



AUS 2024 PROGRAMME

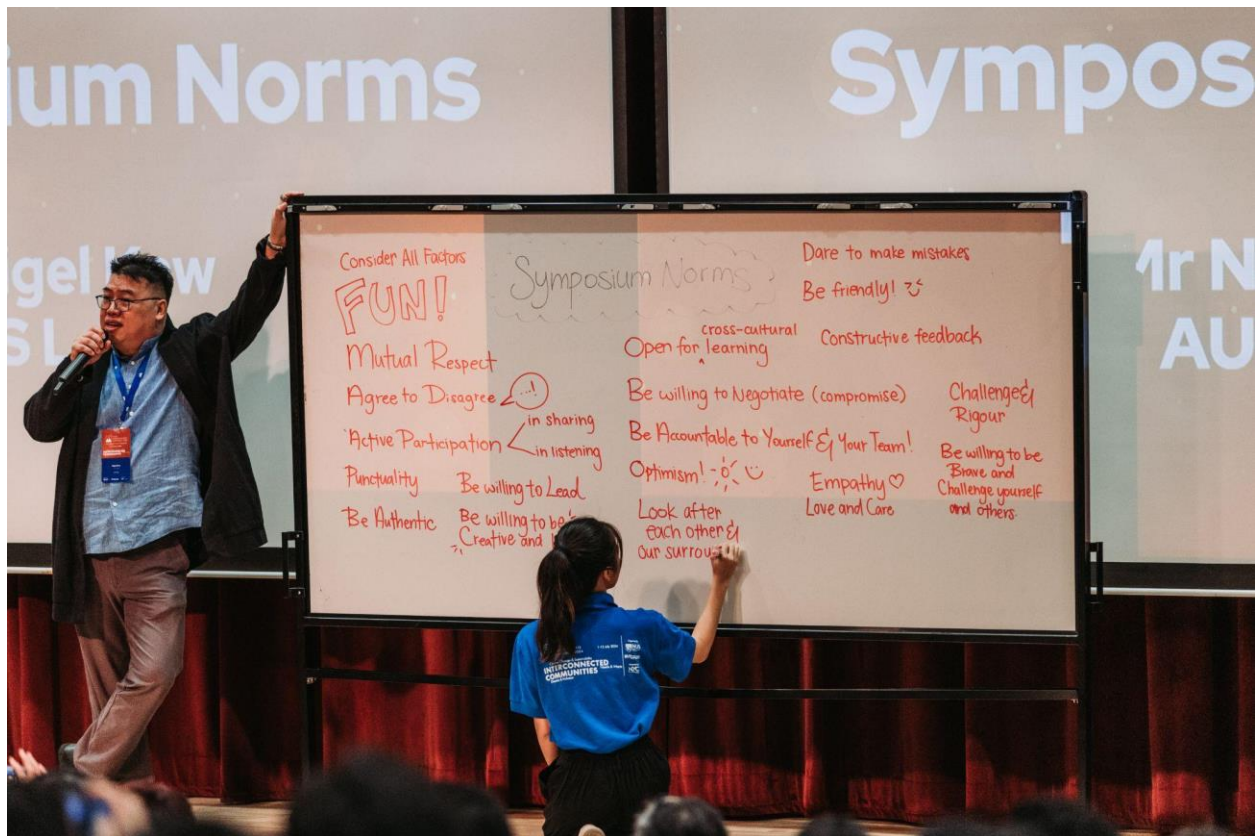
The AUS programme's framework is inspired by that of a hackathon, and adapted to allow participants to maximize learning, collaboration, and execution.

The program is broadly divided into three parts:

- (1) **During the first week**, participants engaged with domain experts through lectures and panel discussions, and embarked on exciting learning journeys across Singapore, all while forging lasting friendships with each other through games and activities.
- (2) **In the second week**, participants were nudged to collaborate with each other to propose projects based upon their chosen problem statements guided by the theme of the AUS symposium.
- (3) **Post-symposium**, project teams were given a week to perfect their proposals. NUSC's faculty then selected eight winning teams who were awarded a 5,000 SGD grant to implement their ideas. Upon the successful completion of their project, awardees will be awarded the title of "AUS Fellows" and invited back to future iterations of AUS to establish a transferable pool of ideas and approaches.

Below are some highlights of the 2024 AUS Programme.

