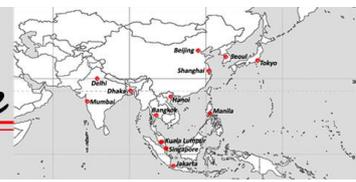


Asian Metropolis: Singapore



Modern Singapore was founded in 1819 as a British trading colony. It lies at the southern tip of Peninsular Malaysia with a total land area of 714.3 sq. km and a population of 5.18 million. Even though its size is moderately small, it consequently became one of the world's most prosperous countries by being referred as one of the Four Asian Tigers in position to its highly developed wealth and accomplishment in coordinating economic strategy.

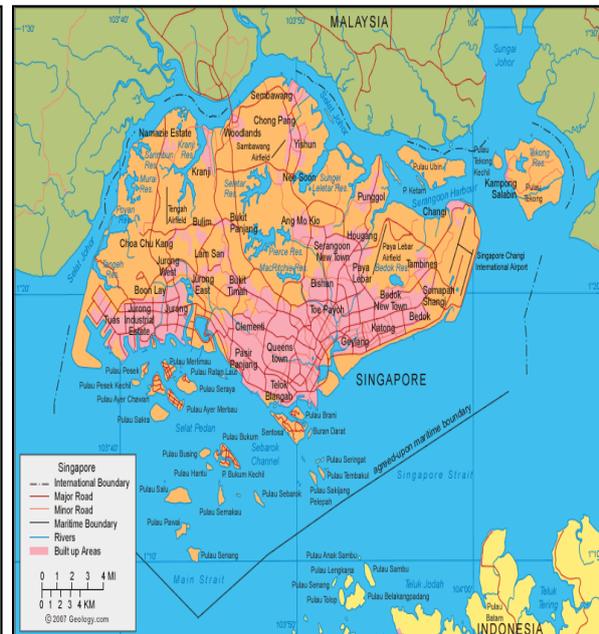
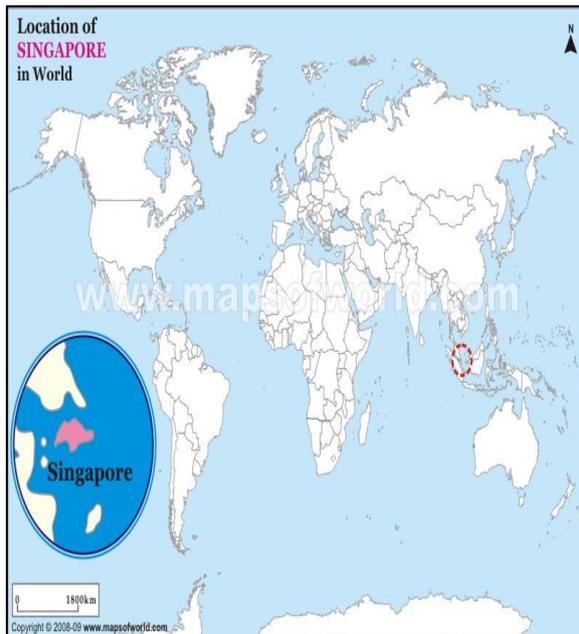


Figure 1: Location of Singapore In The World

Figure 2: Singapore City Map

► **Administrative arrangement and planning fabric**

Planning Department was formed in February 1960 with a power to guide comprehensive urban planning in Singapore prior to the implementation of 1958 Master Plan. Inadequacy of planning strategies to cope with challenges of rapid urban setting during the era has formulated a new type of plan, the long-term Concept Plan. As a conventional blueprint planning approach, the short-term (five year) master plan outlines strategic vision of concept plan. Other than granting essential standard of living for the population, it also summarizes the isolation strategy for conservation on heritage areas and nature reserves. Since 1989, The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) which is the national planning and conservation authority has been assigned the right to review and revise master plan in every five years. On the other hand, macro-level blueprint that conveys the long-term planning of government (Concept Plan) has guided systematic development of government's land allocation and transportation policy. The Concept Plan is being reviewed every ten years by the URA through consultation with other government agencies and it involves participatory planning.

