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## What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Sandvand - 2007/02/11 19:39

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Singapore-bashing frequently seems to be a fun sport in neighboring countries. Are they just jealous - or is there something more to it?

READ THE REST IN OUR BLOG:  
<http://www.asiaobserver.com/blog/>

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Kevin - 2007/02/12 23:02

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I think the problem is that Singapore systematically is behaving quite arrogantly towards other nations in the region.

Kevin

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/05/03 13:09

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Kevin,

I agree with you.

For me the concern on Singapore is that officialy it is a democracy but in fact the dictatorship of one party in charge since the independance of this country, and even before.

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by linsi - 2007/05/03 18:21

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let me quote some of singapore's "inequalities"  
as stated in Asia Times 2006.

Growing economic inequality -In mid-November, Lee announced government plans to raise the goods and service tax (GST) from 5% to 7%.

GST was proposed in Hong Kong and yet the citizens strongly opposed such added tax and saw it as clutching more on low waged-earners and small businesses in the region.

Entrenched elitism

The issue is also significantly tied to growing public perceptions about elitism among PAP members of parliament (MPs) and their family members - a perceived social arrogance and economic selfishness that increasingly sticks in the craw of many Singaporeans, particularly among low-wage earners.

read more on:  
<http://www.singapore-window.org/sw06/061123AT.HTM>

and how about this?

Create social welfare fund from statutory deductions

"The argument is that we are overtaxed."

Dennis Morrison  
Wednesday, May 17, 2006

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Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/05/03 23:52

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Its OK, but what do you think about my idea that Singapore is a fake democracy ?

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Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by linsi - 2007/05/04 00:25

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hi jacques

i partly agree when you say that singapore has a fake democracy..but then as what i previously stated in other discussions, western style democracy is not applicable to all..

one singaporean quoted:

"if we have the democracy of the west, we have more prostitutes, drug addicts, etc.."

how the west handles its own democracy would be different than in japan, singapore, south korea, the philippines etc, for many reasons..

i hope you could give me your own ideas..

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Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by linsi - 2007/05/04 00:57

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to continue with the so called "fake democracy"  
let me quote from the article posted above-

For his pains, Mr Brown's regular column in the government-owned Today newspaper was brusquely terminated - fueling outrage in Internet chat rooms about the government's heavy-handedness and apparent lack of transparency.

government's heavy handedness and lack of transparency is not democracy at all..

another one is:

Some commentators have already dared to note that raising the consumption tax is by definition regressive and will hit poor households harder than rich ones as they are forced to spend a greater proportion of their income on tax-inflated necessities.

the social welfare system is heavily burdened on the people by cutting more from their wages to compensate ...

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/05/05 00:32

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I think that it is not true that western form of democracy is not suitable in Asia whose values are not the same : the so-called neo-conservatives.

Taiwan is the best exemple : It's belong to chinese culture : but have all western style of democracy (multipartism, election of the president directly by the population, freedom of association, freedom of religions and of labor syndicats... In Filipinas also, but there they are too many political murders.

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/05/31 01:14

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When in a parliament (In Singapore the Legislative Council) one party is in charge since 1959 and is today leading with 82 of its 84 members. It's not democracy.

When in a election competition, as a opposition you criticize for instance the educational or transport programm, immediately the two ministers in cause , plus the Prime Minister attack you for diffamation, plus the PM. So all the opposition parties and personally their leaders have been ruined. If an opposition leader want to make a public meeting, he has to ask for the permission one month before, but he dont received it. So, if he do it, he is arrested in charge of not authorized meeting and heavily condemned. That is what I call a false democracy?

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by linsi - 2007/07/06 08:39

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excerpt from the article:  
Singapore - Murder capital of the world

"...So given that "drug trafficking is taken seriously and the penalty is death", I'd like to know when Singapore is declaring war on Burma?  
In the meantime, I'd like to know why my favourite benevolent dictatorship has the highest execution (Murder) rate in the world. Nice Airline. Nice place for a Singapore Stopover.

