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# ES

EXPERIENCE SINGAPORE



## Into The Future

BOLD MOVES FOR THE SINGAPORE OF TOMORROW



## Liveable And Sustainable

'HARDWARE' AND 'HEARTWARE' TO TACKLE FUTURE CHALLENGES

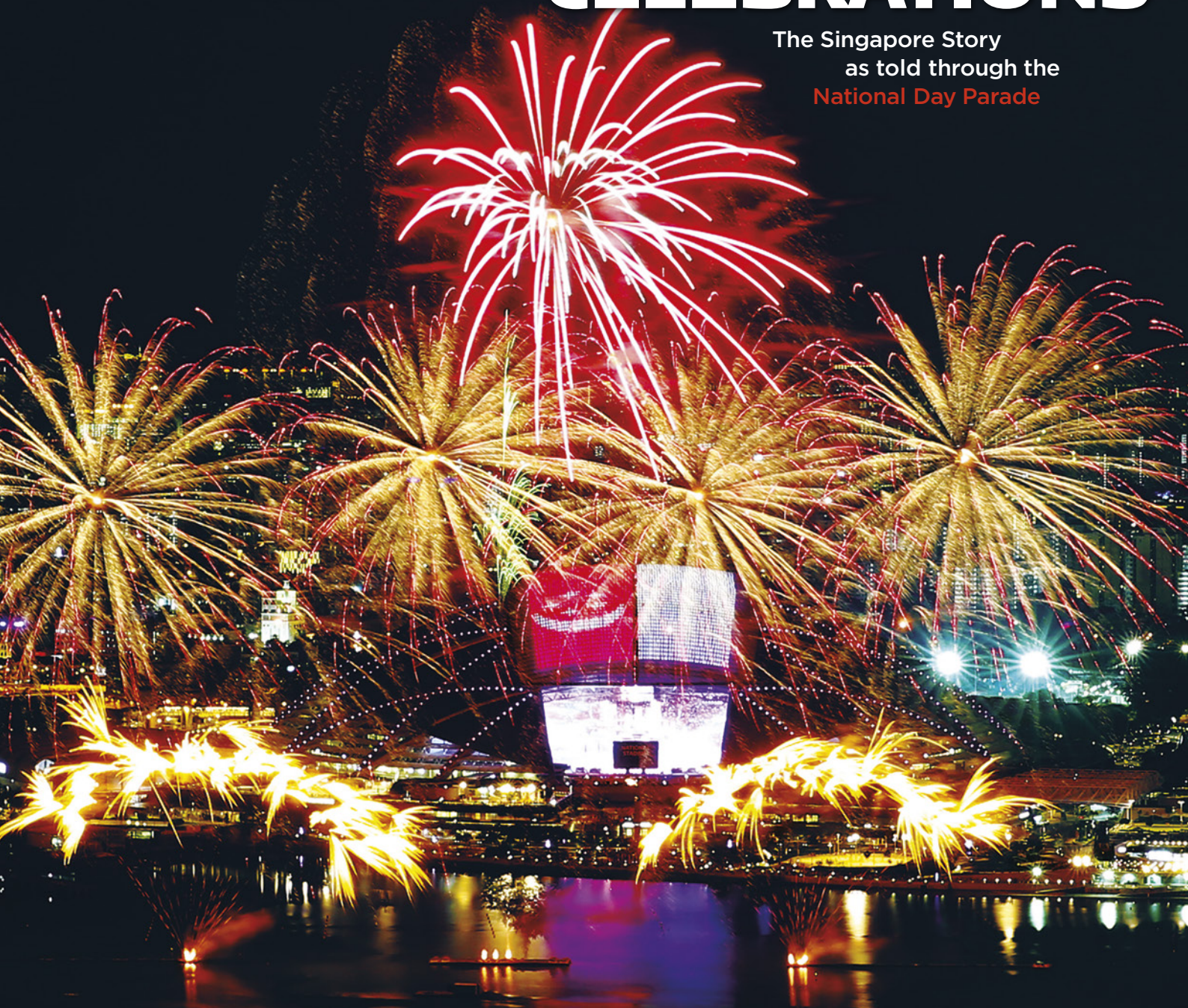


## Beyond Local

HOW FOREIGN FRIENDS MARK SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL DAY

