

SINGLISH

1. The speakers are called Bernard and Auntie

True / False

2. Bernard wants to order food

True / False

3. Auntie has fried rice, beef fried rice, chicken curry and nasi lemak

True / False

4. Auntie also has fruit juice, bundong, coke and pepsi

True / False

5. Auntie can offer three cokes for the price of one

True / False

6. Auntie charges 30 cents more than the price of a medium coke for a big coke.

True / False

7. Both Bernard and Auntie are probably radio DJs

True / False

8. Auntie probably doesn't know that she is on the radio

True / False

The New York Times

February 20, 2010

Singapore Looks for a Softer Side of Growth

By SONIA KOLESNIKOV-JESSOP

SINGAPORE — Singapore may be best known as a hub of electronics manufacturing and transportation, but as it plans for its next stage of economic growth, its leaders are looking toward a radically different sector: the arts.

Support for theater, museums and other cultural activities has been quietly moving up the official agenda of the city-state in recent years. But this month, an economic panel appointed by the government recommended that establishing Singapore as a “leading cultural capital” and a “distinctive global city” should be among officials’ top three priorities in the next decade.

“New York and London are what they are, not because of the specific economic activities they conduct but because people want to be there,” the Economic Strategies Committee, a panel of leaders from the public and private sectors said in its report. “That too, has to be Singapore’s key advantage in the future.” The panel added, “Being a global city and a meeting point in Asia for enterprise, talent, cultures and ideas will be a source of competitiveness and growth in its own right.”

From 2005 to 2008, the government doubled its support for the arts to 110.3 million Singapore dollars, or \$78.5 million, from 55.1 million dollars. More money is expected to be added when the 2010 budget is announced Monday and the government formally responds to the panel’s recommendations.

Although quantifying the economic effect of spending on the arts is notoriously difficult, a 2007 report by Americans for the Arts, a nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in the United States, found that every \$1 billion of spending by arts groups and their audiences resulted in about 70,000 full-time equivalent jobs. A connection between arts spending and increased tourism revenue has also been cited in studies in a number of countries.

The Singapore authorities have already achieved a minor coup by persuading Lorenzo Rudolf to create Art Stage Singapore, an international contemporary art fair scheduled to take place in January 2011 at the soon-to-open Marina Bay Sands resort. Mr. Rudolf is best known for having transformed what was once a sleepy Swiss art fair, Art Basel, into the focus of the international contemporary art world in the 1990s.

Mr. Rudolf, 50, said he was first approached by the Singapore government 15 years ago, when he was still director of Art Basel. But he declined, feeling that the time was not right for such a fair in the city-state. Instead, he left Art Basel in 2000 and went on to set up fairs like Art Palm Beach in Florida and ShContemporary in Shanghai.

But with more collectors now interested in Asian contemporary art and a fresh push to enhance Singapore’s position in the art world, Mr. Rudolf said, the time was right.

“There are a lot of national art scenes growing in Asia, a lot of interesting art, but all these art scenes remain limited to geographic regions — India, China, Indonesia,” he said. “There isn’t really a place where you have all these platforms coming together, and that’s really a role that Singapore could play.”

The fair has the backing of the Economic Development Board and the Singapore Tourism Board, and while Mr. Rudolf would not disclose its budget, he said the first edition would feature 100 to 120 galleries.

Art Stage Singapore could also help efforts to bring some art trading and collecting business back to the city-state.

Singapore lost much of the fast-growing auction business in Asia when Christie's left in 2002 to consolidate its sales in Hong Kong and Sotheby's followed suit in 2008. While some smaller auction houses, like Larasati Auctioneers and Borobudur Auction, are still holding regular sales, the imposition of a 7 percent goods and services tax in 2007 put a damper on local business. Hong Kong does not have such a tax.

The Economic Strategies Committee suggested that the government review its policies, including its tax policies, to make Singapore more competitive as an art trading hub.

The goods and services tax "is only one aspect of the equation, and it might be difficult for the government to start giving allowance for certain industries, but there are other tax incentives that can be looked at," said Gautam Banerjee, executive chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers Singapore and a member of the Economic Strategies Committee. "There can be a more holistic approach."

The Singapore FreePort, a free-trade zone dedicated to the storage of high-value art and collectibles, is scheduled to open in May. The high-security facility, which is expected to store at least \$3 billion worth of assets when complete, could help attract new wealth management services to the region, like art lending. Christie's Fine Art Storage Services has leased 40 percent of the first phase of FreePort's storage space.

