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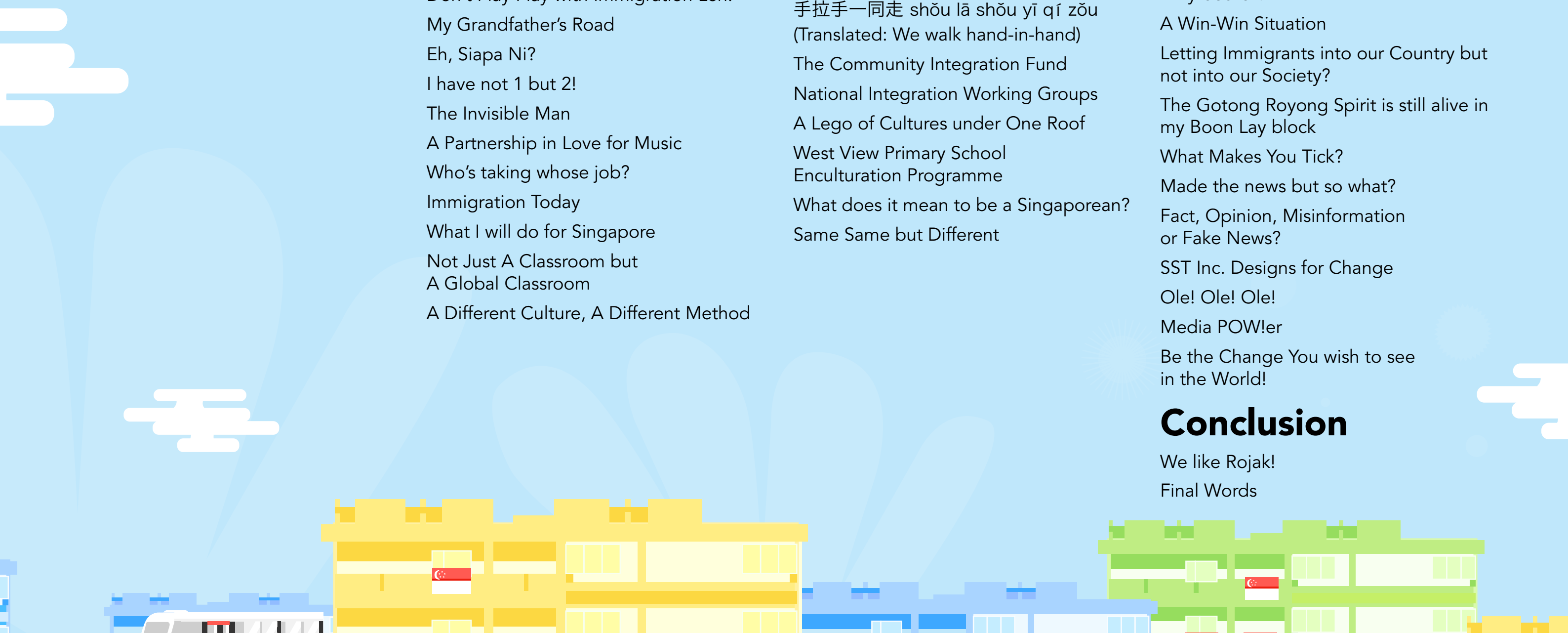
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# Foreword

Volume 1 / 2 / 3

# Foreword by **Mr Edwin Tong**

## **Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Second Minister for Law Chairman, National Integration Council**

Congratulations to the School of Science and Technology (SST) on your 10th anniversary! I am heartened that SST is collaborating with the National Integration Council to mark this important milestone with this publication, Together IN Singapore.

Our schools not only help our students acquire knowledge and skills, they also help them develop the values and character that will stand them in good stead in life, enabling our students to thrive and contribute to the community and eventually at the workplace. These character traits include curiosity about the world around them, openness to diversity, empathy and respect.

Together IN Singapore celebrates the diversity of the Tapestry that is Singapore's society and reminds us of the hard work that goes into maintaining our Tapestry. The Singapore Tapestry is made up of threads of different provenance, colours and textures. Each generation in Singapore adds to the Tapestry, weaving in its own design influences and maintaining the structural integrity of the existing fabric.

My hope is that readers of this e-book will appreciate that while it is not easy to weave together these different threads, this is what makes our Tapestry unique and precious. Each of us plays a role in weaving our individual strands together, and keeping the Tapestry from fraying. As individual strands, we may be fragile and even a little plain; woven together, we become stronger and more vibrant. – the multicultural society we live in today.



# Foreword by **Prof Lim Seh Chun**

## Chairman, SST Board of Directors

I am delighted to be celebrating SST's ten year anniversary with NIC. Beyond commemorating a chronological milestone, we are really documenting Singapore's journey in fostering a harmonious society and the unique roles people from all walks of life can play in this pursuit.

Schools have an important place in seeding appreciation for mutual respect and cultural diversity. Even as young Singaporeans chase their dreams, what most would find unforgettable would be the friendships forged in the nurturing environment of their schools. We are not a homogeneous society but we take pride in our shared history and identity. Achieving cohesion amidst diversity empowers Singapore talents with the disposition to both compete and collaborate with others on the world stage. We see this taking shape in the exchanges we host with partner institutions all over the world.

Together in Singapore is both a celebration of the unity that has brought us forward and a call to define the Singapore spirit in the 21st century. This is a theme that resonates with the SST community. Against a backdrop of creating a broader meritocracy and varied pathways in Singapore's education landscape, SST was established to groom a new breed of inventive young Singaporeans who will move the nation forward in different ways. This is both SST's interpretation of diversity in the 21st century and our unique contribution in moving our nation forward.

From post-secondary institutions to national service and institutes of higher learning, we have been hearing good things about how our alumni approach their endeavours with a distinctive SST flavour. Beyond this project, we should see our budding passionate innovators effecting and influencing positive change in a variety of ways as they go out into society.





# Foreword by **Mrs Linda Chan**

## Principal, School of Science and Technology, Singapore

SST is honoured to celebrate our ten year anniversary with NIC. Apart from being ten years young, we share many other similarities in outlook. The SST community will identify with NIC's objectives of achieving social cohesion and integration. While we have evolved our mission and vision over the years, our goal of nurturing active citizens has remained consistent. Our efforts to expand learning networks and create promote exchange amongst our counterparts mirror NIC's drive to foster friendships and shared experiences among Singaporeans and non-locals.

While our students' overseas learning experiences have been touted as proven platforms for promoting cross-cultural understanding, their learning experiences have also been enriched in our own country where diversity is welcomed and celebrated. Through different initiatives, our students have sought to express their appreciation for the cultures that form the fabric of our identity and the people who have made them possible.

Together IN Singapore provides a collaborative platform for us to pay tribute to various nation building efforts in a uniquely SST way. The stories collated in this project traverse timeframes and invites us into the stories of people at different life stages and phases of their citizenship journey. What is common in these narratives are the protagonists who found ways to transform our nation despite their different backgrounds and beginnings.

As a learning community, it has been a meaningful journey for us to chronicle the inspiring stories of pioneers and the generations they inspired. We look forward to opening up many more chapters of forging excellence and building an empowered community, together in Singapore.





# Open & INclusive Society, Celebrating Diversity

Volume 1

**'Singapore** is neither Malaya or China; nor is it India.  
It is the **common centre** towards which the three  
great peoples of the Far East, the Malay, the Chinese  
and the Hindu, **converge** in order to **find out more**  
**about each other** and maybe one day merge'  
Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, Voyage en Chine, 1843



# Creators Of Our Good Life

In this volume, we feature both early immigrants as well as current immigrants' contribution to Singapore's Nation Building in the various sectors of arts, economy, education, society, science and medicine, and sports, what a citizenship journey entails and how in SST we interact with and learn to integrate with people of different cultures.

No one owes us a living. No one owes Singapore a living.

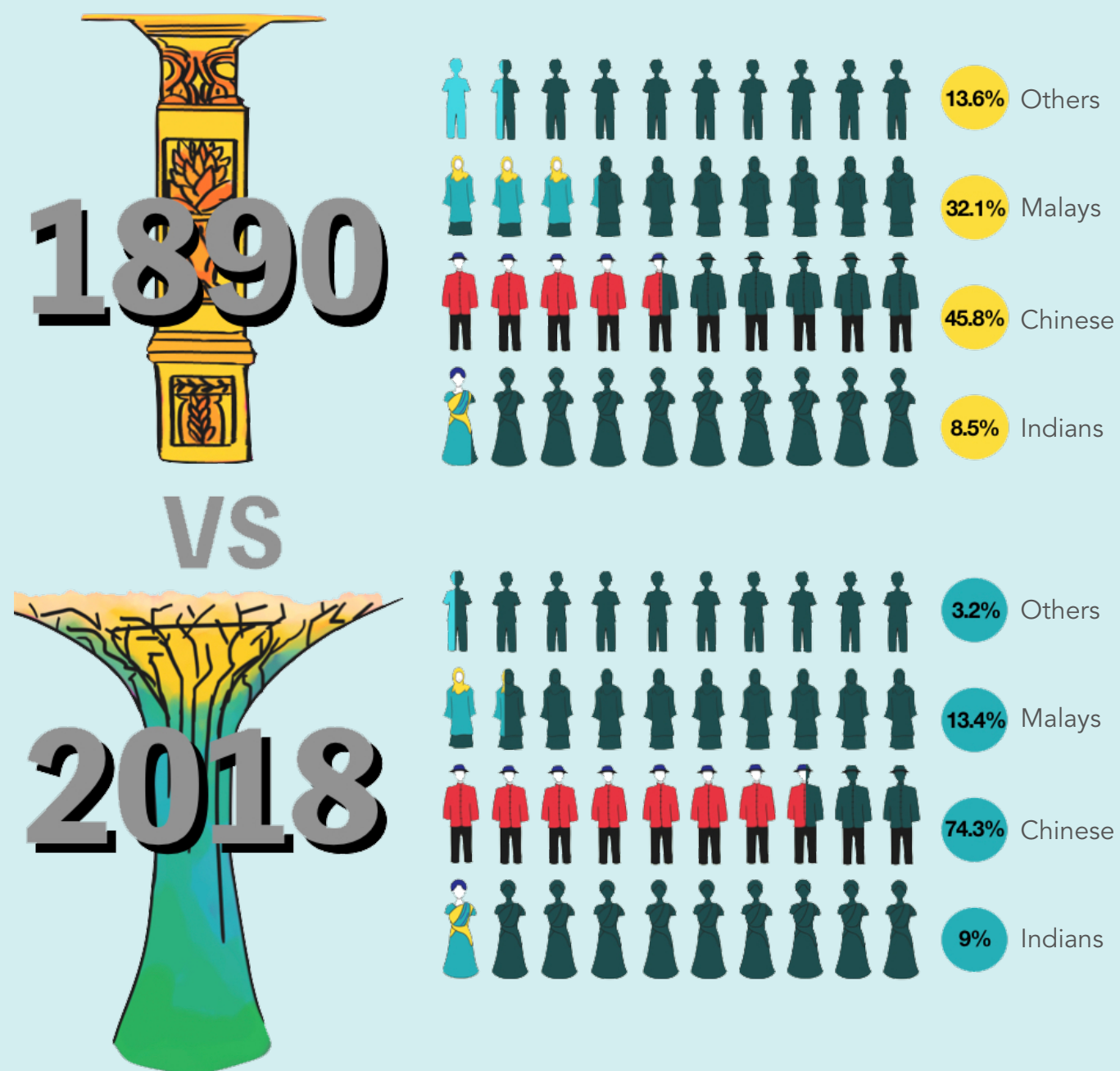
While this is a truism, we cannot turn a blind eye to the many foreigners who have helped Singapore create the good life for its citizens; foreigners who made temporary homes here, but left permanent impact on the progress of Singapore.

We also have immigrants who came here and decided to make Singapore their permanent home after many years of contribution; after integrating themselves into Singapore; and after deciding that this was home to them.





# We Are An Immigrant Society!



## Singapore Ethnic Composition

Singapore was already a trading post but immigrants started arriving from further afield when Singapore became a free port in 1819. It was obvious that the merchants would come to carve out a piece of the wealth and coolies who knew they had ready employment when these traders brought their ships in would follow along. There was work for administrators and soldiers to keep the place running, and even the shadier group of convicts, triad thugs and opium traders came along to this emporium; all with their individual pursuit of riches.

'The news of Singapore as a free port started to attract the Chinese in these localities, and from China. The second main group of immigrants were the Indians: mainly Chuliahs and Tamils who

came from South India and then they were soon followed by the Northern Indians such as the Sikhs (erroneously known as Bengalis). The third group of immigrants came from the neighbouring islands such as the Javanese, Bugis and Balinese.' Source: Singapore: From Place to Nation, p29-30.

A century later, the earlier settlers and those that followed, inadvertently, built an Asian city of unrivalled diversity and prosperity. Singapore by then was an established immigrant society which was 'modern, industrial and exceptionally cosmopolitan city.' From a population of 5,874 in 1821, it grew to 418,358 in 1921. Source: Tales of Old Singapore, p9, 13.

# Don't Play Play — With — Immigration Leh!

The tongue-in-cheek Singlish title may not reflect the seriousness of the discussion on immigration issues in Singapore. Some of these could include how immigration can be used as social/political issue to exploit feelings and/or even used as an excuse for current woes we are experiencing. Tension and hostilities can rise if small minority stirs up xenophobic sentiments news or even spreads false statements about immigrants in Singapore.

These issues are not exhaustive but the flipside of immigration for Singapore is that it immediately offers an increase of talent pool and immigrants can actually contribute to the diversity of our society.

Prof Paulin Tay Straughan is currently the dean of students at Singapore Management University, where she is also a professor of sociology. One of her areas of research and area of expertise is social inclusion and exclusion. Click on the video for some of her insights into the integration of immigrants.



# Are You An Integration Hero?

Where are you on the integration spectrum? Are you someone that won't integrate, tolerate integration, embrace integration or advocate for integration?



**Q:** AT THE DRINK STALL, I SEE A FOREIGNER TRYING TO ORDER A DRINK IN FRUSTRATION AS THE SERVER DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WANTED.

I laughed at the comical situation.

I kind of felt sorry for both but did not do more.

I went up to ask the foreigner if he needed help and ordered his drink for him.


I went up to ask the foreigner if he needed help and ordered his drink for him and explained what the 'o', 'c', 'siu dai' and 'kosong' meant.. He made notes on his handphone and thanked me that it will come in handy in future.

