



BRUSSELS
invest & export



SINGAPORE AT A GLANCE

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A very warm welcome to our readers. Upon request, our office will be glad to assist any Brussels or Walloon company interested to receive more detailed information on a topic mentioned hereunder. Information is presented in a summarized form and such newsletter will be distributed every month for the edition of the previous month (e.g. January edition will be distributed in February). Anyone who wants to have the full article on any of these topics should send an email to info@bruwex.sg with the date and heading of the article.

In this May 2017 edition:

GENERAL

03/05/2017 – Singapore aims to be LNG bunker-ready by 2020

Singapore is gearing up to refuel the growing number of ships powered by cleaner liquefied natural gas (LNG) instead of dirty fuel oil. It aims to be ready to bunker LNG to ships in the next 3 years. This follows the 2016 landmark ruling by the International Maritime Organisation to impose a sulphur cap of 0.5% on fuel oil starting 2020, from the current 3.5%. The number of LNG-fuelled and LNG-ready ships have grown to almost 100 vessels, with another 70 expected to come soon.

17/05/2017 – Early gains seen for Singapore in EU court ruling on FTA

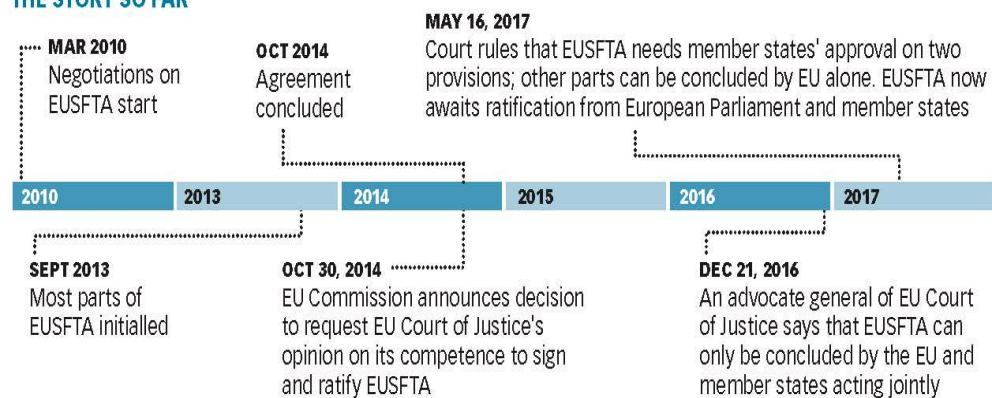
17/05/2017 – Singapore’s free trade deal with EU faces hurdle

Singapore can look to scoring early gains from a top European Union court ruling on a free-trade pact that the city-state has with the regional bloc. This comes even as the ruling by the EU Court of Justice is expected to lengthen the time for the European Union-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) to come into force, as it needs approval from the 38 national and sub-national parliaments of the 28 member states in the regional bloc. The decision, which cannot be appealed, ends a years-long state of suspension for the FTA’s progress. Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said Singapore hopes to have a trade pact partially enforced.

Shifting fortunes

Top EU Court rules that parts of EUSFTA also need national approval

THE STORY SO FAR



THE RULING

WHAT THE EU CAN CONCLUDE ALONE	WHAT MEMBER STATES MUST APPROVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to EU market and Singapore market for goods and services (incl all transport services) and in fields of public procurement and of energy generation from sustainable non-fossil sources; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non-direct foreign investment ('portfolio' investments made without any intention to influence the management and control of an undertaking) ■ Regime governing dispute settlement between investors and States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protection of direct foreign investments of Singapore nationals in the European Union (and vice versa); 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Intellectual property rights; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Combatting anti-competitive activity and to lay down a framework for concentrations, monopolies and subsidies; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sustainable development; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exchange of information and to obligations governing notification, verification, cooperation, mediation, transparency and dispute settlement between the parties, unless those rules relate to the field of non-direct foreign investment 	

