

experiencesingapore

The Transformation of Marina Bay

Fireworks at Marina Bay.

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Visiting Vatican Cardinal

HIS Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino was in Singapore in June 2006 on an official visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister George Yeo.

Cardinal Martino was appointed as the Special Envoy of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to celebrations held in Singapore to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Holy See.

In their meeting, both Minister Yeo and Cardinal Martino agreed on the importance of

promoting a message of moderation and inter-faith understanding. Acknowledging Singapore's efforts in promoting peace and understanding amongst its people of diverse cultures and religions through constant dialogue, Cardinal Martino said: "The Holy See recognises Singapore as playing a fundamental and strategic role in building peace and understanding among peoples. Singapore sees dialogue between cultures and religions as an absolutely necessary element, both in the initiatives taken within its own borders and

in its relations with other countries."

Cardinal Martino also called on President S R Nathan and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. He also met with community and religious leaders of Singapore.

While in Singapore, Cardinal Martino gave a public lecture entitled "The Role of Religions in Promoting Peace and Solidarity and Denouncing Terrorism" organised by the Institute of Policy Studies.

Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino (centre), calling on President S R Nathan (right) during his visit to Singapore in June 2006 with current Vatican Ambassador to Singapore, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio (left), looking on.



Grand Imam of Al Azhar Visits Singapore

HIS Eminence Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Grand Imam of Al Azhar made his first visit to Singapore in May 2006 at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

During his visit, His Eminence met with several Singapore leaders including President S R Nathan, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Deputy Prime Minister, Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, S Jayakumar and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Wong Kan Seng and Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo.

His Eminence was also hosted by Minister of Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Dr Yaacob Ibrahim to an inter-faith lunch meeting with community and religious leaders.

As the inaugural MUIS (Islamic Religious Council) Distinguished Visitor, His Eminence delivered the first MUIS Distinguished Visitor Lecture where he spoke on "Islam and its Place in the Modern World".



His Eminence, The Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawai, called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana. Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawai, The Grand Imam of Cairo-based Al-Azhar University, met several Singapore leaders during his three-day visit.



The SCDF team getting organised for their trip to Tanggongan, Pleret, a village in Bantul district.

Help for Java Quake Victims

SINGAPORE extended humanitarian relief assistance to Indonesia following the 6.2 Richter scale earthquake which struck the Indonesian island of Java on 27 May 2006.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong telephoned Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in the aftermath of the quake to convey Singapore's deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the earthquake. Prime Minister Lee also offered Singapore's humanitarian relief assistance in the form of Singapore medical teams and US\$50,000 worth of emergency supplies including medical supplies, blankets and tents to be dispatched to the affected areas. President Yudhoyono thanked Prime Minister Lee for Singapore's support and help during their hour of need.

A 35-member Singapore Armed Forces Medical Team and a 43-member Singapore Civil Defence Force Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART) arrived the next day to assist in and around Bantul, the worst district affected by the quake.

Assistance also came from the Singapore Red Cross, which despatched some 2,000 eight-man tents to quake survivors. Non-profit organisation Jamiyah Singapore arranged for public donations such as kerosene lamps, tents, rice, instant food and blankets to be airlifted to the quake site.

Singapore's medical assistance teams,

operating out of field tents erected in football fields, tended to fractures and other injuries as a result of the quake and also treated survivors suffering from related medical problems.

President Yudhoyono made a surprise visit to the SAF medical team's makeshift clinic and pharmacy in Pleret, Bantul to thank them in person.

