



## A UNIQUE AND STEADY PARTNERSHIP

By Ambassador Chan Heng Chee

**O**n August 9, 2015, Singapore celebrates its fiftieth birthday. This date marks an important achievement for Singapore, given its abrupt expulsion from the Federation of Malaysia. Today, Singapore is a city-state and nation-state, the only one of its kind in the world.

In 1965, many analysts would not have bet that Singapore could be viable in a tumultuous region, much less enjoy economic success and stability or maintain regional peace and security.

The U.S.-Singapore relationship flourished after Singapore's independence; previously, the island was a British colony that evolved within the British orbit. But World War II ended the British Empire, and in 1968 the

shores for rest and recreation. That began Singapore's unique and close partnership with the United States.

For more than five decades, Singapore has been the most consistent and articulate supporter of a U.S. presence in the region, during Democratic and Republican administrations alike. When the Philippines asked the United States to leave Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base, Singapore offered facilities to American forces.

In 1990, Singapore and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding granting the U.S. Navy and Air Force access to Singapore's military facilities. This agreement underpinned the concept "places not bases," which has been replicated elsewhere and has facilitated the U.S. military presence in the region. In 1991, Singapore joined the international coalition for Operation Desert Storm, and American ships and aircrafts were refueled and resupplied at its port and airport.

In 2001, Singapore supported Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Defense and intelligence cooperation became deeper and broader, and in 2005 Singapore concluded a Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) for a Closer Cooperation Partnership in Defense and Security to capture all the activities that had developed and expanded.

Under the SFA, Singapore welcomes the rotational deployment of up to four U.S. Littoral combat ships. Elsewhere, Singapore has consistently worked closely with the U.S. Navy to fight piracy in the Gulf

of Aden.

But U.S.-Singapore partnership goes beyond security; the countries cooperate on trade as well.

U.S.-Singapore total trade in 2013 was \$62.15 billion. It may surprise many that Singapore is Asia's sixth largest trading partner of the United States after China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Taiwan. In 2013, the United States was Singapore's fourth largest trading partner after Chi-

na, Malaysia, and the European Union.

U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in Singapore in 2012 was \$85.2 billion, and Singapore is the third largest source of FDI from Asia to the United States, following Japan and Australia, which total \$26.2 billion.

The United States and Singapore value an open-trading system that allows flows of capital and goods and services and

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Ambassador-at-Large Chan Heng Chee of Singapore

Labor Government announced its intention to withdraw British forces east of the Suez Canal.

This shift created new security and economic calculations for Singapore. Even before Singapore separated from Malaysia, then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew considered the United States the only country that could counter the spread of communism globally and in Asia.

Singapore shared a strategic convergence with the United States; Prime Minister Lee spoke clearly in support of American intervention in Vietnam. In 1966, Singapore welcomed troops in Vietnam to its

## Asian insight. Global outlook.

Since 1905, the National University of Singapore (NUS) has blazed a path towards excellence. Today, NUS is a leading global university located in the heart of Asia, consistently ranked among the world's top universities.

Singapore's flagship university, comprising talented faculty and students from 100 countries, brings Asian perspectives and expertise to issues relevant to the region and beyond. In its global approach to transformative education and cutting-edge research, NUS strives to influence the world's future for the better.



nus.edu.sg

# A unique and steady partnership

embraces norms of transparency and accountability as essential to global prosperity, peace, and development.

The U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USS-FTA) signed in 2003 was the first of its kind in Asia. Trade was already healthy between the two countries prior to the agreement, but ten years after the agreement, U.S. export of goods to Singapore has increased by

over 85 percent, making Singapore, despite its small size, the United States' thirteenth largest market.

More than two thousand American companies base their Asia headquarters in Singapore, and approximately fifteen thousand Americans live work and study in Singapore.

Singapore, the United States, and ten other negotiating partners are waiting for the final

push for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) to bring the trade deal to a conclusion. This will enable the United States to build meaningful multilevel and multifaceted trade and investment relationships with Asian economies.

Singaporean officials, students, professionals, artists, and entrepreneurs have been attracted to the quality American universities. The United

States remains the first choice for education, cost aside. An estimated five thousand Singaporean students study in the United States, and several alliances and collaboration arrangements have been forged between universities to foster the transfer of knowledge, methodology, and learning cultures.

The Yale-NUS College, the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, the Peabody collabo-



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**NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

**NTU Singapore.**  
Fastest-rising university in the world's top 50

Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) is a young, research-intensive university on a rapid global rise. It offers engineering, science, business, education, humanities, arts, social sciences and now medicine through its new school set up jointly with Imperial College London.

