

MAJULAH

HAPPY 57TH BIRTHDAY SINGAPORE

National Day
Special
Edition

HIGHLIGHT:

Flying the Singapore Flag High in Hong Kong: Meet Principal of Singapore International School (Hong Kong) Kelvin Tay

Missing Singapore food? Be your own Singapore MasterChef! Check out the Recipe for Singapore Nyonya Laksa



MESSAGE FROM CONSUL GENERAL ONG SIEW GAY

Dear friends,

In conjunction with Singapore's 57th birthday, we have rolled out this inaugural edition of our newsletter. This publication hopes to bring a piece of Singapore to our friends in Hong Kong with updates on bilateral exchanges between Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as interesting stories of Singaporeans in Hong Kong, and our culture and events.

Hong Kong has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of its return to the People's Republic of China and the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The city has now started a new chapter together under a new administration. In his congratulatory letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong wrote that Hong Kong has benefitted from and contributed to China's growth and development under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. Singapore looks forward to continue working with Hong Kong to create new opportunities for our people and enhance the vibrancy of the region. Similarly, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat wrote to Chief Executive John Lee, expressing hope to work with Hong Kong to grow our partnership in areas such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative.

The first half of 2022 has been tough for everyone in Hong Kong, including those of us in the Singaporean community. But with the Omicron wave largely subsiding, this resilient city can now look forward to a new beginning. An optimistic and buoyant mood is now returning to the community, as the city charts its way forward towards economic recovery. As we continue to fight the pandemic together, Singapore looks forward to deepening our partnership with Hong Kong under the new administration.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Singapore a Happy Birthday as well as send my well wishes to all our fellow Singaporeans!

ONG SIEW GAY

Consul General of Singapore in Hong Kong





Singapore International School (Hong Kong)

SINGAPOREAN IN HONG KONG

TO HONG KONG, WITH LOVE

by Kelvin Tay, Principal of Singapore International School (Hong Kong)

Some of us might be familiar with the soundtrack sang by Lulu for the British classic movie - "To Sir, with Love", released in 1967. The movie tells the story of how a high school teacher in London's East End used unconventional engagement methods to transform a bunch of rowdy students. Similarly, Hong Kong is like that high school teacher, throwing learning opportunities at me to grow professionally and personally through my posting at the Singapore International School (Hong Kong) (SISHK), less me being rowdy like the students in the movie.

For those who are unfamiliar, Singapore International School (Hong Kong) [SISHK] is the only overseas school supported by Singapore's Ministry of Education (MOE). My SISHK journey started with an innocent sounding question

"are you mobile?" from MOE back in April 2017. I took the question literally and thought they meant posting me to a school some distance away from where I stayed but naturally still in Singapore. Little did I know that they were referring to a posting where neither the earliest bus nor train in Singapore would be able to bring me to my destination. I ended up taking a plane to my next school and started my journey as Principal of SISHK in December 2017.

Having been here for close to five years, there were many key moments. Shortly after I took up posting, I decided to have open communications with my students and their parents to foster a strong relationship. Students and parents would email me directly, sharing their aspirations and views, which led to many meaningful changes. For example, I learnt that primary year students had to bring their textbooks on their Christmas holidays so that they could prepare for their mid-year

examinations after the break. Parents and students shared that they would hope to spend holidays bonding with family instead of having to prepare for examinations, which I fully agreed. I managed to convince my fellow colleagues to remove the mid-year examinations for the students in 2018. Singapore too announced earlier this year that it will remove mid-year examinations for all primary and secondary school students by 2023.

On a less cheery note, 2019 came and the city was hit by social unrest. Students, parents, teachers and school staff were all naturally very worried about the situation. As the Principal, I had to ensure that the school remained a safe place to study and work in. Given how quickly the situation was evolving, it was not feasible to seek advice from far away Singapore HQ. There was also no previous SOP on how to respond to such a level of social unrest.