SCP COURSES FROM OCTOBER 2006 TO FEBRUARY 2007

Course	Train the Trainers in Early Childhood Development	When	28 November – 11 December 2006	Course	Hospitality Management	When	6 December – 19 December 2006
When	28 November – 11 December 2006	Closing	10 October 2006	Closing	18 October 2006	Agency	Temasek Polytechnic
Closing	10 October 2006	Agency	Regional Training and Resource Centre in Early Childhood Care and Education for Asia (RTRC Asia)	Course	Dealing with the Cultural Dimension of Effective Dispute Management-Handling Factors Influencing Negotiation and Mediation	When	16 – 24 January 2007
Agency	Regional Training and Resource Centre in Early Childhood Care and Education for Asia (RTRC Asia)	Course	Use of Information Technology in Public Administration	When	16 – 24 January 2007	Closing	28 November 2006
Course	Use of Information Technology in Public Administration	When	5 December – 18 December 2006	Closing	28 November 2006	Agency	Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)
When	5 December – 18 December 2006	Closing	17 October 2006	Agency	Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)	Course	Integrated Water and Waste Water Resource Management
Closing	17 October 2006	Agency	Institute of Systems Science (ISS)	When	23 January – 5 February 2007	When	23 January – 5 February 2007
Agency	Institute of Systems Science (ISS)	Course	Town Planning in Singapore	Closing	5 December 2006	Agency	Public Utilities Board (PUB)
Course	Town Planning in Singapore	When	5 December – 18 December 2006	Agency	Public Utilities Board (PUB)	Course	Aircraft Accident Investigation – Organisational Factors and Major Issues
When	5 December – 18 December 2006	Closing	17 October 2006	When	5 February – 9 February 2007	When	5 February – 9 February 2007
Closing	17 October 2006	Agency	Singapore Polytechnic	Closing	18 December 2006	Agency	Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA)
Agency	Singapore Polytechnic	Course	Internet Security and Cyberlaws in Singapore	Agency	Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA)		
Course	Internet Security and Cyberlaws in Singapore	When	6 December – 19 December 2006				
When	6 December – 19 December 2006	Closing	18 October 2006				
Closing	18 October 2006	Agency	Republic Polytechnic				
Agency	Republic Polytechnic						

These Training Awards are part of the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) of technical assistance to developing countries. For more information on application procedures and terms of awards, contact the Technical Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at tel: (65) 98199353 or fax: (65) 64793357. You can also visit our website at <http://www.scp.gov.sg>.

Mediate. Don't Litigate!



Jose Luis Cano and the trainers from the Singapore Mediation Centre in a role-playing session.

19 PARTICIPANTS from Swaziland, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bhutan, Peru, Uganda, Philippines, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Indonesia, Thailand, Bahrain, Mauritius and Jamaica were selected by their governments to attend the Singapore Cooperation Programme's (SCP) course "Effective Dispute Management in a Changing World". Conducted by the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC), a non-profit organisation, the 8-day course (4 to 13 July 2006) aimed to provide the participants with a conceptual framework and fundamental skills to conduct negotiations as well as manage differences that may arise at the work place.

Targeted primarily at middle to senior level professionals, the course comprised simulation exercises, lectures, group discussions, multimedia presentations as well as site visits to the Supreme Court and the SMC.

Feedback from the participants have been positive. SMC Executive Director Loong Seng Onn said that past participants have invited the SMC to conduct similar courses in their countries.

Listening to Win

CONFLICTS and disputes can be resolved amicably if we learn to listen better, says Jose Luis Cano from Peru, a Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) participant.

Jose is a Legal Adviser with the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Trade & Tourism. He was in Singapore in July to attend a 8-day course on mediation conducted by the Singapore Mediation Centre.

According to Jose, there is much to be gained from mediation as opposed to litigation. "In Peru, litigants spend huge sums over lengthy trial periods because they just want to win. This training programme has unfolded a completely different picture altogether," said Jose. "It showed us that if we learn to listen better, then conflicts between parties can end up in win-win results. The problem is that many of us in disputes just refuse to listen," he added.

While in Singapore for the course, Jose also found time to take in the sights of Singapore. His two favourite places here were the Jurong Bird Park and the Singapore Botanic Garden, which he described as one of the best in the world.



SCP participant Jose Luis Cano taking in the sights of Singapore.



Food guru Violet Oon cooking up a storm for the IMF-WB delegates in Singapore.

Food for Thought

IMF-WORLD BANK DELEGATES IN FOR A TREAT

Singapore's food guru Ms Violet Oon will be cooking up a storm come September when Singapore welcomes some 16,000 delegates from 184 countries for the International Monetary Fund-World Bank conference.

