

## **ANNEX B: SINGAPORE'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

### **I. Commitment to the Rule of Law**

1. Singapore's commitment to the Rule of Law is widely acknowledged internationally.
  - a. The World Bank placed Singapore in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile for the Rule of Law dimension of its Worldwide Governance Indicators (2015).<sup>1</sup>
  - b. The World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index (2016) ranked Singapore ninth out of 113 countries. On criminal justice, Singapore was ranked fourth.<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd (PERC) ranked Singapore first amongst 16 countries, including the United States, in terms of the perception of corruption in its Asian Intelligence Report (2016).<sup>3</sup>
  - d. Transparency International ranked Singapore seventh out of 176 countries in its Corruption Perceptions Index (2016).<sup>4</sup>

### **II. Business Environment**

2. We emphasise this because a robust business environment is possible only if there is a sound legal framework and dispute resolution system. Singapore's legal system has been assessed as follows:

#### **A. Legal Framework**

3. Singapore has a transparent, and clear and stable legal framework.
  - a. The World Economic Forum ranked Singapore as the second most competitive economy in the world in its Global Competitiveness Report (2016-2017).<sup>5</sup> On the transparency and efficiency of public institutions, Singapore is ranked first.
  - b. The World Bank ranked Singapore second in the world for ease of doing business in its Doing Business Report (2017).<sup>6</sup> On the ease of enforcing contracts, Singapore ranked second.

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<sup>1</sup> [info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/](http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/)

<sup>2</sup> [worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index](http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index)

<sup>3</sup> [www.asiarisk.com/subscribe/dataindx.html](http://www.asiarisk.com/subscribe/dataindx.html)

<sup>4</sup> [www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption\\_perceptions\\_index\\_2016](http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016)

<sup>5</sup> [www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2016-2017-1](http://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2016-2017-1)

<sup>6</sup> [www.doingbusiness.org/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2017](http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2017)

- c. The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) ranked Singapore the fourth most competitive economy in the world in its World Competitiveness Yearbook (2016).<sup>7</sup>
- d. Singapore was ranked the third top financial centre in the world by the Global Financial Centres Index (2017).<sup>8</sup> This ranking includes measurements of political stability and rule of law, and institutional and regulatory environment.

## **B. Dispute Resolution**

4. Again, this shows how Singapore's legal system is viewed by those in the know, including investors and lawyers.

- a. In a 2015 report, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) ranked Singapore as the top seat in Asia and fourth most preferred seat in world of ICC arbitration.<sup>9</sup>
- b. In the Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom (2017), Singapore ranked the top third among 184 countries and territories for judicial effectiveness.<sup>10</sup>
- c. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report (2016-2017) ranked Singapore first in the world in the efficiency of the legal framework in settling disputes.<sup>11</sup>

5. Singapore is therefore a choice place for doing business. In 2015, Singapore's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was S\$73,730, which, according to the World Bank's World Development Indicators database, was the third highest in the world.<sup>12</sup>

6. Foreigners are attracted to live, work and do business in Singapore. The United States was the largest source of foreign direct investment in Singapore in 2015, making about S\$243 billion in investments.<sup>13</sup> According to the US Department of State, a large number of Americans live in Singapore.<sup>14</sup> Around 3,600 US companies are established in Singapore, a large number of which use Singapore as their regional headquarters.<sup>15</sup>

## **III. Quality of Life**

7. Singapore's economic success is closely intertwined with its social progress. We have built a safe and prosperous country for families to raise their children in - one

<sup>7</sup> [www.imd.org/research/books/world-competitiveness-yearbook-2016/](http://www.imd.org/research/books/world-competitiveness-yearbook-2016/)

<sup>8</sup> [www.longfinance.net/images/gfci/GFCI21\\_05\\_04\\_17.pdf](http://www.longfinance.net/images/gfci/GFCI21_05_04_17.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [store.iccwbo.org/2015-icc-dispute-resolution-statistics](http://store.iccwbo.org/2015-icc-dispute-resolution-statistics)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.heritage.org/index/ranking>

<sup>11</sup> [www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2016-2017-1](http://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2016-2017-1)

<sup>12</sup> [data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?year\\_high\\_desc=true](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?year_high_desc=true)

<sup>13</sup> [www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/publications-and-papers/investment/foreign-direct-investment-in-singapore](http://www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/publications-and-papers/investment/foreign-direct-investment-in-singapore)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2798.htm>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2798.htm>

that provides a good quality of life, jobs and high standards of education, healthcare and housing for our citizens.

