Singapore Governance

Guide Information

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Introduction

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Introduction

Over the years, Singapore has developed a good reputation for sound government and has been rated highly for its efficiency, rule of law and lack of corruption by international rating agencies, such as IMD, Transparency International and PERC. Good governance has been a key factor to attract international attention. Singapore's system of governance is unique to her circumstances and they are shaped by...
three key elements:

Unique Nation: Relates to its physical constraints - size, lack of natural resources, and a multi-racial society;
Unique Environment: Relates to fundamental forces in our external environment that influence our existence; and
Unique Government: Relates to the unique features of its political system, including the legacy of the PAP Government.

There are 5 key principles of Singapore governance:

i. Leadership - eschew corruption, do what is right, not what is popular, be pragmatic and provide long term vision;
ii. Reward for Work: Work for Reward - self-reliance, not welfare and meritocracy for best use of talent;
iii. A Stake for Everyone, Opportunities for All - Singapore a global city and choice home, promote collective responsibility, beyond physical stakes and preserve core values and interests;
iv. Anticipate Change; Stay Relevant - stay nimble and flexible, be better organised than competitors, exploit opportunities even in adversity and turn constraints into advantage.

Reference:
Principles of Governance
http://www.ne.edu.sg/principles_of_governance.htm
Accessed 13 September 2010

Editorial Notes

Books and texts are often mainstays of resource guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. In the creation of this libguide however, effort was also made to recommend resources that are highly accessible, such as, ebooks, journal and newspaper articles, authoritative websites, among others. Please find below a brief write-up of the resource formats, as well as, how to access them.

• Print materials from both the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, as well as, NLB’s Public Libraries. Just click on the given links to activate NLB’s online catalogue showing availability of the items. Apart from the reference books at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, books recommended in this guide can be reserved online and brought to the library branch of your choice for a small fee of $1.55 (just click on "Reserve this item").

• Journal Articles from the library's eResources service (http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg). Most of the recommended journal articles is from Proquest Central is accessible from home. Just click on the given links to be brought to the relevant section of the eResources site. Thereafter, register (if you are new to the service) or log-in >> click on the Proquest Central) >> conduct a search using the article’s title.

• Newspaper articles from the Factiva database, as well as, the NewspaperSG database. Factiva is available via our eResources service and articles within can be accessed in the same manner as that for journal articles (described above). Newspapers from NewspaperSG can be accessed via (http://newspapers.nl.sg). Articles from 1831 - 1989 can be accessed from home (direct links to the articles are provided) while those after 1989 can only be accessed onsite at the libraries.

• Websites

This guide highlights items in the collection, and is thus not intended to be comprehensive. Interested readers should search the NLB catalogue for more works.

Share your links

If you know of any interesting resource not featured in this guide, please share with us! It's easy, just click below :)

Back to Top

Singapore Governance

Web Resources

• Singapore Yearbook 2009: Government and Politics
  Provides comprehensive information and links to the Cabinet, Legislature, Singapore Public Service, Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, National Security Coordination Secretariat and National Population Secretariat.

• Governance, leadership and economic growth in Singapore
  The article highlights how rapid socio-economic transformation and enhanced quality of life was made possible through the ruling political party’s (PAP’s) brave attempt to liberalise the economy and attract foreign capital through various measures. The pervasive role of the government is visible in all aspects of economic life in Singapore, making it a classic example of the direct relationship between transparency and economic development.

• Corporate governance
  http://infopedia.rg.sg/search/search/details/PF-Corporate-Governance-Feb06.html
  Corporate governance has re-emerged as one of the most significant business topics. It is defined as the structure and function of a corporation in relation to its stakeholders generally, and its shareholders specifically. It has been widely discussed, debated and analysed for many decades. This Pathfinder provides a list of books, journals, databases and websites on corporate governance.

• gov.sg: Information policies
  http://www.gov.sg/governmentweb/content/govspg/classic/Info_N_Policy/
  This page provides links to information on some of the recent government policies and initiatives, categorised according to industry and sector.

• Singapore Statutes Online
  http://sgstatutes.gov.sg/sgstatutes.html
  Site contains the full text of the Singapore Statutes (law). Contains history of amendments to the statutes through the years.

• Principles of Governance
  This is an excellent site which describes in detail the uniqueness of the Singapore governance and its four key tenets that have been distilled as characteristics of principles of governance: Leadership is Key, Reward for Work; Work for Reward, A Stake for Everyone, Opportunities for All & Anticipate Change; Stay Relevant.

• Singapore’s presidents
  Provides information on Singapore's Presidents in chronological order.
  Abstract: A short write up on Singapore's Presidents in chronological order.
Overview

Definition
As guided by a set of principles, the government is responsible for making important decisions to meet the needs of the nation and its people. Governance refers to the way a government manages the resources of the country to carry out its functions. Simultaneously, citizens' support for the policies are important to ensure good governance. Principles of good governance comprises Fairness, Pragmatism, Meritocracy & Incurruptibility and Forward-looking.

The Government in Singapore
Singapore is a republic with a parliamentary system of government based on the Westminster model. The Constitution of the Republic of Singapore provides for a President who is the Head of State. Prior to 1991, the President was appointed by Parliament and had a largely ceremonial role.

In January 1991, the Constitution was amended to allow for the election of a President by the citizens of Singapore. The elected President will hold office for a fixed term of six years. The creation of the elected presidency was a major constitutional and political change in Singapore's history.

The President is empowered to veto government budgets and appointments to public office. With consultation of the Council of Presidential Advisers, he can examine the government’s exercise of its powers under the Internal Security Act, Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act and investigations of cases of corruption.

The first Presidential election was held on 28 August 1993 and Mr Ong Teng Cheong was elected by the people and sworn-in on 1 September 1993. The second Elected President was Mr S. R. Nathan who succeeded Mr Ong Teng Cheong in 1999.

Singapore Parliament
The Singapore Parliament is modelled on the British system. Singapore's written Constitution provides for a President as a Head of State, elected by the people for a term of four years. Political power is vested in the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, which is collectively responsible to Parliament, the supreme legislative authority.

Being the highest legislative authority, Parliament has the power to make, amend or revoke any law which is consistent with the Constitution. The Parliament has to consider bills, and approve the government's fiscal policy and the Budget that outlines the government's financial policy for the coming year.

Parliament has a life span of five years from the date of its first sitting unless it is dissolved earlier. According to the Constitution, when Parliament is dissolved, a general election must be held within three months. Every citizen aged 21 or above is eligible to vote. Voting in elections has been compulsory since 1969.

When a new Parliament is convened, the first business is to elect a Speaker who qualifies under the Constitution to stand for election as a Member of Parliament and this person will be the Presiding Officer of Parliament. Members of Parliament (MPs) may speak in any of the four official languages and oral translations are provided simultaneously during parliamentary debate. Questions may be posted orally or in writing.

Government Parliamentary Committee (GPCs)
The functions of GPC are to improve the quality of parliamentary debates. It comprises five or six MPs with the authority to appoint a panel of up to 12 persons from outside Parliament to review public policy issues. They may suggest, propose, feedback, defend, review and evaluate the public policy issues.

The Legislative system of Singapore
The Legislature comprises the President and Members of Parliament. The Members of Parliament are made up of Elected MPs, Non-Consituency MPs (NCMPs) and Nominated MPs.

The structure of the Singapore Government comprises three branches i.e. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. Each of them has their own set of powers and responsibilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Its Tasks</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| The Legislature | Consists of the President and Members of the Parliament.  
The Legislature makes the laws (rules of conduct established by the authority, legislation, or custom of a given community, state or nation) which helps keep order such as the prevention of crime, allowing people to live with a peace of mind. |
| The Executive   | The executive consists of the President and the Cabinet (Prime Minister and Ministers in charge of various ministries).  
It is responsible for making all government policies. It administers government policies through the Ministers and the Civil Service.  
When the Executive Branch carries out policies, feedback from the public is considered. |
| The Judiciary   | It is made up of a Chief Justice with the judges in the law courts. Anyone who disobeys the law can be charged in court.  
The Judiciary makes its decisions and judgments independently without being influenced by the views of others. |

References
Call number: H87.733 Upp 2001
National Institute of Education, NTU

Books
- Governance in Singapore by Worthington, Ross R
  Call Number: RSING 320.9597 WCR
  ISBN: 9780700714742
  Based on extensive original research, this book provides detailed information and analysis about the peculiarities of the elitist and highly controlled system of governance in Singapore.

