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Singapore, the Heart of Asia

An International Organisations
Programme Office initiative



EDB
SINGAPORE

A photograph of the Singapore skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers. In the foreground, a bridge with multiple arches spans across a body of water. The sky is blue with light clouds. An orange rectangular box is overlaid on the top left corner of the image, containing white text.

A Base to Serve Asia's Needs

Singapore is home to over 70 International Organisations (IO). Established in 2007, the International Organisations Programme Office (IOPO) is dedicated to assisting and supporting IOs interested in setting up a regional base in Singapore. Aimed at providing 'one-stop-shop' assistance, the IOPO also continues to assist the needs of International Non-Profit Organisations (INPO) after establishment.

Singapore at a Glance

People

- Cosmopolitan society: almost 1 in 4 of our population are non-residents, having come from around the world to live, learn, work and play in Singapore.
- A multicultural microcosm of Asia: among the resident population, the Chinese make up 75%, the Malays 14%, and Indians and other races 11%.
- English is the language of business, government & education. Most Singaporeans are multilingual and are proficient in English and their own ethnic language (Mandarin, Malay or one of the Indian languages).

Economy

- World's second freest economy (The Heritage Foundation, Index of Economic Freedom 2007).
- Home to over 7000 Multinational Corporations (MNCs).
- Highest growth rate of High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) globally - 21% (Merrill Lynch Asia-Pacific Wealth Report 2007).

Government

- Politically stable; neutral.
- TI Corruption Perception Index: best in Asia; third best in the world.

What others say about us

- First among 181 countries for ease of doing business (World Bank's Doing Business 2009 report)
- Favourite Meeting/Convention/Exhibition Facilities (TIME Readers' Travel Choice 2006)
- Best Airport in the World (Business Traveller)

The Asian Landscape

Surging ahead

Asia is one of the world's fastest developing regions. Positioned as the next economic powerhouse, the region drives and defines global trends.

- Rise of global middle class from 430 million in 2000 to 1.15 billion in 2015, with two thirds from India & China.
- ASEAN's aggregate GDP was worth US\$1.5 trillion in 2008, growing at a stable rate of 7% for the past 25 years.

Projection:
90% of the world's
engineers will be
in Asia by 2011.



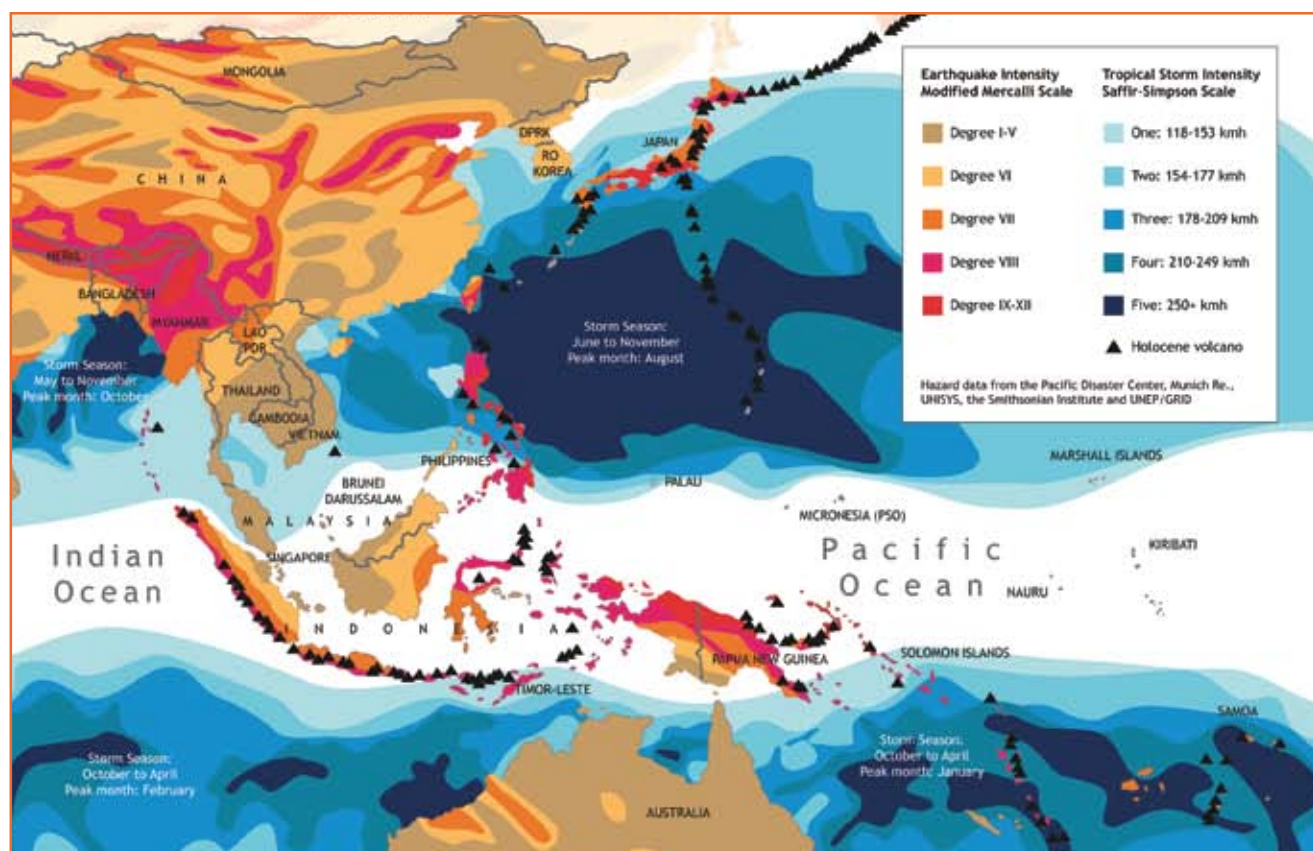
Picture courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board

