

FACTSHEET

SINGAPORE TOGETHER: PARTNERING TO EMERGE STRONGER

Singapore Together

Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat launched the Singapore Together movement on 15 June 2019. Singapore Together is centred around the governance approach of Singaporeans partnering with the government and with one another, to build our future Singapore. The government is committed to:

- Creating more opportunities for government agencies to work with Singaporeans to design and implement policies together;
- Facilitating more community partnerships and expanding our common space so that Singaporeans can work constructively and collaboratively with each other; and
- Working with Singaporeans to develop a vision for Singapore's future – one where every Singaporean will have a part to play.

Partnering to Emerge Stronger

2 The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Singapore hard. But it has also demonstrated the spirit of Singapore Together – individuals, friends and families, community groups and businesses have stepped forward to offer help and to work together in many ways.

3 As we cross the first year of Singapore Together and begin the work of recovering from COVID-19, partnership is more critical than ever. Singapore Together will focus on partnering to emerge stronger as an economy and as a society.

4 On the economic front, the Emerging Stronger Taskforce (EST) of the Future Economy Council was set up in May. In the spirit of Singapore Together, the Taskforce is consulting widely, and involving people from a wide spectrum of society. It is also convening Singapore Together Alliances for Action, which are industry-led coalitions that will act on growth opportunities for Singapore. More details are in the section below on **“Formation of Singapore Together Alliances for Action”**.

5 On the societal front, we have undergone a shared experience which will shape the attitudes and worldview of an entire generation. COVID-19 has also brought to the fore issues such as work practices, digital inclusion and mental wellness. Our collective experience of the crisis gives rise to a natural desire to reflect on what is happening, what we are learning about ourselves, our strengths and fragilities, and how we can move forward as a society. We want to draw this out and use these reflections as core elements on which we can build an even stronger society. With this aim, Singaporeans will be invited to share their reflections, and explore aspirations and actions for a more caring, cohesive and resilient society, in a series of Emerging

Stronger Conversations and on the Singapore Together website. Details are in the section below on “**Emerging Stronger Conversations**”.

6 As key issues emerge from the Emerging Stronger Conversations, we will form Singapore Together Action Networks to work on them. Details are in the section below on “**Singapore Together Action Networks**”.

7 These efforts complement the work, engagements and partnerships that agencies are already doing and will continue to do. Together, they will contribute to emerging stronger and building our future Singapore.

Formation of Singapore Together Alliances for Action

8 Singapore needs to act quickly and decisively in order for our economy to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 crisis. To this end, the EST has convened Singapore Together Alliances for Action (“Alliances”), which are industry-led coalitions that will act on key growth areas for Singapore.

9 Working collaboratively with both industry and government on a common mission, the Alliances will quickly explore, prototype, and execute ideas in a three-month sprint. They will share their preliminary results and next steps later this year. Thereafter, the EST will determine which ideas and focus areas can be scaled.

Alliances and their Focus Areas

10 Seven Alliances have been formed. These are:

(i) Digitalising the Built Environment

Digitalisation has been a key thrust of the Industry Transformation Maps (ITMs) under the Future Economy Council (FEC)’s Built Environment (BE) Cluster. Even as the industry copes with the challenges arising from COVID-19, the crisis has increased collaboration across all parts of the BE value chain. This is thus a window of opportunity to accelerate the digitalisation push to raise productivity across the BE value chain – from concept and design, to construction and site management, and facilities management.

(ii) EduTech

COVID-19 has accelerated the global adoption of EduTech, from home-based learning to online professional education and training. This is an opportunity for Singapore to take our education and human capital brand global.

(iii) Enabling Safe and Innovative Visitor Experiences

COVID-19 has fundamentally changed travel and tourism. In this new normal, Singapore must pioneer new ways to enable safe transit, safe business, and safe leisure travel and tourism. This is to ensure that Singapore remains a Global-Asia node, and a leading hub for business and enterprise in Asia Pacific, despite a potentially long COVID-19 shadow.