Singapore International School (Hong Kong) Principal Kelvin Tay (middle) at their Christmas event

I had to rely on myself and my team to make the right decisions. I recall scrolling through social media to get timely information, being in close contact with fellow school leaders, and having meetings after meetings with my team to plan for all kinds of scenario. We made every effort to ensure that the school was neutral and that everyone shared the common understanding of not letting politics derail relationships. The school pulled through.

Then came the next curve ball in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit us. It was round two of adapting to an ever-changing situation. However, amidst the gloominess, there were some bright spots. For example, when the Hong Kong SAR Government decided to move the summer break to March 2022 earlier this year, our school along with the other international schools appealed for flexibility as we operated on a different academic calendar and system from the local schools. The Hong Kong SAR Government eventually allowed us to continue with home-based or remote learning to ensure learning continuity, especially for those who are sitting for the international examinations like the IB Diploma Programme in May and June. The pandemic has definitely been a difficult time, but it also provided me with yet another learning opportunity to become a better school leader during a stormy crisis.

At a personal level, Hong Kong has also imparted to me many wonderful life experiences. As a fan of the outdoors, the hiking trails here is the best present from Hong Kong to me. My personal favourite is the hike on Po Toi Island where there are beautiful coastal features, weathered boulders depicting unique features like the shape of a human hand, luxurious ocean views from the peak, and ancient rock carvings believed to date back to the Bronze Age (around 1500 to 700 BC) on the large boulders. (And yes, I used to be a Geography teacher.) Next on my to go list is Geopark in Sai Kung, and my personal recommendation for people interested in hiking is the Dragon's Back trail and Lamma Island.

Another experience that cannot be found in Singapore is the different seasons. While I personally prefer hot and humid Singapore over the cold and dry winter here, I still very much appreciate the opportunity to put on my winter wear and experience a cool Christmas. Another treat is Hong Kong's food. Aside from the classic favourites like sweet and sour pork, wontons, egg tarts, roast goose and dim sum, there are many unique cuisines for those game for a food adventure. Snake soup during winter, anyone?

All in all, Hong Kong has been a great teacher to me. The city has transformed me from a "naive frog in Singapore's well" (my version of

the Chinese saying 井底之蛙) to a school leader who views thing with an additional cosmopolitan lens. I believe that education is an uplifting force that can bring out the best in every child, as well as an integrating force that celebrates diversity and prepares our children to become good and useful citizens for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mainland China, Singapore and the world. I am also confident that SISHK will continue to fly the Singapore flag high in Hong Kong.

With National Day round the corner, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Singapore happy birthday and good health to everyone including fellow Singaporeans in Hong Kong!



SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG RELATIONS

The Consulate-General was happy to welcome Senior Minister (SM) and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan to Hong Kong for a working visit from 29 May to 1 June 2022.

SM Teo's last visit to Hong Kong was five years ago back in 2017 and this recent visit provided valuable opportunities to catch up with friends as well as exchange views on the developments in both cities and the region.

Singapore and Hong Kong have always enjoyed a close partnership in various areas, such as urban development, civil service reforms and heritage preservation. Apart from regular high-level exchanges of visits, we also enjoy strong economic ties and people-to-people links. In fact,

there is a significant Singaporean community in Hong Kong, including Singapore's only international school overseas.

During the meeting with then-Chief Executive (CE) Carrie Lam, SM Teo thanked her for her support in strengthening bilateral cooperation between our two cities. With Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Leung Chun-ying, we had a fruitful discussion on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

SM Teo was the first foreign leader to meet then-CE-elect John Lee after he won the Hong Kong CE election. Mr John Lee shared with SM Teo on his policy vision and the direction for Hong Kong's future development he would take as the incoming CE. Both sides agreed to maintain the

momentum in bilateral collaboration and welcomed closer cooperation between the two public services.

We are confident that both cities would continue to progress together and contribute to the economic vibrancy of the Asia Pacific region, and look forward to having more exchanges in years to come. We also hope to meet our Hong Kong friends in Singapore soon!

