They include belief in multiculturalism and intolerance for corruption, he says

Royston Sim
Deputy Political Editor

Singapore’s approach to building assets, like residential property, emphasizes individual work ethic and personal responsibility, supported by government policies and resources, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

This is an approach that Singaporeans support, he added.

PM Lee made the point yesterday at the launch of a book that examines Singapore’s asset-building policies through a series of essays.

Titled Critical Issues In Asset Building In Singapore’s Development, the book was edited by Associate Professor S. Vasoo, a former People’s Action Party (PAP) MP, and Associate Professor Bilveer Singh from the National University of Singapore (NUS). It was published by World Scientific.

PM Lee noted that the two editors defined the term “assets” broadly in their book.

The essays look at traditional tangible assets such as housing and the Central Provident Fund, as well as intangible assets which are shared values and social norms that underpin Singapore’s society and unity.

The intangibles include a commitment to multiculturalism, an intolerance for corruption and an acceptance of national service as a necessary sacrifice, PM Lee said.

The support from Singaporeans is an intangible asset too, he added.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the launch yesterday of a book edited by Associate Professor S. Vasoo (left) and Associate Professor Bilveer Singh. The book examines Singapore’s asset-building policies through a series of essays, which look at traditional tangible assets as well as intangible assets. PHOTO LIMWEI ZHARKO

CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS

We should encourage such debate, and conduct it in a constructive spirit. It will help us to understand the issues better, come up with better solutions... and move our debate, our policy and the outcomes forward.

PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEH LOONG on how it is important for academics here to study and debate key issues that concern Singapore.

PM Lee noted Prof Vasoo continued to be active in community work after retiring, helping to look after the residents in Toa Payoh.

He said he is glad Prof Vasoo and Prof Bilveer have edited the book, as it is important for academics here to study and debate key issues that concern Singapore.

There will be a diversity of views – the academics will have ideas on how things can be done better, or at least tried out differently, he noted.

“We should encourage such debate, and conduct it in a constructive spirit,” PM Lee said. “It will help us to understand the issues better, come up with better solutions... and move our debate, our policy and the outcomes forward.”

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