For the food consultant who has served unique Singaporean Nonya cuisine to gourmet diners in New York and planned menus for visiting royalty, this is her biggest challenge yet. 'This is by far the biggest, grandest and most challenging thing I have ever done. What we are trying to do here really is to portray our lifestyle and culture in Singapore. It has to encapsulate what we are and at the same time we have to select items that are palatable,' said Ms Oon.

Ms Oon is overseeing the four main social events planned for the conference, which runs from September 13 to 20. These include a high tea at the Jewel Box restaurant on Mount Faber for the delegates' spouses where healthy one-of-a-kind

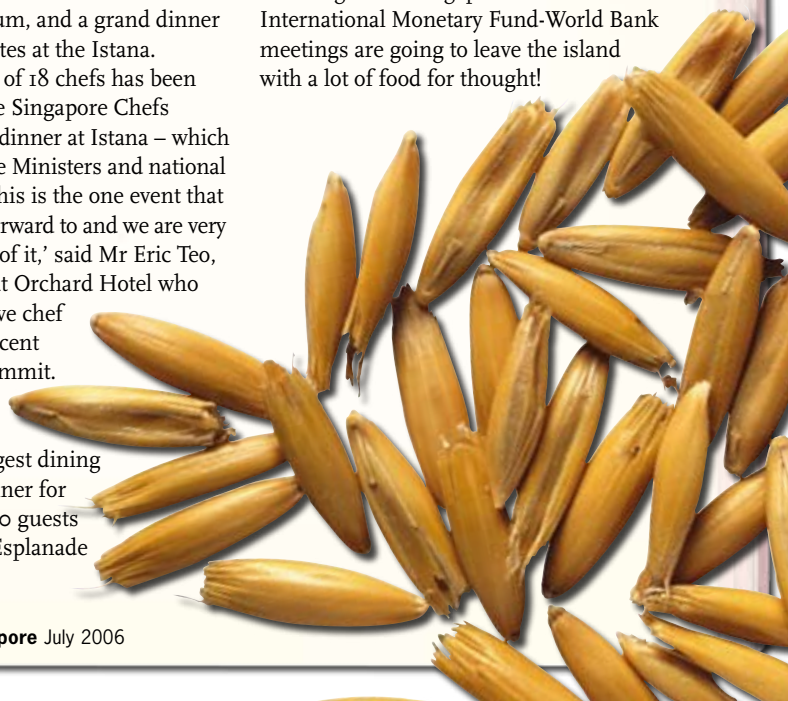
dishes like ginseng tea jelly with medicinal mushrooms and wolfberries will be served; a lunch for 120 spouses of the Governors at Indochine restaurant in the Asian Civilisations Museum, and a grand dinner for 600 VIP delegates at the Istana.