Challenges

However, Asia faces many challenges. With a dense and growing population of over 3.5 billion people, the region is confronted with demographic changes, environmental changes and resource constraints.

- Asia's urban population is expected to double by 2030.
- Asia is the world's most rapidly aging region. By 2050, it will have more than 60% of the global population over 60 years of age.
- More than half of the world's population resides in Asia Pacific, occupying 20% of the Earth's geographic mass.
- Food demand will vastly surpass food supply in Asia, as a result of growing consumption and evolving diets.
- Continuous natural disasters threaten economic stability, destroying infrastructure and causing the loss of life. In 2006, 40% of all 457 natural disasters occurred in Asia.

Natural Hazard Zones in Asia Pacific



IO Community in Singapore

- Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs)
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs): Social / Humanitarian / Environmental Groups
- Industry Associations
- Philanthropic Foundations
- Think Tanks and Non-Profit Research Institutes
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Organisations
- Social Enterprise Platforms



African policymakers visit Asia (World Bank)



Jack Sim, founder of World Toilet Organization (WTO)

Seeds of Change

Understanding urbanisation

The World Bank

The World Bank Singapore office collaborates with other World Bank offices across the region, particularly on youth outreach and civil society engagement. Established in 2009, The World

“Singapore, through its own unique development experience, has built a vast knowledge base on meeting the sorts of challenges countries around the world are grappling with at the moment.”

Tina Taheri,
Singapore representative of
The World Bank



Bank-Singapore Urban Hub provides quality advice and technical assistance of a practical nature based on best practices worldwide.

Improving toilet sanitation globally

World Toilet Organization (WTO)

Founded in Singapore in 2001, WTO is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving sanitation conditions and toilet facilities worldwide. It actively conducts advocacy campaigns to increase awareness all year round. In 2005, WTO successfully lobbied for change at a national level, increasing the number of cubicles in female public toilets for all new constructions in Singapore.

“Singapore is a powerhouse for an international organisation like us to get things done at high speed.” – Jack Sim, WTO founder



Providing quality education

International Baccalaureate (IB)

With the vision of providing international education, IB's regional footprint expanded through the set-up of a Teacher Education Study Centre that provides assistance in the implementation of International Baccalaureate Programmes, local and foreign teacher training, as well as the development of high-quality learning programmes at government levels.