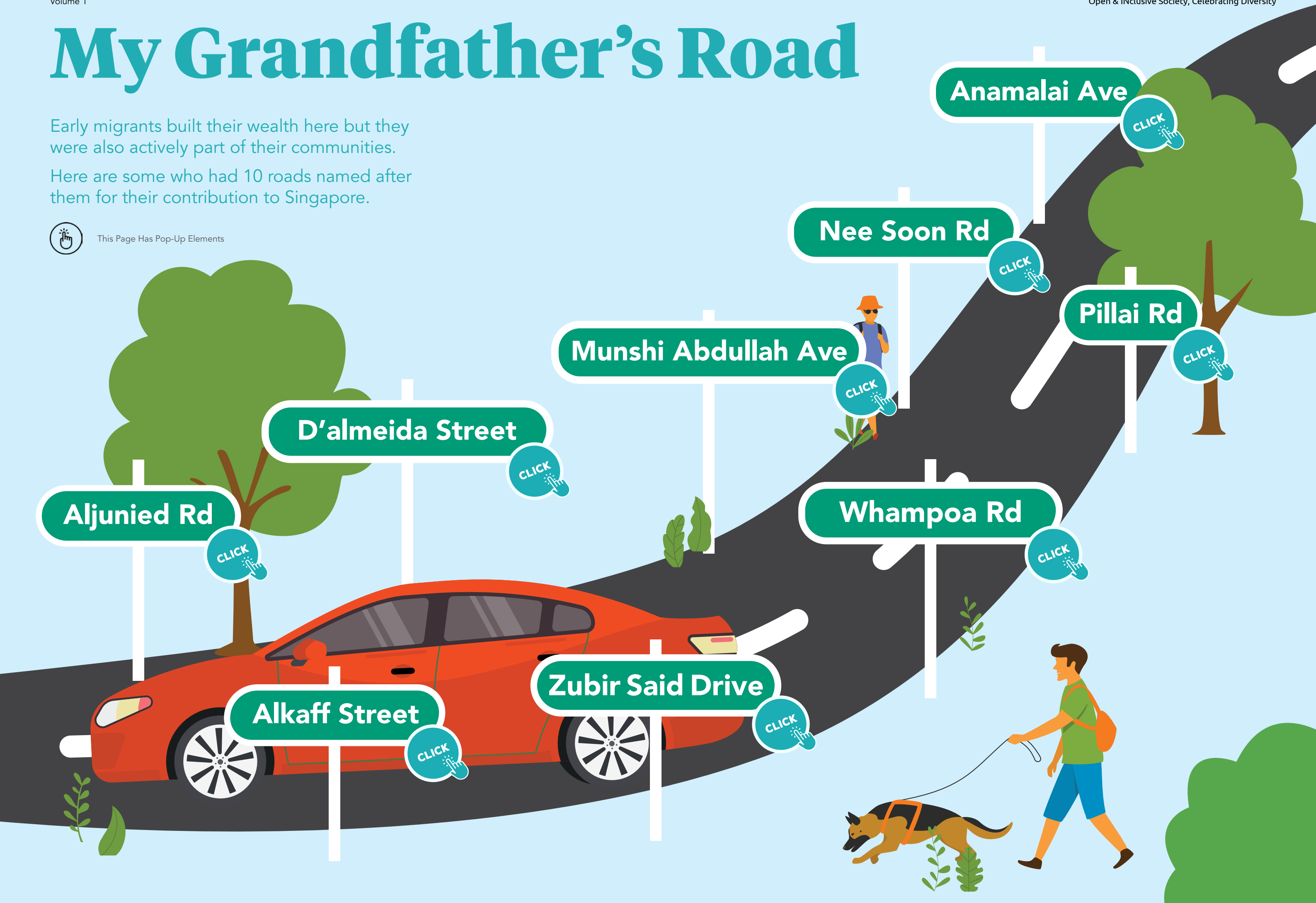
Question for reflection:  
How would you feel if you were in the foreigner's shoes in each of the 4 situations?

# My Grandfather's Road

Early migrants built their wealth here but they were also actively part of their communities.

Here are some who had 10 roads named after them for their contribution to Singapore.

 This Page Has Pop-Up Elements





# Eh, Siapa Ni?

\* Malay for “Hey, Who’s this?”

There are countless foreign friends and immigrants from the field of arts, economy, education, society, science and medicine, and sports who contributed greatly to Singapore since 1819. There is no way to acknowledge all of them but we highlight three animated videos of immigrants that made an impact on nation-building in the areas of economy, education and technology & society.



## Bruno Wildermuth

Putting Singapore on the right track  
impact on Technology and Society

Bruno Wildermuth is a Swiss National and a Singapore Permanent Resident. As a transport planner, he is critical in establishing our MRT system and the world’s first ticketing system in Singapore.



## Ann Wee

A walking encyclopedia on Singapore’s social welfare landscape

No challenge was too difficult for UK born Singaporean Ann Wee to take up: from trudging through squatter areas to help the needy to lobbying for social work degree programme to have an honours year.



## Mustaq Ahmad

From street peddler to establishing Mustafa Centre

India-born Mustaq Ahmad turned his makeshift street stall into a multi-million shopping haven for both local and international customers.



# I HAVE NOT 1 BUT 2!

## More than a Family Help

With foreign domestic workers like Aunty Ria, families were able to have peace of mind that their children were cared for whilst they took on jobs that help grew the economy and build Singapore. Here we take a peek at the kind of relationship Aunty Ria has with the boys she looks after.



My name is Gregoria Ariola Bagui but everyone calls me Aunty Ria.

I started working for the Wong Family in Hong Kong 21 years ago. In 2002, I followed them to Singapore because Mr Wong had to use Singapore as his base for his work. My Ma'am was then pregnant with her second son, Timothy. None of us had any friends or family in Singapore so it was testing times for all but I knew I had to focus on supporting her and helping her through her difficult pregnancy while Sir had to go overseas very often.

I am very close to the two boys as I have looked after them since they were babies.

I may be a family help but when I do my chores, I keep the place clean for their well-being. Time & effort spent in the kitchen is worth it all when I watch the two boys enjoy the food.

It is not always work in this house. I spend a lot of recreation time with the family. On some Friday nights, we enjoy light snacks while watching a movie at home. We also go on family holidays together. Sometimes I will look through our photos and recall the precious memories of those trips to Thailand and Indonesia, Although both of the boys are grown up, I still want to take care of them until Timothy finishes his National Service at least.

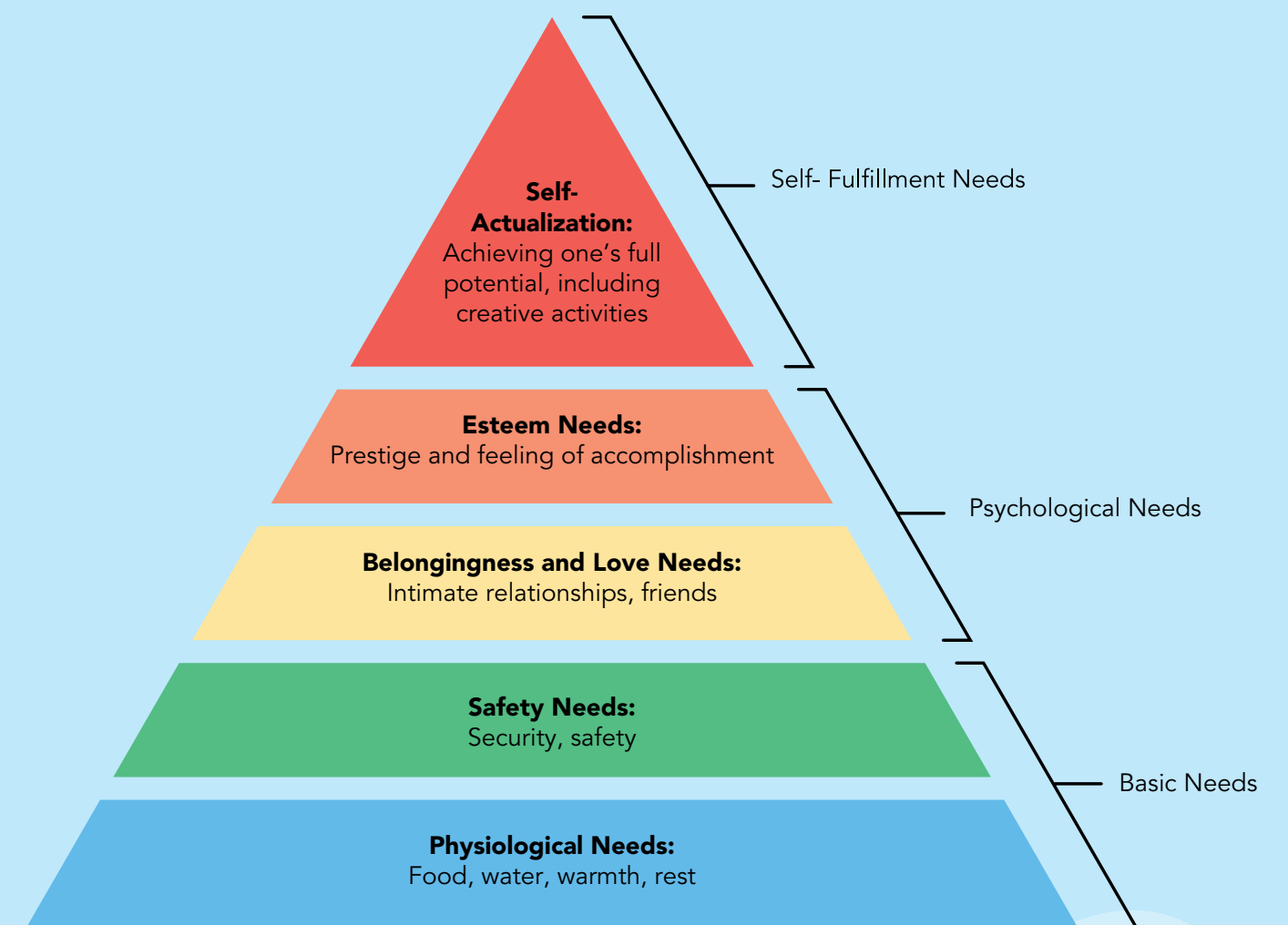
Even if I were to go back to the Philippines, I know that my Singapore family will always be my second family as they have treated me like one of them.



# THE INVISIBLE MAN

What comes to mind when we say 'foreign construction worker'? Sometimes we don't even really take note of them and they become somewhat invisible. Do you think of them as uneducated? Do you think them as troublemakers? Do we treat them of lower status? The truth of the matter is that these workers are people like us who have similar needs physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem and self-actualization\*. They have families they love and miss. They have talents and ambitions. They have dreams to fulfill. They are just like us.

\*See Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



# The foreign construction workers you see on your way to school or to work could be very different from how we stereotype them.

One such worker is from Bangladesh. Behind his construction helmet and protective visor is Md Mukul Hossine who has a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, has dreams of becoming a professor of Bangla subjects one day and has already published poems, novels and short stories in Bengali and in 2016 published 'Me Migrant' with our local award-winning poet, Cyril Wong who did the transcreations of Hossine's poems based on English translations by Fariha Imran and Farouk Ahammed.

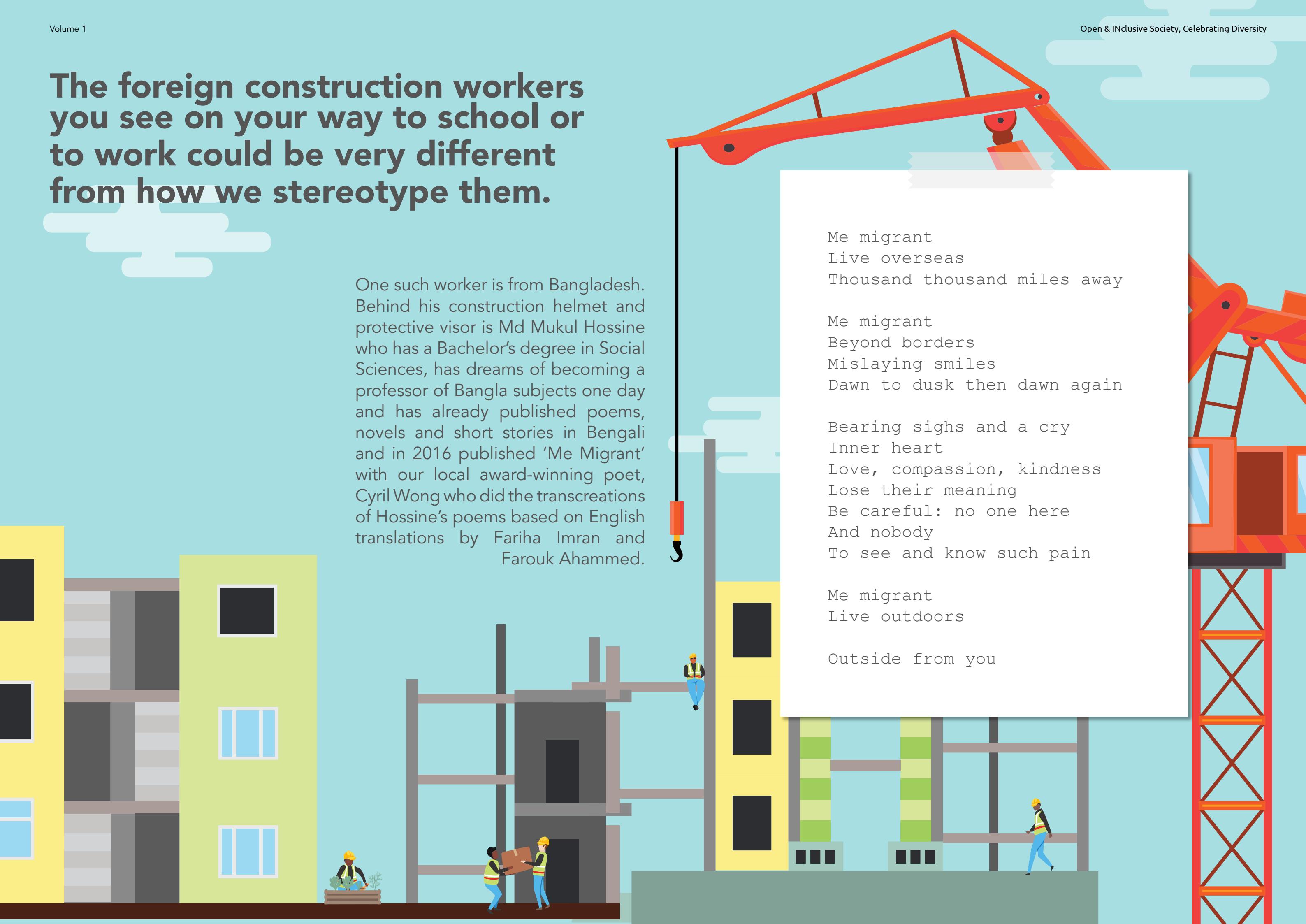
Me migrant  
Live overseas  
Thousand thousand miles away

Me migrant  
Beyond borders  
Mislaying smiles  
Dawn to dusk then dawn again

Bearing sighs and a cry  
Inner heart  
Love, compassion, kindness  
Lose their meaning  
Be careful: no one here  
And nobody  
To see and know such pain

Me migrant  
Live outdoors

Outside from you



# A Partnership In Love For Music

Vocal duo, Shili and Adi, hail from Malaysia and Indonesia respectively but have put their roots down in Singapore. They have played at F1 Singapore Grand Prix, WTA Finals, Rugby 7s, performed for dignitaries such as Singapore Presidents and Prime Ministers, headlined various festivals such as Singapore Arts Festival, Mosaic Music Music Festival and in 2018 opened for Taiwanese super star Wakin Chau's sold-out Singapore concert.

