

RESOURCE PANEL MEMBERS

CHINESE RESOURCE PANEL



Mr Peter Ong (Head of the Chinese Resource Panel)

Mr Peter Ong started his career in the advertising industry. He joined Lianhe Zaobao, the Chinese flagship newspaper of Singapore Press Holdings as a reporter cum feature writer in 1993 and rose through the ranks to become Associate Editor of the paper in 2013. Mr Ong graduated from the National University of Singapore with an Honours Degree in Chinese Language. He serves as a committee member at the Chinese Development Assistance Council and is a council member at the National Council Against Drug Abuse.



Ms Carine Ang Ching Hoon

Ms Carine Ang is the Senior Programme and senior presenter of 96.3 Hao FM. Prior to this, she helmed the Evening radio show for UFM100.3. She has been a radio presenter since 1997 and has hosted a wide array of programs ranging from current affairs to entertainment. Ms Ang is also a columnist with Lianhe Zaobao and Shinmin Daily News.

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Ms Chen Xiaolin

Ms Chen Xiaolin has been Principal Specialist (Chinese/English) at the Language Services Department of the Parliament of Singapore since 2009, providing simultaneous interpretation (SI) service during parliament sittings. She has also provided SI service at national events such as the National Day Rally since 2015. Prior to that, Ms Chen was with International Enterprise Singapore, in charge of the agency's Chinese communication materials. Ms Chen obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Fudan University, and her Master's Degree in Area Studies (China) from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.



Mr Cheng Yong Tai

Mr Cheng Yong Tai is currently the Chief Editor of Chinese News at Mediacorp Pte Ltd. He oversees news operations for Mediacorp's Mandarin channels, Channels 8 and U. With over 20 years in the TV industry, he has experienced the entire gamut of TV news production, as well as planning, coordinating and directing coverage for large-scale news events. He graduated with a Master of Arts in Applied Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies and Sociology from the National University of Singapore.

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Ms Chuang Cher Fang

Ms Chuang Cher Fang is currently the Chief Editor of Chinese Digital & Radio News, MediaCorp Pte Ltd. She joined MediaCorp in 1998. She was previously a Project Manager at Prestige Art & Antique Pte Ltd from 1996. Prior to that she was a Project Manager at Raffles Fine Arts Auctioneers Pte Ltd from 1995. Ms Chuang received her BA (Hons) from National University of Singapore in 1995.



Dr Jocelyn Lim Bee Kim

Dr Jocelyn Lim graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chinese Studies and Economics from the National University of Singapore. She holds a master's degree in education from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and a doctorate in education from the University of Western Australia.

Dr Lim was the former Vice Principal of Nanyang Primary School before joining the Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Branch in MOE's Curriculum Planning and Development Division. She currently serves as the Deputy Director and Lead Specialist in MTL Branch. Her core portfolio includes the review and implementation of MTL policies, curriculum development work and learning support for students. She supports in both vetting and translation work for Senior Management as well as other MOE divisions and supports the running of the two MOE Language Centres and has led working committees to organise MOE'S iconic public event –the annual MTL Symposium since its inception in 2012.

As the Head of Secretariat for the Committee for Promotion of Chinese Language Learning, she collaborates with community partners in organising external enrichment programmes and events for students. Dr Lim's external duties include sitting in the Advisory Panel for the Chinese Degree Programme at the Singapore University of Social Sciences and is currently serving as a Chinese Reading Advisor for the National Library Board.

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Ms Lim Ka Min

Ms Lim Ka Min is currently the Deputy Head (Marketing Communications) of Singapore Chinese Orchestra. She obtained her Masters of Arts in Translation and Interpretation from Nanyang Technological University in 2023 and was also one of the six recipients of the Ministry of Communications and Information's Translation Talent Development Scheme in 2020. She graduated from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Communications; double major in communications and media studies, and public relations. Prior to this, she was a Chinese journalist at Singapore Press Holdings and a Primary School relief teacher. She is an avid volunteer, a bilingual copywriter, editor, emcee, proofreader, translator, voiceover and writer.



