

experience **singapore**

A newsletter of the
Singapore Cooperation Programme
January - March 2011
ISSUE 38

A SLICE OF THE SKY

SINGAPORE AVIATION
SET TO SOAR



READY TO RESCUE

AVIATION SEARCH AND RESCUE COURSE OFFERS TIMELY LESSONS

SURGICAL HELP FOR AFGHANISTAN

SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES LEND HELPING HAND

Dear readers,

A happy 2011 to you from the *Experience Singapore* team. We would like to thank you for the many complimentary emails and letters we have received in response to the inaugural Oct - Dec 2010 issue of our revamped publication. Among readers' comments were that the issue was "enjoyable", "informative" and "well-written". We even had individuals, who had come across the newsletter via our existing readers, writing in to request for copies of the publication.

In this issue, we are taking to the skies. Read about how Singapore is seeking to expand its status as a regional aviation hub with the revitalisation of the former Seletar Airbase in **A Slice of The Sky** and **The Art of Flying**. In **Joining Hands**, our medical professionals from the Singapore Armed Forces share their experiences in Afghanistan, providing emergency care.

Also, in **Reflections**, two of our Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) participants recall their experiences working under very realistic conditions as part of two Search and Rescue courses organised under the SCP recently.

We hope you continue to find *Experience Singapore* a great way to keep abreast of major news about Singapore and the SCP. And do keep the letters and emails coming!

Sudesh Maniar

Director
Public Affairs Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Share with us your memories, photos and views of your experience in Singapore under the Singapore Cooperation Programme. Email us at mfa@mfa.gov.sg.

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QUOTES FROM READERS' LETTERS

"Thank you for your well-written newsletter. I enjoyed reading it and the information was very useful."

Jan J. Nitschke
Namibia

"I wish to thank your organisation for allowing me to be on your mailing list for the informative and colourful issue of 'Experience Singapore' newsletter. It is an enjoyable newsletter indeed."

Gabriel Salayau
Papua New Guinea

How exciting it was for me to receive the copy of the newsletter of the Singapore Cooperation Programme after a long break. Indeed, the newsletter has come back with a bang owing to its new outlook and vibrant visuals. Thank you for a job well done.

Lawrence Mfanyana Ngcamphalala
Swaziland



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE

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Cover photo: AFP

NEW AIR CARGO HUB BY 2012

A new air cargo facility will be ready by 2012 to meet the growing demand for cargo and logistics.

The 26,277 square metre Air Cargo Express (ACE) Hub will be run by Changi Airport Group and located in the free trade zone of Changi Airport.

The ACE Hub will have on-site customs and immigration services, two aircraft parking bays and direct airside access.

Singapore's airfreight movements saw steady growth in 2010 — recording more than 1.66 million tonnes of air freight in the first 11 months, a 11.7 per cent increase from the same period in 2009.

TALKING POINT

“The Low-cost Carriers (LCC) market seems to defy gravity. During the financial crisis when the entire industry was showing a decline ... the LCC business continued to grow. There was a silver lining in the sea of dark clouds. They continue, in this robust economy, to grow faster than legacy carriers.”

Paul Ng, Global Head of Aviation with Stephenson Harwood, on the growing trend in business aviation needs.



NEWS IN NUMBERS

12mins

The time taken for the first bag to be ready for retrieval from the time an aircraft lands in Singapore

14.7%

The growth rate of the Singapore economy in 2010, making it Asia's best performing economy

21

The number of languages spoken by Changi Airport's team of Customer Service Officers. Languages spoken include Tagalog, Vietnamese, Spanish and Nepalese

42 MILLION VISITORS FOR CHANGI AIRPORT

Singapore's award-winning Changi Airport marked another aviation milestone in 2010 when passenger traffic hit a record 42m. This figure is a 13 per cent increase from 2009.

The last time the airport set a record in passenger traffic was in 2008, when it registered 37.7m passenger movements.

In December, Changi Airport welcomed its 40-millionth passenger, Mr Jonath-an Shih from Taiwan, with a 40-minute shopping spree at Changi's Terminal 3, while other passengers on the same flight received commemorative gifts and shopping vouchers.

Mr Tan Lye Teck, covering CEO of Changi Airport Group, said, "Changi Airport has grown from strength to strength since its opening in 1981. We look forward to taking Changi forward in the next phase of its development. At the same time, we will ensure that we consistently deliver the Changi Experience even as we welcome more customers with increasing demand for air travel. With the support of our partners and staff members of the whole airport community, we are confident that Changi will remain the premier air hub in the region."