The impact of their music has started to reach beyond the local shores into neighbouring Indonesia, putting Singapore on the regional performing arts map. In 2017 the

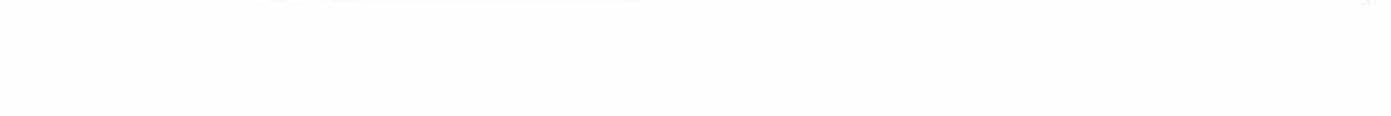
duo was handpicked by Indonesia Jazz legend Candra Darusman to be part of his tribute album *Detik Waktu* in the single *Rintangan* which is about the separation of lovers because of their different faiths. This album went on to win Best Pop Album and Best Album of the Year at the Indonesian Grammys - 21st AMI Awards 2018.

The duo also recently released their trilingual debut EP, *Berdua*. To them this Malay word symbolizes the significance of collaboration, and partnership in love. It is a word that they hope that will be the epitome of how we live our lives in Singapore.

Both Shili and Adi are engineers by training but let's hear how Singapore help them make a career switch









## We asked Lija Ang, 15 years old, what she thought about the conversation of this 3 men. Her thoughts are as follows:

I understand why some Singaporeans may feel threatened by foreign talent “taking” their jobs. After all, foreigners already make up about 21% of Singapore’s white-collar workforce. Maybe they are wondering if this percentage will keep going up. However, Singapore needs these foreign workers because locals alone are not enough to meet the needs of the economy. Foreign workers are very important to Singapore because the local workforce is shrinking.

I feel that these foreign workers may have a higher level of expertise in certain fields, hence they are more qualified. When competing for jobs, if the foreign workers are more suitable than the Singaporeans, it is something we have to live with since Singapore practices meritocracy so these foreign workers are deserving of their positions.

In addition, high-skilled foreign labour in the white-collar workforce can help Singaporean workers because they possess the relevant skills needed to create new industries and job opportunities. Foreign workers help Singaporean workers by teaching and mentoring the latter.



As the world globalizes in terms of different nations’ economies, their trade and investment, their borders tend to open up for the freer flow of goods and products. Easy access to travel has made distance relative so there is this freedom to move around the world.

It is also not unusual to know a Singaporean who has had their tertiary education overseas or have a relative or friend working outside Singapore. Immigrants come to study or work as Singaporeans go elsewhere to do likewise and with globalisation, sometimes we feel we are becoming more like ‘citizens of the world’ instead of citizens of just one country.

Question for reflection:  
What can a Singaporean do to improve his chances of getting a job if he has to compete in the open market which includes foreign talent?

# Immigration Today

The media team followed the experiences of the citizens-to-be in the stages of their Singapore Citizenship Journey.

We found out that some of them do volunteer work even before becoming new citizens for various reasons which include giving back and contributing to society, getting to know the community they live in better and integrating into the society more easily.

We met people who have lived in Singapore for 5 -35 years before they applied for citizenship and thought that they would have been well integrated into Singapore for being here for such a long time.

We also wondered why some took so long to make the decision to be Singapore Citizens and some answers that came up were they had to allow their families in their country of origin to get used to the idea, they had wanted to ensure that they were truly integrated before doing so or they had wanted their children to make the final decision to become citizens as a family.

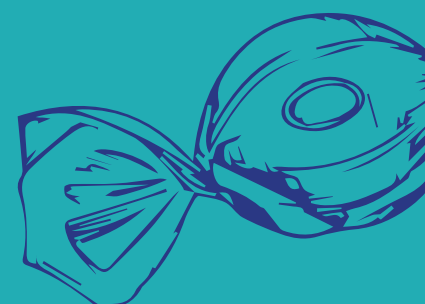


# What I Will Do For Singapore

Taking up citizenship is not a one-sided affair in which one only takes advantage of what his or her citizenship will allow them to enjoy. Our new citizens do take proactive action to integrate into society. Apart from the work they do which contributes to the economy of Singapore, they also consider how they will contribute to Singapore to make this place their home and home for our current and future generations.



Here is a video to give you the insights of the few of the many who made a commitment to Singapore



# Are You An Integration Hero?

Where are you on the integration spectrum? Are you someone that won't integrate, tolerate integration, embrace integration or advocate for integration?

**Q: CHOOSE ONE THAT DESCRIBE YOU BEST**

1. I complained about my new neighbour's smelly cooking to my MP. I told him that he has to insist their doors and window must be closed whilst cooking or better, not to cook the bamboo shoots at all. So smelly!


2. I have an issue with the smell of cooked bamboo shoots so every time my new neighbour cooks them, I close my windows and the main door as I cannot stop them from cooking.

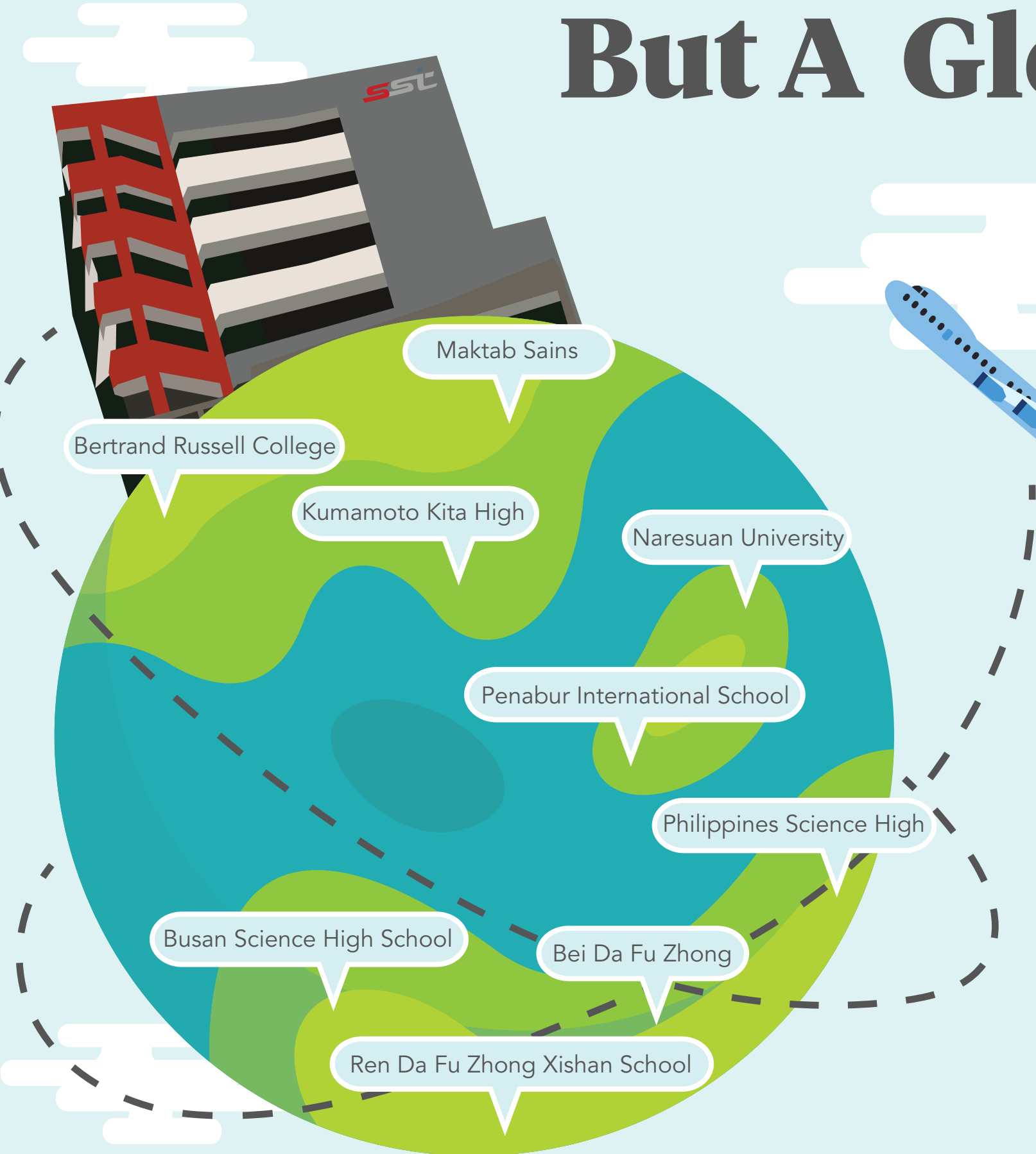
3. I met my new neighbour the other day at the park and started walking with him and took the opportunity to tell him that I found the smell of cooked bamboo shoot was very strong and I was not used to it. He said durians have the same effect on him so he understands me. He says they will close all his windows and doors when his wife cooks bamboo shoots. I thank him and told him I'd do the same if I were to have a durian party and apologised in advanced that I will not invite him. We had a good laugh over our problem with strong smelling food.

4. I invited my new neighbours to join us for a meal to get to know them after a week. They brought their favourite bamboo shoots & meat dish to share with us. I told him honestly that I found the smell of the former too strong for my liking and that I could smell it when they cooked it but I took a small piece and tasted it. I still didn't like it but I knew my neighbour appreciated my effort and he said they will close their windows and doors when they ever cooked that dish again and they will share with me another dish without bamboo shoots next time!



# Not Just A Classroom But A Global Classroom

This Page Has Pop-Up Elements 



SST has the opportunity to host many schools from overseas. In 2018, nine schools visited us and some brought students for a few days of immersion into our SST school life. We highlight Chloe Koh’s experience as a student buddy for foreign students, an observation of the impact of students from Kaga City schools on our students and finally, we feature Dani Africa, a Singapore-born student who had to integrate into SST and Singapore after being away for many years.



# A Different Culture



In July 2018, the visiting students from Kaga City to our school surprised us with their punctuality and were 15 minutes earlier at our first meeting. The Japanese are punctual to avoid potential tardiness and this is drilled as utmost importance into children. Even when a train is 25 seconds

early, a public apology is made. Our SST host students quickly took note of the importance of punctuality and made sure to be even earlier than the students from Kaga City the next day in order to show that as hosts we respect punctuality as well.

# A Different Method

Miki Shimaya, from Katayamazuru Senior High School, shared that lectures are a serious affair in Japan but they appear to be the complete opposite in SST. She remarked that it was very interesting to see SST students and teachers laughing and

enjoying lessons together. In Japan, students are expected to respect teachers and are very formal towards them, whereas in Singapore, teachers and students are casual and friendly towards each other.



One way to understand the difference is to look at 'Power Distance' in Hofstede's Cultural dimensions. In Japan, there is a greater power distance between teachers and students. Teachers in Japan are treated with a high level of respect while the relationship between teachers and students in Singapore are closer and almost like friends, but not without respect.



Overall, meeting and interacting with foreign students plays a part in nurturing our cultural competency and communication skills in SST.

Studying the Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions and applying it in our lives can help us understand other cultures better. It teaches us to negotiate between cultural differences and provides a basis for our expectations of foreign counterparts as well.

An illustration featuring three stylized figures running across a city skyline. On the left, a woman with dark skin and a red cape runs forward. In the center, an older woman with white hair and a red top runs. On the right, a man in a blue suit and tie runs. The city below consists of blue and white buildings, some with Singaporean flags. A yellow building on the far right also features a Singaporean flag. A train is visible on a bridge in the background. The sky is light blue with stylized suns and clouds. A large orange puzzle piece with a hexagonal pattern is in the top left corner.

# **Bridging Our Hearts, Engaging and Transforming Our World**

Volume 2

The United Nation 2015 Sustainable Development Goals for humanity and the planet includes peace:

**We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.**

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

# Sustainable Development Goals

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.





There is always the danger of complacency to think that we are racially and religiously united in times of crisis even when we consciously make investments to maintain peace with introduction of policies and initiatives like the 1989 Ethnic Integration Policy, 1990 Presidential Council for Religious Harmony, 2002 Inter-Racial and Religious and Religious Confidence Circles and 2017 Ask Me Anything - interfaith discussions. Division, however, is not just along race and religious lines, but other fault-lines are also emerging. Hence, building a supportive community where everyone feels valued becomes paramount.

Building a resilient city needs a ground-up effort to do what can we do to bridge our hearts and transform the society we live in to be able to help prevent or deal with events like the Christchurch mosque shooting in March 2019 or the Sri Lankan bombings in April 2019. Enabling the isolated or needy, the disabled, people with different socioeconomic backgrounds, the elderly or new immigrants find quality social connections will also

need to come via individuals, groups, communities and organisations. The aim is to create opportunities for authentic connection for meaningful relationships.

Will all these efforts by the government and the non-government bodies in Singapore be good enough to stop radicalisation, ensure we are all intolerant to discrimination and refuse any entertainment of offensive online posts or hate speech against different groups? We can never be sure but every effort towards peace, towards justice and towards inclusivity cannot be discounted. The lines from the poem 'Little Things' by Julia F Carney 'Little drops of water,/ Little grains of sand,/ Make the mighty ocean/ And the pleasant land' remind us to patiently keep at doing what we believe in and towards an impact that will be substantial. Things may not be changed overnight but the accumulation of doing whatever may seem a small or even a pointless effort to promote inclusivity will eventually pay off if we just keep at it.

There is never a one-answer solution nor a panacea to solve all problems of integration. 'Bridging our Hearts' and 'Engaging and Transforming our World' are noble ideas but they cannot be left to organically happen.

In this volume, we take a look at NIC's effort to encourage 'social integration' through the setting up of Community Integration Fund (CIF) and National Integration Working Groups (NIWG). We look at examples how the CIF is used by 3 organisations which try to integrate the youth and how NIWG in schools work towards integration in some of the West Zone 5 schools.

# The Community Integration Fund

The Community Integration Fund (CIF) was launched by the National Integration Council (NIC) in September 2009 to support organisations in implementing ground-up integration initiatives. Projects should satisfy at least one of the following objectives to be considered for CIF funding:

1. Provide information and resources on Singapore
2. Encourage emotional attachment to and involvement in Singapore
3. Encourage social interaction between locals, immigrants and foreigners
4. Promote a positive mindset towards integration

Three initiatives that helped young people integrate better through the use of CIF are:

**Youth Sports Carnival 2018  
by Singapore Federation of  
Chinese Clans Association**

CLICK

**Breaking Boundaries  
@ SIM 2018  
by SIM University**

CLICK

**SMU Host  
Programme 2018  
by SMU University**

CLICK

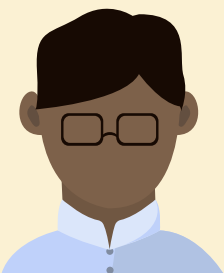


# National Integration Working Groups

NIC provides strategic direction to programmes devised by four National Integration Working Groups (NIWGs) according to key touch-points – Community, Schools, Workplace, Media – in fostering social integration amongst Singaporeans. Immigrants and NIWG are supported by secretariats from the respective Ministries and chaired by Permanent Secretaries of those Ministries.