Source: News reports, MTI, EU Court of Justice

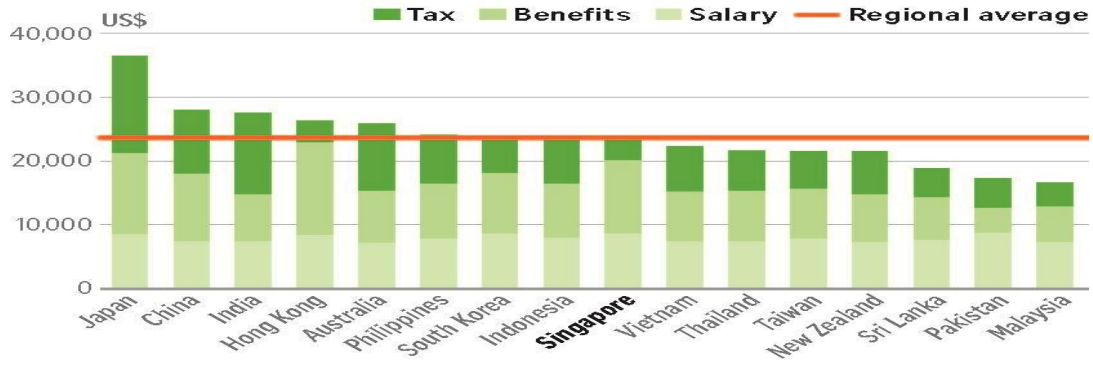
18/05/2017 – Singapore expat packages ‘among highest in Asia-Pac’

Companies sending their expatriates to Singapore offer some of the most generous expatriate salary and benefits packages in the Asia-Pacific. Coming to the Republic as middle managers, they get the 3rd

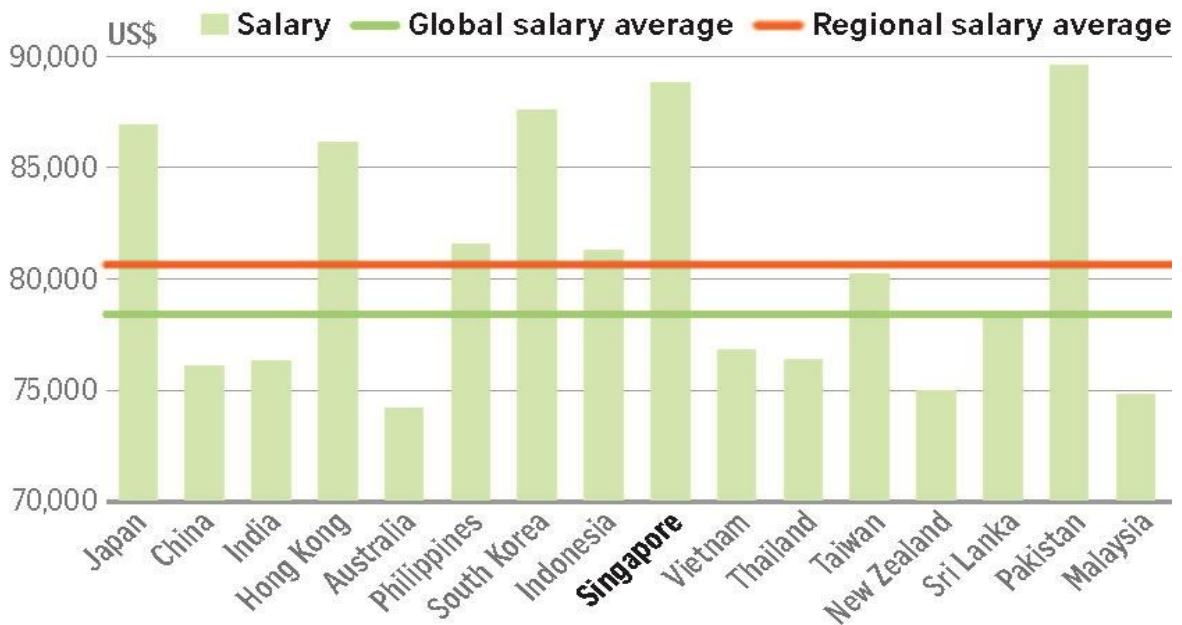
biggest packages, after their counterparts in Hong Kong and Japan, typically at \$316,000 including salary, benefits and tax. The annual MyExpatriate Market Pay survey by ECA International helps companies relocating staff with benchmarking their package against the market. Once tax here is factored into the mix, Singapore drops to 9th out of 16 markets in the Asia-Pacific's most expensive markets, owing to one of the lowest personal tax rates in the world.