An artist's impression of the new Seletar Aerospace Park. ILLUSTRATION: JTC Corporation

A SLICE OF THE SKY

Seletar Airport, Singapore's first international civil airport, is enjoying a rebirth as a premier destination for business travellers. It is set to play a key role as the nation looks to enhance its role as an aviation hub for the region.

WORDS BY JOAQUIN TEO

Nestled in the north-eastern corner of Singapore, the sleepy environs of Seletar Airport belies its grand beginnings as the Republic's first international civil airport. But it is poised to regain the hustle and bustle of yesteryear as plans are in place to revitalise the airport and develop it into a business aviation destination.

This comes as demand for business aviation expands significantly. Indeed, Seletar Airport, a former mili-

tary airbase, has seen the number of private jet operators triple in recent years as business aviation takes root in the region.

The demand is fuelled by private wealth management and new mega-attractions — such as the integrated resorts — which are drawing more high-net worth individuals and corporate executives to Singapore's shores.

As Vice-president of Macau-based Jet Asia and the head of the government relations committee of the Asian

Business Aircraft Association, Ralph Leach, recently told the *Business Times*, "There is an increasing recognition in the corporate world here that these jets are not just a luxury. They provide a competitive advantage, especially in a vast continent like Asia."

READY TO TAKE OFF

Developer JTC Corporation is in the process of transforming the 93-hectare single runway airport into a 300-hectare Seletar Aerospace Park (SAP)



that will offer discriminating travellers the privacy and convenience of “point-to-point” travel and flexible timing.

In 2011, works will be completed to extend the runway to 1.8km, enabling Seletar Airport to receive larger aircraft such as the Airbus 320 single-aisle jet. This will also allow a 12,000km flying range for aircraft to reach the Middle East and further destinations in Europe and Africa.

Additional parking space for various sizes of aircraft and new taxiways will also allow Seletar Airport to accommodate more flights, while new Air Traffic Control facilities will raise service levels.

By 2014, the airport will be equipped with an Instrument Landing System, a ground-based instrument approach to provide precision guidance to approaching and landing aircraft. When fully operational in 2018, the SAP is expected to contribute S\$3.3 billion annually in value-added

services and generate 10,000 additional jobs.

PARTNERING HIGH FLYERS

At the same time, the Republic continues to attract major aviation and aerospace players such as Rolls-Royce, Eurocopter and Pratt & Whitney. Rolls-Royce made its largest investment worldwide through the establishment of its S\$700 million Seletar Campus.

Rolls-Royce Chief Operating Officer Mike Terrett said at the launch in February 2010, “The establishment of our Seletar Campus represents an important step forward as we increase our capacity and capability to meet the growing needs of our global customer base. Singapore offers highly competitive skills, a business-friendly environment conducive to high value-added manufacturing, a strong focus on research and innovation and proximity to our

“There is an increasing recognition in the corporate world here that these jets are not just a luxury. They provide a competitive advantage, especially in a vast continent like Asia.”

Ralph Leach, Asian Business Aircraft Association

growing customer base in the Asia Pacific region.”

A Business Aviation Complex to offer warehousing and a Components Manufacturing and MRO Facility (CMMF) for aerospace support services are being built at the SAP to support such investments. There will also be a regional aviation campus, which will house a leading aeronautical university, training institutes and research facilities.

As Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) Assistant Director of Business Aviation/General Aviation, Meaven Lee, said in *Bridging Skies*, a publication of CAAS, “These upgrades will enhance capacity significantly, thereby allowing a wider variety and bigger volume of aircraft to pass through Seletar Airport. This helps drive traffic to the airport while creating multiplier effects for other economic sectors, which will contribute to the further growth of Singapore’s aviation sector and economy.”

A LEADING AIR HUB

The re-development of Seletar Airport will add a further dimension to Singapore’s already well-established aviation hub. A record 42 million visitors went through Singapore Changi Airport in 2010, which is the most-awarded airport in the world. In 2010 alone, it received 25 Best Airport awards, bringing the total to 367 in its 29-year history.

Singapore’s role as a global aviation player was underlined by its re-election into the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for the fourth time in October 2010. As ICAO’s governing body, the Council deliberates issues on the regulation of international civil aviation and develops new initiatives and regulations for international civil aviation. As an active member, Singapore has chaired numerous ICAO expert panel sessions and working group meetings, including the Air Navigation Commission, the ICAO Aviation Security Panel and the 2009 ICAO High Level Meeting on International Aviation and Climate Change.