(iv) Facilitating Smart Commerce in Singapore

While COVID-19 has accelerated e-commerce adoption among consumers and retailers (especially SMEs), physical retail is likely to persist in Singapore due to the convenience of neighbourhood stores and retail hubs situated next to transport nodes (e.g. MRT stations, bus interchanges). We therefore have the conditions to create a 'smart commerce' ecosystem that blends digital and physical retail, and allows local stores to tap into a global consumer market. Such a system would require the complete reimagination of the online and offline shopping experience.

(v) Robotics

The pursuit of higher productivity and solving manpower challenges remain key for Singapore. At the centre of this is the use of technology and robotics solutions to improve productivity, transform existing jobs and create new ones, generate spinoffs for SMEs, and drive economic growth. At the same time, Singapore has had to adopt novel and innovative solutions to minimise social contact and maintain high health standards during COVID-19 – from cleaning and construction robots to autonomous healthcare and public land transport systems.

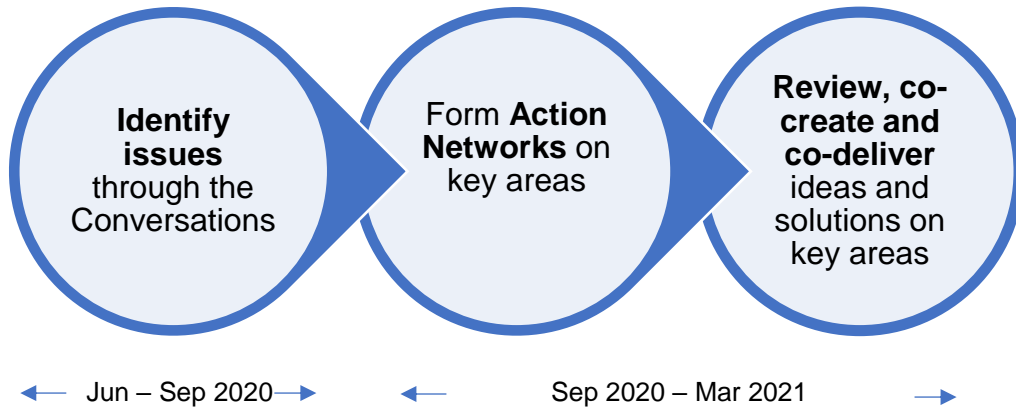
(vi) Supply Chain Digitalisation

Digitalisation of global supply chains has been uneven and hampered by low adoption, lack of data sharing, and a preponderance of different platforms. With stronger concerns about supply chain resilience, and a likely move towards regionalised supply chains post-COVID-19, there will be increased demand for end-to-end adoption. It presents a huge opportunity for advancing digitalisation technology and usage for our supply chain ecosystem players (logistics, regulatory, and financial) and cargo owners alike.

(vii) Sustainability

The focus on sustainability and on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards is likely to increase post-COVID-19. This provides the opportunity to become a centre for ESG-related solutions and services, serving our own commitments as well as global demand. The services will need to leverage on policy frameworks, technology, financial and legal ecosystems – all Singapore's strengths. Can Singapore capitalise on this and become the Little Green Dot?

Formation of Singapore Together Action Networks



11 The Singapore Together Action Networks (“Networks”) will bring together diverse people from different sectors – Government, community, businesses – to co-create, and co-deliver ideas and solutions. They will be important drivers to mobilise our collective energies and expertise and exemplify the Singapore Together governance approach of working in partnership, towards Singapore’s recovery and future. The number and composition of Networks will be determined by the issues surfaced through the Emerging Stronger Conversations, and actions needed.

12 The Government has begun forming these Networks. Examples are UPLIFT (Uplifting Pupils in Life and Inspiring Families Taskforce), the SG Cares Community Network, and the Youth Mental Well-being Network.

Emerging Stronger Conversations

13 The COVID-19 pandemic and Singapore’s response presents us with an opportunity to reflect on our experience, what we have learnt about our strengths and fragilities, and our aspirations for a more caring, cohesive and resilient society.