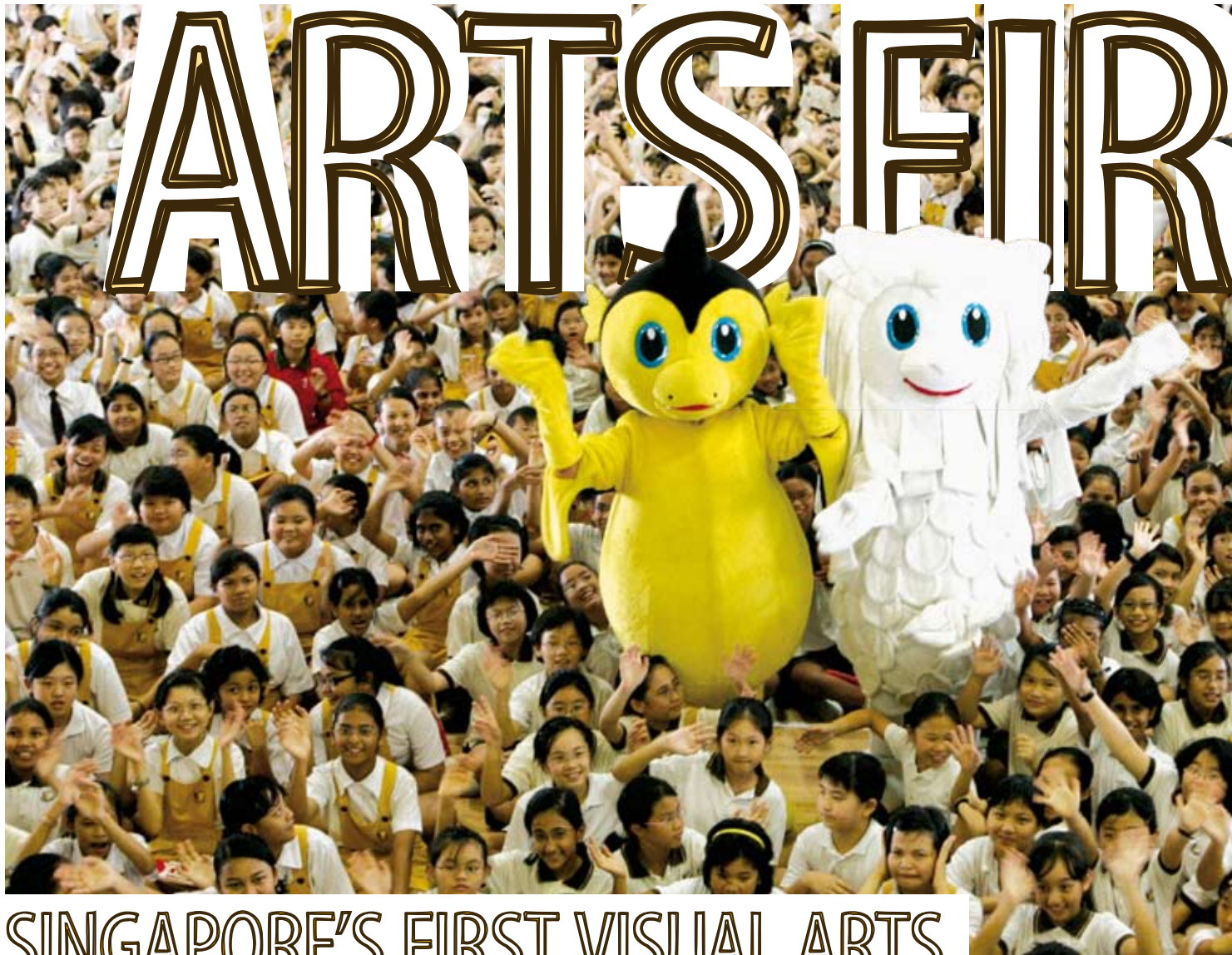
A culinary team of 18 chefs has been assembled from the Singapore Chefs Association for the dinner at Istana – which will include Finance Ministers and national bank Chairmen. 'This is the one event that we are all looking forward to and we are very excited to be a part of it,' said Mr Eric Teo, the executive chef at Orchard Hotel who was named executive chef of the year at the recent World Gourmet Summit. The menu remains a secret for now.

The last and largest dining event – a buffet dinner for some expected 5000 guests will be held at the Esplanade

Arts Centre mall. Every single eatery within the Esplanade – from Tung Lok Group's Humble House Restaurant to No Signboard Seafood – has been roped in to help cater to this dining extravaganza where local favourites like roti prata, satay and chicken rice in tasting-size portions will tempt the taste-buds of the delegates.

Delegates at Singapore's first-ever International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings are going to leave the island with a lot of food for thought!





SINGAPORE'S FIRST VISUAL ARTS BIENNALE AT S2006 EVENT



Singapore Biennale 2006 opening bash at Padang, City Hall, which features Biennale exhibits, is doubling as the IMF-World Bank delegates' registration centre.

Visitors to Singapore have an added reason to make the trip this September, as the Republic launches the first Singapore Biennale 2006, a diverse selection of international contemporary art.

The exhibition, from September 4 to November 12, will feature over 80 artists and artist collectives from over 35 countries including Singapore. It is part of Singapore 2006, a series of events focused around the Annual General Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

The biennale, organised by Singapore's National Arts Council in partnership with the National Heritage Board, is curated by Artistic Director Fumio Nanjo, internationally reputed for steering and judging major art events worldwide.