- Politics and governance in Singapore: An Introduction by Bilveer Singh
  Call Number: RSING 320.9597 SNS
  ISBN: 9780071201845 (pbk.)
  This handbook provides a foundational overview of Singapore's politics. It examines historical and structural dimensions of politics as well as the way politics is conducted in the country.

- Governance at the leading edge: Black swans, wild cards, and wicked problems by Ho, Peter
  Call Number: RSING 351.9597 H0
This book discusses the challenges faced by the government at the leading edge, a forward position reached through a combination of inherited good practice and continuous, incremental and innovative adaptation in the public and private sectors around the world.  

- Practice of good governance [electronic resource]: Social studies for upper secondary teachers' resource CD  
Call Number: RISG 300.712 PRA  
Publisher: Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2008  

2 resource CDs for teachers, that contain video clips and clips to support Social Studies (Upper Secondary) Syllabus. There are suggested activities for the teaching of critical thinking skills in analysing and understanding the practice of good governance in various aspects of a country's development.  

- Pioneers once more: the Singapore Public Service, 1959-2009 by Chua Mui Hoong  
Call Number: RISG 351.5957 CHU  
ISBN: 9789814266574  
Publisher: Singapore: Straits Times Press and Public Service Division, 2010  
The Public Service has a pivotal role in Singapore's history and development since 1959. This study, rich with photographs and inset summaries, offers an overview of many of the changes and developments in Singapore's public policy.  

- Public administration Singapore-style by Quah, Jon S. T  
Call Number: RISG 351.5957 QUA  
ISBN: 9781849002944  
Publisher: Bingley: Emerald, 2010  
The book aims to rectify the gap in the literature by providing a detailed study of public administration. The book's main conclusion is that the nature and success of public administration in Singapore results from the combined influence of Singapore's context and the various policies introduced by the People's Action Party (PAP) government since it assumed office in June 1959, over 50 years ago.  

- Dynamic governance: Embedding culture, capabilities and change in Singapore by Neo, Boon Siong  
Call Number: RISG 351.5957 NEO  
ISBN: 9812106941  
Publisher: Beijing: Zhong xin chu ban she, 2010.  
ISBN: 9787503672168  
This book provides an in-depth look at dynamic governance, the key to success in a world of rapid, increasing globalization and unsettling technological advancements.  

Call Number: RISG 359.597 GEO  
ISBN: 981306546X  
Publisher: Singapore: Landmark Books, 2000  
This book is written as a survey of critical contemporary issues and offers rich analyses and insights about the very nature of the Singapore system and the dynamics shaping it.  

- Singapore politics under the People's Action Party by Mauzy, Diane K  
Call Number: RISG 320.99557 MAU  
ISBN: 0415346659  
Publisher: London ; New York, N.Y. : Routledge, 2002  
This book is a comprehensive overview of politics in Singapore since self-government. The authors examine how this tiny island has developed into a global financial centre and attained economic and social success under the leadership of the People's Action Party which has ruled continuously since 1959.  

- Parties and politics: A Study of opposition parties and the PAP in Singapore by Hussin Muttalib  
Call Number: RISG 324.25957 HUS  
ISBN: 9812104089  
Publisher: Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Academic, 2004  
This book provides a comprehensive study of Singapore's political system and democratic culture with a focus on opposition parties. It discusses their roles, contributions and limitations within a PAP-dominated political system.  

- Governance, politics and the environment: A Singapore study by Francesch-Hudobro, Ma  
Call Number: RISG 320.38095579 FRA  
ISBN: 988912308320  
Publisher: Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2008  
This book explores the connections among the government, politics and the environment in Singapore. It discusses how Singapore uses it to evolve, through three case narratives. Its rationale is to address this gap in the literature from a 'governance theory' perspective that focuses on state adaptation to the external environment and new forms of coordination and collaboration between government and civil society to tackle new societal problems.  

- Men in white: The Untold story of Singapore's ruling political party by Yap, Sonny, Richard Lim and Leong Weng Kam  
Call Number: RISG 324.25957 YAP  
ISBN: 9814260248  
Publisher: Singapore: Straits Times Press, 2010  
The book provides the inside story of one of the world's most successful political parties, the ruling People's Action Party of Singapore. Narrated in three parts, it chronicles the rise, fall, capture, split and rise of a political party which has become synonymous with the spellbinding success of Singapore, and delves into the reasons for its track record and longevity.  

- Singapore places its bets: Casinos, foreign talent, and remaking a city-state by Da Cunha, Derek  
Call Number: RISG 338.99557 DAC  
ISBN: 9814260607  
Publisher: Singapore: Straits Times Press Reference, 2010  
The book sketches out some of the transformative political changes that have occurred in Singapore society since the late 1990s. It focuses on Singapore's ambitious efforts to reorient its economy to take on the challenges thrown up by the competitive pressures of globalisation, and how in the process it has had to "remake" itself.  

- The media, cultural control, and government in Singapore by Terence Lee  
Call Number: RISG 302.23905579 LEE  
ISBN: 0415413033  
Publisher: Singapore: Straits Times Press Reference, 2010  
This book explores the inherent contradiction present in most facets of Singaporean media, cultural and political discourses, and identifies the key regulatory strategies and technologies that the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) employs to regulate Singapore media and culture, and thus govern the thoughts and conduct of Singaporeans.  

- Singapore in the new millennium : Challenges facing the city-state by RISG 959.57 SIN  
ISBN: 9812301313  
Publisher: Singapore : Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2002  
This book contains ten conference papers pertaining to challenges and issues on Singapore governance.  

- Debating Singapore : Reflective essays by Da Cunha, Derek  
Call Number: RISG 959.5705 DEB  
ISBN: 9814018025  
Publisher: Singapore : Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1994  
This volume of thirty-one essays offers perceptive observations, acerbic commentary and judicious critiques from academics and professionals on key economic, social and cultural issues that have shaped discourse on Singapore since 1990.  

- Leaders of Singapore by Chew, Melanie  
Call Number: RISG q920.05957 CHE  
ISBN: 981007333X  
Publisher: Singapore : Resource Press, 1996  
This book profiles several generations of Singapore's leaders from different sectors of society, business, government and community. They include Mr Yusof Ishak, S Rajaratnam and Lee Kong Chian.  

- From third world to first : the Singapore story, 1965-2000 : memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew by Lee Kuan Yew  
Call Number: RISG 959.57902 LEE  
ISBN: 9812048483  
Publisher: Singapore : Times Editions : Singapore Press Holdings, 2000  
The first part of the book describes the social, economic and political development of Singapore, while the second part deals with foreign relations.  

- Singapore: Towards a developed status by Linda Low  
Call Number: RISG 959.57092 LEE  
ISBN: 0195884841  
Publisher: Oxford: Singapore: Oxford University Press, c1999  
This book assesses the country's strategies and conduct enabled Singapore to attain developed country status.  

http://libguides.nl.sg/print_content.php?pid=115635&kcid=998471&mode=g
Singapore: Re-engineering success by Arun Mahizhan, Lee Tsao Yuan
Call Number: RSING 959.57 SIN [HIS]
ISBN: 9812102043
Explores and analyses new directions and new solutions to cope with the new realities facing both Singapore and the region.

Singapore: The Global city-state by Murray, G. and Pereira, A
Call Number: RSING 959.57 MUR [HIS]
ISBN: 187341099X
Discusses Singapore's economic policy, economic conditions and foreign relations.

