses.



Peter K W Tan

Senior Lecturer, Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore (NUS)

Panellist for English, Singlish and Broken English

Peter K W Tan is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore, where he teaches modules on the history of English, discourse, dramatic language and names. One of his research interests is change in English, including changes involving the 'New' English varieties and how language can index identities.



Susan Ng

Producer-Presenter, Parenting Made Easy, 938 LIVE

Moderator for English in the Singaporean Home

Susan started her broadcasting career in 1977 with the then Radio & Television Singapore (RTS) as producer-presenter, and her career as a television presenter in 1978. Up till 1985, she was a full-time broadcaster with Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), and thereafter continued working part-time in radio and TV. Susan is currently a part-time presenter and features (Parenting Made Easy) producer/presenter with 938LIVE, Mediacorp. For about 40 years now, she has been a familiar face and voice with local TV and radio audiences.



William Anthony Grosse
Master Teacher, English Language Institute of Singapore

Panellist for English in the Singaporean Home

William was a Teacher, Discipline Master, Pupil Counsellor, Subject Head, Head of Department, Senior and Lead Teacher in primary schools for 28 years and has now been a Master Teacher for the past six. He has been constantly trying to take 'more loving looks at the real' (GK Chesterton). He only wears reading glasses. He was an Inspiring Teacher of English Award (ITEA) winner in 2010 and a recipient of the Distinguished Fulbright Award in Teaching Programme in 2013 and derives greatest inspiration from the batches of pupils he had the honour and pleasure to teach and learn from since 1983. He has given workshops and presentations on reading, writing and assessment at various cluster, zonal, national and international platforms. He has sharp intakes of breath for books, music, stand-up comedy, movies, motorcycles and his wife and daughter. He is still breathing.