# Charting The CELEBRATIONS

The Singapore Story  
as told through the  
National Day Parade



# Ed's Note

Dear readers,

Visitors to Singapore on 9 August will definitely not fail to notice the country's colourful and festive celebrations at the National Day Parade. Each year, the spectacular event varies in theme and focus but interestingly, the parades chronicle the country's progress and growth. **Charting the celebrations** looks at the evolution of these parades – from the first in 1966 to this year's grand affair held at the new National Stadium.

Sharing this day's joy is not just for its citizens; each year, visitors, foreign residents and foreigners working in Singapore join in the festivities with gusto. **Beyond local** takes a look at some of the activities held this year, which not only spread joy but also encouraged bonding between locals and foreigners.

But while past and current successes are celebrated, it is vital that Singapore look ahead to the future. Beyond the bustling metropolis it is now, what will Singapore be like in the next 50 years? **Into the future** explores upcoming developments in areas such as technology, security, education, sport and the environment which will contribute towards enhancing Singapore's position in the global network.

Having benefitted from technical assistance extended by a number of developed countries and international organisations in the immediate years after Singapore's independence, Singapore places emphasis on sharing its knowledge and developmental experience with others. It recently hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> World Cities Summit, 3<sup>rd</sup> CleanEnviro Summit and 7<sup>th</sup> Singapore International Water Week. Centred on the themes of liveable and sustainable cities, environment and water, the Summits brought together multiple stakeholders to discuss and share best practices for urban solutions for the future. Find out more in **A liveable and sustainable city for our future**.

We hope you find this issue of *Experience Singapore* enlightening and interesting.

*Teo Lay Cheng*

Director  
Public Affairs Directorate  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore



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#### Beyond local

New citizens, international friends and migrant workers joined in the festivities for Singapore's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SINGAPORE

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**Beyond the bustling metropolis that it is now, what will Singapore become next? Experience Singapore explores upcoming developments in technology, security, education, sport and the fight against climate change.**

TEXT BY ASHUTOSH RAVIKRISHNAN

**A SMARTER NATION**

Hailing a taxi or greeting a cabbie could soon be a thing of the past as Singapore became in August 2016, the first country in the world to have on-demand driverless taxis. Once the stuff of science fiction, driverless taxis are the latest innovation in Singapore's quest to become a Smart Nation. These nifty vehicles were tested at a dedicated circuit that simulates traffic conditions with startup nuTonomy's self-driving Mitsubishi i-MiEV, an electric car.


The public road tests are currently limited to a group of about 10 people, but nuTonomy hopes to eventually extend the trial to a few dozen people before making the service commercially available in



◆ A driverless Mitsubishi i-MiEV at a circuit designed to trial the technology.

the country in 2018. The fleet will expand to 75 when the service is available island-wide. Each of these vehicles will be fitted with fleet-routing and remote control technology which will enable the taxis to follow an optimal route to minimise traffic congestion.

This new form of transport may help the Republic realise its vision of building a 'car-lite' society by reducing the need for private cars. The initiative will also reduce pollution, as electric cars release fewer emissions than conventional cars.

The Smart Nation initiative is not limited to public transport as programmes are being rolled out in housing and healthcare. In 2015, the first smart public housing estate was launched for sale with features that include a home energy management system that enables residents to remotely monitor and control the energy consumption of appliances. 



↑ Residents learning basic first aid and CPR skills at an SG Secure event.

Photos: Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

### DEFENDING THE PEOPLE

It looks like a typical day in a coffee shop in Singapore, with residents of all ages tucking into their meals. But the chatter of diners is suddenly broken by gunshots as men in ski masks appear and fire at random. This is the scenario that is being played out across Singapore as part of *SG Secure*, a national movement that aims to prepare and train Singaporeans to deal with possible terrorist attacks. The initiative – which was launched in September 2016 – is a response to an increasingly uncertain world, marked by attacks in nearby nations.