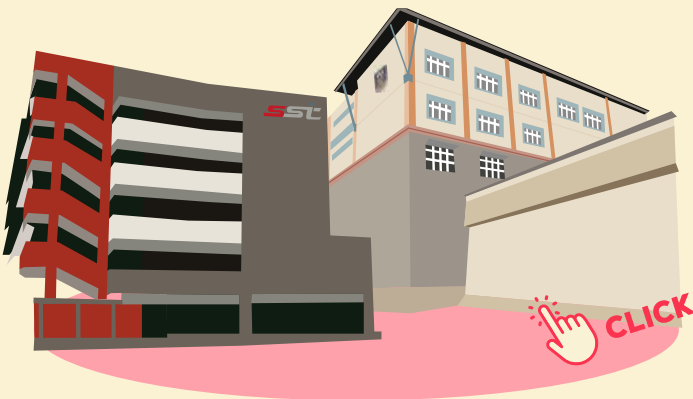
**Chairman**  
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)



**Secretariat**  
National Integration Council  
Secreteriat (NICS)



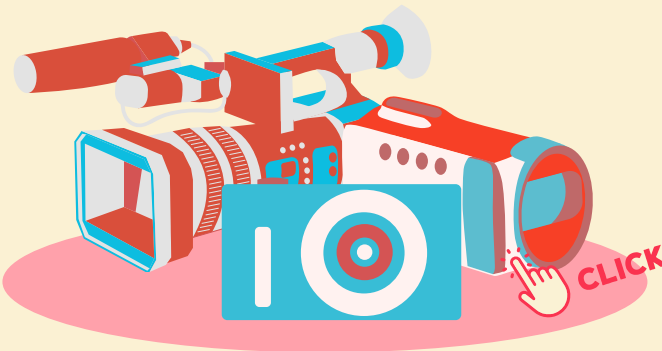
**NIWG-Community**



**NIWG-Schools**



**NIWG-Workplace**



**NIWG-Media**



# A Lego of Cultures under One Roof

**Racial Harmony Day is held to memorialize the communal riots of 1964 and teach students the importance of maintaining racial and religious harmony in Singapore's multicultural and multi-ethnic society.**

Singapore Infopedia





To ensure this harmonious society, we need the communities of different cultural groups to join forces to reach common goal or thriving together in Singapore.

Understanding our different cultures and subcultures is one building block that can help prevent and overcome racial, ethnic and religious divisions. All sorts of misunderstanding and even violence of the communal riots can be avoided. The proactive resolving of any key issues groups have in common will prevent loss of opportunities, drainage of financial as well as human resources.

Our community life can be further enriched as diverse cultural groups bring their unique strengths and their perspectives of ideas, customs and wisdom to the table. It is the coming together into the center of civic activity that can help shed light on how to solve tough problems. The democratic principle of building a diverse coalition by getting input of all groups in any formulation of solutions will enable a greater success of implementation and any follow-through to occur.

At the end of the day, we all desire a fair, equitable and moral society so when cultures are understood and appreciated, every one feels more accepted and feels he/she has a place in a larger community. This, in turn, motivates people to achieve success in living together under one roof.

All schools in Singapore commemorate Racial Harmony Day (RHD) differently, but with the common basis to understand each of the various cultures and subcultures better. Some students may be asked to showcase their cultural

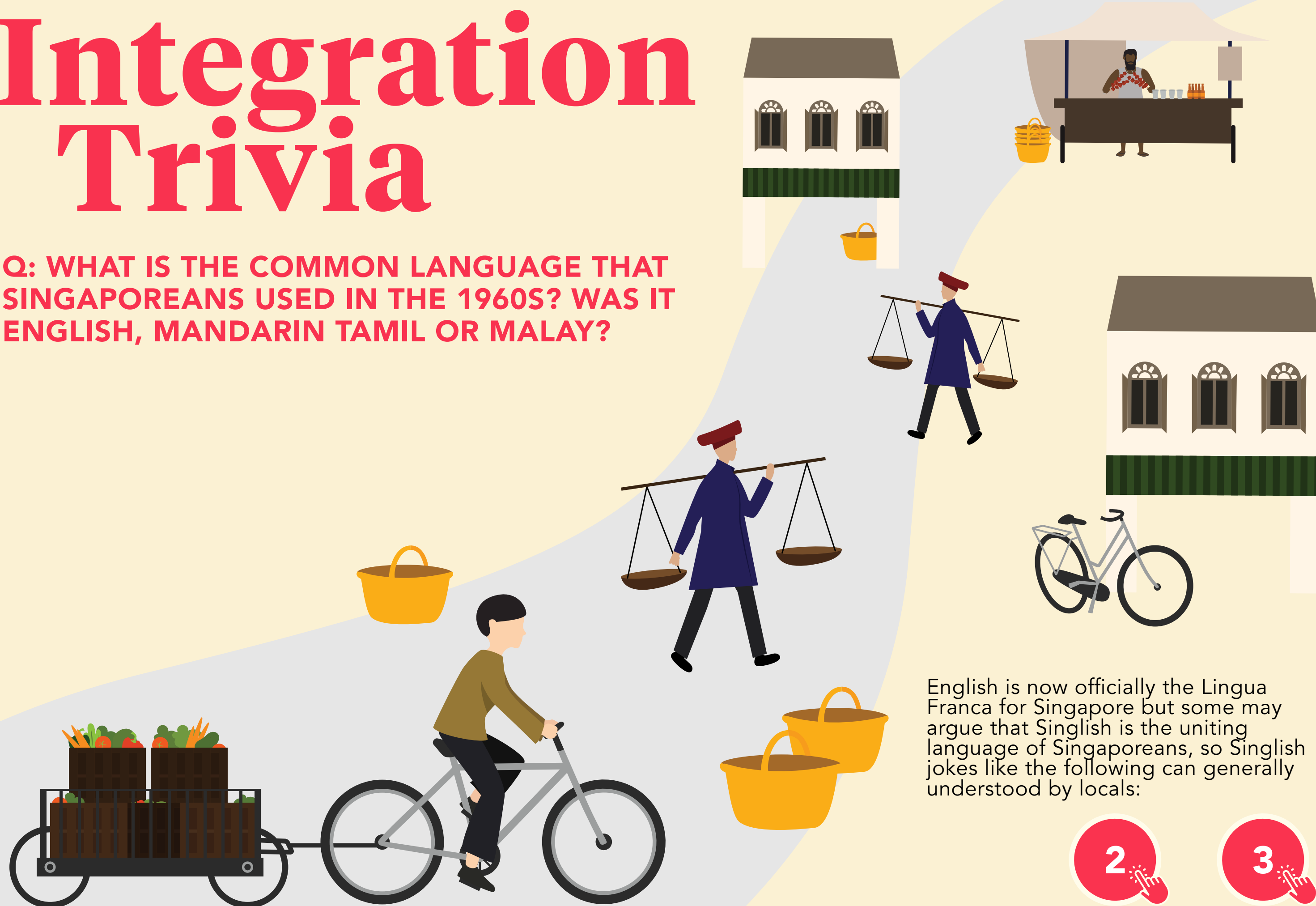
and racial groups' clothings, food, cultural practices. Some schools will try to get students to look at how to integrate new immigrants into the country better. Others may even relook at the the influences that cultural groups have had on our mainstream history and culture, to ensure we have an accurate view of our society and our communities. Licence is given to schools to come up with creative ways to commemorate RHD.

Click on SST and Teck Whye Secondary School to see how these 2 schools respectively commemorate RHD.



# Integration Trivia

**Q: WHAT IS THE COMMON LANGUAGE THAT SINGAPOREANS USED IN THE 1960S? WAS IT ENGLISH, MANDARIN TAMIL OR MALAY?**



English is now officially the Lingua Franca for Singapore but some may argue that Singlish is the uniting language of Singaporeans, so Singlish jokes like the following can generally be understood by locals:

2

3

# West View Primary School's Enculturation Programme

Since 2016, West View Primary School has made the effort to integrate their eclectic mix of primary 1 local and foreign students from low to high socioeconomic status in their 3-week long Start-It-Right Orientation programme through shared experiences.

Each P1 student rotates through different orientation groups so they get to know everyone in their cohort and their P1 teachers through fun-filled and meaningful activities, which in turn, allows them to interact with one another to express their needs and emotions, learn how and where to obtain help and how to move around safely in school.

Pierre Bourdieu's theory of Cultural Reproduction\* posits that familiarity of the cultural codes of society, in this case the school, is key in determining educational success. Hence, we see the school's effort in trying to ensure that all the new students regardless of their background, enter

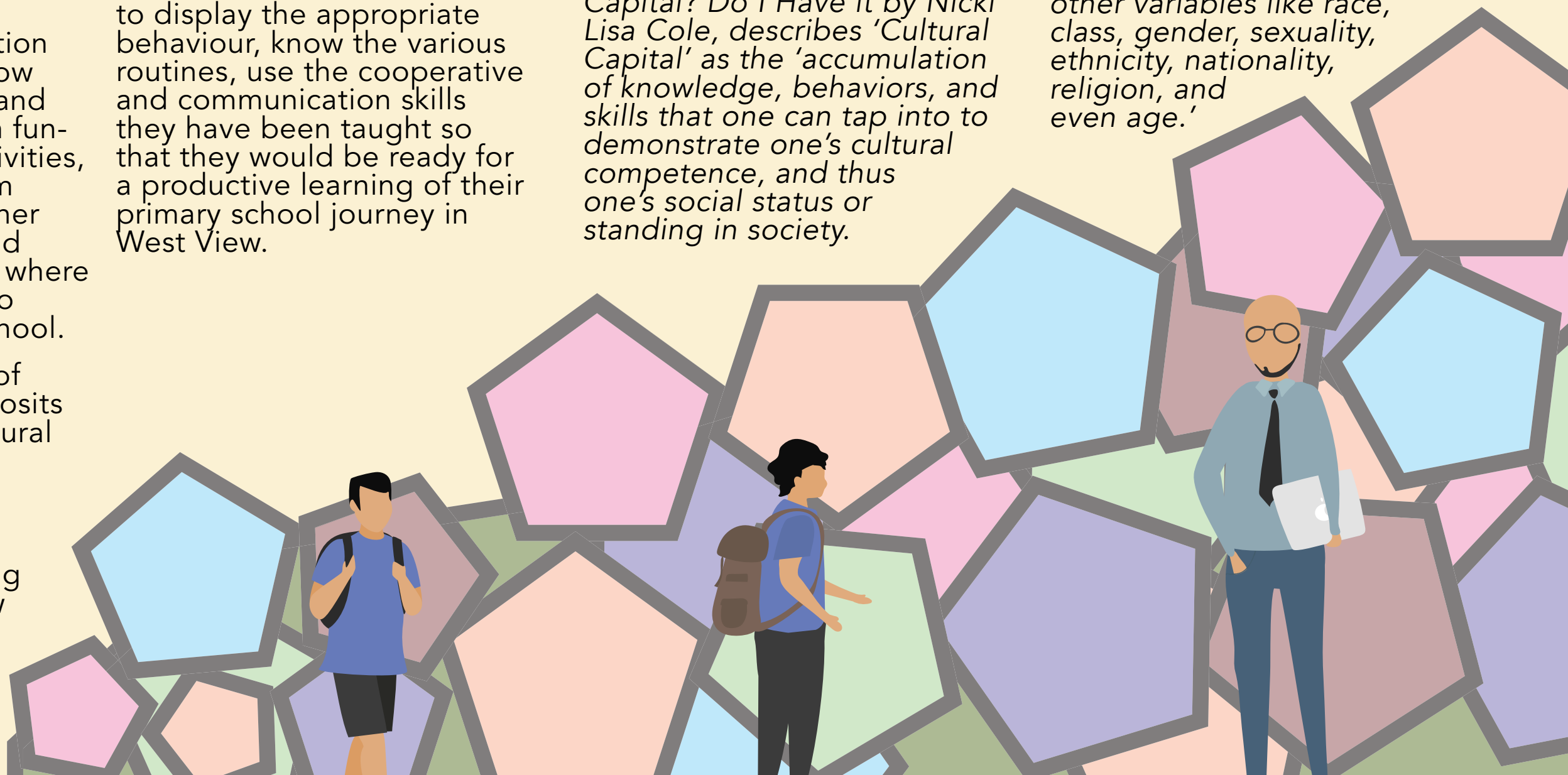
West View Primary on a level playing field once they start their primary school life.

Principal Mr Eddie Foo credits The Student Development Team for ensuring that by the end of the orientation programme, the Primary 1s will have been enculturated to display the appropriate behaviour, know the various routines, use the cooperative and communication skills they have been taught so that they would be ready for a productive learning of their primary school journey in West View.

Click to watch a video on the role of student leaders showing the way in helping the P1s settle into school life

*\*In the article, What is Cultural Capital? Do I Have it by Nicki Lisa Cole, describes 'Cultural Capital' as the 'accumulation of knowledge, behaviors, and skills that one can tap into to demonstrate one's cultural competence, and thus one's social status or standing in society.*

*In their initial writing on the topic, Bourdieu and Passeron asserted that this accumulation was used to reinforce class differences, as historically and very much still today, different groups of people have access to different sources and forms of knowledge, depending on other variables like race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and even age.'*



# Integration Trivia

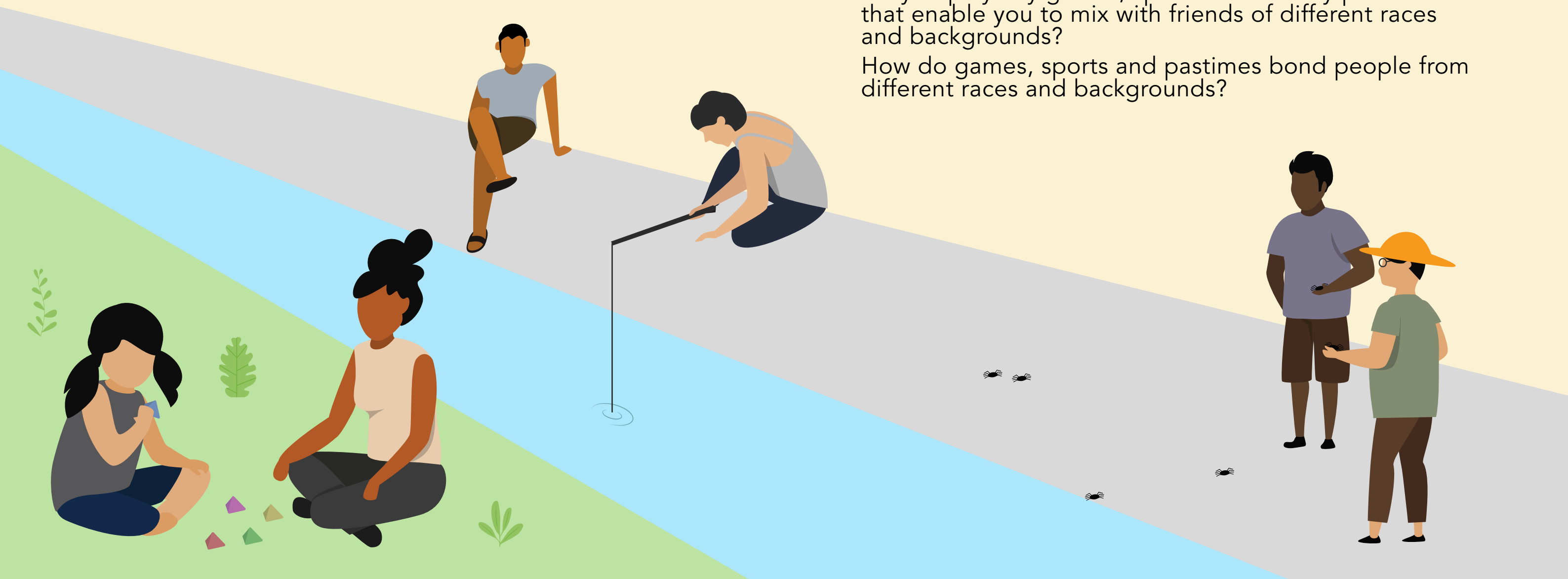
Q:

COMPUTERS AND HANDPHONES ARE COMMON TOOLS FOR LEISURE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY. OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS OF RECREATION, WHICH ONE WOULD BOYS, GIRLS OR BOTH GENDERS AND OF ALL RACES BE OCCUPIED WITH IN THE PAST?