The show's overall theme concept is 'Belief'. The curatorial team has drawn on a rich slate of artists to examine complex questions that surround and inform questions of belief in contemporary society.

Taking many forms, artworks for 'Belief'



Left: Two official Singapore Biennale mascots, Mocmoc and Mermer, posing with students in a school hall.

Above: Singapore Biennale 2006 Opening Party at the Padang. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong started the party by pushing a crystal ball that set off a floating wall of balloons at the Padang.

Right: Theseus Chan is in charge of branding for Singapore Biennale 2006. Assisting him are (from left) Mervyn Chan, Andie Ngoh, Wong Mei Wen and Marina Lim.

Below: Artist Takafumi Hara creating an artwork with an elderly resident.



include architecture, biotechnology, drawing, installation, new media, painting, performance, photography, sculpture, sound projects and video. Many will be specially commissioned new works.

Some of the internationally recognised artists participating are Shahidul Alam, Shigeru Ban, Amanda Heng, Jenny Holzer, Eduardo Kac, Mariko Mori, Carsten Nicolai, Jaume Plensa, Agus Suwage and James Turrell.

In line with the theme 'Belief', religious sites in Singapore will display a number of art works. Other exhibition sites include City Hall, the stage for many historic events associated with Singapore's nationhood; Singapore's shopping thoroughfare Orchard Road; a public housing estate; and Tanglin Camp, a cluster of former colonial military buildings.

Singapore has also taken the unprecedented move in the Biennale circuit by collaborating with Shanghai (China) and Gwangju (South Korea) on a joint staging of Biennales by three cities that will open in succession between 1 to 9 September 2006.



Japanese avant-garde artist Yayoi Kusama's *Ascension Of Polkadots On The Trees* along Orchard Road.

RENEWAL

Singapore, like other major global cities such as New York, London and Paris, must keep rejuvenating and reinventing itself to stay relevant. But the need to “refresh” Singapore does not mean competing for “the biggest, the tallest, the fanciest or the most opulent” to be visible on the world stage, as Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in his National Day Rally speech last year.

Renewal, he said, was not just about hardware but software too. Classy, glassy buildings with all the modern conveniences and technological gizmos would be cold without the warmth of service and spirit.

The vibrancy of a global city is not just about iconic structures. Singapore has a well-earned and internationally recognised hallmark of being a “clean and green garden city”. Singapore’s “newness” can come from what is already being enjoyed by many, only made better.

The rejuvenation has included restoring historical landmarks, injecting new lifestyle buildings into the downtown city, upgrading older public housing estates, and also hastening

the development of Marina Bay.

In the heartlands of Singapore, older housing estates like Toa Payoh are seeing upgrading works continue to add to the improvement of apartment blocks and their surroundings.

The city area is now home to the Singapore Management University, a spanking new National Library building, LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts, and a host of privately run institutions offering tertiary courses linked to recognised overseas universities. The National Museum too has undergone a major makeover.

Grand old buildings like The Fullerton completed in 1928 and through its years housed various government departments, is today a luxurious five-star hotel. The building’s original façade has been retained and refurbished with its interior remodelled to offer the highest of comforts to the international traveller.

From Marina Bay and all the way up the Singapore River banks, renewal of the city is taking place in buildings and areas like One Fullerton – once the Master Attendant’s Pier – the old Waterboat Office, Clifford Pier and old favourite areas like Boat Quay and Clarke Quay.



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong speaking at the National Day Rally in 2005. In the background is an artist's impression of what the bayfront will look like in 2015.





Ann Siang Hill Park – This charming pocket park, completed in 2004, is wedged between two rows of shophouses and the Urban Redevelopment Authority building.



Key to all of this renewed vibrancy is a new heart of the global city of Singapore – Marina Bay. It was part of the Singapore harbour some 30 years ago, a stretch of water that was the anchorage for hundreds of coastal ships as they moved cargo from wooden boats.