SM Teo penned a commentary on Singapore-Hong Kong relations for the South China Morning Post in conjunction with the visit. Check out the commentary via the link here: <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/asia/article/3179303/singapore-and-hong-kong-have-much-gain-working-together>



(from left to right) Consul General Ong Siew Gay, then Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward Yau, SM Teo Chee Hean, then Hong Kong CE Carrie Lam, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, then Director of the Hong Kong CE's Office Eric Chan



(from left to right) Consul General Ong Siew Gay, SM Teo Chee Hean, former CE and Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Consultative Conference Leung Chun-ying and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan



(from left to right) Consul General Ong Siew Gay, SM Teo Chee Hean, then CE-elect John Lee, then Secretary-General of the CE-elect office Daniel Cheng

SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG RELATIONS

Singapore and Hong Kong are like two longtime close friends. Many Singaporeans have family and friends in Hong Kong and likewise many Hongkongers have loved ones in Singapore. Hence when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, it was only right for Singapore to stand hand-in-hand with our Hong Kong friends to ride out this challenging storm.

During the fifth wave of the virus, the Singaporean community in Hong Kong decided to come together to lift the spirits of everyone here and show appreciation to our Hong Kong frontliners who worked hard to protect all of us.

In March, the Singapore Association (Hong Kong) [SAHK] organised an online comedy session performed by Singaporean actor, host and comedian Hossan Leong to bring a smile to people's faces. The association also took the opportunity to create awareness on the less fortunate living among us and raise donations for the singleton elderly in Hong Kong. The performance was well received, and people donated generously to the Mighty Oaks Foundation (Hong Kong), an organisation dedicated to the health and well-being of the elderly, and Singapore's own Dignity Kitchen, a social enterprise that helps the disabled and runs programs like "Pay-It-Forward" which distributes free meals to the elderly and needy in Kowloon.

Our students also stepped up to show support. In April, the Singapore International School (Hong Kong) [SISHK] students put together a heartwarming performance of

THE SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION (HONG KONG)
PRESENTS
"Stay Positive, Test Negative"
starring HOSSAN LEONG
"The Singapore Boy"

Online performance organised by SAHK to bring cheer and raise donations for the elderly in Hong Kong

songs and encouragement messages into a video and posted on the school's YouTube channel to pay a tribute to frontliners. In the following month, the Consulate-General worked with the school to print handwritten thank you notes by the students to the frontline agencies into a book. We had the honour of presenting the book to the Hospital Authority, the Police Force, Fire Services Department, and Customs and Excise Department in person as a sign of support.

We hope these little gestures would cheer on the community here and encourage the frontliners as we continue to fight the pandemic together!



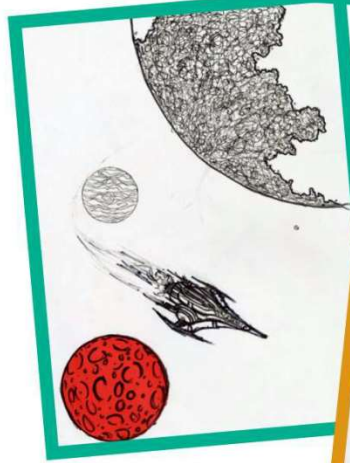
STUDENTS IN HONG KONG

Among Singapore's many nicknames, Little Red Dot is one that often comes to mind. Eight Singapore International School (Hong Kong) Secondary Two students created their own take of the Little Red Dot through various creative artworks.

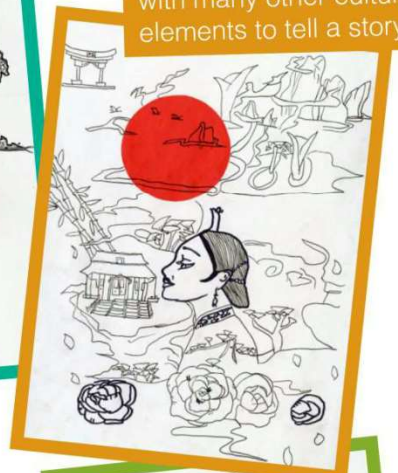


Chan Ho Kai interpreted the red dot as a watermelon, one of the commonly found tropical fruits in Singapore.