► **Urban identity and some critical issues**

As of 2011, total population of Singapore stood at 5.18 million with a growth of 2.1% due to the increased number of citizens and non-residents. Singapore grew as both a city and an independent nation with issues like land scarcity as its biggest challenge in fulfilling the variety of needs of the population and providing accommodation to the nation. Even though the process of land reclamation has significantly contributed towards the intensification of land use planning, the possibility to create more new land is restricted due to the limitations of current technology and territorial constraints with its neighbouring countries. It was reported

that eight out of ten Singaporeans live in public housing managed by Housing Development Board (HDB) and the ethnic distribution was fairly well distributed in major HDB estates based on the representative quota of homes for each race within a housing block or neighbourhood. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), economy of Singapore grew by 4.9% in 2011, following the growth of 14.8% in 2010. The manufacturing sector grew to 7.6% with additional assistance by the surge in biomedical manufacturing even though there has been a contraction and slower growth in electronics, precision engineering and chemicals clusters.

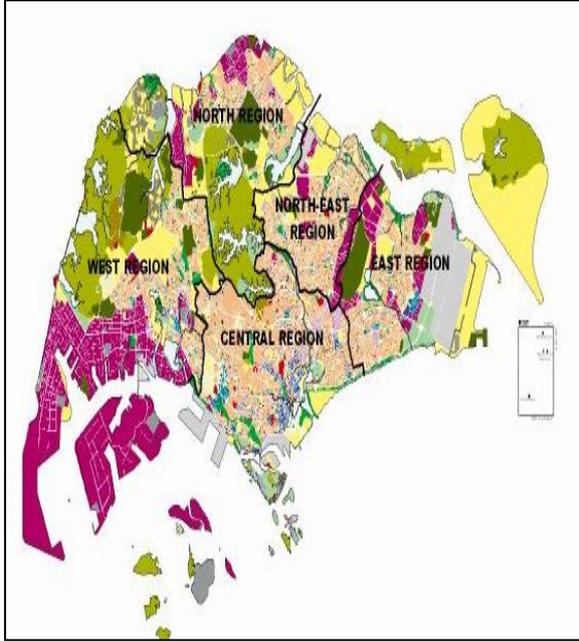


Figure 3: Five Development Regions In Singapore

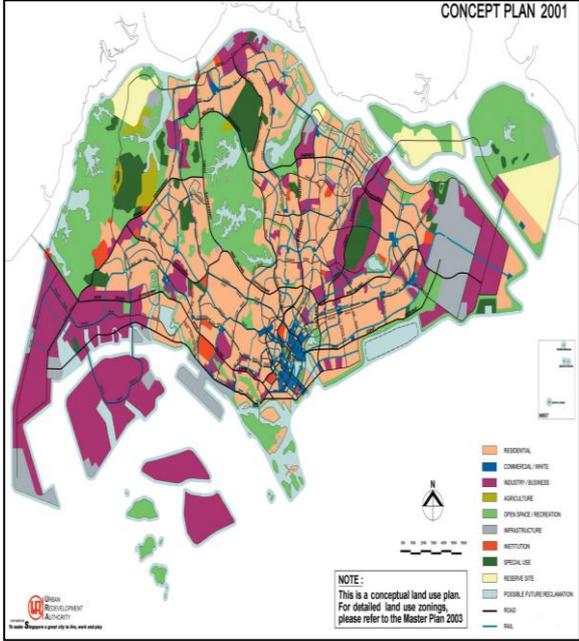


Figure 4: Conceptual Land Use Plan

Chronologically, Malaysia has been a provider of water supplies to Singapore based on water bilateral agreements. The 1961 Water Agreement has expired on 31st of August 2011, and the 1962 Water Agreement is scheduled to expire in 2061. In parallel with moves towards achieving political freedom and independence, a significant pace from the resolution has led to the recent reliability of water supply on the Four Tap Strategy namely (1) the rainfall water stored in reservoirs or its own catchment, (2) imported water supply from Malaysia, (3) the recycled water produced through stringent purification and treatment process with membrane filtration technology and ultra-violet disinfection named NEWater, and (4) desalinated water.

► **Urban evolution and growth story**

The vision for development of Singapore in 2008 Master Plan is to become ‘a Global City, a Vibrant Playground and Endearing Home’. Since Singapore has successfully confronted the globalization challenges in urban areas and the people are being properly housed, the government is currently focusing on the development of better environment and quality of life for its population. In order for Singapore to build and nurture place identity, more iconic spaces will be developed to retain a sense of identity in the physical landscape. It will also be transformed into a city of great urban biodiversity where old and new buildings exist in harmony through the conservation of its heritage and identity.