As part of the movement, student groups such as the Civil Defence Lionhearter Club have spearheaded efforts to equip citizens with essential lifesaving skills. These include basic first-aid and firefighting knowledge. Residents can pick up these skills at roadshows held around the island or through a mobile app. Efforts have been made to include every segment of society. For example, one roadshow specifically targeted women, while another was designed for senior citizens.

Trained volunteers put their skills to the test during these simulated attacks. As the scenario plays out, these volunteers are called on to render assistance to their ‘wounded’ neighbours, while the Singapore Police Force’s new emergency response team takes on the ‘assailants’.

By the end of the two-year-long movement, it is hoped that each Singaporean household will include a trained member prepared to deal with emergencies.

### SPORT FOR ALL

Following its successful hosting of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games last year, Singapore has strengthened its commitment to promote sports among people with disabilities. Currently, just a third of such individuals in the country play sports. To raise this figure, a number of inclusive sporting facilities and programmes will be rolled out in the coming years.

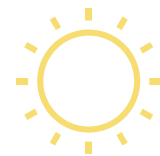
The Centre of Expertise for Disability Sports was opened in May 2016, with four more set to open by 2021. The inaugural centre has a swim programme for persons with disabilities. Titled ‘Yes! I Can,’ it is designed to help disabled people develop water safety and water competency skills. “[We will] develop a support network for disability sports through volunteerism and corporate philanthropy, while continuing to showcase our inspirational

para-athletes,” said Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth.

At last year’s ASEAN Para Games, the Republic won 24 gold medals – its best-ever performance at the biennial competition.



↑ Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Ms Grace Fu helps an amputee out of a swimming pool that allows programmes for people with disabilities.



TEMPERATURES IN SINGAPORE HAVE RISEN **0.25°C** PER DECADE BETWEEN 1948 AND 2015, MORE THAN TWICE THE GLOBAL AVERAGE

Source: Meteorological Service Singapore



↑ Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of The Republic of Singapore, addresses VIPs, dignitaries and guests at the World Cities Summit (WCS), Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore (CESS), in July 2016.



### PREPPED FOR THE FIGHT

As the world grapples with the devastating effects of climate change, low-lying Singapore, too, is preparing for a future of rising sea levels, warmer days and erratic weather patterns. In July 2016, President Tony Tan launched a Climate Action Plan that will guide Singapore’s sustainability and environmental efforts until 2030.

Besides outlining steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the plan also highlights strategies to deal with the impact of climate change. As part of the plan, new infrastructure projects such as Changi Airport’s fifth passenger terminal, is being built on higher grounds to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels. Terminal 5, to be completed in the second half of the 2020s, will be 5.5m above the mean sea level, more than a metre of the current requirements. Sea levels around the island are expected to rise between 0.25m and 0.76m by 2100.

To prepare the population for warmer weather, a multi-agency heat stress information system will be introduced by the end of 2016. This will help Singaporeans plan and manage outdoor activities based on prevailing weather conditions.

To view Singapore’s Climate Action Plan, visit [nccs.gov.sg](http://nccs.gov.sg)

Photo: World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week, CleanEnviro Summit Singapore

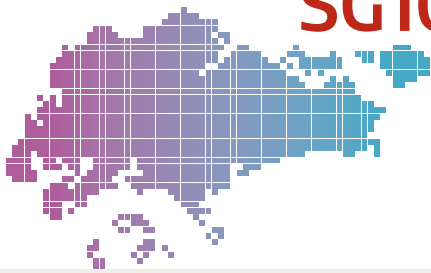
#FACT

MORE THAN 400,000 VISITORS TOURED THE FUTURE OF US EXHIBITION.



Participants shared their thoughts on the Singapore they would like to see in 2065.