14 From June to September 2020, the Government will convene a series of Emerging Stronger Conversations (“Conversations”) with Singaporeans of diverse backgrounds. These sessions will engage participants in reflecting on our COVID experience, and exploring aspirations and action for a resilient, post-COVID Singapore society. They will be run digitally by default, until the situation allows for face-to-face gatherings to take place safely. The Government is committed to engaging widely across different stakeholders, and will invite partners to convene their own Conversations, to enable more to participate, and multiply the potential for action.

15 Singaporeans are also invited to share their reflections and aspirations through the Singapore Together website at www.singaporetogether.gov.sg/reflect. These perspectives will form part of the Conversations.

16 Through these Conversations and reflections, aspirations and themes that are salient to Singaporeans will be translated to concrete action and partnerships. Those who are interested may register their interest early at <https://go.gov.sg/ESconversations>.



*QR code to the Emerging Stronger
Conversations Registration*

<https://go.gov.sg/esconversations>

Annexes

A: UPLIFT and Partners

B: SG Cares Community Network and Partners

C: Youth Mental Well-being Network and Partners

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Emerging Stronger Conversations and Singapore Together Action Networks

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UPLIFT

UPLIFT (Uplifting Pupils in Life and Inspiring Families Taskforce)

Convened in September 2018, UPLIFT is an MOE-led inter-agency taskforce that aims to strengthen support for students from disadvantaged families. This could be enhanced learning, educational or motivational support for students, or wraparound social- and community-based support for their families.

To effectively tackle the multi-faceted issues faced by disadvantaged students and their families, UPLIFT established strong relationships with Self-Help Groups, Social Service Agencies, and several social enterprises and corporates, so that schools can leverage community efforts and resources to support students through initiatives such as befriending, mentoring and enrichment programmes.

Strong community partnerships were crucial in navigating the impact of COVID-19. For example, UPLIFT worked closely with community partners to support students with greater needs, providing them with meal subsidies and devices during the home-based learning period. UPLIFT also worked with community partners to set up a network of tele-befrienders to check in on vulnerable students' well-being and ensure families were coping.

Lead agency: Ministry of Education

SG Cares Community Network and Partners

SG Cares Community Network

Established in 2018, the SG Cares Community Network brings together stakeholders from 160 government and community help agencies to build local support networks in the community. Since then, 3,500 partners have come together through 21 networking sessions to collaborate and co-create initiatives that benefit the community.

To better support low-income and vulnerable individuals and families who may be affected by COVID-19, partners and volunteers from the SG Cares Community Network will start by proactively reaching out to 50,000 households living in rental housing from June 2020. Partners and volunteers will call households that do not have familiar touchpoints (e.g. Family Service Centres and Social Service Offices) they can readily reach out to for help, check in on their well-being and connect them to further support if necessary. SMSes and posters within the community will also inform households of hotlines and the help available.

With a better understanding of ground needs, the SG Cares Community Network can then serve as a rallying point for ground-up initiatives and donors to coordinate efforts and channel resources to areas of need.

Lead agencies: Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Youth Mental Well-being Network and Partners

Youth Mental Well-being Network

Mental well-being is an area of interest among the youth. There has also been a rising prevalence of mental health conditions among the young. This led to the formation of the Youth Mental Well-being Network in February 2020, after many Singaporeans responded to an open call to come connect with us to enhance youth mental well-being. Since then, over 1,000 youths, mental health professionals, practitioners and parents have stepped forward. The Network was formed to bring together their diverse perspectives and views on youth mental well-being. Members of the Network will build on the good work done by many agencies, community partners and the government to see what more can be done to better support the mental well-being of youths.

On 20 June 2020, Minister Desmond Lee met with some members of the Network who had indicated they were keen to help facilitate the larger group in deciding the areas of opportunity they wanted to work on. Conversations with the other Network members will take place from July 2020.

Lead agencies: Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health