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ANNEX A: PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG'S INTERVIEW

PRIDE OF THE LION CITY | *Written by Mark Eggleton*

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong speaks exclusively with National Geographic about the island nation's future

When Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong talks about his country he does so with an enormous sense of warmth. A warmth for his people and importantly, his and the Government's role as stewards of the future. Rather than suggesting the Government owns the present, he emphasises the importance of taking care of Singapore right now and ensuring it's handed on in good condition to future generations. It's this genuine affection for his whole country which immediately strikes you.

In the days preceding the interview, Lee had invited a National Geographic photographer to tag along on his engagements – including a visit to a newly-opened pre-school, a stroll in the city's Botanic Gardens, a walk around his constituency's hawker market, and even the home of one of his constituents. What was surprising was how each visit quickly turned into something more. Reason being is unlike many politicians who can look awkward with their constituents, Lee revelled in simply being out and about. Generous with his time and happy to take endless smartphone selfies, he chatted and laughed with a range of people and families.

On the day we meet in his private office at Istana, Lee is dressed casually and keen for a relatively informal chat. Outside, the serenity of the property's vast pristine gardens is only broken by the low thrum of a lawnmower. A green sanctuary in the heart of the city, Istana is the official Presidential Palace as well as the Prime Minister's office, and its sense of peace had made its way inside where Lee is in an avuncular mood.

Sitting in his relatively austere office and responding to a remark that our interview might go slightly off-piste, Lee jokingly replies "we're not very good skiers" before outlining why he is excited for Singapore's future as a digital economy hub that continues to deliver outside opportunities for its people. He is keen to point out that government is a team and while he can give orders nothing can happen "unless I've got teamwork", which includes Government ministers as well as the civil service and the private sector.

What excites him the most is while Singapore is still a young country of just over 50 years of age, "we have the resources, the people trained and the organisation, to plan our next 50 years, and remake Singapore substantially. Not all of it but step-by-step we can remake the economy, the whole (economic) landscape, the way we invest in our people and I hope our standing in the world. That's a big job. I'm 66 but my successors, they will have to carry it forward."

The Lion City is already well on its way to transforming itself into a thriving digital economy as it already has some of the most advanced digital infrastructure in the world. Government services are all

migrating online and Lee says there is a huge focus on ensuring the whole population understands the opportunities afforded by the digital economy.

GOING (DIGITAL) NATIVE

“The young ones, they call them digital natives whereas old ones like me, we’re immigrants. There’s a lot we can do to make the internet easy and convenient for old people to use and we have all sorts of classes for them,” Lee says.

Ensuring every generation is catered for starts back in primary school classrooms where the first four years of schooling focus on English, mother tongue, maths and science and the nature of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning is given top priority. For Lee, who was the top mathematics undergraduate during his time at England’s University of Cambridge, STEM skills are the key to the future and they’re actively encouraged in tertiary education.

“You don’t have to become a master programmer, but you must at least have an idea of how computers and programming works. Then it doesn’t look like sheer magic to you and you will not be totally terrified by it when you are in a position of responsibility and you’ve got to make decisions.”

Bearing in mind how the global economy is changing, Lee remains optimistic for the global economy and especially for Singapore, where he believes people will be able to adjust as automation and artificial intelligence fundamentally change the nature of work. He suggests Singapore’s value proposition is its geography and it can do quite a lot of things well and perhaps sufficiently better than elsewhere, such as being a financial services and data hub for the region as well as providing a strong regulatory and legal framework for business.

“In medical services, we have patients who come here from all over the region as well as from longer distances such as Russia. I think if you are a first world-city with that concentration of talent, services and quality of life, people will want to live and work here.”

As for Singapore’s ever-evolving physical transformation, Lee speaks of moving the current military airbase at Paya Lebar in the central-eastern part of Singapore to Changi - freeing up an enormous amount of land for reuse and development.

“You can redevelop that land as a new township but most importantly all the surrounding areas, which is maybe one third of the island, has been developed in a height-constrained way. Take the airbase out and you have completely different possibilities.”

Lee also spoke of the current process of moving the port at Tanjong Pagar to the Tuas mega-port on the western edge of Singapore, which will free up “really prime land right in the middle of the city. It’s another opportunity for two-plus Marina Bays worth of redevelopment.”

CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

Beyond Singapore, Lee speaks of the country’s role as ASEAN Chair this year and the two ideas chosen as themes for the chairmanship - Resilience and Innovation. Both underline the opportunities and challenges countries in the region need to confront in a globalised digital economy. Lee says resilience means dealing with shocks and problems and dangers, while innovation means looking for new opportunities to work together and to grow.

“On resilience, we’re talking about things like disaster relief and cybersecurity cooperation while on innovation, we’re talking about a smart cities network. We have 26 smart cities signed up and we hope we can work together. We are chairman for a year, it’s a rotating chairmanship. It doesn’t mean we are the commander-in-chief, we are just the co-ordinator for this year. What it means is we have to work together to make ASEAN relevant in the world. Work together economically and work together when it comes to political and strategic issues.”

Lee is a great believer in a networked future where nations work collaboratively and he envisions a world where talent connects globally.

“There are any number of cities in Asia which have three or four million people in them; probably dozens, many dozens. Why are we different? It’s because of the way we have been able to make our people work together and to make the system work. It doesn’t mean we’re smarter than other people, I think we work as hard as others but we work together more effectively and so you produce something special.”