## Questions for Reflection:

Do you play any games, sports or have any pastimes that enable you to mix with friends of different races and backgrounds?

How do games, sports and pastimes bond people from different races and backgrounds?






**What does it  
mean to  
be a  
Singaporean?**



How do we decide what makes us Singaporean and Singapore our home? Surely we cannot be all the same because we are not like factory-produced Ang Ku Kuehs. We will have multiple viewpoints and interests. We differ in so many ways such as our races, languages, religions, aspirations, ages, gender, preferences, ideas and beliefs. Hence, Singaporeans are really a sum total of all our various differences and contributions.

The following video by Studio Oik - Goh Kun Lei and Jonathan Goh 'My Pledge' gives us one perspective of what makes Singapore our home. Do you agree with it and why? What is your own perspective of what makes this place your home?

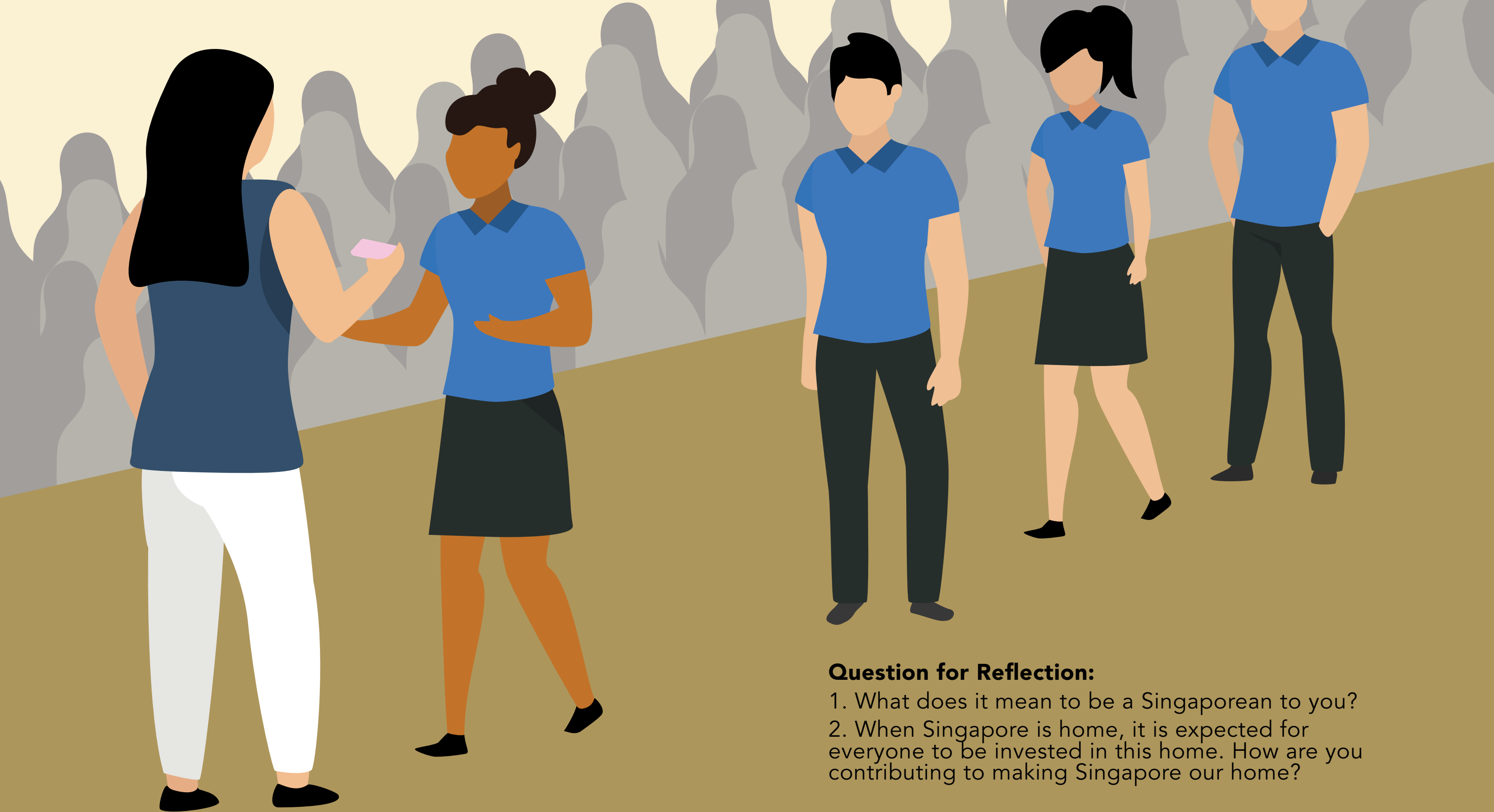




We asked Artemus Lee Ren Kai 14 years old, what it means to be a Singaporean to him. This is his response:

**Being a Singaporean is more than just a title or just a citizenship status. In Singapore, we are bonded and we stay united through calamities, and whenever one of us wins, everyone wins. I remember feeling a sense of pride during the National Day Parade (2016) knowing that years of hardship had culminated in our independence and the prosperity we have today. and I felt that it was truly amazing that we defied the odds stacked against us and made it this far. As such, being a Singaporean to me is like being in a huge family that looks out for each other.**

Schools annually commemorate the NRIC Presentation Ceremony for our young 15 year citizens. In SST, we reflect what it means to be Singaporean, if we have a heart for Singapore and if we know what our civic responsibility is.

**Question for Reflection:**

1. What does it mean to be a Singaporean to you?
2. When Singapore is home, it is expected for everyone to be invested in this home. How are you contributing to making Singapore our home?



# Social Studies Performance Task In SST

As part of the SS curriculum, issues pertaining to Singapore are regularly discussed through the use of authentic case studies and these are mostly linking back to Singapore and our national values.

The Upper Secondary scheme of work begins the year by looking at what it means to be a responsible citizen and how effective partnership with local government should look like.

All students have to do an SS performance task and it seeks to incorporate what it means to be Singaporean as one of the explicit learning outcomes of the project. The Performance Task set for 2019 requires students to look at income inequality in Singapore with the disparity in socio-economic status in Singapore. Socio-economic disparity can be seen in terms of **Income, Education, Job Scope**. Students have 2 options to choose to focus on:

## OPTION 1

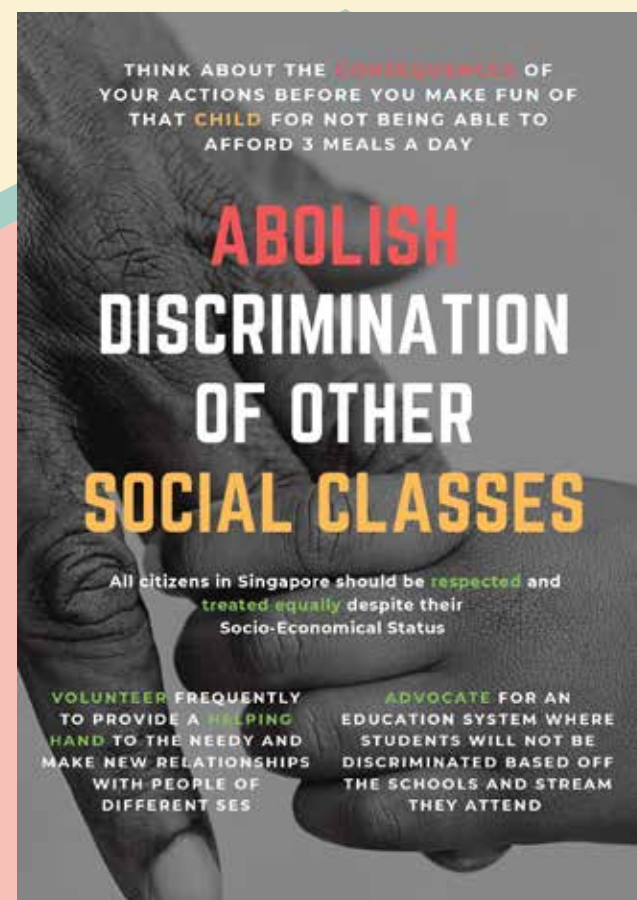
To produce an awareness campaign to highlight the impact of disparity of Socio-Economic Status (SES) on Singapore.

## OPTION 2

To produce an awareness campaign to debunk the misconceptions of Socio-Economic Status (SES) in Singapore and how it will affect the social cohesion of Singapore.

The role that students assume in their project is that they are part of the new team 'No Discrimination Singapore' and are participating in the advocacy project helmed by Active Citizenship Education Committee. As part of Active Citizenship Education curriculum, they will be exercising their role as a responsible citizen and agent of change. The aim is to raise peer and other Singaporeans' awareness of the situation and to propose solutions to mitigate the growing disparity.

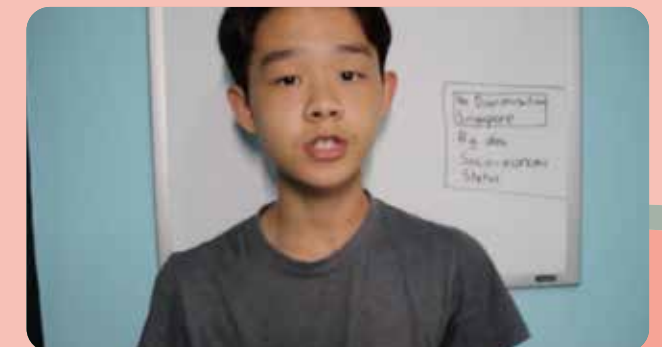
Here are some of the students' products.



Ng Zen Haan, S304



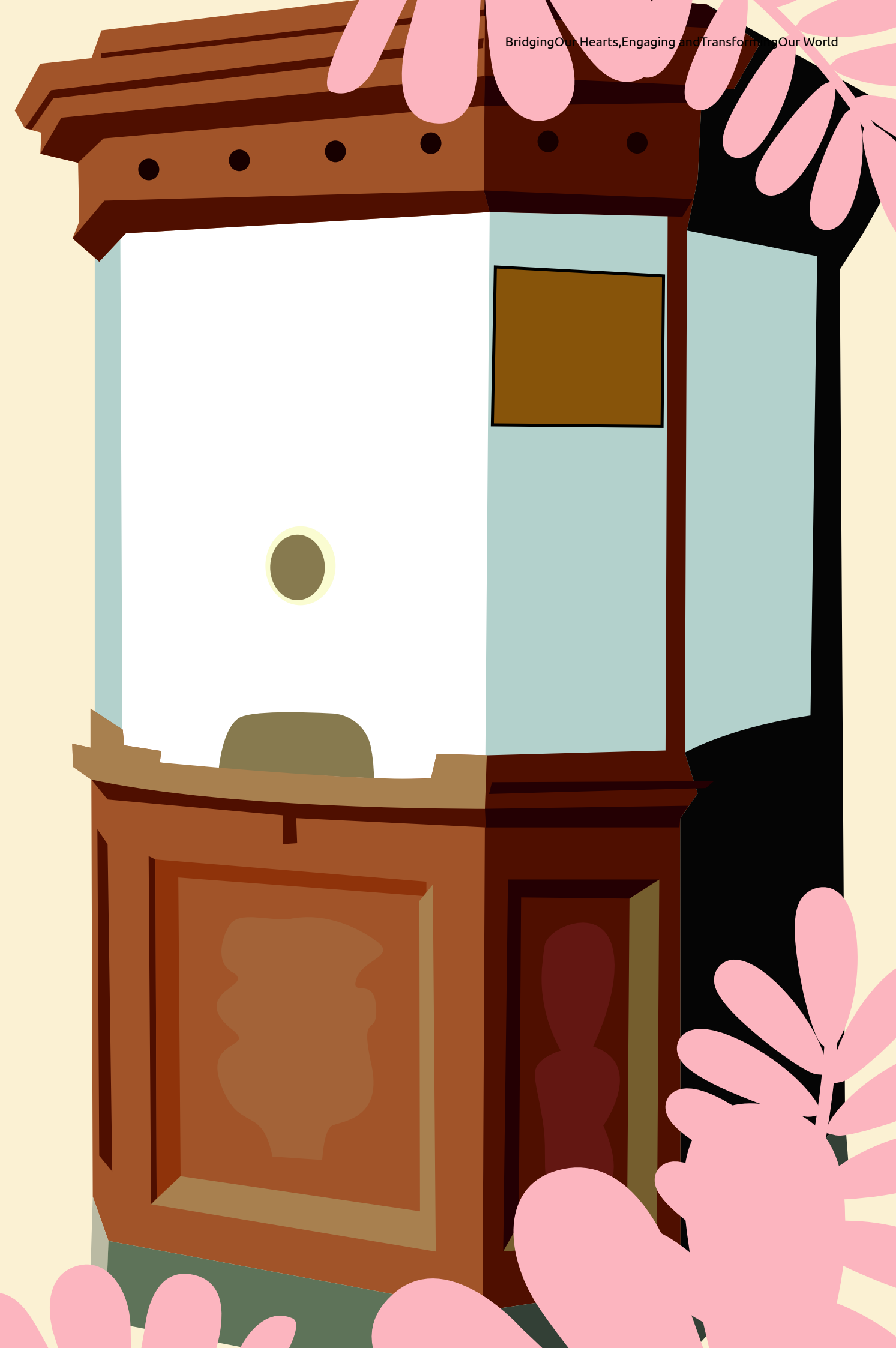
Joseph Chan Khye Shen, S304



Click on the video to view.