## TOWARDS SG100



What will the Singapore of 2065 look like as it celebrates its Centenary Jubilee? This was the question posed to everyday Singaporeans during a series of community engagement sessions, held between November 2015 and July 2016. The *SGfuture* engagement sessions involved more than 8,300 Singaporeans from all backgrounds. Besides gathering ideas, the sessions also highlighted the roles everyone could play in moulding the Singapore of tomorrow. Inspired by this, many participants have gone on to volunteer with government agencies and non-profit organisations to create the country they envision.

The sessions were held in conjunction with *The Future of Us*, a multi-sensory exhibition that ran from December 2015 to March 2016. Exhibits imagined how Singaporeans might live, work, play and learn in the future. The event capped off a year of festivities that marked Singapore's Golden Jubilee.



### TAKING LEARNING OUTDOORS

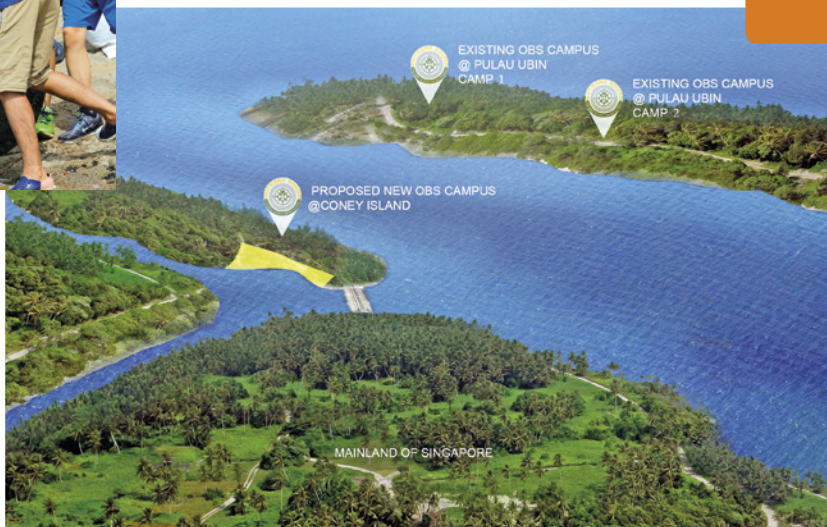
From 2020, all students in Singapore will have a new classroom: The great outdoors. This is part of the new National Outdoor Adventure Education Master Plan announced earlier in 2016. The scheme is designed to mould students' character and hone their critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills.

It will include a five-day, expedition-based camp for 15 year-olds held at the Republic's two Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) campuses, the second of which will open in 2020. These facilities challenge the mental and physical endurance of students by putting them through rigorous activities such as obstacle courses and rock climbing.

The expansion of OBS will mean that outdoor education becomes an essential component in the curriculum. The new 12-hectare campus will be on Coney Island, an offshore island linked to the mainland by two bridges. It will be larger than OBS' current premises on Pulau Ubin, also an offshore island. Besides expanding its capacity, OBS @ Coney will also have more complex facilities. To do this, OBS is studying similar programmes in other countries to find suitable activities to introduce at the new campus. ●



Besides promoting team work, OBS also nurtures an appreciation for nature.



Activities at OBS are also designed to challenge students' physical and mental limits.

