Talent and knowledge are ‘key to success for countries today’

Prof Koh said this at event organised by local think tanks and international organisations

By Nisha Ramchandani
nishar@sph.com.sg
@Nisha_BT

Over 100 people from 10 international organisations, institutes and think tanks located at Heng Mui Keng Terrace were at the event.

Among them were representatives from the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec), Association of Pacific Rim Universities, Energy Studies Institute, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence and World Intellectual Property Organisation.

Think tanks such as the Institute of South Asian Studies and Middle East Institute help Singapore gain a better understanding of key regions, while international organisations better connect Singapore to the region and the world.

“We benefit from free trade and open economies so Apec is important,” Prof Koh said.

Prof Koh is important. Our connections to other parts of the world, like Europe, is very important,” Prof Koh later said on the sidelines of the event, adding that Europe is a major trading partner.

ASEF executive director Zhang Yan said: “Singapore has adopted a bold and forward-looking foreign policy and developed relations with as many nations as possible. One of the facets of this policy is to encourage international and regional organisations, institutes and think tanks to set up office in Singapore. Here at Heng Mui Keng Terrace, already 10 such organisations are gathered.”

Meanwhile, Alan Boliard, executive director of the Apec Secretariat, highlighted that Apec’s efforts to help open up economies and help the region benefit from trade and growth is beneficial to both Singapore and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

Jokowi breaks tradition in picking new military chief

Past practice rotated the position between branches of the armed forces.