Dr Lin Jingxia

Dr Lin Jingxia is currently an associate professor at the School of Humanities and Associate Dean (Students) in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University. She received her PhD in Chinese linguistics from Stanford University. Her research interests include syntax-semantics interface, language variation and change, contrastive linguistics, and typology. The major languages or varieties her current research focuses on include Putonghua, Singapore Mandarin Chinese, Chinese dialects in Singapore, and the Wenzhou Wu dialect.

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Ms Melody Tan Si Yun

Ms. Melody Tan SiYun is a DJ at 88.3JIA and currently hosting “K-POP with SiYun”. She is also a Mandarin voiceover talent. Prior to this role, she accumulated nearly a decade of experience in Chinese radio news reporting and editing during her tenure in the sector. SiYun joined 88.3JIA’s news team as a Chinese broadcast journalist in 2014. Throughout her tenure, she also held the position of deputy editor within the Chinese news team till early 2024.



Assoc Prof Susan Xu

A/P Susan Xu is the Head of the BA in Translation and Interpretation programme at the School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences, Singapore University of Social Sciences. She has a PhD in Linguistics (with a focus on translation) from National University of Singapore. Her publications include a monograph Translation of Autobiography: Narrating Self, Translating the Other and articles in international journals. She spearheaded the implementation of Certification Examinations for Professional Interpreters and Translators in Singapore.

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Mdm Teo Kah Hui

Mdm Teo Kah Hui is the Global Localization Manager at Keywords Studios. She oversees the Localization teams in Keywords in the APAC region. She has more than 15 years of experience working on the localization of AAA console games as well as mobile and online games. She is a council member of the Keywords Global Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Council. Kah Hui also serves as ExCo Member of the Singapore Games Association, the Director of Women in Games Asia, and the Mentorship and Education Manager of Women in Localization (Singapore Chapter). She holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) with a minor in Law from NUS, an EMBA and a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpretation from NTU. She is a certified Project Management Professional and an Accredited Professional Interpreter.



A/P Tham Shiao Wei

Tham Shiao Wei is Associate Professor in the Department of Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore, where she teaches Chinese linguistics. Her research interests lie mainly in lexical semantics (word meaning) and its effects on sentence structure, with a focus on Mandarin Chinese. Topics she has worked on include the encoding of motion events, change of state encoding, locatives, and result predication. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from Stanford University and taught in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Wellesley College (Wellesley, MA) before returning to Singapore in 2017.

(Information accurate as of 29 February 2024)

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MALAY RESOURCE PANEL



Dr Mohd Mukhlis Bin Abu Bakar (Head of the Malay Resource Panel)

Dr Mukhlis Abu Bakar is Associate Professor and Head of the Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. He has a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Wales, Bangor, UK. He taught at the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore, prior to joining the Institute in 2002. Dr Mukhlis teaches courses in Malay linguistics, discourse analysis, literacy, and bilingual education. His research interest spans a number of inter-related fields: language, literacy, bilingualism, and learning at home, in school and in faith settings. He is presently engaged in a number of funded research projects on biliteracy and bilingualism in young children. His service roles include sitting on committees in MCCY, MCI and MOE.



Mr Bashir Basalamah

Mr Bashir Basalamah was a Court and Parliament Interpreter for 20 years until he left the civil service to turn freelance. He is a Certified Translator of NAATI (Australia) for Indonesian and Malay, and a registered translator and interpreter of Malaysian Institute of Translation and Books (ITBM). He is privileged to be a member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT), and the American (ATA), Indonesian (HPI), and Malaysian (PPM-MTA) Translators Associations. He is also a founding member of translation e-groups BAHTERA (Indonesian) and TERAJU (Malay). Mr Bashir holds a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Interpreter Training (Geneva) and teaches Interpreting and Translation as an Associate Faculty of Singapore University of Social Sciences.