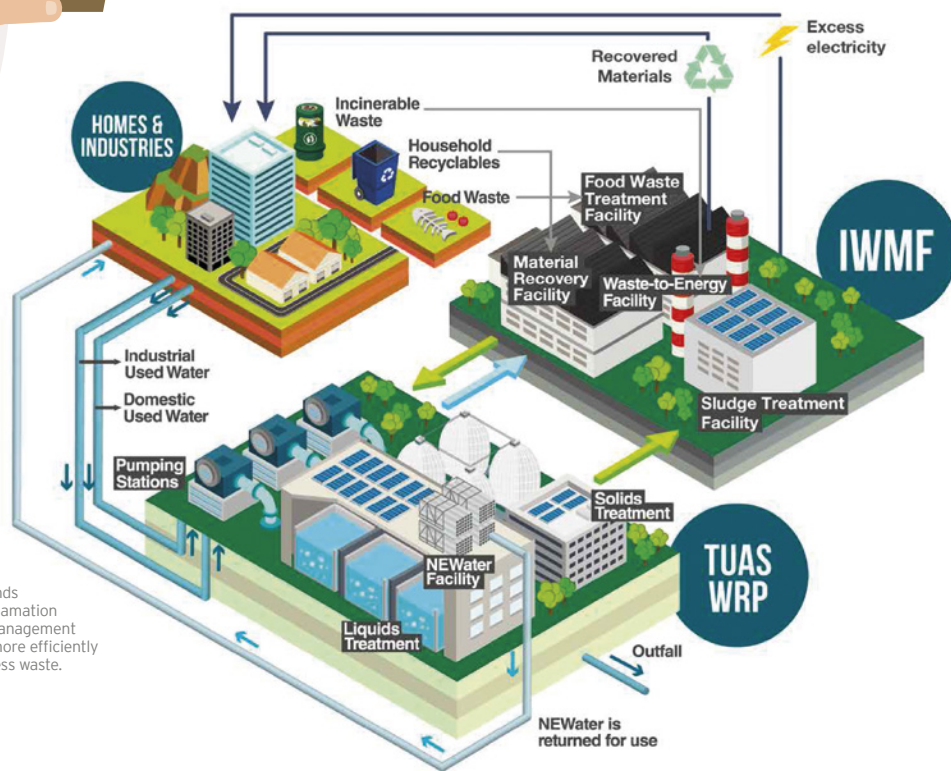
# A Liveable and Sustainable City for **OUR FUTURE**

“Hardware” and “Heartware” to tackle new challenges.



Singapore hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> World Cities Summit (WCS), the 3<sup>rd</sup> CleanEnviro Summit (CES) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) from 10-14 July 2016. Centred on the themes of cities, environment and water, the three events brought multiple stakeholders from around the world and facilitated the sharing of knowledge, solutions and best practices in building sustainable and resilient cities. At the joint opening ceremony, Singapore President Dr Tony Tan announced Singapore’s latest action plan to tackle climate change to meet our 2030 carbon mitigation targets. Key components of the plan include constructing Changi Airport’s 5<sup>th</sup> Terminal 5.5m above the mean sea level to guard against floods, developing a new heat stress information system to help the public better plan outdoor activities, and creating a fire risk index to identify the risk of bush fires under different weather conditions.

Several new projects showcasing Singapore’s innovative water solutions and capabilities were also announced at the WCS/CES/SIWW – the official launch of the Singapore Water Academy to provide high quality training for local and international water professionals; Singapore’s 5<sup>th</sup> desalination plant which will boost water security by producing 30 million gallons of water a day; and the commencement of the second phase of constructing Singapore’s Deep Tunnel Sewerage System to treat waste water and generate energy for use. These initiatives are the latest “hardware” in Singapore’s broader efforts to enhance our sustainability and liveability.



➔ As part of Phase 2 of the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System (DTSS), Singapore intends to co-locate its upcoming Tuas Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) with an Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) to optimise land use and more efficiently reclaim water, generate energy, and process waste.



↑ This was the first time the SCP and the Centre for Liveable Cities organised the International Leaders in Urban Governance Programme for mayors and other senior city officials. The course was held back-to-back with the World Cities Summit in July 2016.

### EXPLORING SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENT AND WATER CHALLENGES

The Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) took the opportunity to organise several programmes in tandem with the WCS/CES/SIWW. We partnered the Centre for Liveable Cities to organise a leadership programme on urban governance back-to-back with the WCS. Participants comprised mayors, vice mayors and senior city officials involved in city planning from around the world. They exchanged views with local industry experts and political leaders on addressing key challenges in sustainable urban development. In conjunction with the SIWW, the SCP and Singapore Water Academy organised three capacity building programmes on smart water technologies, water efficiency and wastewater management – two of which were in partnership with our foreign partners, the US Environmental Protection Agency and Mexico National Water Commission. More than 50 participants from ASEAN, Latin America and the Caribbean regions attended these three water management programmes in Singapore.