Singapore version 2.0: alternative proposals for a better Singapore by Gerald Giam
Call Number: RSING 959.5705 GIA [HIS]
ISBN: 9795810852740
http://lesources.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=13355693Examines and offers refreshing perspectives on the important public issues such as politics, economy, education, healthcare, transport, public housing, government and civil service, defence and security, media, democracy and civil rights, society and values that affect Singaporeans.

Newspaper Articles
Here is a selection of newspaper articles retrieved from Factiva, a newspaper database subscribed by the National Library Singapore.

About Factiva
Factiva enables you to gain single click access to a deep archive of news and business information that provides a historical, global, and local perspective.

• The matter of governance
Business Times Singapore, 13 May 2005, 932 words
Discusses the processes of political education, challenge and struggle. Catherine Lim goes so far as to paint the consequences of a nation of 'politically naive ... people who have never experienced the normal messy, noisy but healthy processes of political education, challenge and struggle'.

• Back to a future of lower costs.
Strait Times, 25 November 1998
The article offers insights to the ambiguity of Singapore governance. ...whether it was intended to deal with the current, and very present, economic crisis, or longer-term, and thus future, competitiveness - they could not be blamed for it, as that ambiguity defined the very nature of Singapore governance ...

• The Effect of Governance on Credit Decisions and Perceptions of Reporting Reliability
Behavioral Research in Accounting, 1 January 2010
Examines the important governance reforms in Singapore ...reporting reliability and the risk of fraud, opportunistic behavior, and corporate performance. However, while the Singapore governance reforms generally mimic the U.S. SOX-driven governance regulations, they are not guidelines and not binding.

• Singapore practices good governance, has strong leadership
Bernama Daily Malaysian News, 7 December 2009
Discusses the principles on governance and leadership of the Singapore Government in decision and policy-making.

... Good governance and strong leadership are the critical elements which underpin how the Singapore government steers its future forward, an Asia summit heard today...

• Not leaving leadership to chance
Strait Times, 18 July 2004
Discusses the leadership succession of the Singapore Government. ...When it comes to leadership succession, the Singapore Government does not leave anything to chance and prefers to plan well in advance. Here are the views of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Deputy Prime Minister Lee...

• Culture, state and economic development in Singapore
Journal of Contemporary Asia, 1 January 2003
This article proposes an alternative cultural model to transcend limitations in explaining the economic transformation in Singapore. The inherent problems of the values of the Singaporean government are also analysed.

...state, which in part may be attributed to the regulation of certain cultural values - those reconstructed by the Singaporean government under the influence of both Western and Oriental cultures. This empirical case poses a challenge to the validity...

This article attempts to construct a partial explanation of Singapore's achievement story from the viewpoint of culture. It also uses the same cultural approach to examine the major forms of inherent strain embodied in Singapore's model of development.

• S'pore Gdp rated top in Asia
Strait Times, 26 June 2000
The Singapore Government emerged tops among Asian governments for the effectiveness of its economic policies and was also ranked first for the overall quality of its political leadership, despite having an economic management style described as "moderately interventionist".

...THE Singapore Government emerged tops among Asian governments for the effectiveness of its economic policies, according to a survey of Asian leadership by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (Perc), a Hong Kong-based...

• See through transparency: Quality of leadership more important than following openness trend for governance
TODAY (Singapore), 29 December 2005
Highlights that the key to good public governance is to have leaders who are beyond reproach - honest, trustworthy, incorruptible.

...The Singapore Government upholds the principle that the key to good public governance is to have leaders who are beyond reproach - honest, trustworthy, incorruptible. Most Singaporeans support this, ...

• The advantage of ethical leadership
Business Times Singapore, 29 April 2005
Describes the clean and ethical leadership of the Singapore government. ...When the present Singapore government took office in 1959, we had a deep sense of mission to establish... clean and ethical government. We made ethical and incorruptible leadership a core issue in our election campaign. It was our counter to...

• A global, vibrant Singapore
This article examines how Singapore has been transformed into a world-class hub and home.

Print Journal
• The judiciary - Is it Fair or Oppressive?
Author: Kioo, K. H.
Journal Articles via NLBeResources

- Governance and Bureaucracy in Singapore: Contemporary Reforms and Implications
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: M. Shamsul Haque
  Database: JSTOR
  Abstract: In recent decades, there have been substantial reforms in governance and administration based on neoliberal assumptions, market-driven policies, and neo-managerial principles.

- Changing Face of Singapore
  [Link](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4400285)
  Author: M. R. Jill
  Database: JSTOR
  Abstract: If Singapore has been transformed from an entrepot centre with a squatter-ridden society into one of Asia's wealthiest nations it has been at the cost of those who made this possible, the working class. This neglect of workforce welfare measures is beginning to have an impact on the political scene today.

- The Role of Parliamentary Politicians in Singapore
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Chan Heng Chee
  Database: JSTOR
  Abstract: This study concerns the roles and activities of parliamentary politicians in Singapore at two levels: the national legislature and the constituency. Four roles are defined within the dominant one-party system: the technocrat, mobilizer, Malay votegetter, and Chinese-educated intellectual.

- Leadership Succession in Singapore: The Best Laid Plans...
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Diane K. Ma
  Database: JSTOR
  Abstract: The article describes Singapore's systematic and painstakingly planned political succession contrasts with succession of the Third World.

- Citizen Participation and Policy Making in Singapore: Conditions and Predicaments
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Ho Khi Loong
  Database: JSTOR
  Abstract: Examines the power and importance of citizenry in principle of governance of any regime.

- Singapore practises good governance, has strong leadership
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Anonymous
  Database: ProQuest Asian Business and Reference
  Abstract: The article describes the five principles of good governance that the island republic has applied successfully to run the city-state, namely, "Good, Clean Governance", "Integrity and Meritocracy", "Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant", "Do What is Right, Not What is Popular" and "Leadership is Key."

- The dual narrative of "good governance": Lessons for understanding political and cultural change in Malaysia and Singapore
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Subramaniam, Sirin
  Database: ProQuest Asian Business and Reference
  Abstract: The narrative of good governance has become particularly relevant in understanding political and cultural change in Malaysia and Singapore. This study shows that the narrative of good governance is a double-edged sword - that is, it can be used in rather contradictory ways.

- Leadership Succession in Singapore: The Best Laid Plans...
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Diane K. Maclay
  Database: JSTOR
  Abstract: The article describes Singapore's systematic and painstakingly planned political succession.

- Singapore's global education hub ambitions: University governance change and transnational higher education
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Ho Hee Mok
  Database: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete
  Abstract: This article focuses on how the Singapore government has changed its higher education governance models in enhancing the global competitiveness of its higher education system by adopting more pro-competition policy instruments and allowing the growth of transnational education in the city state.

- Beyond technocracy: The culture of elite governance in Lee Hsien Loong's Singapore
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Barr, Michael D
  Database: EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: Focuses on the elite governance in Singapore and examines the way in which the culture of elite governance disguises the role of personal connections and privilege, and the personal nature of power within the system.

- Cultural governance and creative industries in Singapore
  [Link](http://repository.nlb.gov.sg/brinwsa.aspx?rowsby=J&filter=1)
  Author: Yue, Audrey
  Database: EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: This paper critically examines Singapore's recent cultural policy developments in tourism, broadcasting and new media. It argues that new creative industries have produced new consumption patterns and identities that harness the place-branding of "New Asia" as a form of cultural capital and a strategy of regional dominance.
Singapore's Transport Policies

Web Resources

- Land Transport Authority of Singapore
  [http://www.lta.gov.sg/]
  The Land Transport Authority website provides information on both public and private transport and other matters pertaining to road use in Singapore.

- Singapore Land Transport System
  [http://libguides.nl.sg/content.php?id=935985&sid=998349&search=transportation]
  Provides resources and gives an overview of the history and development of the land transport system in Singapore, including public and private transport and transport policies.

- Books about Singapore: A select bibliography
  [http://libguides.nl.sg/opbooks_about_singapore]
  This annotated bibliography covers more than 19 subject categories pertaining to Singapore. Of relevance is the chapter on Politics and Government.

