Singapore’s Higher Education Scene: Leapfrogging into the Future

Session 6 - Regional Reports (Singapore)

Anne Pakir
Associate Vice President (University & Global Relations)
National University of Singapore
Overview

• Singapore’s Aspirational Goals for SG100
• Singapore Education in Figures
• Building Future-readiness
• Growing Innovation and Enterprise
Singapore’s Aspirational Goals for SG100
## Aspirational Goals for SG100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PAST</strong></th>
<th><strong>PRESENT</strong></th>
<th><strong>FUTURE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>SG50</td>
<td>SG100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaining Sovereignty</td>
<td>Jubilee Year</td>
<td>The Centenary Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© Copyright National University of Singapore. All Rights Reserved

Anne Pakir, NUS
Role of Higher Education Toward SG100

• Minister for Education Heng Swee Keat
  Parliamentary Speech, March 2015

  • Strengthen the nexus between learning and work, and learning for life
  • Beyond “Learning for grades” to “Learning for Mastery”
  • Beyond “Learning in School” to “Learning throughout Life”
  • Beyond “Learning for work” to “Learning for Life”
Singapore Education in Figures
Government Total Expenditure on Education

Singapore Expenditure on Education from 2007 - 2016 (S$, billion)

Source: data.gov.sg [March 2018]
Higher Education Attainment Rate

Universities, Polytechnics, ITE

Percentage of Residents Aged 25 Years and Over (%)

Source: Singapore Department of Statistics [March 2018]

© Copyright National University of Singapore. All Rights Reserved
Anne Pakir, NUS
## Higher Education Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY2006</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Expenditure on Higher Education (S$ billion)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>+96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure per student (S$)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>18,471</td>
<td>21,853</td>
<td>+18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polytechnics</td>
<td>11,903</td>
<td>15,943</td>
<td>+34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITE</td>
<td>10,209</td>
<td>13,830</td>
<td>+35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Singapore Budget FY2007 and FY2017 [March 2018]
Building Future-readiness
Building Future-readiness

• In the face of automation and the 4IR:
  • Strengthen unique human traits
  • Acquire deep skills
  • Embrace lifelong learning
Building Future-readiness in Singapore

• Unique Human Traits
  • NUS Roots & Wings
  • NTU Margaret Lien Centre for Professional Success
  • SMU PathFinders

• Acquiring and utilising deep skills
  • SUSS, SIT, Polytechnics and ITE Earn and Learn Programme

• Lifelong Learning
  • Dedicated schools at all 6 AUs offering part-time degrees, executive education, and graduate certificates
  • SUTD SkillsFuture Series
  • NUS Lifelong Learners (L³)
Building Future-readiness in Singapore

• NUS Lifelong Learners ($L^3$)
  • All 288,600 alumni eligible for $L^3$ courses (500 courses)
  • Undergraduates to “enroll” for 20 years
  • Launching in August 2018
Growing Innovation and Enterprise
Growing Innovation & Enterprise

• Committee on Future Economy (2017):
  • **Strategy 3:** Strengthen enterprise capabilities to Innovate and Scale up
  • “…Government agencies, industry and other stakeholders to work together to build an ecosystem for innovation and enterprise growth.”

Growing Innovation & Enterprise

• Entrepreneurship Education
  • NUS Overseas Colleges
  • NTU Overseas Entrepreneurship Programme
  • SMU Global Innovation Immersion
  • SUTD Entrepreneurship Capstone Project

• Supporting Innovation
  • Dedicated innovation and enterprise centres at all 6 Aus
  • Lean LaunchPad Singapore (LLP)

• Connecting to Industry
  • Centres of Innovation at Polytechnics to enhance technology innovation capabilities of SMEs
Conclusion
What we’ve covered...

• Singapore’s Aspirational Goals for SG100
  • Sustainable and Caring, Technology-enabled society

• Singapore Education in Figures
  • Rise in spending and Higher Education attainment

• Building Future-readiness
  • Strengthening unique human traits, mastery of skills, and lifelong learning

• Growing Innovation and Enterprise
  • The next big thing to help Singapore leapfrog into the future
Questions Please?