To meet future challenges, a S\$9m fund was launched by the CAAS under its Aviation Manpower Programme (AMP) to attract and develop manpower to meet the needs of the expanding aviation industry. The fund will provide aviation scholarships, finance skills upgrading and student outreach activities. Currently, the aerospace industry employs some 19,000 people and will need 6,300 more by 2015 to keep pace with the projected rapid growth.

“These upgrades [will] help drive traffic to the airport while creating multiplier effects for other economic sectors, which will contribute to the further growth of Singapore’s aviation sector and economy.”

Meaven Lee, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

The 300-hectare Seletar Aerospace Park will include new runways as well as warehousing, manufacturing and training facilities to support the aviation industry.





Scrub nurses ME4 Lim Poh Thiam (left) and ME1 Wong Zheng Wen preparing a two-year-old Afghan child for surgery.

PHOTOS: SAF surgical team

SURGICAL SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN

Members of the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF's) first surgical team to Afghanistan tell what it was like heading to the conflict zone and being at the front line.

WORDS BY SHERLYN QUEK

For Captain (CPT) (Dr) Tan Wah Tze, it was certainly a different experience from his usual In-Camp Training. Instead of serving as a medical officer in the SAF's Combat Support Hospital, the 38-year-old consultant anaesthetist was deployed for two months in the Afghan province of Oruzgan.

He was one of three Operation-

ally Ready National Servicemen (NS-men), together with general trauma surgeon Major (MAJ) (NS) (Dr) Philip Iau and orthopaedic surgeon CPT (NS) (Dr) Mathew Cheng, who volunteered to serve there as part of an eight-man surgical team from the SAF.

From 1 Apr to 30 May, the team provided surgical and medical support to the international coalition

troops at a field hospital in a base at Tarin Kowt, the provincial capital of Oruzgan, as well as emergency medical care for the Afghan locals.

This mission was the SAF's 10th deployment to the war-torn country since 2007, and marked the first time NS-men have been sent to Afghanistan.

ANSWERING THE CALL OF DUTY

On his decision to volunteer for the mission, CPT Tan said: "As NS-men, we are part of the operationally-ready force of the SAF and it's an honour to add our experience and skills to the SAF's contribution in Afghanistan's reconstruction and stabilisation efforts."

As for CPT Cheng, he went simply because he was ready and willing: "I'm the type who can rough it out in

JOINING HANDS

a rugged environment and I have the suitable skills to do a wide range of surgeries, so I felt that I had a responsibility to go." The 43-year-old former commando medical officer had participated in the SAF's peacekeeping mission to East Timor in 2002.

OPERATING IN AFGHANISTAN

Working in a war zone under the austere conditions of a military field hospital was a learning experience for the team as, during their two-month stint in Afghanistan, they saw several rocket strikes. Several artillery rounds landed in the hospital's surrounding area.

When there was a warning siren, the team would stay put in protected shelters like the field hospital and housing containers.

These were fortified against such attacks, revealed scrub nurse Military Expert (ME) 1 Wong Zheng Wen.

Team leader Major (MAJ) (Dr) Muhammad Idu – who has experience from overseas deployments to Indonesia under his belt – said the combat injuries in Afghanistan, which included gunshot wounds, shrapnel and blast injuries resulting from improvised explosive devices (IED), were quite different from previous humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions he had been on.

"The success of the mission was due to the hard work and close bonds formed among members of the teams."

Captain (NS) (Dr) Tan Wah Tze



CPT (NS) (Dr) Mathew Cheng supervising ME3 Andy Oh in removing a stitch from the face of a young Afghan boy who was caught in an IED blast.

TOUCHING LIVES

The surgical team performed 85 operations and more than 100 outpatient reviews and consultations, and was proud that no patient died on the operating table during their watch.

For CPT Tan, the success of the mission was due to the hard work and close bonds formed among members of the team, which included scrub nurse ME4 Lim Poh Thiam, anaesthetic nurse ME3 Andy Oh and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurse ME5 Ng Geok Cheng.

Speaking about her key takeaway from this mission, ME5 Ng said: "I've gotten first-hand experience in treating different war injuries and seeing how they are managed, from the Emergency Room to the operating theatre to the ICU." She added: "I train NSmen medics and this is something I

can use as a great teaching aid."