### INTEGRATING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS INTO URBAN PLANNING

“Hardware” aside, it is also about the “heartware” that makes Singapore, or any city, more than a place to live and work in for now and for the future. Our future will face different challenges and constraints. To adapt to the new landscape, Singapore must focus not just on technology, but social and cultural aspects that can be integrated into urban planning to build a sustainable and liveable city for the future. As Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Ms Grace Fu said at the WCS, “it is the inclusion of the cultural element that makes concrete buildings our homes and gives our people a collective sense of place and identity”. As we enter the future, the SCP will continue to play a key role in sharing Singapore’s efforts to enhance our liveability and sustainability with the international community. ●



IT IS THE INCLUSION OF THE CULTURAL ELEMENT THAT MAKES CONCRETE BUILDINGS OUR HOMES AND GIVES OUR PEOPLE A COLLECTIVE SENSE OF PLACE AND IDENTITY

MS GRACE FU, MINISTER FOR CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH

↓ Ms Maria Lobato (centre) from the Mexico National Water Commission, with Mexico Ambassador to Singapore Mr Rogelio Granguillhome (right). Ms Lobato spoke about Mexico’s experience in water resource management at the workshop.



◆ ASEAN participants learnt about used water management practices in Singapore and the US in the Singapore-US Third Country Training Programme course that was held in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week.

SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL DAY PARADES REFLECT THE MATURING OF THE COUNTRY.

# CHARTING THE CELEBRATIONS

Since independence on 9 August 1965, Singapore holds its National Day Parade (NDP) every year on the same day, where Singaporeans come together to celebrate. Although varying in focus and theme, these parades chronicle Singapore's progress and mark its economic success and international standing. This year, as the Republic turned 51, its National Heritage Board curated a travelling exhibition to chart the evolution of these parades. Titled "50 Years of National Day Parades", it featured more than 100 images – from the first parade 51 years ago, to the return of last year's Golden Jubilee parade to the Padang, where it all began. *Experience Singapore* picks out a highlight from each decade.



Photo: Yusof Ishak Collection, National Archives of Singapore

1960s

The first NDP took place in 1966, a year after separation from Malaysia. It was a morning affair at the Padang, an open field in the Civic District and involved 23,000 participants led by six contingents from the then-People's Defence Force. With new found independence, NDPs in the 1960s aimed to foster a sense of identity in Singaporeans as well as showcase Singapore's aspirations.

↑ The debut of Singapore Armed Forces' armoured mobile column at the 1969 parade.



Photo: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, National Archives of Singapore



← To mark Singapore's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1975, "pocket pageants" at 13 neighbourhood locations were also held. Pictured is then-Minister for Health Dr Toh Chin Chye watching a dragon dance performance at Jalan Besar Stadium, 1975.



1970s

NDPs became a way for the young nation to display its latest technological acquisitions. 1974 saw the first colour television broadcast of the parade after Singapore acquired three "colour cameras". The first colour television signal had been transmitted on 1 May that same year. From 1973, the parades started in the late afternoon. In 1976, it took place for the first time in the newly-completed National Stadium.

↑ The procession took to the streets in the 1970s.

↓ A parachute performance at Bedok Stadium, 1983.



NDPs in the 1980s celebrated the country's remarkable development. The 1989 NDP also debuted Singapore's first daylight fireworks display.

← The NDP held at the National Stadium, 1980s.