# Integration Trivia

**Q: BEFORE WE HAD POPCORN AND NACHO CHIPS WHAT WAS THE COMMON SNACK YOU WOULD EAT IF YOU WERE GOING TO WATCH A MOVIE IN A CINEMA?**

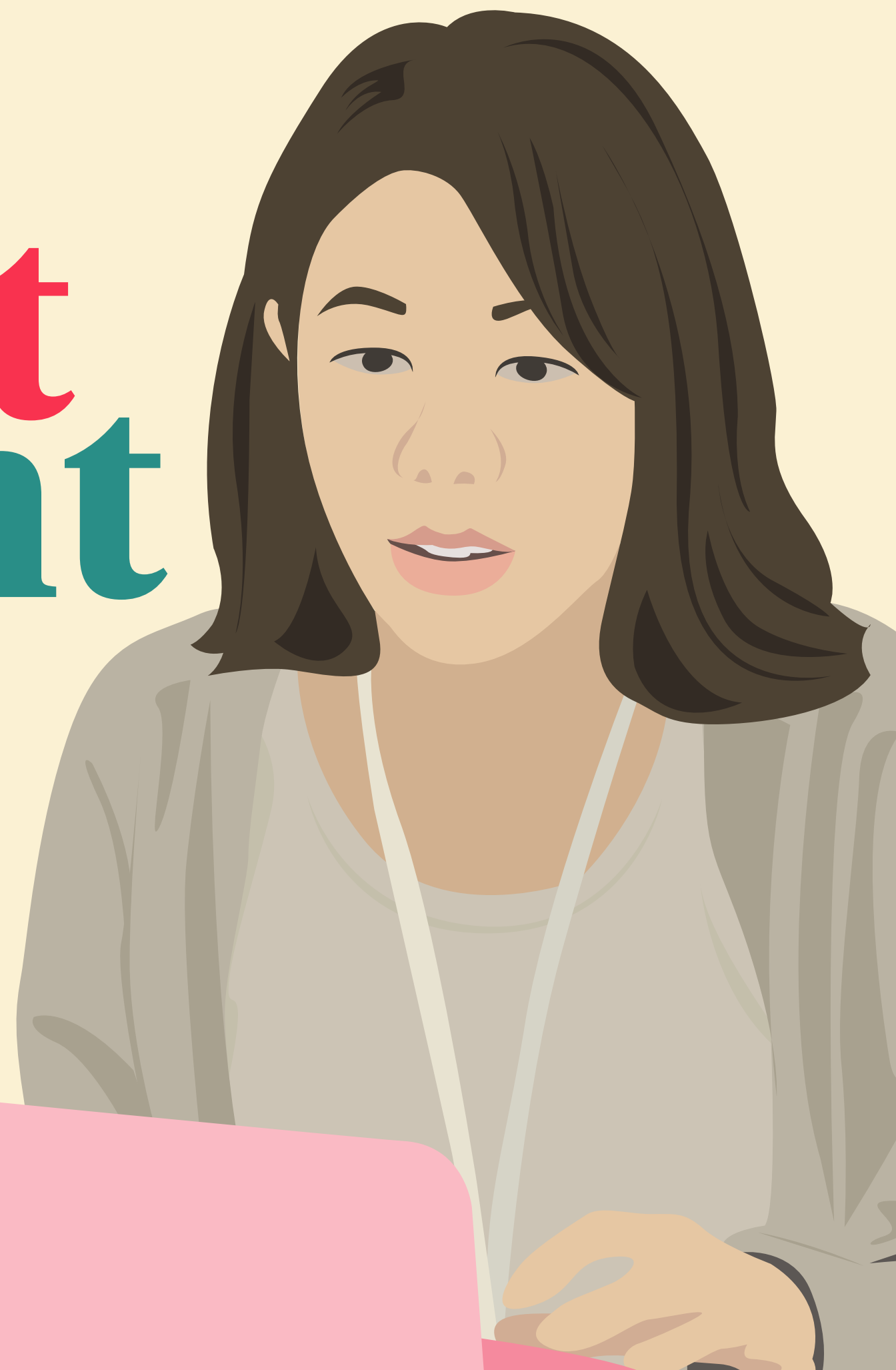


# Same Samebut Different

Social Studies is taught in all Secondary Schools but Ms Alice Lim exploits SST's Applied Learning approach to engage students in and outside the classroom.

A wide range of strategies from social experiments and getting students to create posters advocating against racism, to conducting a skyped lesson face-to-face with her students in the Demilitarized Zone in the Korean Peninsula are ways to deepen the students understanding and experiences.

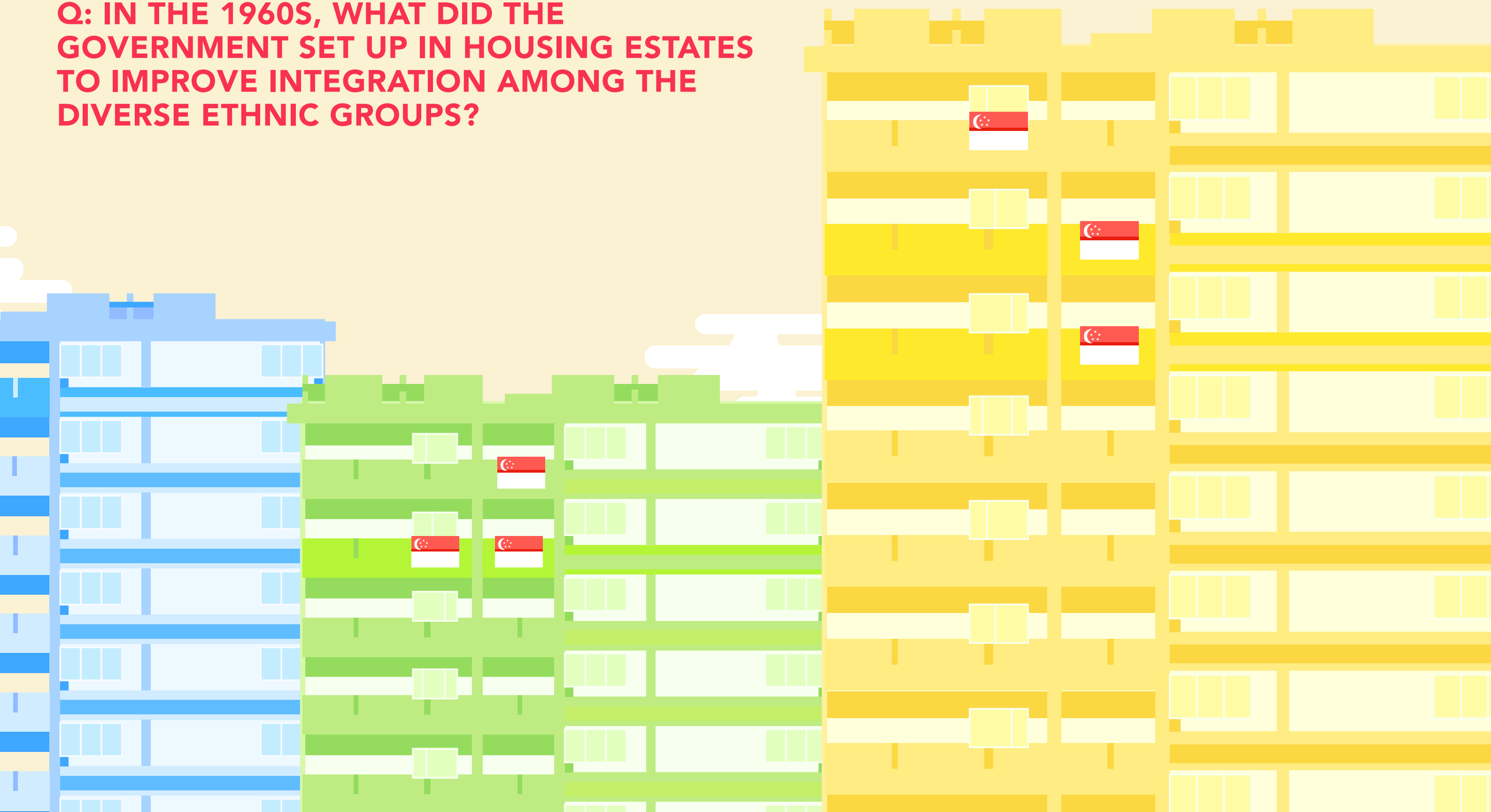
Watch the video to hear what Ms Alice Lim says why she enjoys teaching Social Studies and to get a sneak peak of her lessons in action.





# Integration Trivia

**Q: IN THE 1960S, WHAT DID THE GOVERNMENT SET UP IN HOUSING ESTATES TO IMPROVE INTEGRATION AMONG THE DIVERSE ETHNIC GROUPS?**





# GrowINg a Gracious Community

Volume 3

'Singapore is an economically advanced and technocratic place, but we need to balance such progress with the finer things in life -

**friendship, love  
caring for one another**

Otherwise we'd be doing things without understanding why we're doing them and alienate ourselves from life itself'

Isa Kamari, recipient of SEA Write Award, Cultural Medallion and the Tun Seri Lanang Award.  
Source: Living the Singapore Story, p166.

धन्यवाद!

谢谢!

THANK  
YOU!

SELAMAT  
DATANG!

PLEASE?

# Good Gracious Singapore

TERIMA  
KASIH

TERIMA  
KASIH!

धन्यवाद!

谢谢!

WELCOME!

धन्यवाद!

In a Today Online article, *Building a gracious society in Singapore*, Lim Siong Guan reported that in 2 workshops he conducted, Singaporeans do desire for Singapore to be a gracious society. This is very heartening but to produce such a society Lim believes is not about any initiatives the government can produce but it is the outcomes of the effort of Singaporeans and what they produce is a state of reflection of relations amongst individuals:

*Often when people think of a gracious society, their minds imagine the displaced and the handicapped, the poor and the*

*misfits, and how those groups of people should be taken care of. But gracious society or kampung spirit is really about the countless little interactions between neighbours and everyone else we mix with or have to work with every day of the week. It is the little things that define culture and the reality of society.*

Hence, in schools, we strive to promote a caring, conducive school culture through nurturing and sustaining positive relationships through enculturation via school programmes, and growing each student as a leader that models the way, inspires a shared vision, challenges the

process and enables others to act and that encourages the heart. (Kouzes and Posne, 2017).

The Student leadership programme in SST aims to develop leadership competencies and values in SST students so that they will become dynamic leaders in service of humanity. Each SST student is a leader who has the potential to advocate for a worthy cause for the common good and lead others to act in a manner which will impact the community in a positive way.



धन्यवाद!

THANK  
YOU!

谢谢!

TERIMA  
KASIH!

TERIMA  
KASIH

PLEASE?

WELCOME!

SELAMAT  
DATANG!

धन्यवाद!

In the first part of this Volume, we look at foreigner leaving a legacy here for us to carry on the work for the needy and witness a foreigner with a sense of civic duty to Singapore. We also feature a young man who helps his country and build compassionate students in both Vietnam and Singapore through service learning projects. We get to see a group of Singaporeans leading the way to bridge the divides of the low wage foreign worker and us and we witness the kampung spirit in action in a HDB block.

We then take a look at how SST students and its alumni advocate for worthy causes and lead to impact the community in a positive way by transforming their world through either self initiated projects or a school wide programme. The goal is for students to have the conviction of

acting now for long-term outcomes and to possess a positive mindset and the tenacity to keep at things they believe in and to do good.

At the end of the day, what makes a Singaporean or more important, a gracious Singaporean? Perhaps Adam Maniam, a Tamil-Eurasian-Malay-Pakistani lawyer who married Chinese Yap Cuixian may have an answer as they focus on shared values:

*'For us, doing good is more important than what you read or say, and we share these values despite our differences in culture and religion.'*

*Living the Singapore Story: Celebrating our 50 years 1965 - 2015, p172*

“...the kampung spirit is really about the countless little interactions that are between neighbours and everyone else... It is the little things that define culture and the reality of our society”

# Food from the Heart

Fuelled by their heartfelt motivation to help the needy, Austrians Christine and Henry Laimer started the Food from the Heart movement. Together with 120 volunteers, they embarked on their first bread run in 2003. Since then, Food from the Heart has rapidly expanded to support 35,500 beneficiaries each month and distributed S\$5.52 million worth of food in 2017 alone.

The Laimers returned to Austria in 2011. Although Christine and Henry Laimer have left Singapore, Food from the Heart remains in good hands and is now led by Mr Kwa Eng Kiat. Both Singaporeans and foreigners have continued to expand Food from the Heart by developing and introducing more programmes, such as the Community Food Pack and School Goodie Bag programme.

Hear what Mr Mohad Zuraimi, current manager of the Food from the Heart Joo Seng warehouse, has to say about the initiative



Question for reflection:  
Recall an occasion when sharing food makes people come together and helps break down barriers.



# Are you an integration hero?

**Where are you on the integration spectrum? Are you someone that won't integrate, tolerate integration, embrace integration or advocate for integration?**

**Q: There are plans to build an elderly centre in your HDB void deck.**

A: You would sign a petition against this because you feel that it will take up common void deck space and potentially depreciate the value of your property.

B: You can see the positive of having it but just not in your void deck or too near your property.

C: You are not sure how this would pan out but do acknowledge that our population is an aging one and this is just one way to manage the future and so accept it.

D: You consider it advantageous for active living among seniors, inter-generational bonding as well as having care services for the elderly people in your estate so you welcome the initiative.

Some questions for further reflection:

Why would people think an elderly centre depreciates the value of properties nearby?

What are the stereotypes people hold of elderly folks?

If a centre for people with special needs is constructed instead, would your reaction be the same and why?

\*Integration includes integration people who are different not necessarily only by race, language or religion but it could include the lonely, people with special needs, and even the elderly.





# Why bother?

Bulgarian Zhivko Girginov who lives in Singapore, made news when he was discovered helping clean up damaged bikes around the Island because he felt it was his civic duty.

Dawn Lim, 18 years old had this response:

The bicycle sharing frenzy in Singapore began back in early 2017 when bicycle sharing startups including oBike, Mobike and ofo began to deploy their bicycles around the streets of Singapore.

These startups saw the value of sharing resources within a community for a reasonable price, providing every island dweller an accessible, eco-

friendly travel option. However, as quickly as the concept caught on with society, these companies and their bicycles disappeared from the streets due to irresponsible treatment by public users, including parking at non-designated areas, damaging without reporting etc.

Irresponsible behaviours and unkind acts typically stem from one's ignorance to the bigger scheme of a situation. One who mistreats a shared resource without taking responsibility for their actions does not realise, or chooses to overlook the fact that someone else has to pay the price. Those who run these bike-sharing companies have to locate these broken two-wheelers, fix or dump

them, relabel and put them back on the streets again. (I am sure there is much more to the standard operating procedure of a damaged bicycle than just these.) And the rest of the public who have been conscientious with their bike-sharing routines would have less bicycles on the map to work with. All these costs, evident and hidden, rippled to become an issue so uncontrollable, this public amenity had to be removed. Would oBike, Mobike and ofo have to put a brake on their operations if we, the public, were just a bit more mindful to the concerns beyond ourselves? The mistreatment of these shared bicycles, especially physical damage is not only a socially irresponsible act, but also an environmentally

undesirable situation. In this sense, consideration extends beyond the people running these bike-sharing start-ups and their stakeholders who have to take the time, money and trouble of sending the bicycles for repair, to the resources that the earth provides. The rubber of the tires, the plastic of the saddle, the aluminium of the frame all had to come from somewhere. There is an embedded cost behind the extraction and purification of a material, the production and assembly of a product, the transportation of a product to the distribution point etc. This cost is more than just the economic costs; the carbon footprint, the resource consumption, waste and pollution. So much work and energy was

invested in bringing, in this case, a well-designed fully-functional bicycle, to us. Surely they deserve some respect from us users, don't they?