- Electronic Road Pricing System (ERP)
  [http://libguides.nl.sg/links/SIP_1398_2009-01-05.html]
  The Electronic Road Pricing, otherwise known as ERP, is a Land Transport Authority (LTA) initiative where toll charges are levied on vehicles according to time and congestion levels. With this system of charging, a motorist is empowered to decide on the time, destination and route of his journey. The Land Transport Authority would also be able to monitor heavily congested highways and increase charges in the hope of reducing traffic.

- OneMotorising
  This websites provides information on owning and maintaining vehicles in Singapore.

- Electronic road pricing: developments after phase I
  [http://infopeak.ni.sg/articles/SIP_1398_2009-01-05.html]
  The Land Transport Authority (LTA) launched the Electronic Road Pricing, or ERP, system in April 1998 as a new way to manage traffic congestion. Phase I was completed in September 1998 with the activation of ERP for East Coast Parkway (ECP), Central Expressway (CTE), Pan-Island Expressway (PIE) and the city area. Since then, the number of ERP gantries in operation has increased to 66, up from 33 at the end of 1998. Improvements have also been made to the scheme since it was first introduced.

- Sustainable Transport: Priorities for Policy Reform by The World Bank [electronic resource]
  The article contains sustainable development, economic and financial sustainability, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, role of government in the transport sector and the role of the bank group.

- Singapore's Land Transport: Land Transport Review Part 2: Public transport (rail)
  Announcement on rail expansion plan for the next 10 to 15 years.

- Modernisation and incorporation: the development of Singapore's bus services 1945 - 1974
  The article highlights the development of Singapore's bus services for the period 1945 - 1974 and the complexity of the modernisation and incorporation process.

Overview

Development of MRT, Restricted Zones & ERP

As early as the 1970s, the government realised that building more roads alone was not the solution to managing the flow of traffic in Singapore. Research showed that the growth of the car population was expected to increase from 136,000 vehicles in 1973 to about 500,000 by 1992. If nothing was done, 8-lane highways in both directions would be needed within the Central Business District. This finding prompted one of Singapore's pioneer transportation engineers, Mr Lim Leong Geok, to raise the issue of managing traffic operations over so many lanes, which would be impractical and potentially dangerous.

This soon led to the exploration of a rail system. Some planners in the 1970s including the then Finance Minister, Goh Keng Swee, supported an integrated all bus public transport system. They felt the $5 billion cost of a rail system was too expensive and not really necessary. A properly managed bus system could do the job equally well at a much lower cost. These opposing points of view resulted in the 'Great MRT Debate' which lasted more than 10 years.

The Government enlisted foreign expertise to carry out independent studies of the alternatives available. The findings were then published in the papers and a live broadcast debate was also held. It was important that the public was aware of the issue at hand. Eventually, the idea of the integration of bus and rail, where the bus functions like a feeder to the rail system was decided upon. The decision was to have the Mass Rapid Transit System to meet Singapore's transportations needs, and this was made available from 1987.

The Government is well-known for its pragmatic approach to problem solving. It introduced policies such as the Restricted Zones and Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) System and periodically carries out road expansion projects to facilitate smooth traffic flow. The ERP system uses the same idea of controlling traffic jams by getting motorists/car owners/taxis to pay for their road usage. This has changed conditions on busy roads.

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Books

- International Conference on Transportation Into the Next Millennium: proceedings, 9-11 September 1998
  Call Number: RSING 0288.114 INT
  ISBN: 9810400963
  Contains two articles: "The making of Singapore's electronic road pricing system" and "Modelling traveller response to road pricing using the Singapore Slated Preference Survey data".

- Singapore first. Episode 5. ERP, COE, eLIBRARY [videorecording]
  Call Number: RSING 303.4832 SIN
  Of relevance is these VCDs that cover the coverage on Motor Vehicles Registration and Transfer, Electronic Road Pricing System and Urban Transportation.

- How do we ensure a livable city?
  Call Number: RSING 388.4099597 HOW
  Provides discussion on urban transportation policy and planning in Singapore.

- LT Masterplan: a People-Centred Land Transport System
  Call Number: RSING 388.4099597 SIN
  After consultations with the public and stakeholders, the Masterplan was formed. It outlines the vision, strategy and plans for the land transport system in Singapore.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Articles via NLB rSources</th>
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| **Land Transport Policy and Public Transport in Singapore**  
[Link](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/browse.aspx?rwsa_by=A%26fler1=F)  
**Author(s):** Sci H. L. and Trinh D. T.  
**Journal:** Transportation, Vol. 33 iss. 2, 2006, pg. 171  
**Database Name:** ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
**Abstract:** Singapore has a sophisticated and efficient system of land transport to serve a growing demand for transportation. Constrained by limited space, a comprehensive set of land transport policies has been in place to balance the growth in transport demand and the effectiveness of the land transport system. **Output and Productivity Performance of Hong Kong and Singapore's Transport and Communications Sector, 1990 to 2005**  
[Link](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/browse.aspx?rwsa_by=A%26fler1=F)  
**Author:** Lee, L. L. and Shepherd, W.  
**Journal:** Asian Economic Journal, Mar 2009. Vol. 23, Iss. 1; pg. 65  
**Database Name:** ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
**Abstract:** This paper uses the industry of origin approach to analyze value added and labor productivity outcomes arising from progressive liberalization of government and from statutory board control of transport and communications in Singapore. **Singapore plans transport upgrade to ease congestion: [ASIA EDITION]**  
[Link](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/browse.aspx?rwsa_by=A%26fler1=F)  
**Author:** Burton, J.  
**Journal:** Financial Times, London (UK): Jan 31, 2008, pg. 6  
**Database Name:** ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
**Abstract:** The article describes Singapore plans to spend $30billion on expanding its rail and motorway system in a move designed to boost the construction industry, raise property prices in outlying areas and bump up its image as one of Asia's greenest cities. **Reducing Traffic Congestion and Its Impact on Transport Energy Use in Singapore**  
[Link](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/browse.aspx?rwsa_by=A%26fler1=F)  
**Author:** Ang, B. W.  
**Journal:** Energy Policy, Nov 1990. Vol. 18, Iss. 9; pg. 871, 4 pgs  
**Database Name:** ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
**Abstract:** Since the early 1970s, a key element of Singapore's land transport policy has been to reduce traffic congestion. The measures implemented in Singapore have had enormous consequences on the lifestyles and travel patterns of the population. **Managing motorization in sustainable transport planning: the Singapore experience.**  
[Link](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/browse.aspx?rwsa_by=A%26fler1=F)  
**Author:** Han, Sun Sheng  
**Journal:** Journal of Transport Geography, Vol.18 No.2, 2010  
**Database Name:** EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier  
**Abstract:** The primary objective of this paper is to make a connection between the Singapore story of land transport policy development and the pathway towards sustainable transport planning. Its innovation is to allow a parallel growth in motorization and public transit. **Multiple dimensions in negotiating the cross-border transport links that connect and divide Singapore and Johor, Malaysia.**  
[Link](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/browse.aspx?rwsa_by=A%26fler1=F)  
**Author:** Batten, P. A.  
**Journal:** Asia Pacific Viewpoint, Vol. 47, No. 2, August 2006, pg. 287-303  
**Database Name:** EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
Abstract: Despite recent literature pointing to the need for a multidimensional approach to border processes, transport links across borders are usually uncritically associated with cross-border integration. This paper focuses on examining the roles played by transport facilities in border processes.

- Singapore: The Development of a World Class Transport System.
  Author: May, A.D.
  Database Name: EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: Singapore's Land Transport Authority, formed in 1995, set itself a mission of producing a world class transport system. This paper assesses the extent to which this goal is being achieved. It outlines the structure within which transport decisions are taken and indicates the freedom this gives to develop integrated transport and land-use strategies.

  Author: Ruely L O.
  Journal: Innovation, Vol.3 No.3, 2002, pg. 70
  Database Name: EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: Focuses on the implementation of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in Singapore. Description of the Green Link Determination traffic light control systems; Details of the Electronic Road Pricing; Implementation of Junction Electronic Eyes video surveillance systems.