I don't mind so much the trading with Burma, or the strong stance on drug couriers.  
It's the combined hypocrisy of executing people as an indirect cause of the very country supplying 60% of the worlds heroin with which you do business with. That's just like executing a man carrying heroin which will indirectly cause suffering to others, isn't it? But that's benevolent dictatorships for you.

Please read full article:

[http://tonygoodson.typepad.com/tonygoodson/2005/12/singapore\\_murde.html](http://tonygoodson.typepad.com/tonygoodson/2005/12/singapore_murde.html)

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

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Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/21 09:38

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No no no Burma will invade Singapore

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/21 11:56

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FRIDAYS, just before dawn, are hanging days in Singapore. Navarat Maykha, a Thai mother of two small children, awaited her turn as she prayed in her jail cell with her attorney, Peter Fernando, just a few days before her execution. An impoverished and uneducated woman, and also deeply religious, she swore until her death that she was unaware of the heroin that was hidden in the lining of a suitcase given to her by a Nigerian friend.

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/21 18:00

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Harry where have you hidden the rest of our diary ? Its not a secret anymore you don't need to hide where are you Harry ?

Maybe he;s forgotten his name again..... Lee where are you.... Mr Yew

Damit he must have gone down the drain again

Where's that old firm of his Die-narod

Post edited by: erikyong, at: 2007/07/21 18:01

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/21 18:47

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Harry I need you to tell that Loong branch of yours to tell everyone to throw away their rope. Someone needs to call up the prison Yewnit and tell them to get the rope and chuck in the sea

Well Mr Young I was told some man was hanging around outside the prison yesterday and while nobody was watching left a note saying sorry needed it for Tie-land going to a swingers party

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/21 22:29

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Harry do you remember Mr Mitsui ?

Well Mr Young I do remember meeting him a few times he went from cars to ships to banks and I though that's a good idea my family can do that as well

When was that Harry?

Oh well Mr Young that was back in the old days before 2004

I thought it was a bit longer ago than that Harry he knew my father they met in Switzerland. In fact I think I was there physically but my mind was somewhere else so I sort of bagueely remember him too. Never heard him mention your name though

Small World isn't is Harry

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/21 22:51

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We understand nothing with your Harry.

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If you want to contest Lee family power, it's OK but give us facts, dates...

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/21 23:42

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In 1999, two years after his death, an Oregon jury ordered the Philip Morris Co. — the maker of Williams' favorite brand, Marlboro — to pay Mayola \$820,000 in compensatory damages and another \$79.7 million in punitive damages. Oregon courts have twice upheld the punitive damage award, satisfied that the jury had reason to find that Philip Morris had perpetrated a fraud on Williams and other smokers in the state and that the company's conduct was both profitable and reprehensible in the extreme.

Consider the case of a young uneducated and poor Thai mother, with two children, She is possibly the victim of placing trust in another individual for whom she carried a suitcase. She wasn't familiar with air travel warnings about carrying luggage you should pack yourself in your own suitcase. Her lack of awareness to the dangers involved she's charged and found guilty of heroin possession then executed having been deemed a drugs dealer by The Government of Singapore.

Can the World excuse such a sentence to ever be acceptable rather than illegal since it was such a horribly inhumane act causing two children a life time of painful memory.

Concluding the act illegal then both her family and her nation are owed a very substantial claim in damages. This should be addressed urgently

Limited liability does not necessarily protect you where criminal factors may be involved. Perhaps not only The Government of Singapore but also its Ministers should be held personally liable for failing to avoid life taking miscarriages of justice especially if they introduced the law that caused the risk of life to be lost this way in the first instance (whenever the first case of this happening was). All that glossy squeaky clean plate glass tower of success hiding a filthy evil of unconcern for human life. Singapore doesn't impress me anymore

Post edited by: erikyong, at: 2007/07/22 05:30

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 01:46

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Someone throw a bag of flour at the Ministers who growl like Satan's hounds for a man challenging their fools gold. A priceless life for more of their yellow coloured tat blinding you in the eye so you can't see the truth of what life is really meant to be about.