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Mr Daud Yusof

Mr Daud Yusof is an experienced journalist with the MediaCorp Malay News & Current Affairs department. Presently Senior Editor and News Presenter, Mr Daud is concurrently heading the Mediacorp Malay News Desk. A graduate of Political Science and Malay Studies from the National University of Singapore, for 10 years, Mr Daud was a popular columnist with Manja, a local magazine. His love for literature made him a regular contributor of poetry and short stories to Berita Minggu. A two-time Presenter of the Year winner (2005 & 2007), Mr Daud had the honour of representing NUS as the team leader in the ASEAN Inter-University Debate Competition in 1992. Mr Daud Yusof is currently a Malay Language Ambassador and sits in the Malay Language Council of Singapore (MLCS).



Ms Khadijah Seron

Ms Khadijah Seron is an adjunct lecturer for various international universities where she teaches media studies, journalism, globalisation, and intercultural communication. She also provides freelance translation and simultaneous interpretation services for various occasions and in the Singapore Parliament, including national events such as the National Day Rally. With a deep interest in current affairs, she also produces info-educational and documentary series as a freelancer. She read Political Science and Philosophy for her Bachelor's degree at the National University of Singapore and has a Master of Arts in Journalism from Cardiff University. Previously, she was a journalist at Mediacorp.

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Dr Lim Beng Soon

Associate Professor Dr Lim Beng Soon is the Head of Malay Language and Literature at Singapore University of Social Sciences. His major research areas are Pragmatics, in particular Malay and English politeness and spoken discourse, Translation, Contact Languages and Applied Linguistics. Prior to joining SUSS, he was Associate Professor at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. He served for several years as language specialist to the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization's Regional Language Centre in Singapore (SEAMEO RELC). His appointment to SEAMEO RELC required him to conduct courses for language professionals around South East Asia. Before his appointment at SEAMEO RELC, he was an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Dr Lim also sits on the editorial board of the RELC Journal and was the co-editor of the SEAMEO publication for language teaching, Guidelines with Jack C. Richards. He is an Executive Committee member of the Singapore Association for Applied Linguistics.



Ms Mazlena Bte Ahmad Mazlan

Ms Mazlena is the Director (Community Outreach), Media Division at the Ministry of Communications and Information. Besides a member of the National Translation Committee, she is also a member of the Malay Language Council, Singapore as well as its Bulan Bahasa Committee. Previously, she headed the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore's Strategic Communications Unit. Prior to MUIS, Mazlena held several positions in the media. At Mediacorp she was Head, Research/Resources & Executive Producer, Caldecott Productions International. She was also News Editor, Mediacorp Radio and Editor, Malay News and Current Affairs Unit. Her first foray into journalism was with Berita Harian, Singapore Press Holdings (SPH).

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Mr Mohd Isa Haron

Mr Mohd Isa Haron is the Deputy Director (Language Services) at the Parliament of Singapore. He oversees the Language Services Department which provides simultaneous interpretations services in the four official languages in Parliament. He also conducts simultaneous interpretation during parliament sittings. Prior to that, he was a broadcast journalist and producer for Mediacorp's Malay News and Current Affairs Department. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the National University of Singapore in 1998.



Ms Nur Adilah Mahbob

Ms Nur Adilah Mahbob is a Deputy News Editor in Berita Harian (BH), covering local news as well as lifestyle content. Previously, as senior correspondent, she covered politics, national policies and Malay/Muslim community affairs. She joined BH in 2010 after graduating from National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Science (Life Sciences with Honours) degree. She is also a recipient of the Singapore Press Holdings Undergraduate Scholarship in 2006.

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Mr Tajudin bin Jaffar

Mr Tajudin Jaffar is the Master Specialist, Malay Language with the Mother Tongue Languages Branch, Curriculum Planning and Development Division, Ministry of Education (MOE). Mr Tajudin has been in the education field for more than 30 years and started teaching Malay Language in Boon Lay Secondary School in 1988. He attained his first Degree from University of Malaya in 1998, majoring in Malay Language Studies and his Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics from, NIE, NTU in 2004.



