



World Scientific Newsletter

Supplement

Former Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo Launches His Top-selling Book Across Asia

Attended by Distinguished Nobel Laureate, Academics,
Diplomats, Businessmen, and Politicians

**FOUR
REPRINTS IN
TWO
MONTHS**



Mr George Yeo, Chancellor of Nalanda University; Member, Vatican's Council for the Economy; Chairman, Kerry Logistics

World Scientific was proud to release a book on the former Foreign Affairs Minister George Yeo, titled “George Yeo on Bonsai, Banyan and the Tao”, in May. The book was made available in major bookstores and has proven to be a bestseller.

The 728-page tome, edited by researcher Asad Latif and Lianhe Wanbao editor Lee Huay Leng, is a wide-ranging collection of Yeo’s speeches and essays in his 23-year public life. In his interview with Mothership, Yeo reveals that Lee and Latif pored over many past essays and speeches to come up with selection for both the Chinese and English versions. Dr Phua Kok Koo, founder and chairman of World Scientific, had repeatedly persuaded him to write a book about his views on politics and culture from the time he was in office at the Foreign Ministry. However, Mr Yeo had previously felt it was not the right time.



From left to right: Asad-ul Iqbal Latif, Lee Huay Leng, Dr. KK Phua, Prof Tommy Koh, Mrs George Yeo, Dr. Amartya Sen, George Yeo, Prof Kishore Mahbubani.

Book Launch of English version at the Esplanade, Singapore



Mr George Yeo giving a rationale for the book title “Bonsai, Banyan and the Tao”.

The English version was launched on July 9 at the Esplanade in Singapore, itself a major project initiated by Mr Yeo as a former minister of the Ministry of Information and the Arts. The event, held at the main concert hall foyer, was graced by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen with 600 guests in attendance.

Local news agencies including The Straits Times, Channel-NewsAsia, Lianhe Zaobao, Lianhe Wanbao and Mothership.sg covered the event.

Book Launch of Chinese version in Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre



Present at the launch were Robert Kuok (first from bottom left), 錢果豐 (third) and Richard Li (fourth).

Mr Yeo subsequently launched a traditional Chinese version as part of a book fair event in Hong Kong on 18 July, graced by Mr Jacky Foo, the consul general of Singapore in Hong Kong. At the same event, he delivered an insightful speech on ‘The New Maritime Silk Road and its impact on Hong Kong and Singapore’ to a crowd of 300 guests.

The South China Morning Post featured the book in the Politics segment of its Book Review section and Books section separately.

Book Launch of Chinese version in Singapore Art Museum



Prof Wang Gungwu chatting with Mr George Yeo before the Chinese book launch at the Singapore Art Museum

Upon his return to Singapore, he launched the simplified Chinese version at the Singapore Art Museum, site of the original St Joseph’s Institution, his alma mater on 22 July. Professor Wang Gungwu was the guest of honour at the launch which attracted a crowd of 300, comprising members and leaders from various clans and associations like the Singapore-China Business Association, People’s Association, Tan Kah Kee, International Society and Foundation, Chui Huay Lim Club, Ngee Ann Kongsi, Federation of Chinese School Alumni Associations, Teochew Federation, Yangzheng Alumni, Hwa Chong Alumni, amongst others.

Dr Eric Chu, the chairman of Taiwan’s Kuomintang party delivered a special message via video at this event. The event was covered by the Lianhe Zaobao, Lianhe Wanbao, Shin Min, OMY.sg, the Straits Times, The Central News Agency (Taiwan).

Book launch of Chinese version at Eslite Bookstore – Hsinyi Branch in Taipei



Both Mr and Mrs George Yeo launching the book in Taipei

Mr George Yeo launched the traditional Chinese version of his book at Eslite Bookstore – Hsinyi Branch in Taipei on 28 August. It was attended by Mr Simon Wong Wie Kuen, Trade Representative of Singapore Trade Office in Taipei, as well as other important people



From left to right: Dr. KK Phua, Former Vice President Vincent Siew, George Yeo, New Taipei Mayor and KMT Chairman Eric Chu, Trade Representative of the Singapore Trade Office in Taipei, Simon Wong Wie Kuen.