Put your seat belts on Singapore and throw them out the plane door (with a parachute) nobody wants to know people who kill mothers, people who won't be told what to do and lose face however wrong they may be

Post edited by: erikyong, at: 2007/07/22 01:52

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 02:20

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Morning Harry phew bloody hell whats all that smoke,,,

Well Mr Young its my knee

Don't tell me Harry, its the joint

How did you know?

Complete total guess Harry

Really?

Yes Harry

Pass me the brown sugar will you Harry thanks

Harry when you go back to the laundrette pick up a big 200 pack of Marlboro cigarettes not the red Marlboro and not the Marlboro Lights the Marlboro Menthol for me will you...please Harry

Ok Mr Young

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Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/22 02:25

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 02:38

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Harry where's the Grand Theft Auto gone  
Well Mr Young I was driving last night  
Come on then Harry ... how many prostitutes did you run down ?  
Sixty five... same number as the laundrette in Chulia Street... I thought if I did that I'd find my way back more easily  
Good thinking Harry  
By the way where's the budgie?  
You mean Boeing... well Mr Young I just saw him do a double barrel roll through the archway there then skwalk and it all went quiet and there he was hanging from his swing upside down

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/22 02:46

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/22 02:48

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 03:22

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Harry you know that Chris Lamp bloke who hangs around all our cars.. where's he gone recently  
Well Mr Young someone got really annoyed for all the tickets he'd given them and phoned the police up claiming he was a trafficker..  
Not again are you serious Harry  
Yes Mr Young they executed him for being a drugs dealer

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/22 03:23

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 03:52

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Harry when are your friends the Yardleys turning up to see us?  
No they're the Yardies Mr Young not the Yardleys.  
What? where did you meet them Harry?  
Well Mr Young when we were in Burma....  
OK Harry and they told you they were from Kingston and...  
That's right how did you know Mr Young?  
you thought they meant they were English  
That's right how did you know Mr Young?

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/22 03:53

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 05:42

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Harry do you remember what I heard when that police mans son had been saying ... no no not 10 million baht... 70 million baht we can get him to pay....  
Oh you mean when that policemans son told your new wife terrible stories about you and how a package would be put under your washing machine and how the Royal Thai Police would find it because they already knew it had been put there for them to find...

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That's the one Harry when they planned to put me in prison as a drugs dealer and make about US\$ 2 million out of it or I would die in the place  
Yeah I remember about three to four years ago when you lived at Bangkok Garden Apartments owned by the Sophonpanich family

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 05:52

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Yes that's right Mr Young you absolutely freaked out and flew to the UK thinking of calling up ex MI6 Alex Manson to see if he could find out what was going on  
That's right Harry I was worried about policemen trying to be tailors  
Never ever trust The Royal Thai Police ... Harry don't ever ever trust them....

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 06:02

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Yes Mr Young I remember your new wife told you the two of you should move to one of your two apartments you bought above THE ASCOTT in Bangkok but strange things started happening there from day 1  
That's right Harry like my US\$28,000 Rolex Daytona they stole out of the 32nd floor apartment and Harry the fire that looked suspiciously like someone started it that burnt out the 33rd floor apartment  
That's right Mr Young the fire with the man sized hole in the suspended ceiling  
and the Thai Police were trying to claim they could prosecute you for negligence you could go to prison  
Never ever trust The Royal Thai Police.... Harry

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 06:06

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Well Mr Young do you remember how some people warned a member of The Ascott staff with a policeman were planning to take your apartments off you  
Yupp I remember several warnings about someone and The Royal Thai Police  
and then the rumour of how they wanted my US\$300,000 supercharged Range Rover as well  
That's right Mr Young  
I know it is Harry

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 06:11

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Do you know what an M72 is Harry  
A highway?  
No Harry its an anti-tank missile that goes through reinforced concrete that's 60cm thick  
Really Mr Young  
Yes Harry and I tell you Harry if I was The Royal Thai Army I would tell those policemen that if they annoy anyone again we'll give them the bang of their lives