It saddens me to see that an idea that birthed from good intention to benefit the community and its environment was put down for a silly reason like this, but I think from this failure comes an opportunity for us to take a step back and meditate. Every action has its impact, and it is only when we take the effort to be more mindful, that we see this impact, and how we can reduce the negative aspect of that impact.



# A Win-Win Situation

Harry Pham Van Anh benefitted from being exposed to the Youth Service Programme model used here in Singapore while he was in Red Cross as a student in one of our local Universities. He was involved in the reflection after the service and witness how this further enabled service givers to grow a giving and caring attitude towards others and he was impressed by this power of this reflection to change lives.

Upon graduation, Harry like any other young person took up a job and it was while working in an MNC in Singapore, he came across a newspaper article of Singapore students doing their service learning in Thailand and he had an A-HA! moment which led him to start ECO Vietnam Group (Education and Community Development) in 2009 to enable organisations in Singapore, in particular, students from educational institutions to volunteer their service in Vietnam and to bring the concept of Service Learning

to other NGOs, clubs, and some universities in HCMC. ECO Vietnam has become a bridge of trust between volunteers, sponsors and disadvantaged communities in remote areas, including ethnic minority around the Ho Chi Minh area.

This Non-governmental and Non-Profitable Organization has become a win-win solution that allows Harry to bring the genuine and long term support for communities in need in Vietnam, and simultaneously enable Singapore students

to bring a positive change to the communes of another ASEAN country.

Whilst we were on the Vietnam OLE 2018 trip, the media talent development students took the opportunity to also create a video *Service learning in Phong Thanh, Cau Ke, Tra Vinh* which the ECO Vietnam Group used to promote their work.





# Letting Immigrants Into Our Country But Not Into Our Society?

Singapore has a long history of foreign workers in the construction sector and till today, we rely on them to build our ever-changing modern landscapes: flyovers, MRT tunnels, skyscrapers, our housing and even our schools. However, when it comes to integration of these foreign workers, not everyone is on the same page when a proposal to transform an old school into a foreign workers' dormitory next to a housing estate.





Journalist Siva Govindasamy, wrote a [response](#) 'Stereotypes are well and truly alive in this modern multi-ethnic metropolis. We want our own space and are selective about which foreigners will be allowed into it, making a serious dent in the attempts to evolve into a tolerant multi-cultural society'.

After some measures were taken, things have worked out for most as reported in the [news](#).. Mrs Pauline Leong, a homemaker felt that '... As humans, we have to be compassionate and learn how to live together'

In 2011 when SST laid the foundations to the permanent site of our school building, we decided to thank these workers. We respect their labour in building Singapore

and now building our school for us. We appreciate their resilience in earning their pay working in the pouring rain and by being burnt in the sun.

Since the 2008 response to the proposed foreign workers dormitory in Serangoon Garden and our breakfast with workers, we discovered a more recent [families inviting foreign workers for a meal under the Singaporean Come Makan with me](#)

[initiative](#) started by the Migrant Workers Centre since November 2017. With a programme like this, it is a hope that more Singaporeans will reach out to foreign workers more, and that we will treat them with respect.

# The Gotong Royong Spirit is Still Alive in My Boon Lay Block.

Juliana Kamis' story

Click to listen to Juliana Kamis as she tells her story

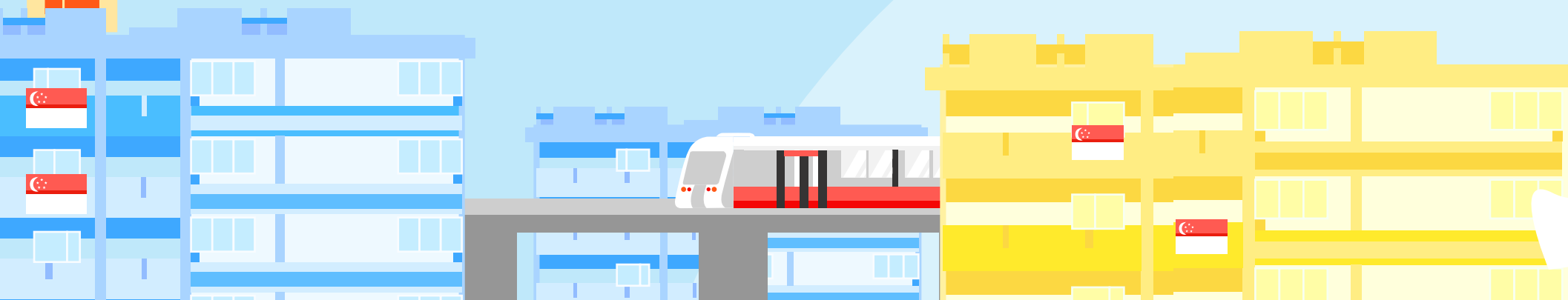
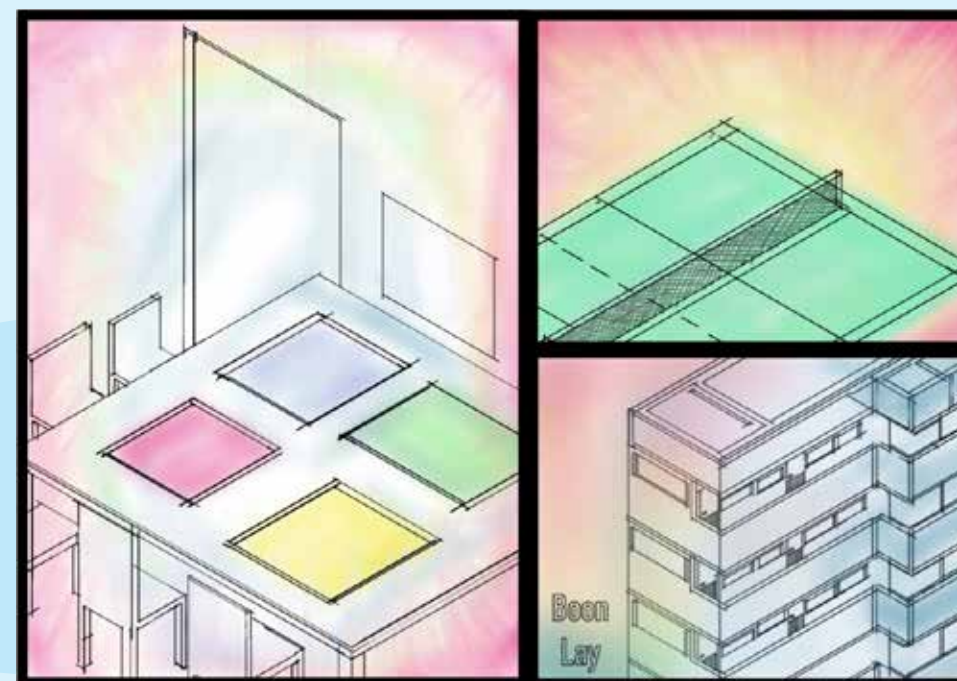
We were all excited when we moved to our new home in Boon Lay. My siblings and I were soon playing with our new friends along the corridor: Chinese, Malay or Indian – it didn't matter which race. After school, it was OUR playtime. Everyone took turns to ride my tricycle and we would play badminton on the weekends. Sometimes I would be striker Abbas Saad or Fandi Ahmad and score with our 50 cents plastic

ball to win the Malaysia Cup over and over again. Our doors were never closed although an odd gate would be shut to stop the younger ones from running out without supervision. Our parents would call out "Dinner time!" or 'Time to mandi!' breaking up our fun but it was okay. We knew we would meet up again the next day and continue with our games.

I remember celebrating each other's festivals. Mom would always cook more to share our dinners during Ramadan and our neighbours would come over to share a meal over the Hari Raya period. My Chinese neighbours would give us mandarins during their Lunar New Year Celebrations and red packets which held our precious ice cream money.



EW27 Boon Lay





We looked out for each other like an extended family. When we were going to Malaysia for a short trip, we would tell our Chinese neighbours and they would help collect our copies of Berita Harian every morning and pass them all to us when we got back. When our Chinese neighbour went away on trips, we reciprocated by keeping an eye on their flat. It was kampong spirit at its best.

33 years on, we have all grown up so the corridor fun I had is no more. Some things have changed. Some haven't. Our doors are still open but with locked gates. Some of our neighbours have moved and upgraded to bigger flats but like us, some stayed on. I have new neighbours: Indian neighbours and a Malaysian Chinese family from Ipoh and they, like the previous Chinese family, would still give us a box of mandarin oranges and red packets for my nephews before they returned to Ipoh for their reunion dinner. My mother still cooks extra and exchanges dinners during the fasting period. Below us, we have new Chinese immigrants. We don't talk to each other as much.





A few weeks back, we had gone out to dinner but it started to rain. The next day my father met our Malaysian Chinese neighbour who told him they had come to knock on our doors to see if we were aware that our 'tekko' of clothes were still not taken in and she also shared the Chinese immigrants downstairs were also concerned about our wet clothes and came up to try tell us. Then not long later, my father bumped into my Singaporean Indian neighbours who also mentioned that they had also come to knock on our door for the same reason. Although we had to rewash and hang out our clothes again, it didn't seem so bad because I realised that things might have changed but the Gotong Royong spirit still exists in my corner of my HDB block.

**Question for reflection:**  
How can you help foster this 'kampong spirit' in your estate?



# What Makes You Tick?

The exposure to a can-do spirit and applied learning experiences in SST inspired Lee Yu Chong and Tadikamalia Vivek to start Heartland Mentoring in Bukit Batok Community Club to help underprivileged children gain a competitive advantage in life. The programme kick-started with other SST alumni pioneers who are still actively involved.

As Yu Chong had to head overseas to do his undergraduate studies and understanding the need for sustainability, Emily Wu and Koh Sue En from the same SST pioneer alumni cohort have taken over the leadership in the operations. A current SST student has also become a regular volunteer.

Along with other committed youth volunteers across diverse backgrounds, they have been motivated to keep the programme going for three years and there is a sense of positivity towards this effort to keep it going.

The 15 or more children who come down each week to receive one-to-one mentorship are not pre-screened so they come from all backgrounds, races and religions to encourage inclusivity.

Apart from getting these children to do their level best in their academic undertakings, this mentoring programme values character building and tries to expose these underprivileged children to different experiences e.g. drone flying which they will normally never be able to do.



Lee Yu Chong: How his experience in SST inspired him to start Heartland Mentoring

# Made the news but so what?

He Shiyong was part of Team Ardour, a group of youths who served vulnerable communities in Singapore and was featured in the news: [Passion for Volunteerism](#)

Curious to find out what engages her head, heart and hands in the world of volunteering, Zowie Ong, Ang Lija & Tew Yu Xin interviewed He Shiyong to find out more about her involvement in this initiative after leaving SST and to find out what this busy young lady is up to these days while currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies with a minor in Public Health + University Scholars Programme at NUS.



What inspired you to start volunteering to help the community?

How has this initiative impacted your life?

What motivates you to juggle your full-time studies and volunteering?

Why is the Team Ardor initiative important to you?

What have you been up to since leaving Team Ardor?

What is/was your role in Team Ardor?

Are you still part of this initiative?





# Fact, Opinion, Misinformation or Fake News?



In the early years of SST, when discussing how to behave as digital citizens, our pioneer Cyber Wellness Student Ambassadors came up with STAR: an acronym for Sense, Think, Act and the 'R' represents SST's operative values of Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Reflection (4Rs).

Apart from other cyber wellness issues, our students know that empowering themselves with critical thinking skills to discern the differences amongst facts, opinions, misinformation and lies are important to handle their increasing reliance on information put out on the world wide web and on various social media platforms. They know that to

succumb to fake news or to perpetuate them without reflective scrutiny could do a lot of harm to themselves as well as to others.

Hence, apart from organising our annual Digital Citizenship Week to have a sense of awareness of issues in the digital world, and be reminded of the use of the right conduct when we are online, our team of Cyber Wellness Student Ambassadors also take on an advocacy role as trainers to help primary school Cyber Wellness Ambassadors to spread various messages of digital safety in their respective schools.

Every year, their workshops would vary on themes from managing cyberbullying to ways of identifying scams and fake news.

The alertness and awareness to the dangers of the internet and social media would in turn help students be good digital citizens of the now and the future; to mindfully practice responsibility, be always respectful, with a mission to build

positive relationships and to reflect on actions, thereby avoiding impetuous responses or unwittingly share information that may be detrimental.

SST's Digital Citizenship is one line of social defence to manage fake information and news that could incite hate and fear which could in turn, goad people to harm others and to disunite people; something which we can ill afford as it threatens our nation-building efforts towards a harmonious and prosperous Singapore.





Making the news “Apple picks up apps created by SST students” “狮城有约 | 网开眼界：小小程序开发员” are Axios Yeo Yi, Yee Jia Chen and Shannen Samuel Rajoo, three 14 year old members of SST INC\* in 2018 who started their own company, Adapt Inc. to produce PortableCL project, a social innovation that meets UN Sustainable goal of Quality Education.

Language learning could be considered an arduous process involving huge dictionaries and endless character lists. What is often used are flashcards to learn Chinese characters, but this method lacks other additional information such as how to use the word in a sentence, what it means, and how to pronounce it correctly.

# SST Inc. Designs for Change

Hence, the group created a phone application that could solve these issues and revolutionise the way students learn Chinese.