- Improvements and integration of a public transport system: the case of Singapore
  Author: Ibrahim, M. F.
  Database Name: EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: This paper illustrates the initiatives undertaken in Singapore to improve and enhance the public transport system. Being a small city-state, with limited land supply, encouraging the use of public transport and restraining car ownership and usage seems to be an obvious choice in managing the city-state's transport problems.

- Singapore expands its public transport network.
  Author: Journal: World Pumps, Vol.2002 No.42E, pg. 17
  Database Name: EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: The government of Singapore is spending millions to upgrade and extend the express train line network of the city-state in order to cope with ever-increasing demand.

Journal Articles on the Web

- Driverless systems the challenge for the operator and maintainer
  Author: M. A. and Grady, N.
  This paper sets out the experiences of SBS Transit Ltd in the operation and maintenance of two driverless guided transport systems in Singapore. It discusses how the Government of Singapore recognises the role of public transport in the development of the nation and how the provision of high quality public transport is used as a development tool.

Back to Top

Singapore's Population

Web Resources

- New package of measures to support parenthood
  Describes the comprehensive new package of measures to support parenthood.

- Baby Bonus - Children Development Co-Savings (Baby Bonus) Scheme
  Provides details of the Baby Bonus Scheme that supports parents' decision to have more children by helping to lighten the financial costs of raising children. It was introduced on 1 April 2001 and enhanced on 1 August 2004 and 17 August 2008.

- Parenthood Tax rebate
  Information on Parenthood Tax Rebate (PTR), which is a lump sum rebate given to married Singapore tax residents to encourage them to have more Singapore citizen children by providing them with financial support for bringing up their children.

- CPF Housing Top Up Grant
  Describes the CPF Housing Top-Up Grant Scheme.

- Paid Maternity Leave (Conversion to Parental Leave to Benefit Fathers)
  http://sgp1.mys.gov.sg/PressRoom/PaidMaternityLeaveConversionToObjectParentalLeave.aspx
  The article discusses 4th month of paid maternity leave to be converted to parental leave, thereby allowing the flexibility for fathers to consume the leave entitlement.

- Singapore's first family planning services
  http://infopedia.nl.sg/atlantis/SIP_1650_2010-02-26.html
  Family planning services were first introduced to the Singapore population following the establishment of the Singapore Family Planning Association (SFPA) in 1949 and birth control methods and contraceptive supplies were provided to mothers.

Overview

Singapore's population

Family planning was unheard of in Singapore until a small group of public-spirited individuals started a voluntary organisation called ‘The Singapore Family Planning Association’ in 1949. In the early years, it was difficult to get people to accept family planning. Traditional values of large families as a symbol of wealth, the need for heirs and sons to continue the family name, and religious and public opposition were the main reasons. It took time for people to be convinced that there was a need to limit family size. It was only eight years later that there were signs of a fall in birth rate. The decline was due to the Association’s education programmes. These included exhibitions on family planning and tours to rural community centres. In 1959, the Association was allowed to offer its services to government clinics and the Kandang Kerbau Maternity Hospital.

From 1959 to 1965, there was a further drop in the birth rate. However, the fall in birth rate was still too small to allow Singapore to attain economic stability. The government realised it could no longer depend on a voluntary association to carry out this important task. The Singapore Family Planning and Population Board (SFPB) was set up on 12 January 1966 to carry out family planning programme in Singapore.

The SFPB was dissolved in June 1985 and its many functions concerning family planning have since been taken over by the Ministry of Health.

Other measures of the 1966 to 1981 population policy

Abortion: The 1969 Abortion Act allowed abortions to be carried out up to 16th week of pregnancy on socio-economic and medical grounds. Abortion was further liberalised with the amended Abortion Act of 1974 which allowed abortions to be used taken up to the 24th week. However, with the 1987 population policy, pre and post-abortion counselling was made mandatory for women with fewer than three children.

http://libguides.nl.sg/print_content.php?pid=115635&sid=998471&mode=g
Sterilisation

Voluntary sterilisation was legalised in 1969. It served as a complement to family planning, making it possible for women who had completed family formation to undergo sterilisation. In 1974, sterilisation was made available to all persons on demand. In 1987, pre-sterilisation counselling was made mandatory for couples who have fewer than two living children.

* Have 3 children or more if you can afford it!*

At the National Day Rally on 20 August 2000, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong expressed his concern that Singapore's total fertility rate has fallen from 1.96 in 1988 to 1.59 in 2000, way below the 2.1 required to replace the population.

In 2001, the government introduced some new initiatives to create a total environment conducive to raising a family. One of the initiatives is the Children Development Co-operative Savings Scheme, also known as the Baby Bonus Scheme. When a couple has a second and third child, the government will open a Children Development Account (CDA) for the family. Over six years, the government will contribute up to $9,000 to the account for a couple's second child; and up to $18,000 for a third child. The family can use the Baby Bonus to pay for the development and education of their children. Monies in CDA can be used to pay for fees at the MCDS-licensed childcare centres, MOE-registered kindergartens and pre-school programmes at all education schools that are registered as approved institutions with Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

Another initiative is granting the 8 weeks of paid third child maternity leave to give mothers time to bond with their new baby without suffering a loss in income. Employers will not bear the expense. Instead, the government will pay the cost of the maternity leave for the third child, up to a cap of $20,000.

The Government has also implemented more family-friendly work arrangements in the Civil Service and set up more affordable childcare centres.

New package of measures to support parenthood from 2004

Promoting marriage: HDB Top-up Grant for singles who marry

Qualifying singles may receive a CPF housing grant of $10,000 to buy a resale flat before 2004. Singles who have obtained this grant, and who marry on or after 1 August 2004, will receive a Top-up Grant to the prevailing CPF family housing grant. Based on the prevailing family grant quantum, a couple can receive a top-up of up to $20,000 that can be used to offset the mortgage loan of the existing resale flat or the purchase of another resale flat.

Making child birth more affordable

Use of Medisave for 4th and higher order births and pre-delivery expenses: Before 2004, Singaporeans could use their Medisave for delivery expenses for their first three children. Now they are able to use Medisave to pay for pre-delivery medical expenses in addition to delivery expenses, for all their children. These measures apply to parents of babies born on or after 1 August 2004.

Use of Medisave for Assisted Conception Procedures (ACP): With effect from 1 August 2004, couples who face difficulty conceiving are able to use more from their Medisave accounts to pay for ACP, such as In-Vitro Fertilisation.

Providing financial support for raising children

Enhanced Baby Bonus: The Baby Bonus which was initially given to the second and third child, has been extended to the first and fourth child, with the cash paid out over two years. Parents of Singapore Citizen babies enjoy a Baby Bonus of $3,000 cash for their first child, up to $5,000 cash and matching contributions for their second child, and up to $18,000 cash and matching contributions if the baby is a third or fourth child. The accelerated disbursement of the cash component over two years gives parents more immediate support, as costs are generally higher when the child is younger. The cash can be used for infant care, childcare and kindergarten expenses.

Parenthood Tax Rebate and Working Mothers' Child Relief: Parents of Singaporean children also benefit from enhanced income tax benefits. The Parenthood Tax Rebate - without age requirements or qualifying claim periods - provide tax rebates of $10,000 to $20,000, depending on the birth order of the child. The Working Mothers' Relief - without qualifying educational criteria - provides working mothers a tax relief of 5% to 25% of their earned income, depending on the number of children they have.

Other initiatives recently introduced for enhancing child care options are Longer Maternity Leave (16 weeks), New Child Care Leave, Infant Care Subsidy, Foreign Domestic Worker Levy Concession, Grandparent Caregiver Tax Relief and WoW! (Work-While-World) Fund.

In 2010, fathers of young children can tap on up to 12 days of child-related leave provided for in legislation - 6 days of paid childcare leave and 6 days of unpaid infant care leave. Some employers also provide paternity leave on a voluntary basis. In addition, fathers may utilise their annual leave or agree on alternative work arrangements with their employers, such as part-time work or no-pay leave, to enable them to look after their children.