"With its open political and business climate, Singapore also has an excellent pool of well educated English speaking local staff to support our work." – Judith Guy, Regional Director of IB Asia-Pacific Regional Office



A new wave of philanthropy

Lien Foundation

The foundation breaks new ground in philanthropy by investing in innovative solutions, convening strategic partnerships and catalysing action on social and environmental challenges. Its key focus areas are education, eldercare and the environment, with special interests in hospice care, water and sanitation. The foundation has several centres under its auspices to pursue dedicated causes – the Lien Foundation Centre for Social Innovation, Lien Aid, Lien Institute for the Environment, Lien Centre for Palliative Care and the Lien Chinese Enterprise Research Centre.



Temasek Foundation

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth, a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that develop people through healthcare, education and research, programmes that build bridges between people, programmes that build institutions of excellence through good governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.

Extending humanitarian aid and relief

World Vision International

World Vision engages the help of local governments, leaders and the UN to eradicate injustice, tackling issues like child abuse, trafficking and lack of healthcare. Regional operations in Singapore started since 2005, in the wake of the 2004 Asian tsunami. Singapore was selected as a coordination hub to support relief efforts because of its close proximity to where rehabilitation programmes were based. Reducing operational time by half, the efficient relief effort led to the relocation of World Vision’s Asia Pacific Humanitarian and Emergencies team to Singapore.



Linking industry and social enterprise

Volans Ventures

Collaborating with businesses, investors, entrepreneurs and governments to develop solutions against social and environmental challenges, Volans Ventures’ Singapore office focuses on creating talent partnerships in Asia, as well as generating awareness and investment interest on market opportunities that address social and environmental challenges worldwide.

“Asia is an integral part of our overall strategy and Singapore possesses the best transportation, financial and meeting hub in the region, which is critical to our ability to effectively connect with key stakeholders and create partnerships.” – Kevin Teo, Director of Volans Ventures (Asia) Pte Ltd

“Responding to major disasters, helping countries prepare for emergencies, researching future threats - these are all complex regional and global challenges. But at critical times we rely on access to reliable telecommunications, air transport, infrastructure and technically competent support staff. Singapore ‘works’ when we are working in chaos elsewhere.”

*Geoff Shepherd,
Regional Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Director,
World Vision Asia Pacific*



Teaching the value of social responsibility

CSR Asia

CSR Asia is dedicated to promote Corporate Social Responsibility in the region. As a leading provider of information, training, research and consultancy services on sustainable business practices in Asia, the organisation works with groups to develop strategies and conduct research. Singapore's regional headquarters also helps to conduct training courses, perform non-financial risk assessment and increase the involvement of key stakeholders.

“Singapore was an obvious choice for us when we were looking to set up an office in Southeast Asia. It was easy to set up and we were able to get started very quickly.” – Erin Lyon, Director of CSR Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd



Championing nature

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Recognised as one of the most iconic and largest eco-conservation groups in the world, WWF has almost 5 million supporters globally over an active network spanning over more than 100 countries. Opening its doors in Singapore in March 2006, the fully-operational office oversees the development of global and regional programmes in Asia Pacific, sustains financial partnerships and organises educational outreach initiatives.

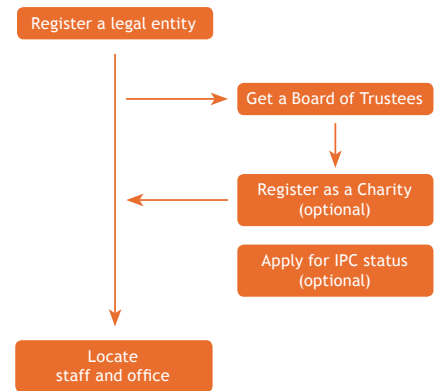


Serving the international airline industry

International Air Transport Association

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is an international trade body created 60 years ago by a group of airlines. Today, IATA represents 230 airlines, comprising 93% of scheduled international air traffic. IATA's regional office in Singapore serves as the central point of contact for IATA's member airlines in the Asia Pacific region to maintain close ties with governments, their agencies, airports, air navigation service providers, regional industry organisations and other industry stakeholders.

Setting Up an International Organisation in Singapore



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