Ms Zauwiyah Majid @ Zaza Majid

Armed with an immense passion for journalism, communications, and the digital media, Zauwiyah Majid @ Zaza Majid kicked off her broadcasting career with Radio Singapore International (RSI) in January 2007. Her wealth of experience working on a series of current affairs and lifestyle programmes proves to be useful when she was deployed to Warna 942 in August 2008. Zauwiyah's strength in current affairs has given her the opportunities to produce and present info-ed and socio-political radio and TV programmes such as *Segi Tiga*, *Tanya AP Anda*, *Suara Singapura*, *Refleksi* and *Bahas 4PM*. She has done Voiceovers for numerous clients and her versatility has clinched her a myriad of endorsement contracts during her broadcasting stint.

This master's degree graduate in Mass Communications from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communications & Information (NTU) was Ria 897's Assistant Programme Director from January 2019 to March 2022, where she was tasked to sharpen the station's focus to better engage the audience in the face of an ever-changing media landscape.

Zauwiyah took the leap of faith and joins the Office of the Mufti, Muis, in January 2023. She is currently Head of Religious Policy & Development (Engagement) of Muis.

(Information accurate as of 29 February 2024)

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TAMIL RESOURCE PANEL



Mdm Santhi Sellappan (Head of the Tamil Resource Panel)

Mdm Santhi Sellappan is currently the Centre Director of Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre. She had started her career in 1992 as a Tamil Language teacher in a primary school and moved on to teach Tamil and English languages for Secondary School students. She had an opportunity to serve as a Vice-Principal at Juying Primary School for 5 years.

In her former capacity as Deputy Director of Mother Tongue Languages Branch in Curriculum Planning & Development Division at Ministry of Education from 2016 to 2020, she had actively led teams in developing the National Tamil curriculum for Pre-school, Primary, Secondary and Junior College (JC) levels. She had obtained her degree in BA in Tamil Language and Literature from Madurai Kamaraj University, India.

She has been the Advisor for the Secretariat of the Tamil Language Learning & promotion Committee (TLLPC) since 2016. She is a member of the Tamil Advisory Panel of National Library Board since 2017. She was also invited to serve in the Tamil Language Collaborative Engagement Committee (TCEC) by Academy of the Singapore Teachers in 2021. Mdm Santhi has been appointed as a trustee of Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union in 2021 and a member of the External Assessment Panel for National Heritage Board in 2022.



Ms Chitra Balagumaran

Ms Chitra Balagumaran joined MediaCorp 25 years ago as Broadcast Journalist. She was then promoted to be a TV news Anchor. As a journalist she has covered a wide range of national events like General Elections, Presidential Elections and National Day Celebrations. Chitra had the opportunity to also anchor a weekly current affairs program titled Ethiroli on Vasantham. Chitra is currently Supervising Editor Tamil News (TV & Radio) and continues as a News Anchor. Chitra holds a master's degree in English Literature from India.

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Mr Danapal Kumar

Mr Danapal Kumar has been with the Education Service as a Tamil Language Educator for more than 25 years. Presently, as the President of Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union, he works with key stakeholders in ensuring the professional development and well-being of Tamil Language Teachers in Singapore. Having taught across Secondary and Junior College levels, Mr. Kumar has also served as a Senior Curriculum Planning Officer with the Curriculum Planning and Development Division (Tamil Language Unit) of Ministry of Education. He has also served as a Senior Project Officer with the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism Project Office. At present, he serves as a Subject Head overseeing Malay and Tamil Language at Serangoon Secondary School.

Mr. Kumar holds a bachelor's degree in history from the National University of Singapore and a Master of Education, specializing in Tamil Language, obtained from the National Institute of Education. He serves as a Resource Panel Member in the National Translation Committee in the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI). He also serves in the Tamil Language Council (TLC) as an Executive Council Member as well as a member of Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee (TLLPC). He also serves as member of the Indian Culture and Language Advisory Panel for the People's Association.



Mr Irshath Mohamad

Irshath Mohamed started his career in Tamil Murasu as a Sub Editor in 2017 and became a journalist in 2018. He has written many award-winning stories, some of which has won the excellence in Journalism award in the quarterly English/Malay/Tamil Media Group (EMTM) Journalism Awards and was nominated as the Young Journalist of the Year in 2020. He now serves as the News Editor of Tamil Murasu. Irshath is part of the team which led the digital transformation of Tamil Murasu since 2019 and eventually launched its first-ever mobile App in 2023. He also serves as the Deputy Secretary of the Tamil Language Council. He holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Political Science and History from National University of Singapore (NUS) and Master of Science in Communications Management from Singapore Management University (SMU).

