Our own Dr. Tay Keong Tan interviewed in the Singapore media after the passing of longtime Singapore leader, Lee Kuan Yew.

Lianhe Zaobao (Singapore)
April 19, 2015

Translation:

Question: How would the next generation of leaders have to rely more on collective / team leadership vis-à-vis the strongman leadership of Lee Kuan Yew [following the recent death of the country’s founding Prime Minister]?

Answer: The era of a single source of light is long over in today’s polity. Governance and policy issues are much more complex that a technocratic approach now requires multiple expertise engaging myriad stakeholders on many issues. A strongman is still needed to galvanize the Party and the Nation, but as we know in the case of Singapore, Charisma need not play a strong role if there is delivery of the political and economic goods.

Collective leadership does not mean decentralization and devolution of power in Singapore’s political management. There can be a strong leaders and an inner circle that hold the keys to all major streams of power and policies.