Lest you see a concrete jungle rising at Marina Bay, visualise instead a waterfront with areas for a Business & Financial Centre (BFC), an Integrated Resort (IR) housing hotels, theme parks, a giant Ferris wheel, high-end housing, upmarket shopping malls, a casino, underground linkways complete with air-conditioned shopping malls, green belts of gardens and golf courses, and, most of all, a body of water – the Marina Basin – which will become a reservoir catering to water sports activities from powerboat racing to canoeing and wakeboarding.

The vision for Marina Bay is that of a 24/7 live-work-play environment – a new downtown that is the essence of what Singapore thinks it envisages a global city to be in the future, said Minister for National Development Mah Bow Tan when he presided at the Singapore Institute of Architects' 45th awards presentation function recently.

Three plots amounting to some 310 hectares are now available for development with the aim of bringing an extra buzz to the Marina Bay area by extending Singapore's downtown district and providing a zone for international water sports and recreation. The three sites are earmarked for an international passenger terminal, a public attraction and a possible boutique hotel.

From the Government's investment into the initial reclamation, another S\$2 billion has been poured into infrastructure that includes a Common Services Tunnel, Rapid Transit System, the Marina Barrage that will create a reservoir,



The Fullerton Hotel, which was once the General Post Office.



Boat Quay, situated in the financial district of Singapore.

and a new waterfront promenade and bridge. The common service tunnel – the first in Southeast Asia – links various new developments as they come up. The service tunnels snake some 20 kilometres underground and provide electricity, water, and telephony services without the need for above-surface works that normally impede the smooth flow of traffic.

Building on Singapore's Garden City legacy, three world-class waterfront gardens (94 hectares) have been planned for the area. Each garden features a distinctive design and character. A 13-kilometre-long promenade and connecting bridges will link the gardens, forming a continuous public waterfront loop. To be completed around 2010, the gardens will be a green sanctuary for all visitors.

The largest investor to date that is adding another jewel to Marina Bay in the form of a S\$5 billion Integrated Resort is US gaming giant Las Vegas Sands. They won an international tender to build and operate Singapore's first IR. The second IR will be on Singapore's resort island Sentosa.

A key winning factor in clinching the win was Las Vegas Sands' strong emphasis on generating MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions & exhibitions) traffic to the Marina Sands IR. When completed by 2009, Marina Sands will feature a huge hotel, exhibition and convention complex and the casino, while some 20,000 sq metres is being set aside for an art and science museum.

Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is working to bring more activity and vibrancy with waterborne activities to the Greater Marina Bay, comprising

Marina Bay, Marina Channel, Kallang Basin/ Kallang River and the Singapore River.

The Bay will host the inaugural International Pink Dragon Boat Council World Championships in September. It will also be the place for high-speed sporting events such as jet-ski, wakeboarding and water-ski championships. A 2.5 km long power-sporting circuit has been earmarked for these races.

At the Kallang Basin, a 35 hectare zone of water has been earmarked for non-motorised sports such as canoeing and dragon boating. Nearby, a 5 ha zone at the Kallang River will be used for motorised water sports.

In the Marina Channel, there will be a new 1 km race course for dragon boat, canoeing and rowing competitions in a 30 ha water sports zone.

Mr Mah added that, to enhance the accessibility to and in the Bay, water taxi services will be extended with 13 new stops to the various attractions and water bodies.

It looks as though Marina Bay will certainly add to the new-look Singapore, reflecting what Mr Lee described as "a city in our image, a sparkling jewel, a home for all of us to be proud of".



Upgraded precinct at Toa Payoh North.



Artist impression of Marina Bay Integrated Resort. Las Vegas Sands has won the project with a \$3.85 billion bid. The resort will be named Marina Bay Sands.

Staying Relevant in the Midst of Globalisation

By Raymond Lim

Singapore does not have the luxury of pursuing a foreign policy of abstract ideals. Like that of other countries, ours is a servant to the national goals of survival and prosperity. The guiding principle is national interest. Of course, this does not mean that we have to define our interests narrowly.