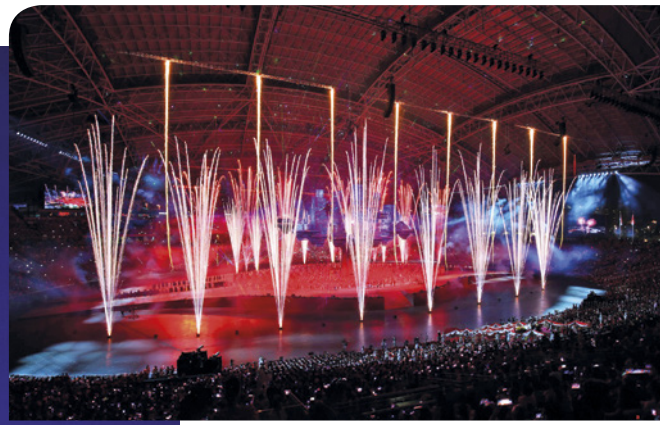
1980s

Photo: Collection of National Museum of Singapore

Photo: Collection of National Museum of Singapore



→ This year, for the first time, an indoor fireworks display complemented the outdoor one over the Kallang Skyline. It was also the largest indoor fireworks ever staged in the National Stadium.



Photos: Getty Images, NDP 2016 Fireworks Committee



NDP IS MORE THAN JUST A PARADE – IT IS A REFLECTION OF THE SINGAPORE STORY AND OUR SHARED ASPIRATIONS AS A NATION. AS WE MOVE INTO OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> NDP AND BEYOND, WE HOPE THE PARADE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS A RALLYING POINT FOR SINGAPOREANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO CELEBRATE THE PAST, CHERISH THE PRESENT, AND EMBRACE THE FUTURE

MR ALVIN TAN, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (POLICY & COMMUNITY) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD



Photo: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, National Archives of Singapore



1990s

NDPs represented Singapore's coming of age as a culturally diverse economic hub. They also showcased Singapore's friendly ties with other countries in the region. For instance, in 1997, the Singapore Armed Forces Parachute Team, known as the "Red Lions", parachuted into the National Stadium carrying the ASEAN flag and the state flags of member countries.

↑ The Guard of Honour and other contingents at the National Stadium, 1991.

↓ The NDP float parade and fireworks at the National Stadium, 1991.



2000s

At the turn of the new millennium, the theme was national identity – remembering the country's roots while gearing up for the future. The NDP was held for the last time at the National Stadium in 2006 before it was demolished for the construction of the Singapore Sports Hub. In 2007, The Float at Marina Bay – the world's largest floating stage – marked its debut as the new parade ground and celebrations were framed against the city's iconic skyline. NDP 2016 returned to the new 55,000 – seat National Stadium, now part of the Singapore Sports Hub. ●

↑ 2015's Golden Jubilee parade – the grandest to date – returned to the Padang. Highlights included F-16 fighter jets from the Republic of Singapore Air Force forming the number "50", a film tribute to Singapore's founding Prime Minister, the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew (pictured), and groups marching in vintage uniforms. A Singapore Airlines A380 was also part of the aerial flypast segment of the parade.

Photos: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection



Photo: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Ltd



Photos: courtesy of Singapore Management University

**New citizens, international friends and migrant workers joined in the festivities for Singapore's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday on 9 August 2016.**

TEXT BY FAIROZA MANSOR

# BEYOND LOCAL

## A RACE THAT BONDS

New international students at the Singapore Management University (SMU) – both full-time freshmen and exchange students – received a one-day crash course on Singapore, via a National Day Amazing Race organised by its student club SMU Roots.

The event was held on 10 August to welcome these students and foster friendships between Singaporeans and foreigners. More than 120 students, out of which almost half were foreigners, took public transport to landmarks and spots such as Chinatown, Clarke Quay, Marina Bay Sands and Gardens by the Bay. At each stop, they played games pertaining to Singapore's culture, traditions and history. They also sampled popular local food such as *popiah* (spring roll).

Ms Han Ai Leen from neighbouring Malaysia said there was a lot about Singapore she had not been aware of. "I picked up some Singlish (colloquial Singaporean English) and learnt the interesting stories behind Singapore's historical buildings and locations," said Ms Han, a first-year Accountancy student. "The race was a fun and enriching experience for me."