The plans for the FreePort and Art Stage fair come on top of more conventional efforts by the city to develop a vibrant cultural scene. Since 1989, the government has invested more than 1 billion dollars to create such facilities as the Asian Civilizations Museum, a new National Library and the Esplanade Theaters on the Bay, a large performing arts complex. It is planning a National Art Gallery, whose cost is estimated at 300 million dollars, to present the collection of modern Southeast Asian art that the government has been building for years.

Supporters say such institutions enhance the quality of life in Singapore, making it more attractive to highly educated workers. That dovetails with the Economic Strategies Committee's suggestion that the government shift away from the growth-at-all-costs model it has pursued, which resulted in average expansion in gross domestic product of 5 percent annually over the past decade but also led to a sharp increase in the number of low-wage foreign laborers, leading to social tensions.

The panel recommended that officials refocus on a productivity-growth model and aim for annual G.D.P. growth of 3 percent to 5 percent over the next decade. Productivity, as measured by G.D.P. per worker, has grown at a rate of 1 percent per year in the past decade, and the committee urged the government to set a target of 2 percent to 3 percent a year over the next 10 years.

Singapore ranks high on global competitiveness indexes as a place to do business, Lui Tuck Yew, acting minister for information, communications and the arts, said at a news conference for the release of the panel's report. "Where, I think, we have room to improve further is actually on the softer issues, the softer aspects — the cultural areas, the arts — as well as to make this place an even more livable city."

Benson Puah, chief executive of both the National Arts Council and the Esplanade, said he was "heartened" that culture and art would be given such a prominent place by an economic committee. "We've always been focused on economic growth," he said.

"In many societies, art may be viewed as a consumable byproduct of a cultured society," said Mr. Puah, who was also a member of the strategy committee. "But in many instances, art and culture can also be the lubricant and the genesis of an economically vibrant and cultured society."

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Mr. Rudolf aims to do his part, aspiring to make Art Stage Singapore one of the top art fairs in the world. Initially, it will compete against Art Hong Kong, an international fair that takes place each May and which Mr. Rudolf said was the strongest art fair in Asia.

"But there is room in Asia for more than one fair," he said, "and the more events you have, the more you will grow the market."

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MUTI-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the article "Singapore looks for a Softer Side of Growth"

and answer the following questions by selecting the best single response.

1. Singapore is best known as
 - a) the place where chewing gum is illegal
 - b) the place best known as a hub of electronics, manufacturing and transportation
 - c) a top tourist destination

2. According to the Economic Strategies Committee believe London and New York what they are because
 - a) they are world centres of economic activity
 - b) people want to live there
 - c) there is lots of good parking

3. In the last ten years Singapore has doubled
 - a) its' population
 - b) funding for artists
 - c) funding for the arts

4. When Christie's left Singapore for Hong Kong in 2002
 - a) Singapore imposed a 7 percent tax
 - b) Singapore lost much of the auction business in Asia
 - c) Sotherby's followed suit in the same year

5. Lorenzo Rudolf was persuaded to come to Singapore to create
 - a) Art Stage Singapore
 - b) Singapore Free Port
 - c) Art Basel

6. Singapore wants to
 - a) continue to pursue a growth at all costs model
 - b) improve on the softer issues and the quality of life in Singapore

- c) spend \$1 billion dollars so as to create 70,000 new jobs in 100 to 120 galleries