### **A. Living Environment**

8. Singapore provides a high quality of life.
  - a. The United Nations Development Programme ranked Singapore the top fifth in the world in its Human Development Index (2015).<sup>16</sup>
  - b. Mercer ranked Singapore the top city in Asia, and twenty-fifth in the world, in its Quality of Living Ranking (2017).<sup>17</sup>
  - c. The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked Singapore as the sixth best country out of 80 to be born in 2013 in its Where-To-Be-Born Index (2013).<sup>18</sup>

### **B. Education**

9. Singapore has a strong education system:
  - a. Singapore out-performed the rest of the world in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (2015).<sup>19</sup>
  - b. The National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, are ranked 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively by Quacquarelli Symonds' World University Rankings (2016).<sup>20</sup>

### **C. Health**

10. Standards of health in Singapore are high.
  - a. Singaporeans have the second longest healthy life expectancy at birth in the world, according to the World Health Organization's World Health Statistics (2016).<sup>21</sup>
  - b. Bloomberg ranked Singapore the fourth healthiest country in the world in its Bloomberg Global Health Index (2017).<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016\\_human\\_development\\_report.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> [www.mercer.com/newsroom/2017-quality-of-living-survey.html](http://www.mercer.com/newsroom/2017-quality-of-living-survey.html)

<sup>18</sup> [www.economist.com/news/21566430-where-be-born-2013-lottery-life](http://www.economist.com/news/21566430-where-be-born-2013-lottery-life)

<sup>19</sup> [www.oecd.org/education/singapore-tops-latest-oecd-pisa-global-education-survey.htm](http://www.oecd.org/education/singapore-tops-latest-oecd-pisa-global-education-survey.htm).

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2016>

<sup>21</sup> [www.who.int/gho/publications/world\\_health\\_statistics/2016/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2016/en/)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-20/italy-s-struggling-economy-has-world-s-healthiest-people>

- c. In a 2016 study published by the medical journal The Lancet, which scored 188 countries on health goals set by the United Nations, Singapore held the top spot.<sup>23</sup>

#### **D. Home Ownership**

11. Singapore has one of the highest home ownership rates in the world. 90% of resident households own their homes.<sup>24</sup>

#### **E. Employment**

12. Singapore has close to full employment. Singapore's unemployment rate was 2.1% in 2016.<sup>25</sup>

### **IV. Safety and Security in Singapore**

13. The fact that Singapore's Rule of Law brings tangible benefits to society and citizens can be seen from the following:

- a. Gallup ranked Singapore top out of 133 countries in its Law and Order Index (2015).<sup>26</sup>
- b. The Economist Intelligence Unit ranks Singapore as the second safest city in the world in its Safe Cities Index (2015).<sup>27</sup>
- c. In a 2016 public perception survey, 87% of respondents, comprising Singaporeans and permanent residents, regarded the Singapore Police Force as a world-class crime-fighting organisation. 93% of respondents said they felt safe walking in their neighbourhood at night. 90% believed the police were ready to deal with any major law and order incident.<sup>28</sup>
- d. As reported in the Singapore Police Force's Annual Crime Brief 2016, the overall crime rate per 100,000 population was at 588 cases, the lowest in three years.<sup>29</sup> Numerous categories of crimes, including violent/serious property crimes, house-breaking, theft and robbery, were at a thirty year low.

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<sup>23</sup> [http://thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)31467-2.pdf](http://thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(16)31467-2.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [www.singstat.gov.sg/statistics/latest-data](http://www.singstat.gov.sg/statistics/latest-data)

<sup>25</sup> [www.singstat.gov.sg/statistics/latest-data](http://www.singstat.gov.sg/statistics/latest-data)

<sup>26</sup> [www.gallup.com/services/193631/gallup-global-law-order-2016-report.aspx](http://www.gallup.com/services/193631/gallup-global-law-order-2016-report.aspx)

<sup>27</sup> [safecities.economist.com/report/safe-cities-index-white-paper/](http://safecities.economist.com/report/safe-cities-index-white-paper/)

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singapore-police-seen-as-world-class-crime-fighters-survey>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.police.gov.sg/news-and-publications/statistics>

## V. Trust in the Government

14. In Singapore, trust in the Government is high.
  - a. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report (2016-2017) ranked Singapore first in the world in public trust in politicians.<sup>30</sup>
  - b. In a recent survey on the rule of law in Singapore, 92% of Singaporeans stated they had trust and confidence in our legal system.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> [www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2016-2017-1](http://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2016-2017-1)

<sup>31</sup> Speech by Minister for Law, K Shanmugam, during the Committee of Supply Debate 2016, accessed at <https://www.mlaw.gov.sg/content/minlaw/en/news/parliamentary-speeches-and-responses/speech-by-minister-for-law--k-shanmugam--during-the-committee-of.html>