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Mr K Ramamoorthy, JP, BBM

Mr K Ramamoorthy is currently a Senior Lecturer with the School of Hospitality, Republic Polytechnic. He has been active in grassroots organisations for more than 20 years and is actively involved in the Indian Community in various capacities. He is the current Chairman of the People's Association Narpani Pearavai, the umbrella body for 98 Indian Activity Executive Committees in community clubs/ centres all over Singapore. He is a member of the National Heritage Board's (NHB) Indian Community Oral History Committee.



Ms Kavitha Ramu

Ms Kavitha Ramu is a Senior Producer with Channel NewsAsia's Current Affairs team, where she oversees all aspects of research and production of Tamil documentaries and programmes. She also double-hats as a Studio Director, having directed live productions, including the National Day Rally shows and 'Ask the Finance Minister' Budget specials.

Throughout her tenure at MediaCorp, Kavitha has demonstrated expertise in multiple roles. She notably contributed to the Tamil News & Current Affairs division as a Senior Producer/Reporter/Presenter. In this capacity, she reported on breaking news, national events such as the General Elections and National Day Parades, and community events. Her involvement in the Tamil Current Affairs program, Ethiroli, allowed her to explore and bring to light issues impacting the Indian community extensively.

Kavitha holds a Master's degree in Mass Communication from Nanyang Technological University.

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Mrs Maria Bhavani Dass

Mrs Maria Bhavani Dass is the General Manager of the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) – a Heritage Institution of the National Heritage Board. She is responsible to develop IHC into a leading heritage institution and a focal point for the diverse Indian community in Singapore. As the only cultural destination focusing on Indians in Singapore, IHC also aims to be a top-of-mind destination of historical and cultural significance for visitors and the community. Prior to this, she was an educator for 20 years – a Tamil Language Teacher and Head of Department for ICT in East Coast Primary School and thereafter as Assistant Director at the Mother Tongue Languages Branch at MOE. She was previously the Head Secretariat of Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee and is currently a committee member.



Ms Rageswari Suppiah

Ms Rageswari Suppiah is the Language Lead of the Language Resources in the Supreme Court. She provides effective leadership in managing and supervising the Indian Interpreters' Section by ensuring quality and prompt delivery of interpretation and translation services for the Supreme Court, lawyers, accused persons, victims, witnesses, and other parties involved in court proceedings. She also ensures the competency and performance of Indian interpreters through training and development programs in support of Supreme Court's mission to superintend the administration of justice. Ms Rageswari started her career in 1992 as a Certified Court Interpreter at Subordinate Courts (presently the State Courts) and moved to Supreme Court in 2006. In her 30 years of experience with both the Subordinate Courts and the Supreme Court, she has interpreted in diverse court proceedings.

RESOURCE PANEL MEMBERS



Dr Saravanan Shanmugam

Dr Saravanan is a Medical Officer working at the various restructured hospitals under the Ministry of Health Holdings. Having graduated from the National University of Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, he has been actively involved in various public healthcare projects, while at the same time pursuing his passion for Tamil language, through theatre and public speaking. He has also trained students at workshops for these skills, with a firm will to pass on the baton in terms of language proficiency.



Mrs Thiilagah Rajandra

Mrs Thiilagah Rajandra, a Teaching Fellow at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University (NIE/NTU), brings over more than 30 years of expertise as a Tamil Language Educator in both primary and secondary schools. Born and raised in Singapore, she has benefitted from Singapore's bilingual education and is passionate about the Teaching of Tamil language.

She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Tamil Language and Literature from Madurai Kamaraj University, India and later pursued her Master's in Education from NIE/NTU. Alongside her academic journey, she has actively contributed to organizing impactful Tuition projects and Reading Workshops.

(Information accurate as of 29 February 2024)