Reference


Books

- Family planning in Singapore Call Number: RSING 363.96095957 FAM http://eiservice.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=3546616Publisher: [Singapore : Printed by Govt. Printer, 1966?] Includes a white paper on family planning, a speech by Yong Nuy Lin (Member of the Singapore Family Planning and Population Board), a list of family planning clinics and Schedule of charges for family planning supplies.

Journal Articles via NLB eResources

Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete
Abstract: In the mid-1990s the government abandoned its "stop at two" family limitation programme, replacing it with tax incentives to "go for three". The article highlights issues on the future labour shortages and aged-dependency population.

- Population movement in the Asia Pacific region: Singapore perspective

Author: Low, Linda
Journal: The International Migration Review. New York: Fall 1995. Vol. 29, Iss. 3; pg. 745
Database Name: ProQuest Social Science Journals
Abstract: Inequalities in wages and incomes, accompanied by flows of trade, capital and technology as well as globalization, may be some reasons for the significant movement of people in the Asia Pacific region. A study examines population movement in Singapore.

Newspaper Articles
- 2010 census shows Singapore population crossed 5m in June
Business Times Singapore, 1 September 2010
The article presents key findings from the latest 2010 census.

- Population growth not at expense of quality of life
Straits Times, 2 February 2008
The Government plans and creates an optimal climate for investors to sink their roots in, ensuring enough land to talent, and allows the growth process to take on a life of its own.

- Singapore population unlikely to touch 6.5m MM
Business Times Singapore, 7 August 2007
Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew discusses the future growth of Singapore's population.

- Foreign talent influx: Incentives needed to raise Singapore's fertility rate to above 2.1
Straits Times, 16 February 2007
The article projects a future scenario of Singapore's population in 2030 and the challenges ahead.

Ageing Population

Web Resources
- add test
- Health Promotion Board
- The Health Promotion Board website provides information on promoting a healthy lifestyle as well as events that had been organised to promote health.
- Policy Objectives and Framework on Ageing
- An excellent website which provides related publications, statistics, press room items, MCYS news and assistance schemes on ageing.
- Ageing population may hurt Singapore most
- This research report from Swiss banking giant UBS found that the Republic is set to be the world's third-fastest ageing nation, as the proportion of those aged 65 and above will double to 20 per cent in 2020. Singapore may suffer the most among Asian economies from an ageing population, with the average growth in economic output falling more than 40 per cent over the next 25 years.
- Singapore's Changing Structure and the Policy Implications for Financial Security, Employment, Living Arrangements and Health Care
- This paper discusses the issues and implications of population aging for Singapore. It examines some of the social and economic consequences of this rapid shift in Singapore's age structure. The specific areas discussed are financial security, employment, living arrangements, and health care, for Singapore elderly.
- Singapore's Aging Population: The "Stop at Two" and "Three or More If You Can Afford It" Policies
- A look at Singapore's aging population and government policies.
- Healthcare restructuring positive
- Describes the positive experience of restructuring of hospitals and polyclinics into two clusters in 2000 which brought better healthcare delivery model in serving Singaporeans.
- Retirement and Re-employment Practices
- Manpower Research and Statistics Department Singapore presents statistics on the retirement and re-employment practices of private establishments.
- Brief on Ageing Population in Singapore
- Provides background, government's efforts, supporting agencies and silver industry in relation with the ageing population in Singapore.
- Singapore releases 2010 population in brief report

The report highlights population challenges, low fertility rates and aging population. It will continue to adopt a three-prong approach of supporting more Singaporeans in getting married and having more children, facilitating the naturalization and integration of suitable foreigners, and engaging our Overseas Singaporeans.

- MCYS - Policy objectives and framework on ageing

This site verbalises the government’s vision for providing for the needs of the elderly in Singapore. It also contains links to reports and statistics pertaining to Singapore’s elderly population.

Web Resources 2

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- Singapore’s Ageing Population: The “Stop at Two” and “Three or More If You Can Afford It” Policies
  http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1621347/singapore_ageing_population_the_stop.html
  Provides a look at Singapore’s ageing population and government policies for the elderly.

- Healthcare restructuring positive
  Describes the positive experiences of the restructuring of hospitals and polyclinics into two clusters in 2000 which has brought better healthcare delivery for Singaporeans.

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Overview

Senior Citizen’s Week

The first Senior Citizens’ Week was organised by the Ministry of Community Development in 1979. The objective was to encourage the elderly to remain physically, mentally and socially active, to emphasise the importance of early pre-retirement planning and to promote positive attitudes towards ageing and the aged in society. This week is also set aside as a mark of respect and appreciation for the contributions made by senior citizens to the country.

The Senior Citizens’ Week is usually held in the third week of November every year. During the week-long celebration, various activities ranging from carnivals to excursions and talks are organised. Younger Singaporeans are also invited to participate in some of the activities together with the senior citizens.

Policy framework on ageing

MCYS is the leading agency on ageing issues in Singapore and works in partnership with other ministries and agencies to address issues such as social integration, financial security, employment, housing, healthcare and intergenerational cohesion.

The Ministerial Committee on Ageing, chaired by Minister (PMO) Lim Boon Heng was formed in March 2007 to coordinate the Government’s efforts to prepare for population ageing. With the vision of achieving “Successful Ageing for Singapore”, the committee takes a whole-of-government approach to work on the following strategic thrusts:

i. Enhance Employability and Financial Security: Employment and adequate savings are critical to give continued financial independence to seniors.

ii. Provide Holistic and Affordable Healthcare and Eldercare: Care should be accessible, affordable and appropriate to the needs of the elderly. Seniors and their caregivers should have access to a seamless continuum of healthcare and eldercare services, catering to different needs and means of seniors.

iii. Enable Ageing-in-Place: This includes barrier-free accessibility of the built environment and public transport system as well as putting in place essential services for the elderly to age-in-place in the community. All these will enable seniors to participate in economic and community activities.

iv. Promote Active Ageing: This involves encouraging seniors to age successfully by maintaining physical and mental well-being and by continuing to contribute to society.

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Upper secondary social studies 3, Teacher’s resource file, Special/Express/Normal (Academic). Singapore. Curriculum Planning & Development Division
Publisher: EPB Pan Pacific (for) Curriculum Planning and Development Division, 2001
Call number: H87.733 Upp 2001
National Institute of Education, NTU

Books

- Ageing in Singapore: service needs and the state by Peggy Teo et al.
  Call Number: RSING English 305.26095977 AGE
Looks statistically at Singapore's ageing population and their needs and wants. Topics include government policy, employment, health, domestic/community care, intergenerational ties, and widows.

- Social policy in an ageing society: age and health in Singapore by David Reisman
  Call Number: RSING English 305.26065957 REI
  ISBN: 9781848440944

Explores what might happen to Singapore when falling birth rates, longer life expectancies and rising expectations put pressure on scarce resources in Singapore.

- Ageing in Southeast & East Asia: family, social protection, policy challenges by Lee Hock Guan
  Call Number: RSING 305.26065957 AGIE
  ISBN: 9789812307668

Contains selected papers from the "Ageing and the Status of the Older Population in Southeast Asia" workshop, organized by ISEAS from 22 to 23 November 2004. Includes papers on The Central Provident Fund and financing retirement needs of elderly Singaporeans.

  Call Number: RSING q305.26065957 SIN
  ISBN: 9971887185

Includes chapters on Rethinking Our National Policies for Older Persons; Social Integration of the Elderly; Health Care; Financial Security; Employment and Employability; Housing and Land Use Policies; Cohesion and Conflict in an Ageing Society and Implementation and Beyond.

- The elderly in Singapore: Singapore country report by Chen Ai Ju and Paul P.L. Cheung
  Call Number: RSING 305.26065957 CHE
  ISBN: 9810007094

Phase III of the ASEAN population project covers the socio-economic consequences of the ageing population.