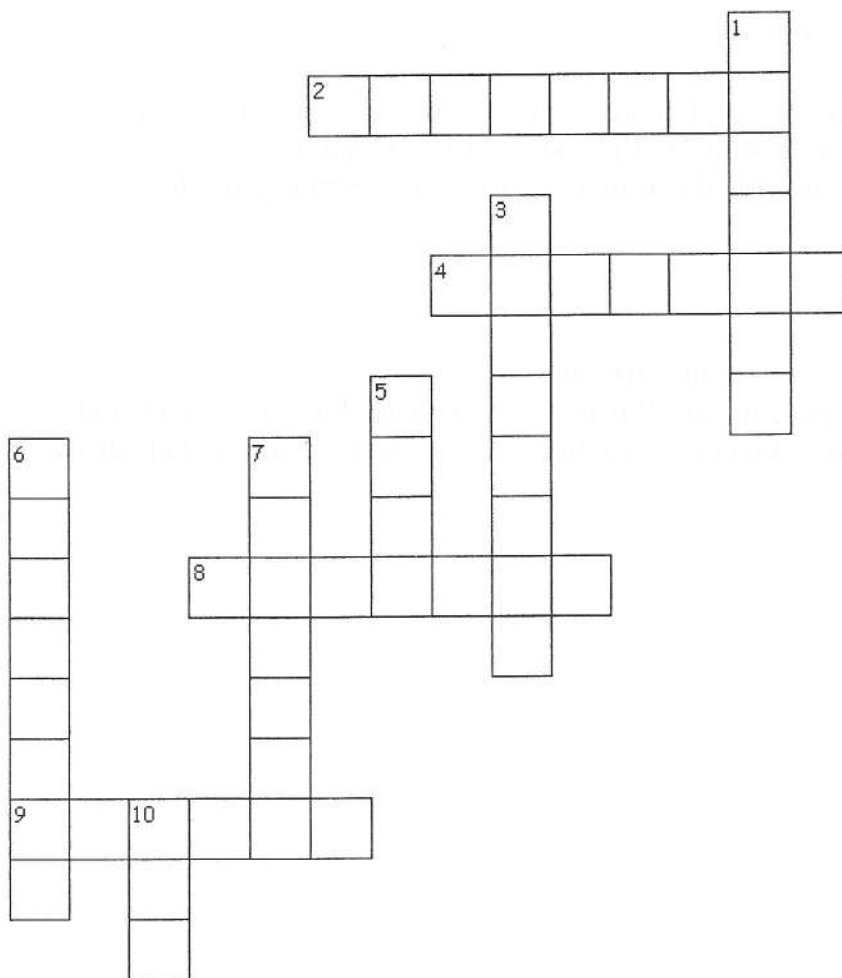
7. Mr. Puah believes that

- a) art and culture can contribute to an economically vibrant society
- b) art is always a consumable byproduct of a cultured society
- c) the government should continue to focus on economic growth

8. Mr. Rudolf believes

- a) there is only room for one art fair in Asia
- b) the more events you have the less market share there is to go around
- c) there is room in Asia for more than one fair and that they all help grow the market

Singapore



Across

2. style of english heard in Singapore

4. founder of Singapore

8. they used to run it

9. Singapore is one

Down

1. they are the majority in Singapore

3. they captured it

5. Singapore's is one of the busiest in the world

6. this country didn't want them

7. mythical symbol of Singapore

10. Singapore's first PM

A famous cocktail

NIOMERL								
FERFASL								
DIALNS								
LAMYASAI	M	A	L	A	Y	S	J	A
POTR	P	O	P	T				
JAEENSAP	J	A	P	A	N	E	S	E
TIIBRSH	B	R	I	T	S	H		
NIGSSHIL								
CENSIHE								

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				6
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Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

Man faces caning in Singapore

SINGAPORE—A U.S. businessman could become the first American sentenced to caning in Singapore in 16 years if convicted of breaking the city-state's immigration laws, a prospect that has drawn the attention of U.S. officials.

Kamari Kenyada Charlton, 37 years old, a U.S. citizen born in the Bahamas, has been charged by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore for overstaying his

Singaporean officials have declined a request to consider commuting the potential sentence to a fine.

three-month tourist visa by 169 days. He has been in custody since Sept. 1, when he was arrested at Singapore's Changi Airport trying to leave the country.

Mr. Kamari—as his attorney calls him in correspondence with Singapore officials—hasn't entered a plea. In a court filing, he acknowledged overstaying, citing bad advice he received while in Singapore from a person he met on the street.

Mr. Kamari's lawyer, M. Ravi, said his client is facing a mandatory

three strokes of the cane and a jail sentence if found guilty. Singaporean officials have declined Mr. Ravi's request to consider commuting the potential sentence to a fine. Mr. Ravi said this has been the case with some other offenders, including a relative of Mr. Kamari's wife who overstayed in Singapore for 194 days, but settled the issue by paying a fine of 500 Singapore dollars (US\$382).

Mr. Ravi said he plans to take the case to Singapore's High Court on grounds of discrimination, contending Mr. Kamari faces different treatment.

"We have decided to take out an outstanding summons at the High Court in relation to the discrimination that Mr. Kamari is facing and challenge the mandatory caning as well," Mr. Ravi said.

Mr. Ravi said Mr. Kamari arrived in Singapore with his wife on Dec. 15, 2009. His wife was seeking medical treatment after two miscarriages. She is now in the Bahamas expecting a baby girl. Mr. Kamari runs a construction business in the Bahamas. Mr. Kamari entered Singapore on a three-month tourist visa and his wife on a six-month medical visa.

The Singapore police said any queries on the matter should be ad-

ressed to Singapore's Prison Service, which didn't respond to requests to comment.

Officials at the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority couldn't be reached Wednesday afternoon. The U.S. Embassy in Singapore said it is watching the case.