ANNEX B: WINNERS' PROFILES

Winning Image and Caption	Winner's Profile
<p>Grand Prize Winner</p>  <p><i>The Bishan Otter family at Gardens Bay East call Singapore, a highly urbanised city, their home. They have provided Singaporeans and tourists many wonderful opportunities to appreciate wildlife in the city.</i></p>	<p>Ms Kang Yen Thiing @fussy_pot As a nature enthusiast, Yen Thiing, also known as Yane, is especially passionate about wildlife in Singapore. During the last few years, she has taken special interest in Singapore's very own smooth-coated otters, and in how they have been living in and adapting to our highly urbanised city landscape. Her image of the otters juxtaposed against our skyline is how she views home – a progressive and environmentally responsible place for everyone.</p>
<p>Runner-up</p>  <p><i>Splash away the summer heat. Singapore is a growing, young, modern country that offers fun and magic moments for each individual – even when you can barely blink without breaking a sweat under the blistering sun. The kids (and adults too) can enjoy the city's fantastic water parks to cool down and have fun.</i></p>	<p>Mr Partha Pratim Roy @mypixelmagic Having stayed in various parts of the world for his job, Partha has a genuine belief in the little things that makes Singapore a wonderful place to live in, such as our security. To him, the size of our little red dot doesn't matter, because we are big in diversity; from our food, to culture and religion. As a single father, he calls this image a "beautiful moment" for him – his daughter running to him on a hot summer day, holding all the hopes and dreams his late wife had for her future.</p>

Runner-up



The magnificent view from a corridor of one of our many government-subsidised housing flats, overlooking our skyscrapers and traditional shophouses. We are a harmonious mix of old and new, traditional and modern; and all these elements are uniquely Singapore.

Ms Nikki Chiang | @nikki.cyc

Nikki, a school administrator, started dabbling in photography as a weekend hobby four years ago. Since then, she has been exploring different styles of photography. Her image was an accidental shot taken with her iPhone panorama function, while waiting for the Chinese New Year fireworks display. This is what makes Singapore for her - a small island which offers surprising moments of beauty when viewed from different perspectives.

Runner-up



Reflection. Sunrise at Boat Quay, a historical quay in Singapore. This was the busiest part of the old Port of Singapore, which handled three quarters of all shipping business during the 1860s. Singapore has made efforts to preserve and promote our heritage, such as the historic buildings, sites and structures that contribute to our sense of history.

Mr Teh Han Lin | @tehhanlin

As an IT professional, Han Lin's job allows him to travel extensively and pursue his interest in photography. He enjoys documenting the lesser seen aspects of life, such as unique and hidden cultures abroad. Back in Singapore, he takes pride in capturing the quiet beauty and vibrancy of our rich and diverse heritage. Much like the ongoing building and restoration works of our heritage buildings, his view of home is one that is dynamic and constantly progressing.

Popular Prize Winner or People’s Choice Award



Beautiful paths can’t be discovered without getting lost. It makes sense that Singapore makes the list of the most futuristic cities in the world. Its cutting-edge architecture and design by some of the world’s most brilliant architects is showcased by our ever-changing skyline, as we have seen over the past decade. One can only imagine how much further it will advance in the decades to come.

Mr Leslie Heng | @blackmobil

A scroll through Leslie’s Instagram account will show how far his passion in photography has taken him. With Instagram sparking his interest in photography, Leslie’s journey to capture artistic, architectural shots has garnered him a huge online following. You would even be surprised to know that he works in the manufacturing industry. He enjoys exploring the city in his free time, and his unique perspective on everyday places can be seen through his shots of Singapore.

ANNEX C: JUDGES’ PROFILES



Mike Yamashita, National Geographic Photographer, Award-Winning Photographer and Filmmaker

Mike Yamashita is a photographer, filmmaker, lecturer, teacher, author and a frequent keynote speaker for corporations and foundations around the world. Specialising in Asia and travel, he has contributed to National Geographic for over 30 years.

Yamashita received numerous industry accolades, including those from the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) Pictures of the Year, New York International Independent Film Festival and the New York Art Directors Club. Notably, his National Geographic Channel documentary, Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed, received two Asian Television and Film Awards.

Yamashita is no stranger to Singapore which he visits frequently and contributed to as early as the 1980s, documenting the Indian, Malay and Chinese communities for the Singapore Tourism Board (STB). More recently, he participated in the CapitaLand-National Geographic Channel ‘Building People’ campaign in 2013, and contributed photos to coffee table book “A Light on the Straits – Maritime Singapore” in 2015 to commemorate Singapore’s Golden Jubilee.



Sim Chi Yin, Documentary Photographer, First Asian Nobel peace Prize Photographer

Sim Chi Yin is an award-winning photographer working on projects on histories, migration and social change in Asia. She has done photography, video and multimedia commissions for global publications such as National Geographic, the New Yorker and New York Times Magazine. She was the Nobel Peace Prize photographer in 2017, the first Asian with this honour.

Her work has been shown in museums, galleries and photo festivals internationally. An inaugural Magnum Foundation Social Justice fellow in 2010 in New York, her work on migration was exhibited in the Istanbul Biennale last year (2017). She was Her World Magazine's "Young Woman Achiever of the Year" in 2014. A speaker and tutor at conferences, festivals and workshops, Chi Yin has been recognised as a leading voice among Asian photographers working internationally and is a mentor to emerging photographers in Southeast Asia and East Asia. Born and raised in Singapore, Chi Yin has been based in Beijing for 11 years.

ANNEX D: DETAILS OF ROVING EXHIBITION

Full details of locations and dates will be updated on www.whatmakessg.com

#	Location and Dates
1	Suntec City West Atrium 24 – 29 July 2018 Goodie bag redemption period: 24 July, 1pm – 6pm
2	Changi Airport Terminal 4, Level 2 4 – 12 August 2018 Goodie bag redemption period: 4 Aug, 2pm – 5pm
3	Central Public Library (Victoria Street, Bugis) August 2018 (Date TBC)
4	Jurong Regional Library August 2018 (Date TBC)
5	Cheng San Public Library September 2018 (Dates TBC)