For Singapore, by survival, we mean to be successful – to be exceptionally so. By safeguarding our independence, we mean to have an overwhelmingly strong defence capability that deters others from dreaming of impinging upon us. Our success and independence are, in turn, the sum of our strategic relevance for the key regional and global powers, and the international economic and political system. The daily business of diplomacy is about making friends with whom we share common interests, particularly that of Singapore's continued independence.

GLOBALISATION

Today, we are a key node in the global supply chain, as one of the busiest sea ports in the world. We are the third most wired nation in the world. Because trade is our lifeline, Singapore has placed the highest priority on the multilateral trading system, as embodied in the WTO, and supported by other regional fora such as APEC and ASEAN. We have also deepened our commitment to free trade through Free Trade Agreements.

There is no question that we had rightly chosen globalisation as our survival strategy. However, each solution brings with it new risks and challenges. And it certainly cannot help us overcome fully the constraints of size and geography.

SINGAPORE'S REGIONAL CONTEXT

Singapore has always sought friendly relationships with our neighbours, based on the principle of mutual respect and benefit. However, the fact that we uphold meritocracy and multi-racialism as the most just and efficient way of organising a society presents a number of questions for countries with different systems.

Episodic disagreements notwithstanding, we have enjoyed long periods of cooperative accommodation with Malaysia and Indonesia. As neighbours, it is inevitable that disputes should arise from time to time. With Malaysia, we have been able to arrive at an amicable, fair and balanced settlement over our land reclamation case. We look forward to a similarly happy outcome on the Pedra Branca case.

With Indonesia, just recently, we agreed to work together to establish Special Economic Zones on Batam, Bintan and Karimun. This is aimed at invigorating investor interest and creating more jobs for Indonesians.

We are also working with the other Southeast Asian countries to build a stronger ASEAN. However, the future of ASEAN would necessarily be a different proposition from that of the EU precisely because Southeast Asia and Europe have had different histories.

Southeast Asia, on the other hand, is a recent strategic invention. Our peoples are not homogenous and our political systems span from monarchy to liberal democracy.

The primordial forces of race, language and religion continue to be existential issues for several countries and the organisation of ASEAN as a whole. We exist as a collection of new states with tender sovereignties. This sets significant limits on what ASEAN can do. We are nevertheless moving in the right direction, towards ASEAN as a true security community where, hopefully like Europe, bloodshed and war in Southeast Asia will become unthinkable. But we are not there yet.

DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST ASIA

Post-Cold War, the new Asian geopolitical map is still being re-drawn. While most agree that a prosperous and stable China is the best-case scenario for Asia, its inevitable challenge to the existing balance of power would be a source of uncertainty for some time. China, Japan and India are integrating their economic destinies while competing for strategic influence. Despite its preoccupation with the Middle East and the global war on terror, the US is in the process of consolidating its alliance with Japan and building a new one with India. However, a question mark hangs over the US' troubled alliance with South Korea and therefore the future of US military presence in Asia. Japan and India are finding fresh impetus in their relationship.

China, too, has been successful at securing its borders with neighbouring countries, and renewing its ties with Southeast Asia and Russia.

These are the uncharted waters that the smaller states in the region, including Singapore, are navigating in. We are all seeking to balance the need to seize economic opportunities with our long term strategic goals.

THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH

You are stakeholders of our common destiny, and have an important role to play. First, I would like you to strive to be well-informed. Read widely, and be analytical and alert to the ideological perspective of your sources. Be discerning in what you accept as truth.

Second, I would like you to pay attention to the successes of other countries, consider and suggest how we could learn and adapt from them. And I would like you to have a certain sense of empathy, to consider the human tragedies behind the headlines on conflict, terrorism, natural disasters and poverty.

Third, I should like you to be inquisitive and respectful of their systems and cultures, and also, to be ambassadors of Singapore. I hope that in explaining who we are, you will be both quietly proud of our achievements, and yet humbled by the thought of all that is left to do. Just as wars are too important to be left only to generals, diplomacy is too important to be left only to diplomats.

The above is an edited extract of Minister for Transport and Second Minister For Foreign Affairs, Raymond Lim's speech at the Temasek Seminar, at the Safti MI OCS Main Auditorium on 26 July 2006.



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