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 06:21

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Well Mr Young I wonder who got all your car money when your Range Rover was never returned ?? Maybe the police took 40% like they were being offered if they made a person into a drugs dealer. 40% of their asset wealth that was the

offer made by Thaksins gang  
That's right Harry and I am not very happy about it  
Well Mr Young a couple of those gun shots near you were pretty close  
I know they were Harry

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 07:18

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Guess what Harry I found this great way to help stop corruption  
Really?  
Yeah really Harry its just you need to let people know it is for real  
Really?  
Yes really Harry  
You see I read in some part of the Thai Constitution that if a corrupt policeman places the defendant at risk of being imprisoned say for 5 years and the police were lying... then the police will go to prison for 15 years .... I wonder if they are aware of this ?  
Ha be funny if they weren't Mr Young Ha Ha Ha

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 15:39

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Yew's World  
Why are you laughing so much Harry?  
Well Mr Young you know those Royal Thai police in that pick up that went past earlier well while they went into that shop to collect the insurance premium a couple of kids put superglue all over the steering wheel  
What ?  
Yeah these kids were in hysterics laughing their heads off because the policeman driving was glued to the steering wheel  
That's called imaginative innovation Harry  
What a clever idea Mr Young  
I agree Harry that will teach the police not to leave their windows open

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 15:41

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Yew's World  
Yeah Harry I saw a policeman superglued to his motorbike yesterday  
Aparently the kid that did it just said.....  
They made me do it

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 15:51

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Yew's World  
I wonder what happened to all my friends Harry ?  
Oh you mean the targets of The bRoyal Thai Police  
Well as soon as the police knew they were friends of mine they were targets  
I know they were Mr Young... all part of the 40% commission scam, I mean scheme

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyong - 2007/07/22 16:03

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Yew's World

Harry do remember how I predicted to Shinawatra and his gang that if the corruption continued Bob was going to put them through Hell on Earth  
Oh you mean Bob from Kingston on the reef Mr Young.....  
No Harry I mean Bob Cloud the Sherrif who's in charge of everything

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 16:04

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Yew's World

Bob doesn't like people being executed and nor do his neighbours the Wailers  
They were told by Bob that if anymore people are executed he'd turn the island into a desert

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 16:16

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I am very sorry about this Harry but do you remember you banned Concorde because it was too noisy ?  
Oh yes Mr Young I remember you were really annoyed with me because your father was on a commitee that fought to save Concorde from being shelved  
Well Harry I am about to take my revenge on you for that one... I just wrote to Dr. Taïeb Chérif The Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization urging him to persuade the Aviation Industry to reroute all their Singapore stopover flights through Bangkok instead because Bob doesn't like people being executed

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 16:24

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And Bob just made everyone in Singapore a Jehovas Witness so you won't have any staff for the Army Navy or Air Force anymore and they'll all have to leave Singapore because you banned Jehovas Witnesses  
He's done what?  
Sorry Harry all Bob said he thought it would be a great joke for us to play on you

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 16:38

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Yew's World

Harry have you met my daughter Apinya's friend called Magic?  
Oh the Nigerian she went mushroom picking with  
That's right Harry  
Well he's planning on opening a drug store on Orchard Road later in the year.  
What sort of drug store ?  
Oh Harry don't ask stupid questions

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 17:04

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Yew's World

Harry you know that Swiss bank account you've got

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Which one Mr Young ?

Oh for God's sake how do you expect me to know which one

Well Harry... Bob isn't very pleased with you and doesn't really want you round his place

He's wondering why you haven't donated that \$1 Billion to aid poor children in Asia yet

Oh no am I in trouble with him Mr Young?

