Third International Conference on Learning Cities

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Singapore Delegation

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Promoting a Sustainable Learning Culture in Singapore

By Dr Koh Tat Suan
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Key Facts about Singapore

Population (about 5.3 million) of which 36% are foreigners
- Chinese: 75%
- Malay: 13%
- Indian: 9%
- Others: 3%

Education Profile
- Lower Secondary and below: 18.2%
- Secondary: 17.1%
- Post Secondary (non-tertiary): 11.5%
- Diploma and Professional Qualification: 19.4%
- Degree: 33.7%

Labor Force (3,673 million)
- Resident Workforce: 2,280 millions
- Foreign Workforce: 1,393 millions

Services: 72.4%
- Manufacturing: 13.6%
- Construction: 13.3%
- Others: 0.7%

Unemployment Rate (resident): 3%
- Male: 2.9%
- Female: 3.2%

Source: Labor Force in Singapore 2016, Manpower Research & Statistics Department
Learning as a Nation
Understanding Singapore’s Learning Eco-system

Learning to Survive (1950s – 1970s)
- National Productivity Board (NPB) set up as a statutory board

- Industrial Training Board set up
- Vocational and Industry Training Board (VITB) formed
- Skills Development Fund (SDF) Launched

Learning to Compete (1985 - 2002)
- Institute of Technical Education (ITE) set up
- Economic Development Board (EDB) sets up industrial Training institutes
- National Skills Recognition System (NSRS) established
- Lifelong Learning Endowment Act passed

Understanding Singapore’s Learning Eco-system

Learning for Life (2003 – 2013)

- **2003**: Workforce Development Agency (WDA) set up as a national CET body
- **2005**: First CET Masterplan Launched
- **2008**: Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Frameworks launched
- **2010**: National Productivity and Continuing Education Council (NPCEC) formed
- **13-15**: Two new CET Campuses built, Second CET Masterplan

SKILLS future
LEARNING FOR A NEW WORLD
Tripartism

Collaboration among unions (workers), employers and the Government. The tripartite partners are:

– National Trade Union Congress (NTUC)
– Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF)
– Ministry of Manpower
Key Characteristics of Nation Building

Shared Vision and Effective Execution

Constant review and planning to adapt to economic and global changes

- Develop Industry Transformation Map (ITM) for growth industries
- Clear CET Masterplans to support workforce development
- Adequate state funding for continuing education and training
- Strong infrastructure and adaptive provisions to support changes and improvements
SkillsFuture – Workforce Development

A national movement to provide Singaporeans with the opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points.
- Help individuals make well-informed choices
- Develop an integrated, high-quality system of education and training that responds to constantly evolving industry needs
- Promote employer recognition and career development based on skills and mastery

Key Characteristics of Nation Building

Students
Make more informed learning and career choices

Educators
Inspire joy of lifelong learning

Employees
Prepare for tomorrow's jobs today
Embrace lifelong learning

Employers
Recognise skills and mastery
Skills will be your edge

Training Providers
Deliver quality industry-relevant training
Setting up Lifelong Learning Council

**Vision:** A society embracing lifelong learning as a way of life

**Mission:** To help all develop a habit of continuous learning for purposeful and productive living.

**Promote Lifelong Learning Mindset**
*raised awareness & desire*
- Signature Event: LL Festival
- SkillsFuture outreach

**Provide Accessible Learning Opportunities**
*low barriers of entry*
- Community Learning Nodes
- Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy, SkillsFuture Credit, MySkillsFuture Portal and other SkillsFuture initiatives

**Foster a Supportive Environment**
*encouraged & celebrated*
- Learning-thru-Play (LTP) Toolkit
- ‘Learning@Work Bootcamp’

**Nurture Community Involvement**
*ground-up & part of social fabric*
- ‘LearnSG Seed Fund’
- Synergise & multiply community advocacy and programs
Lifelong Learning Festival 2016

https://youtu.be/Gbu2lamvtKU