

**FACTSHEET ON SINGAPORE-UNICEF COLLABORATION
UNDER THE SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME
(SCP)**

Background

Singapore began working with UNICEF in 1999 to provide technical assistance to developing countries under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), which is administered by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (more details on SCP at Appendix A).

2 From 1999 to 2005, Singapore and UNICEF jointly conducted a total of 10 courses and workshops in Early Childhood Education and Development for 211 government officials from 19 developing countries.

UNICEF Conference

3 Singapore is pleased to collaborate with UNICEF again on this Conference on the Impact of the Economic Crisis on Children by co-sponsoring the participation of senior government officials, including 12 Ministers and Vice-Ministers from governments in East and Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific, under the SCP.

4 Singapore is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and firmly believes that in the midst of the ongoing financial crisis, governments should help ensure that children are not deprived of the essentials that they need for health and education, such as food or energy.

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About the Singapore Cooperation Programme

Since its independence in 1965 and as an island state with no natural resources, Singapore has relied on its human resource as the driving force behind its transformation from a Third World country into a modern city-state. The success of Singapore's transition was facilitated in part by the support and assistance from our foreign friends in human resource development. It is based on this same philosophy that Singapore began sharing its development experience with our friends from the developing countries since the late 1960s. We have focused on human resource capacity building programmes in areas where Singapore has the relevant experience and expertise.

2 The Singapore Cooperation Programme was formally established in 1992 to bring together under one framework the various technical assistance programmes offered by Singapore. Over the years, the scope of the SCP has expanded to meet the evolving needs of the recipient countries. When it first started in 1992, the Singapore Cooperation Programme trained less than a thousand participants from about 50 countries. Today, the Singapore Cooperation Programme has trained over 58,000 participants from 169 countries spanning across the Asia Pacific, Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

3 Under the Singapore Cooperation Programme, Singapore has initiated several customised bilateral programmes catering to the specific needs of recipient countries. For example, the Small Island Developing States Technical Cooperation Programme (SIDSTEC) was established in 1999 to assist Small Island Developing States in the areas of sustainable development. Under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) launched in 2000, government officials from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam receive training in Singapore and at the four training centres we have set up in Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Yangon and Hanoi. Under the auspices of the Asia Middle East Dialogue (AMED), Singapore has further contributed to human resource development in the Middle East through two regional training centres in Qatar and Jordan. The AMED Regional Training Centre for Public Administration (RTCPA) in Qatar focuses on the training of civil servants and developing skills and strategies for excellence in public service. The AMED Regional Vocational Training Centre (RVTC) in Jordan focuses on developing

skills in air-conditioning and heating systems maintenance and diagnostics for the construction industry. Singapore also helped to set up the Botswana National Productivity Centre (BNPC) in Botswana, which has since emerged as a regional training centre on productivity issues in southern Africa.

4 In addition to bilateral programmes, the Singapore Cooperation Programme has also forged strong partnerships with more than 30 developed countries and international organisations to run Third Country Training Programmes, leveraging on the strengths of our combined resources and expertise. We have been giving greater emphasis to aligning our programmes and coordinating with our development partners to maximise the outcome of our efforts.

5 As a responsible international citizen, Singapore remains committed to play its part in sharing our development experience and expertise with developing countries in the spirit of mutual learning and support. Through such collaborations with recipient and donor partners, we hope to foster friendships and understanding among countries in this global village. This is in line with the spirit of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, which is also encapsulated in its tagline “Joining Hands, Making Friends”.

6 More details are available on the Singapore Cooperation Website at www.scp.gov.sg.

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