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**FOR PUBLICATION  
MEDIA FACTSHEET**

**NTUC'S NEW LABOUR RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO BRIDGE RESEARCH AND  
ADVOCACY WORK TO IMPROVE WORKERS' LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS**

*The launch of NTUC Labour Alliance co-laB (LAB) further strengthens NTUC's role in shaping policy, practice, and discourse in labour issues in Singapore and beyond*

1 The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) has been at the forefront in championing workers' interests. As part of its commitment to workers, NTUC officially launched the Labour Alliance co-laB (LAB), a community of 50 labour experts, academics, practitioners and researchers focused on advancing labour research for pressing labour issues today. LAB seeks to transform insight to impact by tackling emerging labour trends and challenges through innovative research, strategic partnerships, and community-building efforts. Members of LAB are also committed to open access, data sharing and innovation in research publishing through the Singapore Labour Journal (SGLJ).

**A) Launch of NTUC Labour Alliance co-laB (LAB):**

2 With the launch of LAB, the research community will focus on examining labour-related themes, such as employment and productivity; the future of labour in a globalised economy; and the impact of emerging trends like generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and sustainability. These research efforts ultimately go towards equipping workers and the Labour Movement with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the evolving economic landscape. The key details of LAB are:

**Key Objectives:**

- a) **Research and Innovation:** Conduct research on emerging labour trends and develop strategies to support workers.

- b) **Community and Capacity Building:** Foster collaboration among researchers, industry leaders, government officials, and representatives from unions and associations.
- c) **Social Impact and Advocacy:** Drive outreach and advocacy on labour issues, workers' rights, and equitable practices.

**Key Research Themes (2024-2027):**

3 The key research themes, which will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that they keep pace with developments in the labour and economic landscape, include:

a) **Employment and Productivity:**

- i. Identify future skills demand driven by technological advancements and macro trends (e.g., AI, Sustainability).
- ii. Explore strategies to increase workforce participation among underrepresented groups (e.g., women, caregivers, older adults).
- iii. Develop work policies that enhance both wages and productivity.

b) **Labour in the Global Economy:**

- i. Assess the Labour Movement's role in mitigating external shocks (e.g., financial crises, pandemics).
- ii. Address challenges posed by the gig economy and remote work in a digitalised global economy.
- iii. Explore new vulnerabilities workers may face and how unions can support Singapore's competitiveness.

c) **Health, Safety, and Wellbeing at Work:**

- i. Develop work-life balance initiatives that improve stability and productivity.
- ii. Identify effective workplace programmes for improving worker wellbeing.

- iii. Advocate for strategies to reduce workplace injuries, especially in high-risk industries.

**d) Emerging Labour Trends:**

- i. Champion a worker-centric Just Transition to a low-carbon economy.
- ii. Support worker segments in advocating for job security and benefits through union participation.
- iii. Innovate leadership, membership, and collective bargaining models for the 21st century.

**Projects in LAB:**

- 4 LAB members can participate in a variety of projects, including:
  - a) Research on labour issues
  - b) Brownbag/training sessions for Labour Movement leaders and workers
  - c) Social dialogues with worker/employer groups
  - d) Joint taskforces
  - e) Publications

**Appointment of LAB members:**

5 Inaugural LAB members are appointed by the NTUC for a three-year renewable term. The role of a LAB member is voluntary and non-remunerated. As of September 2024, LAB consists of 50 members from various higher education institutions, think-tanks and government research agencies. (*Refer to Annex A*)

## **B) NTUC's Initiatives in Advancing Labour Research:**

### **Singapore Labour Journal (SGLJ)**

6 In 2022, NTUC launched the first volume<sup>1</sup> of the SGLJ, which was the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. The journal had aimed to deepen the understanding of labour issues and best practices, aligning with the evolving needs of workers and contributing to policy recommendations. It featured insightful articles from both academics and practitioners offering a multidisciplinary perspective on labour matters by grounding labour practices in empirical evidence and peer-reviewed practitioner insights. To date, NTUC has launched three volumes of the SGLJ<sup>2</sup>

### **Labour Research Conference (LRC)**

7 The Labour Research Conference (LRC) was organised by NTUC in 2022 and 2020, and by the Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute (OTCi) in 2018 and 2017.

8 This year is the fifth edition of the LRC and the event will be held at the Stephen Riady Auditorium @ NTUC Centre on 26 September 2024, Thursday, with NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng as the Guest-of-Honour.

9 The theme for the Labour Research Conference 2024 is “Thriving in a Modern Work Environment”, and the conference includes a series of insightful exchanges, open dialogues and candid discussions among union leaders, industry players, government agencies and academics. Participants will hear from the curated line-up of speakers on how we can balance the needs and aspirations of workers, businesses and Singapore to

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<sup>1</sup> *Singapore Labour Journal Issue 1 Volume 1*  
<https://alep-p-001.sitecorecontenthub.cloud/api/public/content/8af9ef60b389455486360b613b2ef528?v=514c78e0>

<sup>2</sup> *Singapore Labour Journal*  
<https://www.ntuc.org.sg/uportal/resource-hub/singapore-labour-journal>

ensure that all parties continue to thrive in a modern work environment. The topics for discussion at this year's LRC include:

- a) Bridging the Gap in the Pursuit of Sustainability
- b) Redesigning the Rhythm of Work
- c) Navigating the Dynamics of Worker Well-being

10 Drawing on the rich blend of practitioner experiences and academic insights, LRC offers a distinctive lens to navigate the changing employment landscape while recognising the indispensable contributions of workers.