Yes Harry you are in lots of trouble with Bob and he's told the neighbours to get you on the phone to Switzerland or his friend Julius over there is going to make an extraordinary mistake

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 20:17

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Yew's World

I'm not feeling very well Mr Young what with Bob and the Wailers bothering me for \$1 million

No Harry for God's sake listen its \$1 Billion dollars Bob wants you to spend on the poor children of Asia not \$1 million you twit

Bbbut that's nearly ALL my money Mr Young

That's right Harry..... well done for working that one out

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/22 20:32

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 20:22

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Well Mr Young what if I called up Louise at The United Nations and asked her to help out

Harry I am a United Nations Ambassador and I am helping you out by telling you what you need to do

Oh yes I forgot

Well try remembering

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 21:55

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Mr Young why did you contact Dr. Taïeb Chérif The Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization and ask him to persuade the aviation industry to re-route as many stop over flights as possible through Bangkok?

Well Harry I thought it would be a change for all the pilots its more fun in Bangkok than Singapore and they have stopped executing people in Bangkok and anyway the Thais need the business more than Singapore does AND they have a great big new super-doooper airport

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 21:58

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and Harry whilst there's the risk of being fitted up by the organised crime unit called The Royal Thai Police they are not going to execute some poor uneducated young mother of two children who was duped into carrying a bag by a Nigerian who told her he was a friend

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/07/22 21:59

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So Harry that means its safer for their passengers

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoun - 2007/07/22 22:07

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And Harry I didn't want to upset the aviation industry and make them feel left out because I already contacted OOCL, Mitsui, Maersk and some of the other major shipping companies asking them to sail straight past Singapore without stopping because its safer that way

You did what Mr Young?

Oh Harry why on earth don't you listen to people and don't worry I have written at all the major banks as well so they are all feeling they're in the club

Which club?

The one you won't join Harry... The HR Club

Anyway now Bob has made everyone in Singapore a Jehovas Witness everyone will have to leave because you went and banned them....they.re not door knocking to sell drugs to people Harry why in God's name did you do that to them.

Most of them are quite nice people

Well Mr Young I was worried about having Witnesses around

Were you Harry? What a bit like keeping financial statements confidential for 30 years

Yes that's right Mr Young

So Harry whats the point in all those planes stopping in Singapore when nobody will be there

I hadn't thought about that what am I going to do?

Harry its easy for God's sake just join the club

Post edited by: erikyoun, at: 2007/07/22 22:20

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoun - 2007/07/23 00:05

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and Harry back in the old days before 2004 when you were in charge

Oh yeah Mr Young back when we used to withhold Temasek financial statements for 30 years

That's right Harry back then wasn't your mission statement

"We're not corrupt we just like to do things our own way"

Oh no that wasn't about missionary work it was about the financial systems

Was it really Harry....hmmm systems and what sort of systems do you mean by that?

Post edited by: erikyoun, at: 2007/07/23 00:11

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoun - 2007/07/23 00:08

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Yew's World - by UN Human Rights Ambassador Erik Young

Was it the IOU or the UOB laundrette systems ? Tell me Harry because the tax department has just had an adrenaline rush

Wwwhich tax department? Wwwwas it the government tax department

Oh for God's sake Harry did you think it was the private tax collectors department? That's you ...you goof.... of course its the Government tax department

Now Harry please don't start being silly again. We're not going to have another situation like the time you claimed you thought you'd called the stockbrokers when you told the guys on the phone you wanted an execution only service and then later you said you made a mistake because it was the police not the stockbrokers

Wwwell I didn't really mean to do it I thought I'd called the shareholders Mr Young

What the rest of the family Harry?

No I mean the stockbrokers I told them to set up an execution only service

But Harry about 1000 people have been executed why didn't you call the police and tell them you made a mistake.