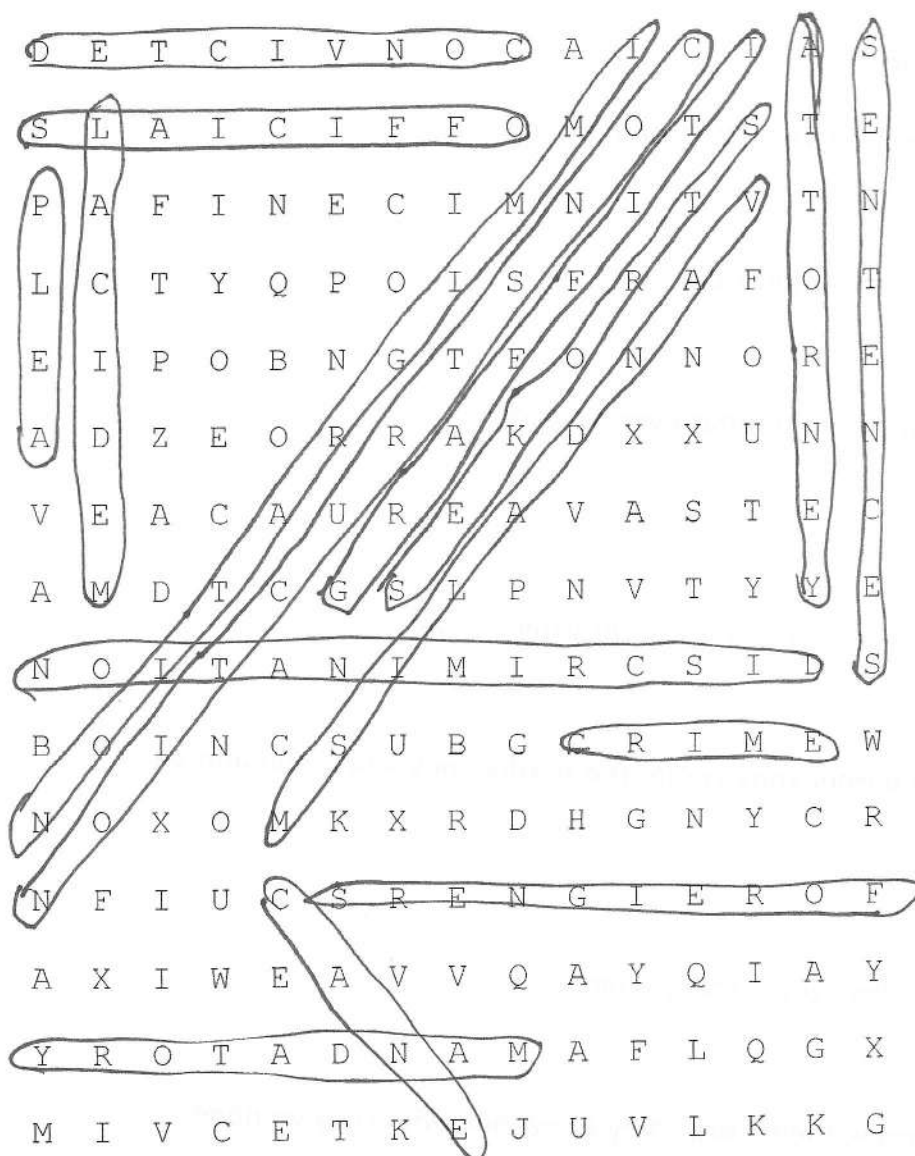
"The U.S. Embassy is closely monitoring the case and embassy officials have provided consular assistance to this individual, including five visits by consular officers. We remind U.S. citizens that foreigners in any country are subject to the laws of that country. We respect Singapore's right to try and sentence individuals within due process of law," the embassy said.

Despite protests by human-rights groups, Singapore sometimes sentences those convicted of charges including vandalism and overstaying a visa to caning. In August, Swiss citizen Oliver Flicker got three strokes of the cane and a seven-month jail term for breaking into a train depot and spraying graffiti on a train.

The last time an American was caned in Singapore was in 1994, when teenager Michael Fay got four strokes of the cane and four months in jail for vandalizing cars and public property despite appeals for leniency by then U.S. President Bill Clinton.

WSD 21/OCT/10

Singapore

~~ATTORNEY~~~~CONVICTED~~~~FOREIGNERS~~~~MANDATORY~~~~PLEA~~~~VANDALISM~~

CANE

CRIME

GRAFFITI

MEDICAL

SENTENCES

~~CONSTRUCTION~~~~DISCRIMINATION~~~~IMMIGRATION~~~~OFFICIALS~~~~STROKES~~

A FINE CITY!

16 of 16 words were placed into the puzzle.

Solution