

experience SINGAPORE

STANDING
TOGETHER
AS ONE



focus

The Republic's spirit of unity comes to the fore in the wake of a pandemic.

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ED'S NOTE

Dear readers,

As we grapple with the wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments and people around the world have come to realise that, despite all the uncertainties, one thing is for sure — the world has changed, perhaps irrevocably. As with all crises, we can either accept the reality and 'brace for impact', or adapt and turn adversity into opportunity. Like many nations, Singapore has opted for the latter. Our **Focus** story (pages 3-5) looks at how Singapore is working together to contain the outbreak through sophisticated contact tracing efforts, and by ramping up the provision of healthcare services.

The onslaught of the virus has exposed economic, social and infrastructural vulnerabilities in many countries. For small and highly urbanised Singapore, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated our efforts to safeguard food security, by harnessing technology and through partnerships with other countries to ensure that food supply chains are not disrupted (read our **In Singapore** feature on pages 8-9 to find out more). However, strengthening one's domestic position is not enough in today's globalised world — the only way to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic is through cooperation with other countries. Our **Reflections** article (pages 6-7) showcases this spirit of collaboration through initiatives such as the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century, and the work of organisations such as Infrastructure Asia. The Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) has also recently launched its new website. Do visit <https://www.scp.gov.sg> for information on available courses.

Of course, the notion of collaboration is not new to Singapore. Our **Joining Hands** story (pages 10-11) takes a look at how cross-national exchange has influenced many of our country's most recognisable landmarks, infrastructural features and cultural icons. From the famous Singapore Girl *sarong kebaya* uniform to our MRT trains and even the towering Marina Bay Sands complex, examples abound of how collaboration with our neighbours and partners can produce ingenious solutions and ideas. Amid the uncertainties posed by COVID-19, such cooperation could pave the way to overcoming the biggest challenge that has confronted humanity in recent history. Let us be inspired to forge a safer, kinder and more collaborative future.

Teo Lay Cheng

Director
Strategic Communications Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

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experience SINGAPORE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
SINGAPORE COOPERATION
PROGRAMME



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE

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focus

STRONGER TOGETHER

#SGUNITED, a widely-used hashtag on social media in Singapore, encapsulates the Republic's spirit of unity and esprit de corps amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overcoming a crisis like COVID-19 requires the mettle and cooperation of an entire community. Each member will be called to duty in different ways. The most obvious ones are the healthcare professionals, who — in Singapore and around the world — have put aside their fears to help communities grapple with a virus that medical experts still know little about.

Healthcare workers are not in this fight alone: they rely on the cooperation of the populations they serve. In this vein, people have been asked to maintain a safe distance from others, halt non-essential travel and practise good personal hygiene. By following these measures, the public can help curb the spread of COVID-19 and

prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed or worse, collapsing altogether.

This partnership between the public and the healthcare system is not the only one that has cropped up amid the pandemic. *Experience Singapore* explores other collaborations that have kept Singapore going in the battle against COVID-19.

SAFEGUARDING SINGAPORE A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

When reports of a novel coronavirus outbreak first surfaced in late December 2019, the Government moved quickly to form a multi-ministry taskforce to deal with the virus. Jointly chaired by Minister for Health Gan Kim Yong and

● PEOPLE WEARING SURGICAL MASKS AT A NEIGHBOURHOOD MARKET IN SINGAPORE DURING THE CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD.



then Minister for National Development Lawrence Wong, the taskforce includes representatives from the Transport, Manpower and Education ministries.

This holistic approach has allowed the taskforce to direct a national response to the pandemic and coordinate community

efforts. It has also facilitated coordination between our local bodies and international counterparts, who shared information and best practices. The taskforce's formation was timely: just one day after it was announced, Singapore confirmed its first positive case.

CONTACT TRACING

TRACING FOR TOMORROW

Contact tracing has proven to be a crucial tool in the fight against COVID-19. It allows health authorities to quickly identify, isolate and test people who may have been in close contact with those who tested positive for the virus. The practice is not new; it was used widely during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in Singapore in 2003.