Following this medical mission, a 52-man Unmanned Aerial Vehicle task group was deployed from August to November 2010 to provide surveillance and security to the armed forces operating in Oruzgan. A deployment of institutional trainers was also sent to Afghanistan in September. Working together with the Australian Defence Force, these trainers conducted artillery training for troops from the Afghan National Security Forces.

This article first appeared in the August 2010 issue of Pioneer Magazine. It has been edited for length and is reproduced here with permission from the Ministry of Defence, Singapore. To view the web version of Pioneer magazines, please go to www.mindef.gov.sg/cyberpioneer

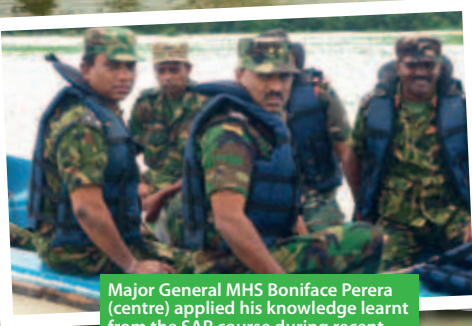


CPT (NS) (Dr) Tan Wah Tze (right) working with his Dutch counterpart and ME3 Oh to put a patient under general anaesthesia for surgery.



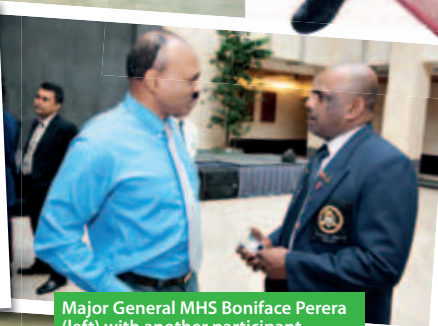
Above - two pictures showing SAR in action during IUSAR course

Photos: Singapore Civil Defence Academy



Major General MHS Boniface Perera (centre) applied his knowledge learnt from the SAR course during recent floods in Sri Lanka (main picture).

Photos: Major General Perera



Major General MHS Boniface Perera (left) with another participant during the SAR course in Singapore.

Photo: SCP

READY TO RESCUE

In aircraft disasters, earthquakes or floods—preparedness and emergency response skills make the difference between life and death. Two courses held from 22 Nov to 3 Dec 2010 sought to train personnel in the art of rescue.

WORDS BY **SHERALYN TAY**

Whether man-made or borne by nature, disasters strike at the heart of everyone. As Major General MHS Boniface Perera of the Sri Lanka Army noted, “Disaster and disaster management have caught the global attention more than ever before.”

Recent disasters, whether devastating earthquakes, temblors or floods in several parts of the world, underscore the magnitude of the issue and the importance of training Search and Rescue (SAR) personnel. To this end, the Singapore Cooperation Programme rolled out two training courses from 22 November to 3 December 2010 that covered the spectrum of SAR, from organisational effectiveness to emergency response.

Major General Perera was among 22 regional participants in the Search

and Rescue Administrators course held at the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA) and Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore. During the course, participants learnt about effective and efficient aviation SAR in areas such as administrative organisation, communications, logistics and funding. This knowledge proved invaluable during rescue efforts for the recent Sri Lanka floods – described as one of the country’s worst.

Major General Perera, whose own province was badly affected by flood waters, responded with confidence. “I quickly formed 120 SAR teams at the ground level,” he said. These ground troops helped in evacuating thousands who were at risk in the first 48 hours. “The course helped tremendously to develop a simple but workable and practical plan which resulted in saving

over a thousand human lives.”

Concurrently, Lieutenant Granville Adderley from the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Commonwealth of Bahamas, joined 21 other participants in the International Urban Search and Rescue (IUSAR) course conducted by the Singapore Civil Defence Academy. The course included urban SAR operations and live exercises.

The most rewarding challenge for him was a 36-hour live rescue exercise. “It tested our ability to work under extreme pressure while coping with the unfavourable weather conditions and other external factors that challenge a SAR worker in his ability to perform at his best,” recalled Lieutenant Granville. “[For] the entire team it was an eye-opener and a clear reminder of the tremendous responsibility that each of us shoulder as SAR workers in the preservation of human life.”

“It was an eye-opener and a clear reminder of the tremendous responsibility that each of us shoulder as SAR workers in the preservation of human life.”