### **Other NTUC initiatives**

11 Some other initiatives from NTUC Strategy also include:

- i. **Expert Roundtable:** Expert Roundtable is a closed-door event that brings together experts in labour research including academic researchers, industry practitioners, and relevant government agencies to discuss and explore the issues relevant to the future of work and workforce in Singapore to forge cross-disciplinary collaboration opportunities and identify areas to develop the Labour Movement's research agenda.
- ii. **Research Publications**<sup>3</sup>: NTUC conducts strategic research on emerging trends related to labour issues. Insights from these research studies help NTUC craft policies and initiatives, such as skills upgrading programmes, labour protections for gig workers, and advocacy for fair employment practices. By staying at the forefront of these emerging trends, NTUC ensures that its policies are proactive and responsive to the needs of a changing labour landscape, ultimately safeguarding workers' rights and strengthening the Labour Movement.

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<sup>3</sup> Research Publications <https://www.ntuc.org.sg/uportal/resource-hub/all-reports>

- iii. **Quarterly Research Newsletter**<sup>4</sup>: NTUC Strategy’s Quarterly Research Newsletter provides bite-sized analytics and infographics on labour market trends and issues based on our research projects with academic researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. It highlights key research findings, offers strategic insights for workforce development, and presents data-driven recommendations to advance knowledge and discourse.
- iv. **Labour Research Network**: Labour Research Network is a collaborative platform for experts in labour research to share their insights and recommendations with the Labour Movement. The Network’s annual luncheons foster open dialogue in an informal setting to discuss emerging workforce issues, exchanging research ideas, and build relationships among stakeholders to strengthen labour advocacy efforts.

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<sup>4</sup> *Quarterly Research Newsletters*

<https://www.ntuc.org.sg/uportal/resource-hub/all-reports/singapore-labour-research-digest-2024-issue-03>

<b>Chinese Names and Terms</b>	<b>中文名称与词汇</b>
National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)	全国职工总会(职总)
NTUC Labour Research Conference	职总劳动研究大会
Singapore Labour Journal	新加坡人力学刊
NTUC Labour Alliance co-laB (LAB)	职总 劳动研究联盟
Ng Chee Meng Secretary-General, NTUC	黄志明 职总 秘书长
Patrick Tay Assistant Secretary-General, NTUC Director, Strategy, NTUC	郑德源 职总 助理秘书长 职总 企业策略 署长

### **About the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)**

The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) is a national confederation of trade unions as well as a network of professional associations and partners across all sectors in Singapore. NTUC's objectives are to help Singapore stay competitive and working people remain employable for life; to enhance the social status and well-being of our members and working people; and to build a strong, responsible and caring labour movement. NTUC's vision is to be an inclusive labour movement for all collars, ages and nationalities. NTUC is at the heart of the Labour Movement, which comprises 58 affiliated unions, seven affiliated associations, seven social enterprises, six related organisations as well as a growing ecosystem of professional associations and enterprise partners. For more details, visit [www.ntuc.org.sg](http://www.ntuc.org.sg).

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## **ANNEX A**

### **NTUC'S NEW LABOUR RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO BRIDGE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY WORK TO IMPROVE WORKERS' LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS**

#### **LIST OF LAB MEMBERS<sup>5</sup>**

<b>No</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	SUSS IAL	Associate Professor Renée Tan
2	SUSS IAL	Mr Sheng Yee Zher
3	SUSS IAL	Dr Ruby Toh
4	HCLI	Ms Doris Sohmen-Pao
5	NTU	Professor Chew Soon Beng
6	NTU	Professor Jack Qiu
7	NTU	Associate Professor Ho Moon-Ho Ringo
8	NTU	Dr Vered Seidmann
9	NTU	Associate Professor Trevor Yu Kang Yang
10	NTU	Professor Theng Yin Leng
11	SIT	Associate Professor Intan Azura Mokhtar
12	SIT	Associate Professor May Lim
13	SIT	Mr Bernard Nee
14	SIT	Associate Professor Jiow Hee Jhee
15	SUSS	Associate Professor Kang Soon-Hock
16	SUSS	Associate Professor Randolph Tan
17	SUSS	Professor Robbie Goh
18	SUSS	Associate Professor Guan Chong
19	SUSS	Associate Professor Walter Edgar Theseira
20	SUSS	Dr Sheryl Chua
21	SUTD	Dr Samuel Chng
22	SUTD	Dr Harvey Neo
23	SUTD	Mr Poon King Wang
24	SUTD	Assistant Professor Nilanjan Raghunath

<sup>5</sup> As of September 2024



25	Tsao Foundation	Associate Professor Paul Ong
26	Tsao Foundation	Ms Sanchita Singh
27	SNEF	Ms Shannon Boo
28	SNEF	Mr Alexander C. Melchers
29	SSG	Dr Gog Soon Joo
30	Behavioural Insights Team	Dr Serene Koh
31	SMU	Professor Lim Sun Sun
32	SMU	Ms Yvonne Kong-Ho
33	SMU	Associate Professor Ho Kong Weng
34	SMU	Professor Hoon Hian Teck
35	NUS	Professor Lim Siong Guan
36	NUS	Assistant Professor Ong Pin Chuan
37	NUS	Assistant Professor Sreeja Nair
38	NUS	Professor Jessica Pan
39	NUS	Associate Professor Irene Ng
40	NUS	Assistant Professor Hong Renyi
41	NUS	Dr Chew Han Ei
42	NUS	Mr Christopher Gee
43	NUS	Dr Gillian Koh
44	NUS	Dr Mathew Mathews
45	NUS	Associate Professor Terence Ho
46	NUS	Professor Sumit Agarwal
47	NIE	Dr Betsy Ng
48	NIE	Dr Lee Ai Noi
49	CFS	Ms Radha Basu
50	NTUC	Dr Yang Silin