While the theory remains the same, the tools have changed dramatically, thanks to the advent of smartphones and the Internet of Things. Tapping on these advances, developers from the Government Technology Agency (GovTech) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) quickly put



● A HEALTHCARE WORKER IN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT GIVES A BRIEFING TO MIGRANT WORKERS AT A DORMITORY.

their heads and skills together to devise an app to help contact tracers. Dubbed TraceTogether, it uses wireless Bluetooth technology to identify people who have been in close proximity with positive cases of COVID-19.

Privacy remains king. Users must provide explicit consent to participate in TraceTogether, and for their mobile number and data to be used for contact tracing. As the use of the app is voluntary, it cannot replace existing contact tracing methods. Given the extensive number of cases and infectious nature of the coronavirus, MOH has roped in partners such as the Singapore Police Force and the Singapore Armed Forces to carry out contact tracing.

In an interview with news platform CNA, Mr K Shanmugam, Singapore's Minister for Home Affairs and Law, detailed the backbreaking work involved in contact tracing. He said, "(Contact tracing) requires interviewing the individual and then a lot of careful investigative work, such as tracking the person's movements over a period of time. You can imagine that in a place like Singapore, with its frequency of movement and the frequency of contacts — a case in any city — this is not an easy task. So (the police force) are doing it very intensely."

“
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Minister for Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam on the challenges of contact tracing. The task was made easier with TraceTogether, an app developed by GovTech in collaboration with MOH. Shortly after its release, the app's code was open-sourced, allowing developers around the world to deploy their own version and turn the tide against COVID-19.

HOSPITAL CAPACITY

PARTNERS IN HEALTH

A key concern is the ability of the pandemic to overwhelm the public health system. In Singapore, the system comprises 10 hospitals. To free up capacity at these facilities, MOH turned to Singapore's private hospitals to lighten the load: COVID-19 patients who were assessed to be well and stable were transferred to such institutions to continue their care. The move, which demonstrates a strong public-private partnership for the greater good, hinged on the support of private hospital operators such as Parkway Pantai.

"We worked closely with MOH to determine how private-sector resources could be utilised to alleviate the load on public healthcare institutions," the

1.5 million
users have downloaded
the TraceTogether app.

SOURCE: THE STRAITS TIMES





LIKE OUR OWN

"To our migrant workers, let me emphasise again: we will care for you, just like we care for Singaporeans." This was the message that Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong had for the country's migrant worker population, which experienced a large outbreak of COVID-19.

In a speech made in late April, Mr Lee addressed the workers directly, saying, "We will look after your health, your welfare and your livelihood. We will work with your employers to make sure that you get paid, and you can send money home. And we will help you stay in touch with friends and family."

THE COMMUNITY COMES FORWARD

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ALSO SPEARHEADED INITIATIVES

to support those adversely affected by COVID-19



A Leg Up

Local non-profit organisation Engineering Good partnered the community to organise a collection drive for old laptops and accessories. The members refurbished these laptops and presented them to needy students, to help them keep up with their studies, which went fully online in March and April.

engineeringgood.org



Regardless Of Language

24-year-old Dr Sudesna Roy Chowdhury roped in her family and friends from the Bengali diaspora in Singapore to start a website providing common phrases and medical terms in English and Bengali.

The website helps bridge the language gap between Bengali-speaking patients and medical care teams.

sudesnaroychowdhury.wixsite.com/covid



#STAYHOMESAVELIVES

Between April and June, Singaporeans were encouraged to stay at home to curb the spread of COVID-19.

When venturing out to buy essentials, many thought of the seniors in their midst and took it upon themselves to do their shopping for them. One such volunteer said, "I want them to stay safe. We don't just deliver food to them, but we check in on them too."

sgunited.gov.sg



they care for COVID-19 patients, on top of their usual patient load. Fortunately, various partners have stepped forward to lend their support. One of them is the Republic's national carrier Singapore Airlines (SIA), and its fellow members from the Singapore Airlines Group, SilkAir and Scoot.

Many of the Group's cabin crew were grounded as COVID-19 brought air travel to a halt. Thanks to a new partnership forged with MOH, 350 cabin crew were appointed as Care Ambassadors at public hospitals. They support nurses in low-risk, non-COVID-19 wards, doing everything from feeding patients to attending to their toileting needs.

Hospitals have welcomed the extra manpower and the expertise they brought. "This is a good opportunity for our nurses to exchange knowledge and skills on service with the crew of SIA, who are top service professionals. We are very pleased to collaborate with SIA as this helps augment our manpower needs, at a challenging time when many of our staff have been diverted to care for COVID-19 related patients," said Ms Shirley Heng, Chief Nurse of Khoo Teck Puat Hospital.