Mr George Yeo, signing the book of a participant at the Eslite Bookstore.

who gave speeches during the event, including Mr. Vincent Siew, the former Vice President, and Mr. Eric Chu, New Taipei Mayor and KMT Chairman.

Mr George Yeo presented signed copies of his book to the speakers and the session was followed by a book signing as well as a media interview.

Photo Gallery



Former Vice President Vincent Siew sits between Mr and Mrs George Yeo.



From left to right: Prof Tommy Koh, Dr KK Phua and George Yeo.



Mr George Yeo presenting Asad-ul Iqbal Latif and Lee Huay Leng with a copy of the book.



Mr Ngiang Tong Dow congratulating Mr George Yeo on his book.



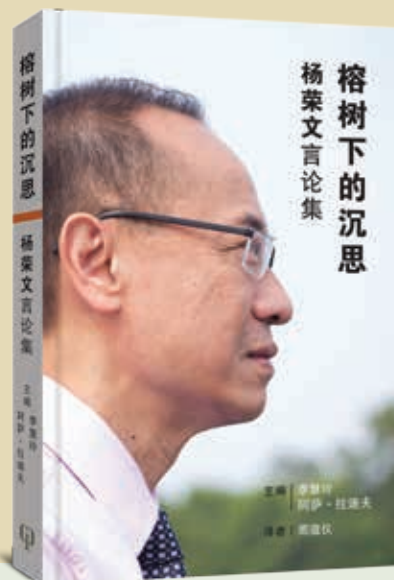
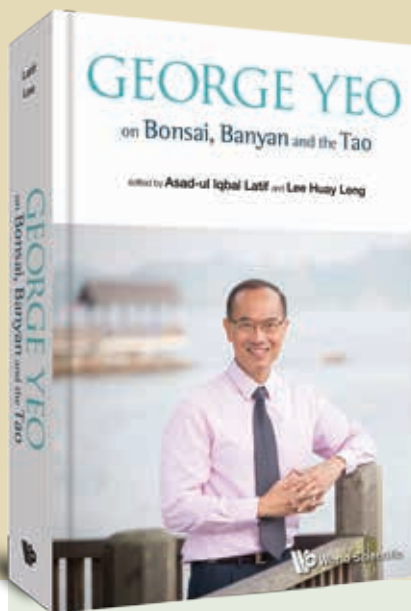
At a panel discussion during the book launch in Hong Kong.



Mr George Yeo signing books at the launch of the Chinese version at Singapore Art Museum.



Launching his book at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.



Featured/Cited in:

“His thinking is clear, consistent, and, at times, controversial. It is underpinned by a deep knowledge of history... Yeo articulates his arguments well. This collection of speeches provides timely insight into the development of Singapore - and food for thought on some of today’s most challenging issues.”

Cliff Buddle, South China Morning Post

1. Huffington Post, 3 August 2015, adapted the introduction to “George Yeo on Bonsai, Banyan and the Tao”
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-yeo/singapore-at-50_b_7921632.html
2. The New York Review of Books, 13 August 2015, by Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate for Economics.
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/aug/13/india-stormy-revival-nalanda-university/>

Accolades

“We see George’s intellect in the book in all kinds of ways... (and) even before he became chancellor, he was an extraordinarily indispensable member of the board, in how to set up the institution, how to take difficult decisions and how to proceed from there.”

Dr Amartya Sen

Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

“We are really blessed to have in Singapore at least four people, who succeeded in being good politicians good policy-makers, who contributed to the development of the hard side of Singapore but have made an equally important contribution to the soft side of Singapore... Founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Deputy Prime Minister Goh Keng Swee, the first Foreign Minister S Rajaratnam, and former Foreign Minister George Yeo.”

Prof Kishore Mahbubani

Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

“You were the first foreign minister in Singapore to use culture successfully as an instrument of diplomacy.”

Prof Tommy Koh

Ambassador-at-large

Video Links:

English launch https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWIjtByUJvcu6EBJ1LWZkNMdn2DN_cp13

Chinese launch <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWIjtByUJvcsNBFBUQYLxWJpCKq0MoyME>