- Report on the ageing population by Singapore. Committee on Ageing Issues
  Call Number: RSING 305.26065957 SIN
  The recommendations of the report are based on four thrusts: housing, accessibility for seniors, caring and opportunities for seniors.

- Six countries, six reform models: the healthcare reform: experience of Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, and Taiwan : healthcare reforms "under the radar screen?"
  Call Number: RSING 362.10425 SIX
  ISBN: 9814261580

Highlight articles on healthcare reform models from six countries. An article on health care reforms in Singapore is also included.

Newspaper Articles

- New support measures for families with special needs
  Business Times Singapore, 11 March 2010
  Announcement of MCY's means - testing framework for funded homes for the aged and disabled and community based programmes.

- Second chance to join CPF Lite
  Straits Times, 17 August 2010
  Parliament passed changes to the CPF Act to allow those with $60,000 in their Retirement Accounts at the age of 65 to be auto-included in the scheme which provides a steady stream of retirement income for life.

- Save for retirement, S'poreans urged
  Straits Times, 27 June 2010
  Singaporeans urged to save enough for retirement in the face of increasing longevity, declining fertility and an ageing population.

Journal Articles via NLB eResources

- Correlates of leisure-time physical activity in an elderly population in Singapore
  Author: Wong Mee Lian and others
  Database: ProQuest Social Science Journals
  Abstract: Exercise programs for the elderly should aim at helping them overcome barriers to exercise, informing them of the benefits of exercise, and involving their families.

- Impacts of ageing population on monetary and exchange rate management in Singapore
  Author: Paul S. L. Yip and K. C. Tan
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete
  Abstract: This policy note finds that the ageing of the population in Singapore will cause a reversal of the current net Central Provident Fund (CPF) contribution into a substantial net CPF withdrawal from 2025, with a peak occurring at 2035.

- International market insight reports: Singapore rapidly ageing population
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete
  Abstract: The article highlights issues on Singapore's ageing population.

- Housing for the ageing population in Singapore
  Author: Harrison, James D
  Database Name: EBSICOHost Academic Search Premier
  Abstract: Outlines a number of initiatives to provide for the housing needs of the ageing population in Singapore. Social stability and housing; Ageing, family patterns and housing policy; Retirement age in Singapore.

Journal Articles on the Web

- Singapore - An ageing society
  http://s3g.smp.org.sg/31092103aa3.pdf
  Author: Choo, P. W. J and others
  Abstract: The article describes the issues and challenges of the rapid transition of an aging society, decline of birth rate, breaking up of the extended family structure and the changing role of women in Singapore.
‘Back to Work’ Programme

Web Resources

- Women Back-To-Work Programme
  Describes the Back-To-Work Women Programme offered by the NTUC Women's Development Secretariat.

- NTUC Online: Back to Work Women
  Overview of the Back2Work Programme which focuses not just on job placements but also on skills acquisition for women to enjoy greater job and income stability, and as such building up their economic resilience.

- Studies on women in Singapore
  http://mg.sfl.sg/singaporei/1405215_4f4e5f90-9900-56a886fe9f15.asp
  Discusses the changing roles of women in Singapore, in the social, cultural and economic contexts. Websites of women's associations in Singapore have also been included.

- Women Returning to Work
  This report presents the findings of an ad hoc survey conducted by the Manpower Research and Statistics Department from July to September 1995, on non-working women who participated at the workshops on “Back To Work – Are You Ready?” organised by NTUC. The survey findings seek to shed light on the extent to which females were interested in return to work, the type of jobs preferred and the reasons holding them back from re-joining the workforce.

- The Roles of Women in Singapore Economy
  http://www.bfw-international.org/ BFW-Previous/word/un-connection-roles-women-in-singapore-economy.doc
  This paper elaborates on ways that women have made significant advancements with respect to the Singapore economy and the obstacles that created the setbacks for women and the economy.

- NTUC taking targeted approach to help women return to the workforce
  The NTUC Women’s Development Secretariat targets to attract more women into the workforce this year, with a focus on jobs in the services sector.

Overview

‘Back to work programme’

The programme was launched in September 1996. Its aim is to encourage housewives and retirees to return to the workforce. Its main focus is to promote part-time and flexible work to enable housewives to balance work with their family responsibilities, and retirees to continue working at a suitable pace. It is a national initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Manpower, the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board, The National Trade Union Congress and the Singapore National Employers’ Federation.

The successful return of housewives and retirees to the workforce enables Singapore to better utilise its indigenous manpower resources, alleviate the manpower shortage faced by employers, and help reduce its reliance on foreign workers as well as engage older people as contributing members of the society.

Promotional activities are targeted at potential employers and employees. Employers are given help to restructure job vacancies into part-time and flexible jobs that could be undertaken by housewives and retirees. Attractive training grants are also provided to help job seekers who have left the workforce some time ago to undergo the necessary core skills and job-specific skills training.

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Upper secondary social studies 3, Teacher's resource file, Special/Express/Normal (Academic). Singapore. Curriculum Planning & Development Division
Publisher: EPB Pan Pacfic [for] Curriculum Planning and Development Division, 2001
Call number: H87.733 Upp 2001
National Institute of Education, NTU

Books

- Working and Mothering in Asia: Images, Ideologies and Identities by Devashayam & Brenda S A. Yeoh.
  Call Number: RS86.08743095 WCR
  ISBN: 9971693458
  Examines how larger structural, economic, historical and social/cultural forces impact on Asian women in their everyday life as mothers and workers.

- Work life play: the Scandinavian and Singaporean experiences on enhancing productivity with work-life innovations by NTUC Women's Development Secretariat and Singapore National Trades Union Congress.
  Call Number: RS86.038695957 WCR
  ISBN: 981088402X
  Examines experiences of companies in Singapore that have implemented family friendly practices and flexi-work.

- Gendered work in Asian cities: the new economy and changing labour markets by Brooks, Ann
  Call Number: R 331.413095 BKO
  ISBN: 0754687906
  The author provide a unique insight into the impact of the new economy and the changing labour market on women in Asia. Theoretical debates around globalisation, gender and social change are combined with empirical research on professional women in two cosmopolitan cities: Hong Kong and Singapore.

- Women returning to work by Singapore. Ministry of Labour. Research and Statistics Dept
  Call Number: RS86.314405957 WOM
  ISBN: 981088402X
  Highlights working mothers' issues, such as their employment in Singapore.

Newspaper Articles

- NTUC helps 1,250 women return to work
  http://news.nbcnews.com?newsa_by=CA-Z588er1=5
  Straits Times, 30 August 2008
  NTUC helps housewives return to the workforce after years of caring for their families.

  ...Madam Noraisah is one of 1,250 women who found jobs this year through the NTUC's Back to Work Programme ...

- 'Back to Work' scheme for women
  Straits Times, 2 February 2007
  'Back to Work' programme aims at helping women to get a slice of the Workfare Income Supplement package. The programme plans to encourage flexible work arrangements, part-time jobs and working from home.
...Its 'Back to Work' programme is also aimed at helping them get a slice of the Workfare Income Supplement package. ...

- CPF Life: Concern for those who fall through the cracks  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1F  
  Straits Times, 27 February 2008  
  Describes the CPF Life scheme concerning low-income earners and housewives with little CPF savings.

- Women urged to 'Strike Balance'  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1F  
  Straits Times, 30 September 1996  
  Describes launching of the Back-to-Work programme which is aimed at attracting housewives, among others, to take up full-time, part-time or flexi-time jobs. ...

- Scheme to raise local-labour participation rates launched  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1F  
  Business Times Singapore, 14 September 1996  
  Describes the "Back to Work" programme, a joint initiative by the Ministry of Labour, the Productivity and Standards Board, the SNEF and NTUC, which was launched by Minister for Labour Lee Boon Yang.

- Minister for Labour Lee Boon Yang yesterday launched the "Back to Work" programme, a joint initiative by the Ministry of Labour, the Productivity and Standards Board, the SNEF and NTUC. The programme...