Lee Jia Yin depicted the red dot as a planet, plausibly Mars. Space exploration is definitely on Singapore's agenda.



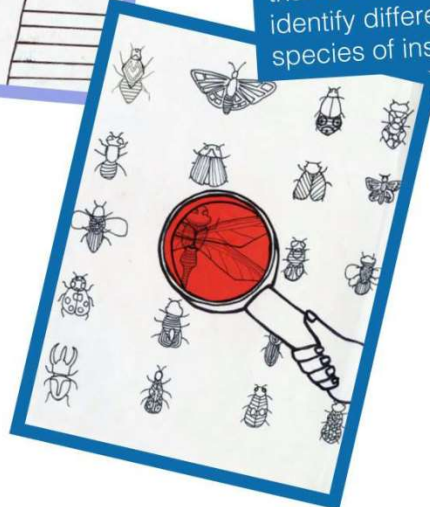
Li Tianyi drew the red dot as the sun along with many other cultural elements to tell a story.



Huang Jiarong sees the dot as an Oreo biscuit that he enjoys with a glass of milk at home.



Lisa Tsoi recreated the red dot as a magnifying glass that is used to identify different species of insects.

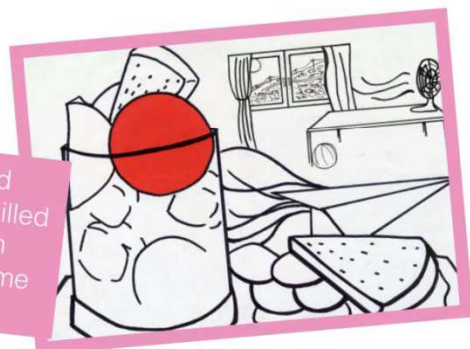


Yang Junhe placed the red dot in the middle of a sunflower that hides the face of a young girl.



Ethan Long's version of the red dot is a lens of a pair of spectacles capturing the cityscape.

Ye Zi popped the red dot into a glass of chilled drink to be enjoyed in the comfort of her home on a warm day.



SINGAPORE FOOD IN HONG KONG – DIY STYLE

SINGAPORE HAS MANY WELL-LOVED NATIONAL DISHES, AND EVERYONE HAS THEIR PERSONAL TOP FAVOURITE. ONE DISH SINGAPOREANS GENERALLY AGREE IS AN ICONIC SINGAPORE DISH WOULD BE THE NYONYA LAKSA.

The recipe and image are courtesy of Singapore International School (Hong Kong) Parent-Teacher Association and taken from their cookbook “Joyful Recipes of Love”. The cookbook was published in conjunction with the school’s 30th anniversary. Part of the proceeds from the book sale goes to charity as a way of giving back to the community. You can email pta@singapore.edu.hk to get your hands on a book and do your bit for charity while stock lasts.

Singapore Nyonya Laksa Recipe

by Chef Ong Peh Ti
from Dignity Kitchen

Serves 4-6
Prep 1.5 Hrs + Cook 30 Min

Rempah

- 150g Dried shrimp
 - 80g Lemongrass
 - 60g Blue ginger
 - 30g Candlenut
 - 30g Red chillies
 - 100g Chilli paste
 - 300g Shallots
 - 30g Fresh turmeric
 - 30g Shrimp paste
 - 50g Salt
 - 30g Sugar
-
- 230ml Cooking oil
 - 500g Prawns
 - 400ml Fresh coconut cream
 - 200ml Water
 - 150g Tau pok (dried beancurd puff)
 - 300g Bean sprouts
 - 200g Yellow noodles
 - 200g Dried rice vermicelli, soaked till soft
 - 100g Fish cake, sliced
 - 50g Laksa leaves, minced
 - 4 Eggs, hard boiled, halved