The Race was memorable for the local students too. Year Four Accountancy student Matthew Ng said, "Participating in the Race made this year's National Day even more special for me. I not only learnt more about my own country, but also made new friends and got to share my personal experiences as a Singaporean with the international students."

The Race was organised with support from the Community Integration Fund (see box for more).



↑ New SMU international students geared up for the National Day Amazing Race.



↑ Getting into the spirit of things at the National Day Sing-along event.



↑ The National Day Sing-along event kicked off with the Pledge.



↑ Getting to know Singapore means getting a taste of *popiah* (spring roll).



➔ A 'Thank-You' treat for migrant workers at the Singapore Flyer organised by Migrant Workers' Centre.



Photos: courtesy of Migrant Workers' Centre

### 'THANK YOU' WITH A VIEW

Many of the buildings that dominate Singapore's distinctive skyline have been built by migrant workers. To thank them for their contributions, non-governmental organisation the Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC), together with Young NTUC, the youth wing of the National Trades Union Congress, hosted about 50 workers aboard the Singapore Flyer on 30 July as an early National Day celebration.

The event, named 'Come Flyer with Me', was timed so that the guests could watch the fireworks display from the National Day Parade preview event being held at the Singapore Sports Hub nearby. "Our migrant friends have played an integral part in building the infrastructure of Singapore, but some of them might not have had the opportunity to experience the landmarks they have had a hand in constructing," Executive Director of MWC, Mr Bernard Menon told *Experience Singapore*. "Through this activity, we [had hoped] to inject something fun and special... and show them that Singaporeans are grateful for their hard work and contribution to our nation-building."

True enough, getting onboard the Singapore Flyer was a first for many of the guests including Mr Islam Amirul from Bangladesh. "The view was beautiful, especially with the city lights at night," said the 32 year-old who has worked in Singapore for over nine years. Each guest was also presented with a goodie bag filled with snacks, drinks and a thank-you note. These were packed and presented by student volunteers who were also present at the event.



### SINGING TO NEW ROOTS

To celebrate National Day this year, about 1,500 citizens – out of which 600 were newly-minted Singaporeans – gathered for a National Day Sing-along event on 30 July. Organised by the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA), with support from the Community Integration Fund, the annual event was held to instill a stronger sense of national identity and pride among citizens as they belted out popular National Day and community songs.

"National Day is a timely occasion for us to commemorate, reflect on, and celebrate our journey as one people," a SFCCA spokesperson told *Experience Singapore*. "Many of these songs not only recount the different phases of Singapore's history, they also capture and document our collective Singaporean memories. The songs are also in many languages so they celebrate Singapore as a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-faith society."

Attending such an event gave Mr Yang Xinli a greater sense of belonging to Singapore. "I came to Singapore in 1995 as the country provides a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for my children," said Mr Yang, a 49 year-old educational travel agent who became a citizen in 2008. "I feel happy and proud to be a Singaporean." ●



NATIONAL DAY IS A TIMELY OCCASION FOR US TO COMMEMORATE, REFLECT ON, AND CELEBRATE OUR JOURNEY AS ONE PEOPLE

SPOKESPERSON FOR SINGAPORE FEDERATION OF CHINESE CLAN ASSOCIATIONS

Photos: courtesy of Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations



➔ Moving to the beat of popular National Day and community songs.

### A HOME SWEET HOME FOR ALL

The **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FUND** was launched by the National Integration Council in September 2009 to support ground-up integration initiatives. These include interest-based activities that encourage interactions between new immigrants, foreigners and Singaporeans; projects that provide information and resources to new immigrants and foreigners on Singapore society, norms, and values; as well as events that encourage emotional attachment to and involvement in Singapore.

1970s National Day  
procession in  
the streets.



THE NATIONAL DAY PARADE (NDP) IS MORE THAN  
JUST A PARADE – IT IS A REFLECTION OF THE  
SINGAPORE STORY AND OUR SHARED ASPIRATIONS  
AS A NATION... WE HOPE THE PARADE WILL SERVE AS  
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