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And now Harry because you didn't call the police back and stop them the airlines don't want to come to Singapore anymore so you've got an island full of Jehovas Witnesses  
But I don't like witnesses Mr Young that's why I banned them.  
Harry I think you've got a problem

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/07/23 00:40

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## What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by erikyoung - 2007/08/03 21:00

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Harry Yew's Magical Mysterious 30 Year Secret Mystery

So Harry tell me about Enron oops I mean Temasek Holdings PTE Ltd  
Well Mr Young i'm not telling you about the first 30 years trading thats confidential  
You mean corrupt Harry  
Well Mr Young we're not corrupt we just have our own way of doings things  
I see Harry well no i don't actually because you concealed the financial statements for the first thirty years so I only see three out of thirty three years trading seems rather odd to me.  
Oh no it's not odd its even Mr Young..... 10%  
What on earth are you talking about Harry  
Well Mr Young we came up with this brilliant idea so were in the 90% club  
What are you talking about Harry ?  
Well Mr Young the citizens know 10% so if all goes wrong it all seems the same because they never knew the other 90%

We'll use that to build a White House and call it Coca-Inne

Yeah great idea Harry and we can get those friends of yours who supply snow to Hollywood, the Columbos to send us a snow shipment

But it'll melt Mr Young

Aww Harry its synthetic snow from South America

Oh I remember the Columbos they were in dry cleaning as well weren't they Mr Young?

No Harry they were in the laundry business back in the first 30 years of Temasek Holdings PTE Ltd trading

What happened to the Columbos Mr Young?

Well Harry if you can recall they had a one way trip here and got all hung up.

Did they Mr Young?

Yes Harry they were executed your intelligence people thought they were cocaine dealers they made sythetic snow for the Hollywood movie industry but some Nigerians switched their shipment for the Columbos.  
You were away and by the time you came back the Columbos were gone for ever

Well Mr Young my plane was delayed and then rerouted via the new Bangkok International Airport and I had to take a bus from there to Singapore. It's not my fault they died its the airlines they rerouted their flights

Post edited by: erikyoung, at: 2007/08/03 21:07

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Lanie - 2007/08/10 13:40

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Time to help single mums & poor families

Leong Ching

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Thu, Jun 14, 2007  
The New Paper

LOOKING at the experience of some Western countries, you might think single mums deserve support as they are contributing to the effort of producing more babies for a greying nation.

A rather sneering commentary in the International Herald Tribune last month by Philip Bowring, for example, suggests how Asians can solve their problem of falling birth rates.

We should, he advised, look West. Western Governments support families with babies ? without any moral strings.

"There is a dumb arrogance in East Asia's approach," he argued. We spend our money on unnecessary infrastructure and squirrel it away as savings, when we should instead, be spending it on social subsidies to jack up our "abysmal fertility rates".

In Europe, there is a baby boom, with the highest rates being in Scandinavian countries. France has rates which are close to replacement levels, and Britain and Holland are not far behind.

"The most obvious features of these countries, the Nordic ones in particular, are very high levels of welfare support for children, and child and maternal health, and generous parental leave ? for fathers and mothers," he wrote.

These countries also have very high rates of female workforce participation and gender income equality.

#### HIGH TAX RATES

What he does not mention, of course, is the corresponding high tax rates to fund such welfare.

"Finally, and most shocking to the Asian values brigade, all these countries have high rates of births outside wedlock, even though abortion is readily available," he said.

But is Singapore ready for such radical thinking?

Last week, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew said that while the West was encouraging single parents to boost birth rates, Singapore was not ready for that.

He told reporters, while travelling in Tatarstan, Russia, that by educating women and giving them a fair chance at top jobs, Singapore had inadvertently created the issue of capable women staying single, and not having children.

With Asian men generally shunning women who make more money or who have higher career positions than themselves, "our best educated, intelligent women ended up not getting married.

It is probably true that the "values brigade" in Singapore is not ready for policies that promote the proliferation of single mums.

But I wonder if we can take a more liberal approach with helping families in general. This includes everyone with kids ? single parents and low-income families in particular.

Can we (dare we?) extend to them all the benefits that "normal" families have? For single parents, mainly unwed mothers, this means the chance to buy a Housing Board flat from the Government.

Certainly, this goes against the grain of our housing policy, where a

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subsidised flat is given only to married couples or singles above 35. And yes, in Britain, where public housing is given to unwed mothers, the problem of young women getting 'knocked up' for the sake of a council flat did arise.