Official Welcome



The participants were welcomed into AUS 2024 officially by Mr. Nigel Kaw, our AUS admin lead. The microphone travelled across the auditorium as this whiteboard full of agreed-upon symposium norms was created, with contents varying from “Active Participation” and “Punctuality” to “Give Constructive Feedback” and “Challenge Yourself and Others”. It isn’t pictured here, but every single participant came forward to sign their names on this board, signifying their commitment to these norms for the coming two weeks.

Welcome and Orientation



Thereafter, the student councillors gave a short crash course on Singapore, including necessary know-hows about public transport and the amazing food culture. Lastly, we ended the first day with team-building activities that got everyone riled up and competitive!

Panel Discussions and Sharing



As part of the knowledge-building phase of AUS 2024 and to kickstart inspirations for the project proposals, various experts, practitioners, and academics across ASEAN were invited as speakers in the AUS Panel Discussions. The participants were also provided ample opportunities to engage these domain experts during Q and A sessions. Below are the various panel discussions that occurred across the two weeks of AUS 2024.

This panel had panelists speaking on enlightening topics such as advocating for accessibility, food insecurity, asset-based community development, prejudices and empathy, and more!



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- Dr. Lim Chee Han, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Impacts Projects Programme, NUS College
- Dr. Justin Lee, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Policy Lab, Institute of Policy Studies
- Dr. Nurhidayahti Mohammad Miharja, Lecturer, NUS College
- Ms. Sherena Loh, Co-founder and Director, Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore)

This panel had panelists speaking on various related topics such as smart cities, ecopsychology, habitat restoration, living architecture, and more!



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- Professor Veera Sekaran, Director, Regenerative Agritech Centre in the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore
- Dr. Adrian Loo, Group Director for Wildlife Management and Senior Director for Community Projects, NParks
- Ms. Matilda D'Silva, CEO, Ocean Purpose Project
- Mr. Vivek Kumar, CEO, World Wide Fund for Nature (Singapore)

Diversity and Inclusion

This panel had panelists sharing on topics such as identity, intangible barriers to inclusion, male toxicity, what it means to be an activist, and more!



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Speakers

- A/P Eleanor Wong, Vice Dean, NUS College
- Dr. Alisa Hasamoh, Founder, DeepSouth Women's Network Association for Disaster Mitigation
- Dr. Michael Tan, (not sure what to title him)
- Dr. Rayner Tan, Assistant Professor, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at the National University of Singapore

Plenary Roundtable

The plenary roundtable provided an opportunity for all the sub-themes of AUS to be discussed within the same space, creating a unique interdisciplinary discussion.



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Smart Cities

Speakers

- Dr. Ahn Chaewon, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture at National University of Singapore and Urban Studies program at Yale-NUS College
- Dr. Kah-Wee Lee, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture at National University of Singapore
- Mr. Kevin M. Schmidt, Urban Innovation, Technologies, and Digitalisation Specialist, UNDP Global Centre
- Ms. Kitty Khoo, Executive Planner, Design & Planning Lab in URA

Venture Masterclass

Done in conjunction with NUS Enterprise Camp 2024, the Venture Masterclass offered rich perspectives on running an enterprise.

Speakers

- Mr. Alfie Othman, CEO, Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise
- Mr. Calvin Chu Yee Ming, Managing Partner, Eden Strategy Institute
- Mr. Kamal Seth, Climate & Sustainability Director, World Wide Fund for Nature (Singapore)

- Mr. Koh Seng Choon, Founder, Dignity Kitchen

Fireside Chat with Mr. Maliki



We are honoured to have Mr. Maliki, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, present for a fireside chat with the participants. This fireside chat was moderated by Professor Simon Chesterman. Through candid conversations with the participants, many topics close to home were brought forth: education, national narrative, global conflict, healthcare, environment, among others. It was an insightful and thought-provoking chat that shed light on geopolitical differences across nations, yet also the common issues we each grapple with.

AUS Fellows' Sharing



AUS participants from previous iterations, otherwise known as AUS Fellows, returned to AUS 2024 to share about their valuable experiences in the ideation process. Some AUS Fellows who were awarded the seed funding previously got to pass down their wisdom regarding the execution stage as well.