● CABIN CREW FROM THE SINGAPORE AIRLINES GROUP ARE SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 BY EASING THE MANPOWER CRUNCH AT PUBLIC HOSPITALS.



CEO of Parkway Pantai's Singapore Operations Division, Dr Prem Kumar Nair, told *Experience Singapore*. "Mount Elizabeth Hospital was the first among our four hospitals in Singapore to step up and receive patients who were recovering from COVID-19. Our other three hospitals — Gleneagles, Mount Elizabeth Novena and Parkway East Hospitals — subsequently received such recovering patients as well."

Such partnerships, coupled with the use of community recovery facilities, have averted overcrowding in Singapore's public health system. These facilities can thus focus on providing acute care to patients who require it.

MANPOWER SUPPORT SERVICE FROM THE HEART

Healthcare facilities have also turned to new ways to augment their manpower as

At the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2019, then Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sam Tan said, “Moving forward, there is a greater need for countries to build inclusive and collaborative networks across sectors, and effectively mobilise resources.” This is especially true as countries slowly emerge from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Global cooperation will remain essential for mitigating the unprecedented disruption brought about by the viral outbreak. *Experience Singapore* finds out more from SCP’s partners, **Infrastructure Asia** and the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, on how international partnerships provide governments with valuable sources of knowledge and networks to restart their economies and help their citizens.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

“The disruption caused by the pandemic has raised the importance of strong infrastructure systems that can work well together, instead of single, standalone projects,” explained Mr Seth Tan, a veteran with two decades of experience working in the infrastructure development field. For instance, developing a single power plant that is not plugged into an effective grid may lead to inefficiencies and wastage, instead of stronger development and growth. Mr Tan emphasised that Singapore is well-prepared to work with regional counterparts in the changing landscape, given the rich infrastructure network that uses Singapore as a base. The network comprises both homegrown companies and foreign entities, and its services range from financial and legal support, to construction and engineering.

Beyond supporting infrastructure projects within Singapore, the ecosystem also helps the region through Infrastructure Asia, a project facilitation office headed by Mr Tan. Set up by Enterprise Singapore and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the office aims to deliver good-fitting solutions for regional infrastructure projects, including through connecting with good solutions and solution providers, advisory and facilitating investments and financing. “The best thing is (that) these solutions are not just available but are largely affordable for emerging Asia,” explained Mr Tan. “We do not charge for our help, so governments and partners can be assured of our neutrality.”

The economic downturn caused by COVID-19 will have some effect on infrastructure projects, but Mr Tan said that the private sector can — and will

AFTER THE STORM

Putting the spotlight on how partnerships can help countries emerge from COVID-19.



— support future projects. “These include projects in the logistics and supply chain, clean energy and Infocomm Technology (ICT) fields,” he shared. “In light of the pandemic, environmental public health projects, like waste management, will also be of renewed importance.”

Anticipating a greater demand for private-sector funding, Mr Tan and his team plan to work closely with regional government partners to refine and enhance projects so that they become more attractive to investors. “International financial sources remain available in current times, although there will undoubtedly be more emphasis on quality,” said Mr Tan.



500

The number of private-sector collaborators in Infrastructure Asia’s network. They range from advisors and financiers, to entities that can optimise, operate and maintain infrastructure.



Mr Seth Tan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
INFRASTRUCTURE ASIA,
SINGAPORE

CONTACT REBECCA FAN (REBECCA_FAN@INFRASTRUCTUREASIA.ORG) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE ASIA AND HOW IT COULD HELP YOU. FOLLOW THE OFFICE’S LINKEDIN PAGE ([HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/INFRASTRUCTUREASIA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/infrastructureasia)) FOR UPDATES.



THEN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAM TAN AT BAPA+40 IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN MARCH 2019.