- 39<sup>th</sup> in QS World University Rankings 2014
- World's No.1 young university in QS Top 50 Under 50, 2014
- No.1 in Industry Income: Innovation in THE World University Rankings 2014
- No.1 among top Asian universities in Normalised Citation Impact (Thomson Reuters's InCites 2014)



# Asian roots, global reach

ration with the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and the Singapore University of Technology and Design established in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are a few examples.

But even more than the quantifiable aspects of state interactions, the unique U.S.-Singapore relationship is encapsulated in the countries' political and strategic discussions; U.S. officials express admiration and respect for senior statesman, Lee Kuan Yew, who developed friendships with American presidents and strategic thinkers.

These strategic exchanges continued with former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and now with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The countries' ties developed in defense, economic cooperation, business, and education create strong bonds that maintain a stable and resilient relationship. While the countries' views may differ on certain issues, U.S.-Singapore relations have been historically strong.

In the next couple of decades, the global strategic climate will change as new security challenges evolve. The contemporary international system is not the world of peace dividends we envisaged at the end of the Cold War. Security challenges – terrorism, financial crises, rising nationalism in Asia, maritime issues, pandemics, climate change, and the environment – have required cooperation to address global disorder.

The United States and Singapore can work together bilaterally and through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to navigate these issues to enhance regional stability and prosperity. Singapore will continue to maintain a balanced view of what it believes is in the region's best interest.

Once the TPP concludes, more steps can be taken to promote economic and technological cooperation. Over the next fifty years, technological advances will create new horizons for global economics, trade, politics, and security.

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This year, the National University of Singapore (NUS) celebrates the 110th year of its founding together with Singapore's 50th year of independence. The university's history is intertwined with Singapore's dramatic development as a nation, and is marked by a rich tradition of leadership and contribution to country and society.

Founded in 1905 as a modest medical school, NUS is today widely known for its innovative and rigorous education that has nurtured generations of leaders and luminaries across industries, professions and sectors in Singapore and beyond.

Consistently ranked as one of the top two universities in Asia and top 25 in the world, NUS is a research powerhouse with a lively and cosmopolitan community of inquiring minds spread across three campuses, 16 schools and 24 university-level research institutes and centres.

## Education and entrepreneurship

The university's education is distinguished by being global and Asian. Its comprehensive curriculum and over 70 joint, concurrent and double degree programs with leading universities around the world offer students multiple pathways.

Seven out of ten undergraduate students at NUS can go on study abroad opportunities with 300 top universities in 40 countries, or pursue internships in high-tech start-ups through its six NUS Overseas Colleges, which provide a truly unique entrepreneurial educational experience.

NUS President Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan said: "NUS is

a leading university hub for entrepreneurship and start-ups in Asia. We are keen to enhance our students' learning experience through global entrepreneurial opportunities, which in turn will further increase the vibrancy of our academic community. Our strong push in applying and commercializing our research discoveries and invention, is also positioning NUS as a magnet for promising start-ups and academic entrepreneurs, drawing investors, venture capitalists and business partners to our campus."

NUS has deep and long-standing partnerships with leading U.S. universities in key educational programs. These include the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore with Duke University, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music with the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and Yale-NUS College with Yale University.

The university pioneered a new form of residential colleges at the NUS University Town (UTown), which has been successful in creating diverse, vibrant and collaborative learning communities.

UTown is also home to the Campus for Research, Technology and Enterprise (CREATE), an initiative of Singapore's National Research Foundation. CREATE supports interdisciplinary research groups from renowned universities that include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ETH Zurich, University of California at Berkeley, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and University of Cambridge.

**Strength in research**  
NUS has broad-based re-

search excellence and is among the world's leaders in several fields, including quantum technologies, cancer, and mechanobiology based in NUS' three Research Centres of Excellence (RCEs), as well as engineering, computing, materials science and Asia-related research. It is also a partner in a fourth RCE that draws on the university's strengths in life sciences and sustainability research.

Much of the research at NUS is integrative and multi-disciplinary in nature, with particular emphasis on themes such as integrated sustainability solutions for energy, water and the environment; ageing populations; biomedical sciences and translational medicine; global-Asian studies; finance and risk management; and materials science.

The university is strongly committed to transforming the translational impact of NUS research to improve lives, with many research partnerships with industry and governmental entities.

Further afield, NUS is the first foreign university to establish a research institute in Suzhou, China. Leading companies who have established research labs and partnerships at the university include Siemens, GE, Zeiss, and Agilent

NUS' vision and strategic positioning as a leading global university centered in Asia, is reflected by the university's role as a key node in multiple global knowledge networks including the World Economic Forum, the International Alliance of Research Universities, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, Universitas 21, and the ASEAN University Network.

