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# Navigating Differences

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# Navigating Differences

*Integration in Singapore*

EDITED BY

**TERENCE CHONG**

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## Acknowledgements

This book was mooted in 2017 by then Director of ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Mr Tan Chin Tiong, as a contribution to Singapore’s Bicentennial Commemorations. The aim of the book was to take stock of Singapore’s socio-cultural progress through the decades and to offer insights into the potential mid- to long-term challenges facing the country. After some deliberation, we decided that the theme of integration would be a highly relevant one. In a multicultural society open to global trends, it is clear that the tensions between different values, beliefs, worldviews, identities, and ideologies will remain with us for the foreseeable future. These tensions have only become more complex, and it is increasingly necessary to understand integration as a multidimensional issue that warrants a multidimensional examination. This volume is an attempt at such an examination.

Such a book will not be possible without key individuals. It has been my privilege to identify local scholars whose work I admire to contribute to this volume. I have benefitted immensely from their learned perspectives. I am grateful to Mr Tan for the opportunity to work on this volume as well as the advice offered along the way. My thanks also goes to ISEAS’ Publications Unit and the editorial team for their professional work. My colleagues Daljit Singh, Benjamin Loh, and Hui Yew-Foong helped to sharpen the arguments and ideas in the chapters with their valuable feedback and critical comments. Research Officer John Choo Rong Hui was a very reliable and extremely competent assistant, and was instrumental in the coordination of the project. Last but not least, the kind support of Mr Choi Shing Kwok, the current Director of ISEAS, also went a long way in ensuring this book came out in a timely fashion.



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