Infrastructure Asia is also focused on creating learning and development opportunities for the region. “We organised a webinar with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) — a member of the World Bank Group — where industry leaders in logistics and supply chain shared current challenges,” recalled Mr Tan. “They also highlighted areas where resilience could be built.” Plans are afoot for more of such virtual sharing, to bring together collaborators and develop solutions to new infrastructure needs.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The streets of Tokyo and Singapore were listed as some of the world’s safest in a 2019 study by *The Economist*. But this is no coincidence: after all, Singapore modelled its neighbourhood policing system after Japan’s *kobans*, or neighbourhood police posts. With an aim to facilitate information and knowledge exchange between police representatives in the region, Singapore and Japan have jointly organised several courses on this topic for other countries over the years, under the auspices of the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21).

The JSPP21 is the SCP’s most established third country training programme and commemorated its 25th anniversary last year. Under the JSPP21, JICA and Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs have co-organised close to 400 courses for some 7,000 government officials from various countries, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

SHARING SESSIONS AND FIELD TRIPS HELP JSPP21 PARTICIPANTS CONTEXTUALISE THEIR LESSONS.



members. The courses cover various topics, ranging from ICT, trade promotion and industrial development, to healthcare, education, urban planning and the environment. “The programme aims to strengthen connectivity, the rule of law, resilience and innovation, and also encourage free and open order in the region and beyond; with a view to further enhance peace, stability, prosperity, quality of life, as well as mutual trust and understanding in the Asia-Pacific region, including ASEAN at its centre,” shared Mr Suzuki Toshiyasu, Assistant Director, Southeast Asia and Pacific Department at JICA.

Under the JSPP21, Singapore and Japan review the content and slate of courses every year to ensure that they continue to be of relevance to SCP’s target participants. This year, in response to COVID-19 travel restrictions, SCP has launched e-learning courses for the first time.

COVID-19 may be far from over. While scientists race to develop a vaccine, the countries’ readiness to adopt a continuous learning mindset and engage in partnerships will be even more critical as countries embark on the careful road to recovery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COURSES UNDER THE JSPP21 AND SCP, PLEASE VISIT THE SCP WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.SCP.GOV.SG](https://www.scp.gov.sg).



REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SINGAPORE AND JAPAN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS POSING WITH JICA’S OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) MASCOT AFTER DISCUSSIONS ON THE JSPP21 WORKPLAN FOR 2019.

in singapore

THE ROAD TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Singapore's journey to food security has roots in partnerships, as *Experience Singapore* discovers.

Food diversification is crucial for a country like Singapore, where natural resources are limited and over 90 per cent of its population's food supply is imported. As emphasised by former Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Masagos Zulkifli, Singapore needs to build a sustainable food system to safeguard its food security in the face of uncertainties.

This task is overseen by the **Singapore Food Agency (SFA)**. Formed in April 2019, SFA's 850 officers work closely with government partners, industry stakeholders and global counterparts to ensure and secure a supply of safe food for Singapore.

DIVERSITY FOR SECURITY

Diversification remains a cornerstone of Singapore's food security strategy. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, SFA has been closely monitoring risks of food supply disruptions. It also continues to work with

its overseas counterparts to prioritise the accreditation of more farms and establishments across different countries to diversify Singapore's import sources.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong shared the results of this in a national broadcast in June, noting that the food Singapore consumes could increasingly come from far-flung places. "We are buying eggs from Poland and shrimp from Saudi Arabia," he said, pointing to two examples of food source diversification as a way to keep Singapore running amid the global pandemic.

KEEPING TRADE FLOWING

Besides diversification, SFA also works closely with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) to keep supply chains running. This has helped secure Singapore's food supply amid border closures caused by COVID-19. For instance, MTI worked with its

THE CREATIVE USE OF SPACE HELPS SINGAPORE OVERCOME ITS LAND SCARCITY ISSUES, WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY HINDERED HOMEGROWN FOOD PRODUCTION.



Malaysian counterparts to ensure that trade continued to flow unimpeded between the two countries following the implementation of Malaysia's Movement Control Order. This was an important move for Singapore, as 37 per cent of its chicken supply and 15 per cent of its fish are imported from its northern neighbour. It also obtains produce such as vegetables and milk from Malaysia.

“

We welcome more countries to join us in pledging their commitment to keep supply chains open, connected and resilient.

Minister for Trade and Industry
Chan Chun Sing



THE SINGAPORE FOOD AGENCY WORKS CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT PARTNERS, INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS AND GLOBAL COUNTERPARTS TO ENSURE AND SECURE A SUPPLY OF SAFE FOOD FOR SINGAPORE.