But I feel that because of the social pressures here, very few women would become single mothers for the sake of a flat.

Rather, it is because they are already single mothers, and often in financial hardship, that they need a flat even more. This is a matter of providing a roof over the heads of a vulnerable group.

Then there is the Hope scheme, which is designed to help small low-income families. It stands for "Home Ownership Plus Education". What it means is that if you are a couple, younger than 35, and have two children or fewer, you can get up to \$100,000 in benefits if you agree not to have any more children.

#### TIME FOR A RE-THINK?

You must also have no higher than O levels and the household income must also be less than \$1,500.

Is it time for a re-think? First, lift the cap on children. If your income is less than \$1,500 and you have more than two children, you would need more help, not less.

Why is Hope denied to those who need it even more?

Second, I think we can explore the idea of a child allowance.

For example, if your household income is less than \$1,500, you could get a monthly allowance of \$400 per child to help you.

Giving state subsidy for raising kids is not unheard of in Singapore. Foster parents who take care of children under the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports scheme get about \$650 each month. Helping poor families does not send a signal that we are a licentious society of unwed mothers. Neither does it condone irresponsible parenting by poor couples.

Rather, it signals that we care about all families ? whatever their

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/16 23:43

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### THE FEER AFFAIR

In August 2006, the very respected Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) from Hong Kong, published an article expressing the views of the opposition politician Chee Soon Juan.

Since this Hong Kong monthly is forbidden in Singapore and the PM Lee Hien Loong and his father are demanding huge money through a diffamation complain. It is not the first case.

[http://asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=639&Itemid=31](http://asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=639&Itemid=31)  
[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/Lee\\_Hsien\\_Loong\\_2004.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Lee_Hsien_Loong_2004.jpg)

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/18 19:19

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## THE JUSTICE IS HELPING TO KILL THE SINGAPORE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Once more, the Singapore's High Court is helping the Singapore government to neutralize the opposition.

This time, it has, one more time, declare an opposition politician bankrupt. Almost all the leaders of the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP), who won 23 per cent of the votes where it had candidates, are now unable to run for parliament, threatening the existence of the SDP

[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/Chee\\_Soon\\_Juan\\_2006.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Chee_Soon_Juan_2006.jpg)

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Sandvand - 2007/08/18 23:19

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Singapore's so-called democracy is indeed a study worth - making all kinds of practical barriers for the opposition.

John

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/09/17 22:13

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## EVEN IN YOUR SEXUAL LIFE, THE GOVERNMENT IS THERE

I have been amazed to learn that oral sex in private consenting heterosexual adults would be legalized in Singapore.

Even in your private life, the "order" is there.

What the next step ?

Soon the chewing gun completely authorized ?

[http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/world/view\\_article.php?article\\_id=89122](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/world/view_article.php?article_id=89122)

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/10/21 01:08

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## THE DOUBLE LANGUAGE OF SINGAPORE ON BURMA

Singapore has been one of the Asean countries to condemn the more strongly the Burmese junta killing.

But all the small demonstrations by Burmese in Singapore have been rudely repressed.

The economic interest of Singapore are more important than justice

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\\_Asia/IJ19Ae01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/IJ19Ae01.html)

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## Re:What's the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2008/04/18 11:08

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## JOSHUA B. JEYARETNAM COMES BACK !!!

Joshua B. Jeyaretnam, the old lion fighting for democracy and the poor in Singapore is again fighting

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Singapore/Story/A1Story20080418-60619.html>

<http://www.ipu.org/hr-e/170/Sin01.htm>

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## Re:What\'s the problem with Singapore?

Posted by Jacques - 2008/04/18 14:26

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JOSHUA B. JEYARETNAM COMES BACK !!!

Joshua B. Jetaretnam, the old lion fighting for democracy and the poor in Singapore is again fighting  
<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Singapore/Story/A1Story20080418-60619.html>  
<http://www.ipu.org/hr-e/170/Sin01.htm>

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