Photo Credit: Gary Jones at www.gazjonesphoto.com

STEPS

1. Blend all ingredients for the rempah until it reaches a smooth paste.
2. Heat up the wok, add oil followed by the rempah. Fry for 30-45 minutes on medium heat.
3. At the same time, prepare a pot of boiling water (around 2.2L) and cook the prawns for about 6 minutes. Cool the cooked prawns and remove the shells. Set aside the prawn shells and prawn stock separately.
4. Use a pan to fry the prawn shells till the umami is drawn out (around 5-8 minutes). Place them back into the prawn stock to boil for 30 minutes. Strain and set aside.
5. When the rempah is almost ready, dilute 200 ml of coconut cream with 200 ml of water and add into the rempah. Bring it to a boil.
6. Add the remaining 200 ml of coconut cream to make the broth more creamy. Stir well and simmer over low heat for 5-10 minutes.
7. Add the creamy broth into the prawn stock (step 4) and bring it to a boil, then to a simmer. Add tau pok and cook for at least 10 minutes.

Assembly per serving

8. Blanch bean sprouts, 50g yellow noodles and 50g rice vermicelli in a pot of boiling water for 20 seconds. Place them in a bowl and top up with the hot laksa gravy. Garnish with prawns, fish cake, laksa leaves and hard boiled egg.

EVENTS

RECAP OF PAST EVENTS

28 APR:

Webinar “China – Dealing with Uncertainty” by Mr Tommy Xie, Head of Greater China, Research & Strategy, OCBC Bank, organised by SingCham HK with OCBC Bank and OCBC Wing Hang Bank

MAY:

Singapore International School (Hong Kong) and Consulate-General of Singapore in Hong Kong compiled thank you notes written by the students into a book and presented them to the Hospital Authority, Police Force, Fire Services Department, and Customs and Excise Department in person, to show our appreciation for their effort in combating the Covid-19 pandemic.

18 MAY:

“Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence” Photo Exhibition which featured works from Singaporean photographer Lee Fook Chee

25 MAY:

Opening ceremony of Art Central 2022 supported by UOB as Lead Partner

29 MAY – 1 JUN:

Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan visited Hong Kong

7 JUN:

Durian Night – summer networking event organised by Singapore Global Network, Singcham HK and Singapore Association HK

20 JUN:

Opening Ceremony of Institute of Technical Education (ITE) – Vocational Training Council (VTC) International Student Seminar 2022

30 JUN:

Luncheon talk “HKSAR 25th anniversary: Business and Rule of Law” by Mr Grenville Cross GBS SC, organised by SingCham HK

19 – 20 JUL:

Head of Civil Service Mr Leo Yip visit to Hong Kong

28 JUL:

Luncheon talk by Mr Wallace Lam, Deputy Head, Institutional Banking Group, DBS Hong Kong and Mr Nathan Chow, Senior Economist, DBS, organised by SingCham HK

UPCOMING EVENTS

4 AUG:

Talk by Mr Kenneth Gaw, President and Co-Founder of Gaw Capital, organised by SingCham HK

6 AUG:

Singapore National Day Reception for Overseas Singaporeans at Grand Hyatt Hotel organised by SingCham HK, Consulate-General of Singapore in Hong Kong, Singapore Global Network and Singapore Association Hong Kong

30 SEP:

Talk by Mr Kenneth Tsang, CEO of Gleneagles Hong Kong, organised by SingCham HK

27 OCT:

Talk by Mr Jonathan Choi from the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, organised by SingCham HK

12 – 13 NOV:

Singapore Festival at Central Market, organised by SingCham HK, Consulate-General of Singapore in Hong Kong, Singapore Global Network and Singapore Association Hong Kong

24 NOV:

Talk by Mr Ricky Ng, Head of Wholesale Banking HK and meet Mrs Christine Ip, CEO Greater China HK, UOB

**For more information on Singapore Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong (SingCham HK) events, you can send an email to scc@scchk.com.hk*

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE IN HONG KONG

Units 901-902, 9th Floor, Admiralty Centre Tower 1
18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong



<https://www.mfa.gov.sg/hongkong>



@Singapore Consulate-General in Hong Kong



@sgconsulatehk



CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
HONG KONG