

## Budget for a better tomorrow

What should be the theme of the 2014 Budget? What key issues should the Budget address and what specific initiatives for your industry or for taxpayers do you hope to see?

**David Low**

**CEO**

**Futuristic Store Fixtures**

INFLATION is generally under control and with economic conditions looking positive, 2014 should be better than last year. However, we have progressed at a faster than expected rate and that could leave the lower income groups in a tighter struggle to keep pace. This year's Budget should focus on getting societal equilibrium in terms of narrowing the gap of the poor and rich, not only on an individual level but also institutionally. At the personal level, policies could be implemented to enhance educational and healthcare accessibility and affordability for the less well-to-do households. This provides better opportunities for the young to have a good headstart and for the medically needy to be attended to with minimal financial concerns.

Due to policy changes in the hiring of foreign talent, SMEs will need greater assistance to keep productivity in check. Larger financial incentives and subsidies to encourage training of the local workforce as well as attracting seniors back into the workforce will be beneficial in the long run. Keeping greying folks gainfully employed is a two-edged solution, filling the labour gap while at the same time promoting mental and physical agility. I am looking forward to the 2014 Budget.