What they are getting

Total expat package breakdown for middle managers in Asia-Pacific



Expatriate salary packages



Source: ECA INTERNATIONAL STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

25/05/2017 – Singapore is No. 3 model city in Asia-Pacific

25/05/2017 – Singapore is top Digital Nation in the Asia-Pacific

Singapore has ranked 3rd in the Asia-Pacific region, behind Seoul and Tokyo, in the latest ranking of model cities. It moved from the 29th spot, out of 180 cities, in 2014, to 28th in 2015, and to 22nd last year, in what is called the Cities in Motion Index, released by Barcelona-based IESE Business School.

Meanwhile, according to the Digital Nation Scorecard, which is an assessment of 11 Apac countries by Sydney- and Singapore-based advisory firm AlphaBeta, Singapore has emerged as the top Digital Nation in the Asia-Pacific by virtue of its strong performance in attracting and retaining digital talent, providing digital companies access to financial capital, and building a strong digital community.

Digital nations

RANK	COUNTRY	RANK	COUNTRY
1	Singapore	7	Malaysia
2	Australia	8	India
3	South Korea	9	Indonesia
4	Japan	10	Thailand
5	New Zealand	11	Vietnam
6	Taiwan		

Source: AlphaBeta

31/05/2017 – Singapore tops global ranking of digital competitiveness

Singapore has topped a new digital competitiveness ranking introduced this year by business school IMD's World Competitiveness Centre. The country also came 3rd in IMD's latest ranking of the world's most competitive economies, going up one place from last year's 4th ranking. While the IMD competitiveness ranking, which has been published yearly since 1989, already includes indicators like technology and scientific infrastructure, the new digital competitive ranking introduces several new criteria to measure a countries' ability to adopt and explore digital technologies which lead to transformation in government practices, business models and society in general.

Top 10 rankings

Global competitiveness ranking

1	Hong Kong SAR	100.00 (1)
2	Switzerland	99.66 (2)
3	Singapore	99.49 (4)
4	USA	98.66 (3)
5	Netherlands	96.55 (8)
6	Ireland	95.79 (7)
7	Denmark	95.56 (6)
8	Luxembourg	95.06 (11)
9	Sweden	94.96 (5)
10	UAE	94.08 (15)

Digital competitiveness ranking

1	Singapore	100.00 (1)
2	Sweden	95.94 (3)
3	USA	95.41 (2)
4	Finland	95.03 (6)
5	Denmark	94.52 (8)
6	Netherlands	93.23 (4)
7	Hong Kong SAR	92.14 (11)
8	Switzerland	92.00 (7)
9	Canada	91.67 (5)
10	Norway	90.79 (9)