This segment was engaging and enlightening, deep-delving into the realities and challenges of kickstarting a project as students. Yet, there was also a hopeful undertone, with members from projects such as “Gro Up” present and sharing their wins. Within the past year of being awarded the seed funding from AUS 2023, “Gro Up” had successfully launched their board game aimed at cultivating interest and knowledge about agriculture-related careers. This no doubt sparked newfound ambition in the listening audience of AUS 2024 participants.

Learning Journeys



The learning journeys were popular segments that shed light on Singapore's extensive efforts across the three symposium sub-themes. The participants were exposed to a wide range of social issues and innovations existing in Singapore.

Some of these learning journeys were also an emotional one, where participants step into others' lived realities and witness the overlaps with experiences back home. The participants are given opportunities to share with each other, exchanging observations they've made across borders, deepening the awareness of the unique social and political climates each country has.

Sustainable Singapore Gallery (SSG)

SSG at Marina Barrage is an interactive gallery that highlights Singapore's sustainable development, such as the zero waste effort, garden city design, and energy-efficient technologies.

Common Ground Civic Centre

Common Ground Civic Centre, located in Bedok, is a space for changemakers and community partners to come together to share ideas and collaborate with each other. During the learning journey, organisations located in the civic centre such as Green Nudge, Studio Dojo, Daughters of Tomorrow, and WeRABLE designed thoughtful workshops for the participants.

Green Nudge and Studio Dojo shed light on the dangers of greenwashing. Daughters of Tomorrow made use of an interactive activity to highlight the realities of poverty in Singapore.

Lastly, WeRAble walked the participants through the process of design thinking, particularly in designing inclusive and accessible clothing.

Harmony Centre

Harmony Centre aims to promote inter-faith understanding and learning in Singapore. This learning journey foregrounded unique challenges and nuances faced by multicultural countries such as Singapore, and the importance of honest and open dialogues in such societies.

SG Assist

SG Assist is a community hub that supports caregivers and their loved ones through community-based solutions. Participants were introduced to innovative disability-friendly devices on the market as well as Singapore's dementia-friendly neighbourhood set in Yishun.

Urban Trails in Toa Payoh, Little India and Jalan Kukoh

Urban Trails took us to neighbourhoods in Singapore with deep cultural and social significance. Toa Payoh's urban trail explored the needed balance to achieve happiness and security in Singapore, and why some cannot find satisfaction in cities. In Little India, the guides shared about navigating the emotional and political tensions in migrant and local diversity. Meanwhile in Jalan Kukoh, the participants walked away with a newfound understanding of the complexity in managing income inequality in Singapore.

Sundown Games



The Sundown Games is a brand new addition to AUS in 2024. It had several station games and the Picnic & Painting segment, with only two goals in mind: fostering friendships across the world and recharging participants after hours of brainstorming!

The energy in the sports halls were high throughout; laughter echoing and handshakes being shared after friendly matches. The most memorable moments must be those spent on the bingo sheets filled with mini tasks, such as crafting a group cheer and taking a group photo with a game master. During the Picnic & Painting segment, we saw these newfound friends swarming towards each other, signing off on each other's painting canvases as forever keepsakes. No doubt, the Sundown Games was a success and brought many hearts together under that evening sky!

Marketplace of Ideas



Marketplace of Ideas, led by Mr. Nigel Kaw, saw through hundreds of ideas pitched by every single willing participant, before culminating into only twenty-nine. It was also a fateful session where participants formed groups of 6 to 8 with members from different countries, guided by a fervent heart for their social issue of choice. Equipped with the unique experiences of each member and the AUS programme, groups ideated to address said issues under the mentorship of an NUS College lecturer for the second week to come.

Formal Luncheon



After the proposals were presented to the larger group, the three top-voted projects were presented to VIPs Professor Tan Eng Chye (President, National University of Singapore) and Mr Choltis Dhirathiti (Executive Director, ASEAN University Network) at the Formal Luncheon.

Cultural Night



The Cultural Night comprised of two key components:

1. **Cultural Booths:** Participants set up dedicated booths showcasing the distinctive heritage, traditions, arts, and cuisines of their respective countries, inviting guests on a captivating journey across the Asian cultural landscape.
2. **Performances:** The evening blossomed with a series of mesmerising singing, dancing, and musical instrument performances.

Everyone was dressed proudly in their cultural clothes, ready to celebrate each other's traditions. Cultural Night was nothing short of magical and left a warm note in every participant's heart.