Lieutenant Granville Adderley

THE ART OF FLYING

Renowned Singapore photographer Russel Wong captures the spirit, grace and art of Singapore aviation in these images from *The Art of Flying*, a photographic interpretation of what it means to take flight.



Talk about high maintenance - meticulous work keeps jets flying high



A reflection off the modern glass facade of Changi Airport's new Terminal 3



The International Air Cargo Hub spans 47-hectares and handles some 2 million tonnes of cargo annually



A super-sized hangar for super jets, including the A380 - the biggest passenger aeroplane ever built



Singapore's Aviation Academy takes in trainees worldwide



Art in motion at Changi Airport. This wind turbine daisy adds a splash of cool colour

These photos and more are part of *The Art of Flying* and have been published with the permission of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

HANDSHAKES

SINGAPORE AND QATAR RENEW TIES ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

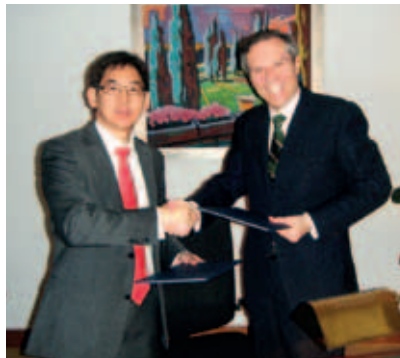
Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Mr Wong Kan Seng and Qatar Heir Apparent His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 9 November 2010. This formalised both countries' commitment to continue with training programmes at the Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED) Regional Training Centre for Public Administration (RCTPA). These courses touch on topics such as public administration, economic and urban development, and provide an avenue for greater dialogue and sharing among AMED member countries.



Deputy Secretary for International Cooperation, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Lee Chiong Giam (left), and Director of the Institute of Administrative Development, Qatar, Dr Eisa Bin Saad Al-Naimi (right), exchange MOU documents.

SINGAPORE AND GERMANY TO CONTINUE CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING FOR AFGHANISTAN

Singapore and Germany signed a Letter of Intent on 23 November 2010 to continue provision of joint technical assistance to Afghan aviation personnel to improve the safety of civilian air traffic. This is the second year that the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) and the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) are collaborating with Afghanistan in the area of civil aviation. As part of the agreement, a two-week airport ramp operations and management programme for Afghan Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation officials was held at the Singapore Aviation Academy in January 2011.



Singapore's Ambassador in Berlin Mr Jacky Foo (left), and Germany's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Michael Steiner (right), signed the Letter of Intent on 23 November 2010.

TOASTING ALUMNI TIES IN HANOI

The Singapore Embassy in Hanoi and the Civil Service College (CSC) organised a Joint Alumni Dinner at the Hanoi Club in Hanoi, Vietnam on 13 September 2010 to renew ties between SCP Alumni. Held in conjunction with CSC's inaugural Overseas Study Visit Programme to Vietnam from 12 to 18 September, the dinner provided a platform for Singaporean and Vietnamese civil servants to interact and discuss Vietnam's rapid development and progress.



SCP Alumni were all smiles during a reunion dinner held in Hanoi on 13 September 2010.

For more information on the Singapore Cooperation Programme, please visit www.scp.gov.sg

SCP ROUNDUP

18 TO 22 OCT 2010

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry jointly held its second tripartite workshop with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on reforming the building regulatory system for APEC economies. The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore held the workshop for 35 participants from 14 APEC countries. The course included strategies for regulatory reforms, achieving efficiency in construction permits and raising productivity in the construction industry.

8 TO 19 NOV 2010

Twenty-eight senior government officials from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Inaugural Effective Urban Infrastructure Programming course organised by the SCP and Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA). Topics included those on urban planning and management and how to finance and implement strategic investment projects. There were also site visits to Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority, Housing Development Board and Land Transport Authority.

8 TO 26 NOV 2010

Singapore welcomed 19 young civil servants from the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais for a three-week study visit programme as part of Young Mineiros – Citizens of the World Programme. This is the second time such a visit has been held. The trip, organised under the SCP and coordinated by the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), aimed to help young civil servants appreciate and understand the ideas behind Singapore's policies and development schemes.

8 TO 9 DEC 2010

A two-day Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property (IP) Financing and Valuation was held for 18 government officials from 12 Asia-Pacific countries to give an overview of the opportunities and challenges of IP financing and international policy developments. The course also reviewed how enhanced law and financing practices can maximise the value of IP assets.