"NUS is well-poised to tackle the challenges of the rapidly changing and complex future. We will continue to innovate and strengthen our education and research, and develop and grow new strategic local and global partnerships. Going forward, we will be placing an even greater focus on preparing future-ready graduates, transforming the translational impact of our research and making NUS the most vibrant university enterprise ecosystem in Asia. This will enable our university to create even more distinctive and high-impact value for Singapore and the world," Tan said.

# Singapore enters a new golden age



Ahead of celebrations to mark fifty years of independence later this year, the city-state looks back on how successfully and quickly this former British colonial post progressed into one of the world's most dynamic financial centers and most stable economies.

Beyond its dominance in finance and trade, Singapore is

building a reputation as a leading center of business services, education, and green technology, and information technology, thanks to a growing community of entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

"We have come a long way since independence in 1965. We first focused on education, technology, trade, and the rule of law.

This made Singapore into the economically vibrant and liveable international hub that it is today. So far, this has helped us deal with our land and resource constraints. Even as Singapore transformed, so has the world around us, which has created new challenges and opportunities," said Foreign Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam.

Amid the robust economic growth in the country, Singapore hopes to play a dominant role in the region as the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations moves towards economic integration.

"As a founding member of ASEAN, Singapore places great importance on the grouping. We believe it is important to maintain ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture, which should be open, inclusive and outward-looking so that ASEAN can serve as a neutral platform for major powers to engage one another and the region," Shanmugam also said.

Reflecting the significance of Singapore on the global economy, business organizations in the country are among the oldest in the Asia and boast an impressive roster of members, which include the world's largest companies.

"The Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC) was established in 1837 and is the longest serving chamber of commerce in the region. It represents some of the world's largest international corporations and leading companies in Singapore," recalled SICC Executive Director Victor Mills.

"Consistent engagement with policy and decision makers gives our members a competitive advantage in today's ever evolving

economy. Singapore continues to offer many attractive opportunities for business both in the republic itself and as a very effective gateway to the region. Our roots in Singapore are as deep as our commitment both to the country and to the businesses which sustain it," Mills also said.

Singapore's education sector has also raised the qualifications of its graduates by facilitating partnerships between local institutions and foreign universities, a development that also further internationalized the city-state's future workforce.

So, it is no surprise that many global businesses look to Singapore's talent pool for their employees.

"Research has to be both interdisciplinary and international today, as many fundamental issues the world is facing require solutions that come from different perspectives and specialties," said Professor Bertil Andersson, President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore).

"NTU itself is a microcosm of the world with students, professors and staff representing 100 nationalities. We collaborate not just across disciplines but with other top academic, industry and research partners," he added.

NTU has more than 400 international partnerships. For example, it has a joint medical school set up with Imperial College London and its premium Renaissance Engineering Program offers students a choice to spend a year at University of California, Berkeley or Imperial College London, with internships at Silicon Valley or in Europe.

Through partnerships with industry giants such as Lockheed Martin, BMW and Rolls-Royce, the university translates its research into benefits for the world.

By interacting with people of different backgrounds and cultures on campus and overseas, NTU students, faculty and researchers benefit immensely from being exposed to different approaches and world views.

A young, research-intensive university on a rapid global rise, NTU Singapore has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in Medicine, Engineering, Business, Science, and Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences.

## UCT finds perfect base for Asian operations

Ultra Clean Technology, an award-winning contract manufacturing solutions provider from California, established its Asian headquarters in Singapore more than five years ago to follow the lead of long-time customers in the semiconductor industry.

"The Singapore operation is very significant to our company as a whole. It is our Asia headquarters and drives all of our activities in the region, aside from being a key manufacturing site for the company," explained UCT Senior Vice President for Asia Lavi Lev.

"We greatly benefit from the stable and efficient business environment in the country, the highly skilled workforce available to us, and the government's keen interest in taking the country to the next level of manufacturing," he added.

Lev believes UCT gained its competitive advantage because of its ability to excel in quality manufacturing of high value products. These products require the ability to anticipate the demand for new technologies and

apply them for the benefits of the world most demanding customers.

Amid rising demand for the latest state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies, UCT recently opened its Additive Manufacturing Center in Singapore.

The center, the largest and most comprehensive site in South East Asia, is geared to providing 3D printing technologies and products to customers around the world.

"Singapore is leading the pack in research and development of Additive Manufacturing technologies. By establishing our center here, UCT expands its offering to its customers and deepen its relationship with the local R&D centers and Universities" said Lev.

UCT is encouraging companies in the United States to consider Singapore as business location because the city-state has built a global reputation for its central location, efficiency, stability, high quality manufacturing, and uncompromising business practices.

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UCT Senior Vice President for Asia Lavi Lev