

Special Singapore Edition National Geographic Magazine to Celebrate National Day 2018



Special Singapore Edition National Geographic Magazine

National Geographic Magazine is the official magazine of the National Geographic Society. It has been published monthly since its first issue in 1888. It primarily contains articles about science, geography, history, and world culture. On occasion, special editions of the magazine are issued.

A Singapore Edition of the National Geographic Magazine was released to commemorate our 53rd National Day on 9 Aug 2018. The magazine is part of the #WhatMakesSG campaign - a collaboration between the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) and National Geographic.

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The official launch of this special edition by Ms Sim Ann (Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information (MCI), and Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)) was held at Suntec City on 24 Jul 2018.

For this special edition, 250 000 complimentary copies will be distributed at Community Centres and Libraries across the island from 1 Aug 2018.

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Introduction Page

“Singapore is constantly reinventing itself, charting a new course forward amidst demographic shifts and technological change. This is our DNA. It is the challenge and opportunity of what the future holds that motivate us to create and innovate.”

- A quote from Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information

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Greenwood Primary is featured in the Special Singapore Edition National Geographic Magazine-
'Singapore - City of Tomorrow.'

We are featured in "**Future Proofing The Next Generation**" section. You can find us on Pages 28 and 29.



FUTURE PROOFING THE NEXT GENERATION

Jonathan Porter



IN JUST TWO SHORT YEARS, OVER A THIRD OF THE DESIRED CORE SKILL SETS OF MOST OCCUPATIONS WILL BE THOSE NOT EVEN CONSIDERED CRUCIAL TO DO THE JOBS OF TODAY.

With an eye to the future, Singapore has undertaken a national movement that would be unthinkable in any comparable nation – to ready citizens for technological change at every stage of life – from early childhood, primary and secondary school, tertiary education, beginning and mid-career – all the way to the sunset years.

This movement called SkillsFuture represents a fundamental shift in how learning and employability are approached. It's a clarion call to take ownership – that no matter where you are in life, there is always room and resources to help you do better and do more.

Skills-training has long been stressed by the government, says Derrick Chang, CEO of PSB Academy, a private education institution.

"We need to play our part in creating opportunities for our current and future generations. According to the World Economic

Forum Future of Jobs Report, by 2020, over a third of the desired core skill sets of most occupations will comprise of skills that are not yet considered crucial to the jobs of today. With the knowledge that some skills and jobs are becoming obsolete, institutions must adopt a continuous learning mindset," Chang says.

Chang says his job is to teach students the skills to operate in tomorrow's environment, and at the same time, instill into them the need to upgrade, discover new things or to refine their skills.

"Education models and techniques must be constantly revisited not just to address the shifts brought about by digital transformation, but also to examine the effectiveness of basing competency on grades. The education system should build long-term resilience among students through encouraging risk-taking, innovation and creativity.

"Students must be encouraged to address real-world challenges by applying knowledge gained from multiple disciplines and approaches. We also strive to close the skills gap by equipping our students with commercial acumen and skills in disciplines such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)."

He says the Academy also emphasises the importance of continual learning, and being open to cross-disciplinary studies should someone want to explore a career or job switch, which could become more common with disruptions to businesses and industries happening more frequently.

"We have in place opportunities for personal development that will help the individual through changes in their life and career stages, so that they become better communicators, managers and leaders, or critical thinkers, and have the ability to play well with others, through workshops and career guidance.

For Greenwood Primary School principal Cheryl Foo, globalisation, changing demographics and technological advancements are some of the key driving forces for which she has to prepare her students for in a fast-moving world.

"Critical and inventive thinking skills that one acquires when young will ultimately determine his or her level of success in the future," she notes. It is with these skills in mind that Greenwood has designed and implemented a value-based curriculum, Learning for Life Program. The program is called WHIZZ (We are THinking, Inventive and Zealous KidZ to serve the community) to make sure students are ready to face the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities of the future.

"It is a deliberate, authentic process which offers the pupils an experience to improve themselves as they think through and develop new, relevant solutions that would create a positive impact on themselves, their family and the community they live in. The hope is that this mindset follows them through life, even after they leave school."

STUDENTS PUT TO WORK ON PM'S SMART VISION

Following Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's National Day Rally on creating a Smart Nation in 2015, Greenwood Primary School principal Cheryl Foo set her young charges a task to design a feature in a Smart Town.

"We believe that planning a town with Smart and environmentally friendly features will help our pupils to visualise and better understand the key features of living in a Smart Town," says Foo. The project brought 23 P5 pupils together to research, innovate and design features beneficial to a Smart Town living concept. Using Design Thinking, they interviewed the residents in their community to understand their needs.

"They then brainstormed alternative solutions with the intent of Smart and environmentally friendly features for the and prototyped their ideas with their family, teachers and the school leaders. Their ideas came alive when the pupils went through a two-day 3D printing workshop to learn how to present their ideas and inventions using specialised 3D printing software. The pupils display their ideas by laying them out on two models and had the opportunity to exhibit their models in the My Urban Backyard exhibition at the Urban Redevelopment Authority centre in April 2018. They also got to present their vision for urban planning to Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister in the Ministry of National Development.



We would like to thank all our stakeholders for their continuous support for our Learning for Life Programme – WHIZZ (We are Thinking, Inventive and Zealous KidZ to serve the community)