Efforts to keep trade flowing extend far beyond Singapore's immediate neighbours in the region. Singapore and New Zealand launched the Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods for Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic in April this year, which saw freight capacity being used to transport essential supplies such as food produce from New Zealand to Singapore. Praising such initiatives, Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing said, "We welcome more countries to join us in pledging their commitment to keep supply chains open, connected and resilient."

GOING LOCAL

SFA is also focused on boosting local food production, as part of its "30x30" goal, which aims to produce 30 per cent of Singapore's nutritional needs by 2030, up from the current production of less than 10 per cent. Through close partnerships with agencies such as the Housing and Development Board (HDB) and the Urban Redevelopment

Authority (URA), SFA managed to overcome land scarcity issues, which have traditionally stood in the way of homegrown food production. These partnerships have unlocked alternative urban farming spaces in densely-populated Singapore. Together with HDB, SFA launched nine urban farming sites on multi-storey carpark rooftops across the island, following a successful pilot last year. "Residents in the area have been able to enjoy fresh produce from the farm at nearby supermarkets," said Mr Melvin Chow, senior director of SFA's food supply resilience division. More locations are scheduled to be launched in the second half of 2020.

TECH-BACKED AGRICULTURE

Such a transformative use of state property not only contributes to local food production but also offers opportunities to testbed innovative urban farming technologies. This is essential for local food producers to optimise production

and intensify agricultural land use. To forge an enabling and supportive environment for high-tech farming, SFA and Enterprise Singapore (ESG) have formed a Regulations Work Group (RWG) comprising 13 agencies to provide one-stop assistance to new farms. Together, the agencies also review and update regulations that impact urban agriculture. Since 2019, 11 local farms have consulted with the RWG on their building plans and regulatory hurdles they may face.

SFA has also joined forces with local tertiary institutions to equip the workforce with highly sought-after skills that are needed in the agri-food industry. A partnership with Republic Polytechnic resulted in an online course, while a similar partnership with Nanyang Technological University led to a post-graduate programme devoted to contemporary agri-technology developments.



STRAWBERRIES IN SINGAPORE?

Growing strawberries in a tropical climate might sound like the stuff of science fiction, but no longer. Local agritech startup Singrow has found a way to produce up to 900kg of strawberries in under three

months, compared to five months in traditional farms, while using 40 per cent less energy. Singaporeans can expect to see locally-grown strawberries in supermarkets from September this year.

SHARING ACROSS

A showcase of how global perspectives have shaped Singapore's national and cultural icons.



FORMER SIA STEWARDESS MS SEE BIEW WAH IN HER SARONG KEBAYA.

A FRENCH TOUCH TO A LOCAL ICON

Singapore Airlines (SIA), the Republic's national carrier, has nabbed numerous global awards for its safety and service standards. Its award-winning service is embodied by the Singapore Girl, whose warmth and elegance has arguably made her the brand's most successful ambassador. The colourful *sarong kebaya* she dons — which comes in four colours, depending on her seniority — was designed by Parisian couturier Pierre Balmain in 1968, who subsequently adapted it for SIA in 1974.

The *sarong kebaya* was first modelled by Ms See Biew Wah, a flight stewardess with the carrier in the 1960s and 1970s. In an interview with *SilverKris*, the carrier's in-flight magazine, to mark the *kebaya*'s 50th anniversary in 2018, Ms See recalled, "I got a call from my cabin crew manager to meet a designer from Paris. Couture hadn't quite come to Asia, so I didn't really know who [Balmain] was. At first I was quite nervous, but I figured it was just part of another assignment." In the French capital, she was brought to the House of Balmain. "Every morning for a week I would walk to the designer's *maison*, and at lunchtime I would sit outside and people watch," said Ms See. "The *kebaya* is something so dear to my heart. I'm very attached to it. At the time, we were not yet known for service — but half the battle was won just by wearing the *kebaya*."



DR ALBERT WINSEMIUS (LEFT) WITH SINGAPORE'S THEN-MINISTER FOR FINANCE DR GOH KENG SWE (SECOND FROM LEFT) AND OTHER GUESTS AT A RECEPTION IN 1961.