2016 rankings are in parentheses

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Center

TECHNOLOGY

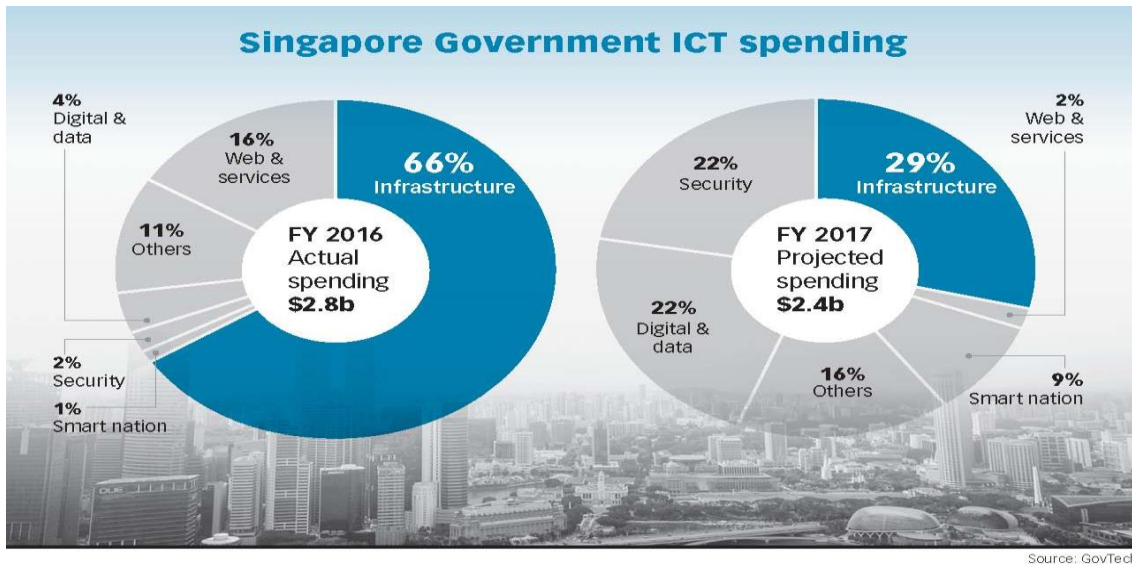
18/05/2017 – Home-grown firm opens 3D printing facility here

18/05/2017 – 3D Metalforge opens additive manufacturing centre

Metal-printing company 3D Metalforge opened a \$2.5 million 3D printing facility, which is believed to be Singapore's first end-to-end additive manufacturing. This means it will provide a complete suite of in-house metal printing solutions and services, ranging from design and engineering, to printing, post-production and finishing. It will make parts for the marine and offshore, oil and gas, manufacturing, engineering sectors, as well as other key industries. 3D Metalforge, established in 2016, is the sister company of 3D Matters, one of Singapore's earliest commercial 3D printing additive manufacturing companies.

25/05/2017 – Up for grabs: S\$2.4b of government tenders in Smart Nation drive

The government will be calling for a projected S\$2.4 billion worth of ICT (Infocomm Technology) tenders in fiscal 2017 in order to maintain the momentum in Singapore's Smart Nation and digitalization efforts. Announcing this at GovTech's annual Smart Nation and Digital Government industry briefing, GovTech chief executive Jacqueline Poh said the government would invest in technologies such as data analytics, sensors and related software and systems. She added that the investment would include a tender for data analytics and another for communications infrastructure to link up data centres with IoT (Internet of Things) sensors.



LOGISTIC

09/05/2017 – Driverless trucks to start trials on Jurong Island in September

09/05/2017 – Katoen Natie to test driverless trucks on Jurong Island

Logistics service provider Katoen Natie is planning to test self-driving trucks in Singapore from September this year, in a bid to overcome difficulties in hiring truck drivers here. The Belgian firm is working with Dutch technology company VDL to retrofit the trucks here with autonomous systems. The project involves 3 phases; First, Katoen Natie will program trucks to run between 2 fixed points in one of the largest chemical plants on Jurong Island. Second, the transponder system will be replaced by a GPS system, and the test area expanded to a larger area within the plant. Finally, the company will start using the trucks on public roads in the third phase, potentially carrying containers between various chemical plants on Jurong Island or even to Tuas Port.



**Insider's Guide to Belgium from our very own
Ambassador H.E. Gerard COCKX**

[Leuven: Belgian beer, chocs and more](#)

First published on The Sunday Times, 7 May 2017



The website of the Belgian Embassy features a list of Belgian products and services in Singapore. With your help we would like to keep this list updated. If you want your product or service included, please send an email to singapore@diplobel.fed.be with the following details:

- Company name (including the product / service offered)
- Address
- Website / Facebook-page

Please make sure to include "BE-list" in the subject header and your product will be included soon!



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