Journal Articles via NLB eResources

- Force-field analysis on policies affecting working women in Singapore  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1P  
  Author: Lam, L. L. and Lee, J.  
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
  Abstract: The article attempts to trace the development of major national laws and policies that have had an impact on working women in Singapore.

- Courting the workforce of the future: FOREIGN TALENT by John Thornhill: Government plays Cupid in a campaign to build up its skills base. It is also encouraging women to have more children. [Surveys edition]  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1P  
  Author: Thornhill, JAM.  
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
  Abstract: The article highlights recruiting foreign talent, specialists from abroad, upgrading skills, promoting dating agencies and encouraging Singaporean women to have more children for the future workforce.

- Human resource policies for women - a study in Singapore  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1P  
  Author: Joan S.K. Lee and Jasmine C.L. Poh.  
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
  Abstract: This research examines the existing human resource policies on women in Singapore.

- Attracting women into workforce  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1P  
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
  Abstract: The article highlights the fact that the Singapore female workforce makes up more than half of its working population and the Malaysian government plans to study this for future planning.

- Singapore: Battle of the Sees: The State as Cupid  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/1P  
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete  
  Abstract: The article describes how Singapore women responded to the economic growth and labour shortage in Singapore.

AV Materials

- Golden years. Fit for work [video recording]  
  http://www.npsb.gov.sg/np/lfw/a-z/f/2F  
  Call Numbers: RSN 393.2699597 62A, pt. 3  
  Publisher: Singapore : MediaCorp TV12 Singapore, [2003?]  
  Abstract: A 4-part media story series that avoids the stereotype characterisations of the aged, but instead celebrates the creativity and contributions of the old, and giving them the dignity that is theirs.

Back to Top

Central Provident Fund

Web Resources

- CPF Board Members Home: My CPF  
  http://www.cpf.gov.sg/Members/home.htm  
  The CPF Board website provides information on retirement planning and e-services to enable Singaporeans to check and monitor their CPF accounts.

- 3Ms (MediSave, MediShield, MediFund) Advertisements  
  Downloadable educational resources in Chinese, English, Malay and Tamil on MediSave, MediShield and MediFund.

- CPF has worked well for Singaporeans' retirement?  
  http://thesingaporean.com/2010/04/has-cpf-worked-well-for-singaporeans%E2%80%99-retirement/  
  Discuss report findings of the "New survey shows 60% of Singaporeans want to retire by 60" and evaluation of the Central Provident Fund (CPF) system in serving Singaporeans for their retirement planning.

- CPF Policies in Singapore  
  http://mp.ni.sg/Business/d16226af8371-4e77-56b2-8a36b51d497.aspx  
  Provides books and web resources pertaining to CPF policies in Singapore.

Overview
In Singapore, the Central Provident Fund (CPF) is the main means for Singaporeans to meet their financial needs after retirement. This compulsory savings scheme was established in 1955. Over the years, the CPF has developed into a comprehensive social security scheme, which not only takes care of a member's old age, healthcare and home ownership needs, but also provides financial protection for them and their families through insurance schemes.

The scheme covers all employees, self-employed and voluntary contributors. Both employers and employees make monthly contributions to the employees' CPF accounts. The CPF contribution rates vary according to the age groups of the employees. For example, the contributions of employees aged 65 years and above are less than those aged 55 years and below. The reduction in the contribution rates is to encourage the continued employment of older workers.

Every CPF member has three accounts - Ordinary Account, Medisave Account and Special Account. At the age of 55, the member would also have a Retirement Account. Savings in the Ordinary Account can be used for housing, approved investments, insurance, education and transfers to top up parents' Retirement Account. Savings in the Medisave Account are for meeting hospitalisation charges and for approved medical expenses and medical insurance premiums. The Special Account is meant for old age, contingencies and investment purposes.

CPF members can withdraw their savings when they reach the age of 55. The member however, has to set aside a minimum sum in his Retirement Account before withdrawing the rest of his savings. From the age of 62, he receives a monthly income from the Retirement Account. Alternatively, the minimum sum may be deposited with a bank or be used to buy a life annuity with an insurance company which will yield a monthly income.

Reference
Upper secondary social studies 3, Teacher's resource file, Special/Express/Normal (Academic). Singapore. Curriculum Planning & Development Division
Publisher: EPB Pan Pacific [for] Curriculum Planning and Development Division, 2001
Call number: H87,733 Upp 2001
National Institute of Education, NTU

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**Books**

- Work and retirement among the older population in four Asian countries : a comparative analysis by Hermalin, Albert I
  Call Number: R SING q331.38985 HER
  ISBN: 9810401115
  Locks at aged employment and retirement in Asia.
- The role of formal vs informal support of the elderly in Singapore : is there substitution? by Angelique Chan
  Call Number: RSING q362.609597 CHA
  ISBN: 981041000X
  Examines government policy on the elderly and care in Singapore.
- Saving for our retirement - 30 years of CPF by Cheong, Colin
  Call Number: RSING q368.4009597 CHE
  ISBN: 9812489051
  Describes CPF savings for retirement and employees' deposit.

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**Newspaper Articles**

- CPF varsity loans and duty to parents
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Straits Times: 1 September 2010
  Describes the government's ruling on using the Central Provident Fund (CPF) for overseas education.
- ...own CPF accounts, the resultant lower percentage is still not desirable. It is worth remembering that CPF monies are meant primarily as retirement income. Members who take out amounts prematurely for specified purposes forgo the lucrative interest.
- Govt payments to NSmen: When and how
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Business Times Singapore: 1 September 2010
  The Ministry of Defence (Mindef) announced giving monetary awards to Singapore national servicemen (NSmen) who reach major milestones in their national service (NS) from Aug 20, 2010, to recognise their contributions.
- ...his Central Provident Fund (CPF) accounts, which can be used to pay for housing, healthcare and retirement. Those payments will be spread across his CPF Ordinary, Special and MediSave accounts according to the prevailing CPF allocation rates.
- MINDEF unveils details of NS Recognition Award
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Channel NewsAsia, 12/14, 31 August 2010
  Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the National Day Rally gave details of the National Service Recognition Award (NSRA) ...in the servicemen's CPF accounts and distributed into the Ordinary, Special and MediSave accounts according to the prevailing CPF contribution rates. The servicemen can use the amount for their housing, healthcare and retirement needs.
- Save for retirement, sparing urges
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Straits Times, 27 June 2010
  Manpower Minister Gan Kim Yong reminded Singaporeans to save enough for retirement in the face of increasing longevity, declining fertility and an ageing population.
- ...Can the Central Provident Fund (CPF) monthly income in your retirement years equal your last-drawn salary?
- Ranking of CPF fawed : Expert
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Straits Times, 25 November 2009
  National University of Singapore (NUS) Associate Professor Chia Ngee Choon critised the Mercer Report findings on Singapore's CPF system and pension plans.
- Report rates CPF system a 'C', suggests refinements
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Business Times Singapore, 16 October 2009
  The Mercer Report rates the Central Provident Fund system and the Pension Index.
- MediSave sum to be raised
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Straits Times, 14 May 2010
  Announcement of raising the amount of money in MediSave account to keep pace with rising health-care costs.

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**Journal Articles via NLB eResources**

- Singapore: How the CPF is evolving
  http://eap,rpibgb.gov.sg/item_holding.s asp?ws=by=A-Z&iter=1
  Author: Swales, Keith
  Journal: Benefits & Compensation International, Mar 2009, Vol. 29, Iss. 7; pg. 25
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete
  Abstract: The Government and press discuss the future directions of the government-controlled social crisis in Asia over the past few years and the growing realisation of the problems associated with an ageing population, the Central Provident Fund and retirement savings.
• Singapore government partially restores reduction in CPF contribution rates
  Author: Bruce F Spencer
  Database Name: ProQuest ABI/INFORM Archive Complete
  Abstract: Singapore government plans to control the economy through changes in the contribution rates to the Central Provident Fund and retirement program to boost the economy.

Accessing the Resources

This page links to:
  http://libguides.nlsg/kg