CHUGGING ALONG, JAPANESE-STYLE

'Futuristic' has long been a term associated with Japan; after all, it was in Japan that the world's first 'bullet train' system, the Tōkaidō Shinkansen, began operations in 1964. In just under two-and-a-half hours, the train travels between Tokyo and Osaka at up to 285 kilometres an hour. Needless to say, the world took notice of Japan's engineering prowess. Over the years, the country's experts have contributed to the construction of numerous subway systems around the world, including Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system.

A Japanese consortium led by Kawasaki Heavy Industries won the bid to produce the system's first trains, which were manufactured in Kobe, Japan, between 1986 and 1989. The 66 Kawasaki C151 trains were only decommissioned in June this year, after 33 years in service. Japan's contributions to Singapore's MRT system did not stop there: in 2013, the highly efficient motors used on the Tokyo Metro were installed in more than 60 trains in Singapore. This marked the first time the motors — which are quieter and run more efficiently — were used outside Japan.



BORDERS



THE DUTCH ECONOMIST BEHIND THE ASIAN TIGER

When Dr Albert Winsemius was a teenager in the 1920s, he worked part-time as a cheesemaker in his hometown of Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, after school each day. Little did he know that he would go on to make great contributions to Singapore's development in his 24 years as an economic adviser to the Singapore Government.

In 1960, Dr Winsemius, then with the United Nations, visited Singapore to assess its potential for industrialisation. The following year, he made his first report to the Singapore Government and eventually became its chief economic adviser, working closely with the Republic's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Dr Winsemius' contributions did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the Republic's Distinguished Service Medal in 1966, bestowed the National Trades Union Congress' highest award, the May Day Gold Medal of Honour in 1976, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree by the University of Singapore (now the National University of Singapore) in 1970. In 1997, he was posthumously honoured with the establishment of an Albert Winsemius Professorship at Nanyang Technological University.



OVER THE YEARS, JAPAN'S EXPERTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUMEROUS SUBWAY SYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING SINGAPORE'S MASS RAPID TRANSIT (MRT) SYSTEM (PICTURED).



DESIGNED BY ISRAELI-CANADIAN ARCHITECT MOSHE SAFDIE, MARINA BAY SANDS IS AN ICONIC TRIPLE-TOWERED HOTEL AND CASINO COMPLEX IN SINGAPORE.

A DEFINING ADDITION TO THE SKYLINE

One of the most iconic and defining structures that forms Singapore's city skyline is the Marina Bay Sands integrated resort. Designed by Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie, the triple-towered hotel and casino complex is linked at the top by a sky garden and its world-famous infinity pool. "The towers first of all sort of open up at the base to form an atrium, and because the site is triangular, or at least wedge-shaped, one opens more, the next one less and the last one even less so there's a dynamic of changing geometry," explained Mr Safdie in a 2014 interview with *Dezeen*, an architecture and design magazine. "Then we had the dilemma of where are we going to put the swimming pool? How do we make this a resort? That's when the idea of the Sky Park was born. It's on the 57th floor, it's 2.5 acres cantilevering 65 metres off the tower with all these gardens, and it has proven to be magical," said Mr Safdie.

Mr Safdie is also the designer of Singapore's famed Jewel Changi Airport, which opened its doors to visitors in May last year.



COMING FROM AFAR

Singapore owes much of its development to the many migrant workers who, over the years, have paved its roads, built its homes and dug its tunnels. Many had made the tough decision to leave their homes to work in a foreign country, away from their family and friends.

In April this year, Singapore's Minister for Manpower Josephine Teo extended her greetings to these workers during the Tamil New Year, which is celebrated by a significant proportion of Singapore's migrant worker population. This took place at the height of Singapore's battle with COVID-19, as the number of cases rose within the migrant worker community. "Today is the start of the new year for you, but it is difficult to celebrate without family and friends. The COVID-19 outbreak has affected all of us, but I know it is especially hard for you. I want to thank you for all your hard work in Singapore and for your cooperation during this period. On behalf of all Singaporeans, I wish you good health in the new year. Stay safe for your families, stay safe for your friends," she said.

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

CATCH OF THE DAY

According to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, 9 per cent of all fish consumed here (some 4,600 tonnes) in 2018 was reared locally.



in singapore

A high-tech offshore fish farm called Eco-Ark opened in late 2019 and aims to produce up to 166 metric tonnes of barramundi, red snapper and grouper annually.