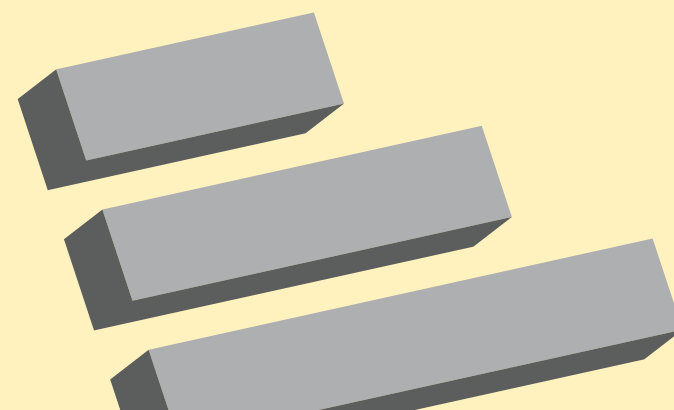
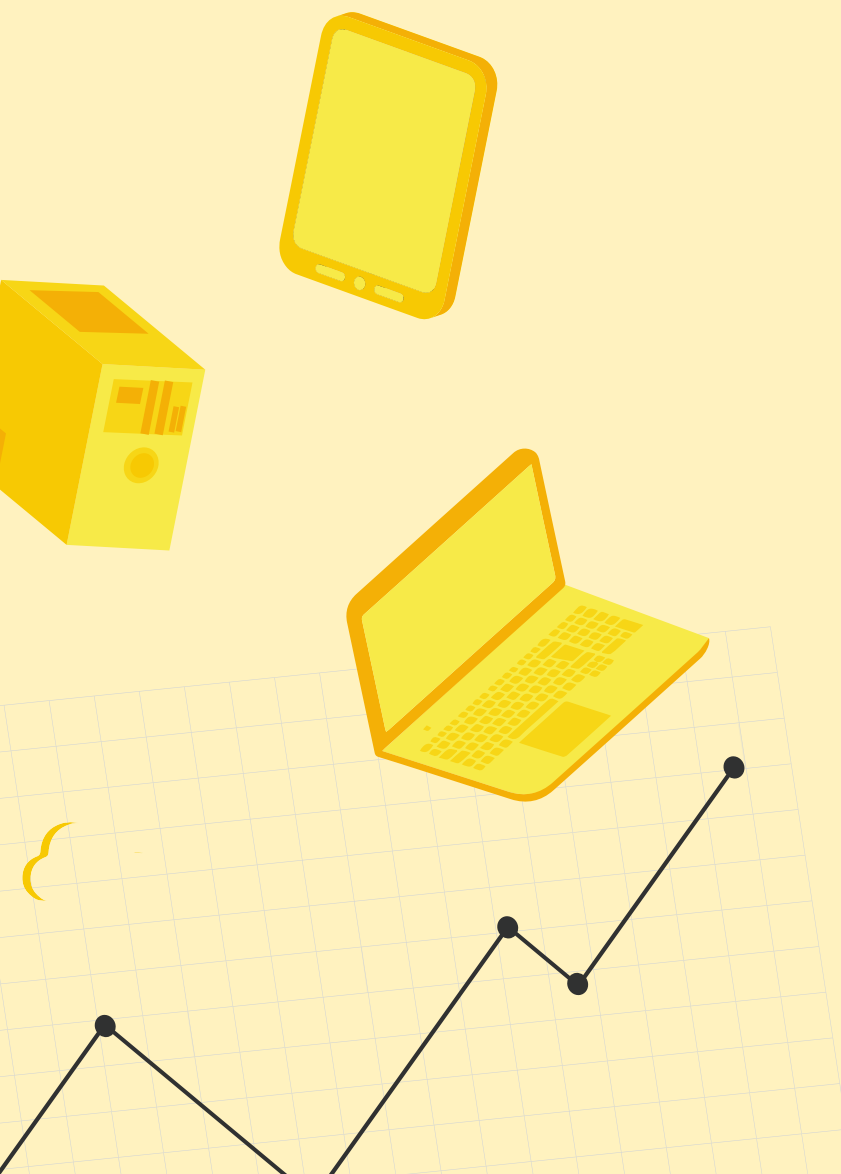
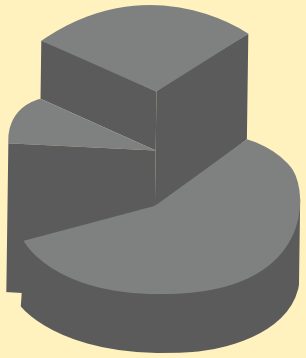
Adapt Inc. has recently ‘employed’ another member, Sebastian Choo to join them to work on a version 2 of the application. They are adding a handwriting function and another function for parents to track the progress of their children’s learning. Object Detection in which the user can just use their phone camera to get a chinese word for objects they point to is also in the cards. They are also updating the vocabulary list used by current MOE syllabus for Primary Schools as they know that the application they build could immediately impact 185 primary schools with 6 levels of students. Their target group of users may be local Chinese students picking up their Mother Tongue but they do not discount young students who are speakers of other



languages and would like to pick up Mandarin as the group believes that in multicultural Singapore, learning more languages is always an added advantage for better communication and bonding.

\*SST Inc. is the ICT Talent Development Programme in SST and the parent company that nurtures student employees in running subsidiary technology start-ups to serve communities and better the world. It also works in the “startup” style that trains, develops and educates the next generation of future innovators and tinkerers.

Check out the free first version of app here: [PortableCL](#)





In SST, our Secondary 1 students from all backgrounds go through memorable experiences together in our Overseas Learning Experiences (OLEs) as part of the The Active Citizenship Education programme, also known as ACE@SST programme. This programme's mission is to develop every individual as an active global citizen who is able to contribute to the betterment of the community through their actions. Our students are stewards of their lives and the community

beyond; and the ones who bridge cultures, beliefs and international borders to create a better world.

When we go through OLE trips together, the common experiences to help the underprivileged and live in conditions we are less used to, we create common spaces that help our students develop empathy, respect and kinship.

There are 3 phases to any ole trip

PHASE ONE

PHASE TWO

PHASE THREE

# Ole! Ole! Ole!

**“With this knowledge and understanding, and equipped with the service and advocacy skills, they are empowered to take action, to make a positive change for the community.”**



# Media POW!er

Kenneth Mah, a member of the first media team to cover the inaugural Community Plumbing Challenge (CPC) in Nashik, India, has this to say about the team's experience:

We were mainly a student media crew from School of Science and Technology, Singapore who went to Nashik, India to film and edit a wide range of footages to tell the story of the pilot Community Plumbing Challenge (CPC) 2015 and produced 2 videos during the 4 days onsite.

The first video was a highlights video where we showed how the CPC Nashik had improved the existing water and sanitation facilities at Maha Naga Palika School No. 125 Nashik, Maharashtra. We documented how student teams from across the world worked together with the school community to implement these new solutions at the school over the course of one intensive week of design and construction.



The second video was an educational video where we collaborated with the student Autodesk team to explain the design and development of works onsite.



Upon returning to Singapore, our experiences compelled us to create an advocacy video, called "Community Plumbing Challenge: Youth For A Cause",



which was released on World Plumbing Day and it became an advocacy video for International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officers and other host groups for sponsorship and getting more organisations onboard the CPC.

All three videos advocated for change and also persuaded young people from all over the globe to commit themselves to use their skills and combine them

together to do good for the community. This persuaded sponsors to come forward and new participants were involved in the next CPC Diepsloot in 2016.



The media teams would continue in post event media work in the creation of many educational videos and sponsorship videos for the CPC events upon returning to Singapore. Our last project with IWSH was the Cikarang CPC, Indonesia 2017

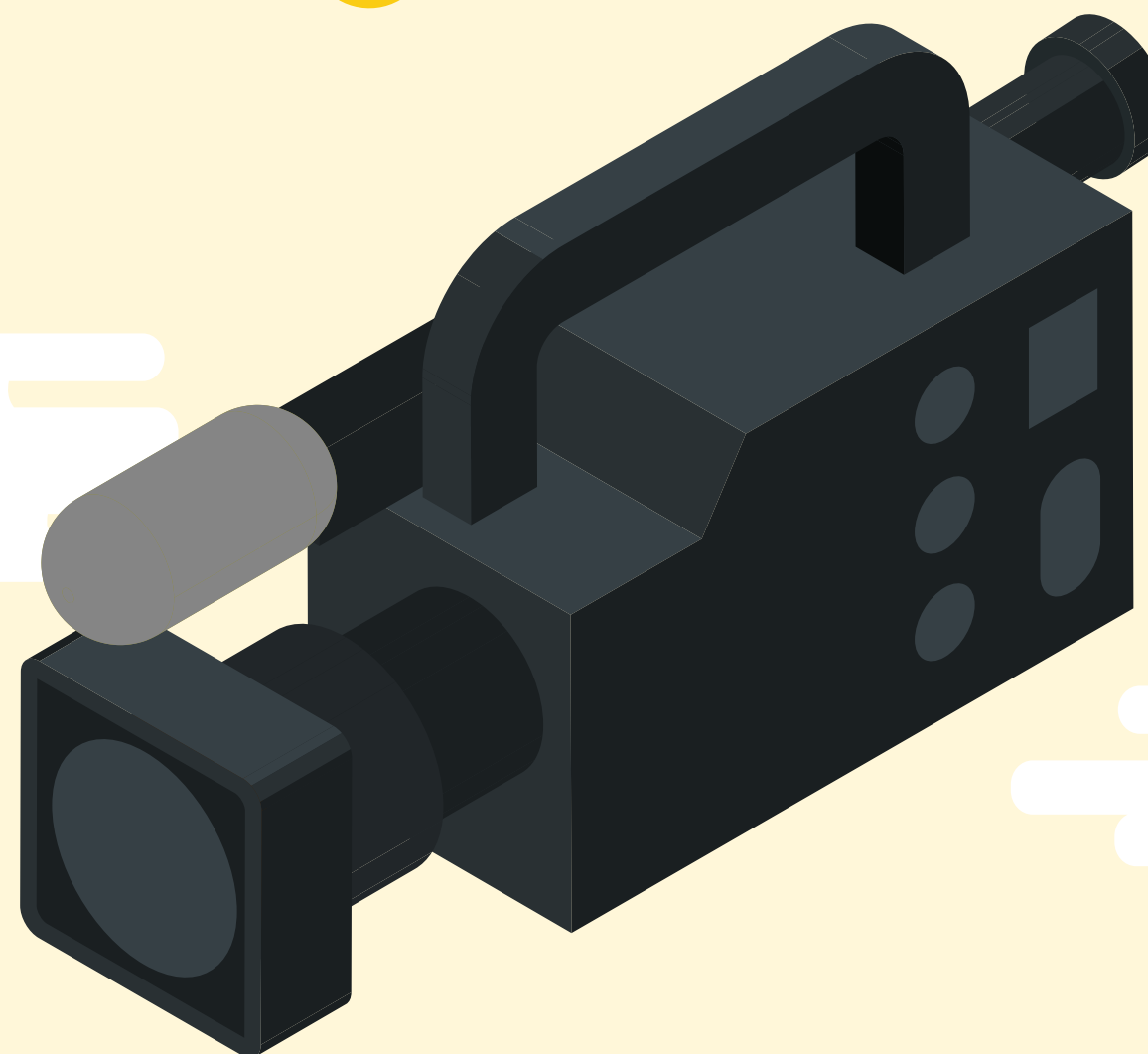


Teams of SST Media Studies students, alumni students along with staff who participated in these events have gained more than just the experience applying their media skills to a good cause but also had first hand experience of working and interacting with a cross-cultural team of international mentors and students from countries such as Australia, Basque Country, India, Indonesia, Ireland, South Africa, and the USA.

*\*The annual Community Plumbing Challenge (CPC) involves young people from different countries to come together to design and build toilets, hand-washing facilities, sanitation systems and install water tanks - all to improve the access to clean water and a good sanitation*

*system to communities. These youth get to work with The International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (IWSH) charitable foundation which harnesses the skills and expertise of water industry water industry professionals, organizations and manufacturers that support critical water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives worldwide. It helps young people tap into over 100 years of industry experience to help develop local infrastructure, improve governance, and create conditions for better public health and economic outcomes.*

*The use of media for advocacy work is currently carried on by the students in Media Talent Development Programme.*



# Be the Change You wish to see in the World!

The ChangeMakers Programme in SST is the signature bedrock curriculum that aims to provide its lower secondary students with an integrated learning experience towards developing the attitudes and attributes of an innovator with an entrepreneurial mind.

The programme integrates principles, knowledge and skills from Art, Design, Media and Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Information and Communication Technology, Mathematics and Science. Students also go through Research Skills and Presentation Skills modules.

Tew Yu Xin and Jia Zeyu will tell you of their experiences of the programme and of the trip to Shenzhen that gave our young changemakers opportunities for understanding experimentation, innovation and learning.







# Conclusion



**Nobody should be asked to abandon his or her own identity. Becoming a Singaporean should be a matter of sharing an enlarged common space. The Singaporean should forever be an identity that turns on becoming more, not less; expanding, not contracting; adding, not subtracting.**

Janadas Devan, Choosing The Better Angels of Our Nature, Straits Times, 2013.



# We Like Rojak

Our forefathers came mainly from the Malay Peninsula, the Indonesian isles, China, the Indian sub-continent and Sri Lanka. Coming from different backgrounds and valuing the importance of accepting and understanding one another has helped Singaporeans build a harmonious society. This harmony has not come about naturally and the years after the British occupation saw Singapore go through a time of economic and political uncertainty and challenges but we still survived and have thrived to become what we are today.

Living in a global city today means we are living with multitudes of ethnicities and cultures and even sub-cultures. Singapore will increasingly become more plural. We can either succumb to social tension and conflict as minority groups contest the demands to conform to the majority or we can celebrate our cosmopolitan diversity by creating our various identities and live with each other with social acceptance.



To choose the latter is a no-brainer as it is natural for communities and societies to work towards cooperative behaviour, resulting in win-win interactions because they achieve benefit for all.

Hence keeping an open mind and accepting differences as elements of diversity, rather than letting them make way to discrimination and divisions help us continue living in harmony and we commit ourselves to keep Singapore a people-centred city. To have differences is natural but for Singapore to thrive, learning to live with those differences becomes decisive.

To continue to preserve our social cohesion and harmony, it is not only the government's role to push out policies and initiatives but that everyone in Singapore will need to recognise their role in actively reaching out to each other and to create common spaces that help us develop empathy, respect and kinship.

Our 'common spaces' when taken beyond physical spaces of void decks, playgrounds, parks, we start to include even the prevailing discourses online or offline, in schools. It becomes our social responsibility to search for facts and weigh informed opinions becomes critical as we are more reliant on social media for news and information today. Social media platforms are also where a lot of fake media circulates and we all know that fake news can be inimical to integration, fanning hate and dividing us.

**EMS Goh Chok Tong's (2000) definition of common spaces:**

**My preferred imagery in building a multi-racial Singapore, however, is not mosaic pieces, but four overlapping circles. Each circle represents one community. The area where the circles overlap is the common area where we live, play and work together and where we feel truly Singaporean with minimal consciousness of our ethnicity. The areas outside this common area are where each community retains its own characteristics and traditions.**

**In these separate areas, we are Malay Singaporeans, Indian Singaporeans, Chinese Singaporeans, Eurasian and other Singaporeans. This framework of multi-racialism allows for diversity and growth for the different races and religions. We must continually expand the common area and concentrate on enhancing and expanding interaction between our different communities.**





The Borg of the Science Fiction Star Trek series employ the extreme method of assimilation by force to incorporate alien races into their collective 'You will be assimilated. Resistance is futile' "Star Trek: Enterprise (TV Series) - Regeneration (2003) - Quotes". IMDb and rendering all the race and gender of the assimilated 'irrelevant'. This is Science Fiction and pretty extreme so what models do real cities and countries adopt?

The Americans have their idea of 'E pluribus unum - out of many, one - the concept of the melting pot' to make everyone of different races or creed an American whereas in Stockholm, Sweden, the focus is more of diversity and equality so it sponsors cultural sensitivity and 'myth-busting' workshops to promote social harmony.or forbidding of gathering of racial and religious data to prevent discrimination to ensure social cohesion.

**In Janadaz Devan's Choosing The Better Angels of Our Nature, Straits Times, 2013 article, he wrote of Singapore's ideal:**

**Our ideal is rojak:  
the preservation of  
different flavours in  
a new concoction. We  
are one and many; many  
though one; one precisely  
because we accept  
our diversity.**

In Singapore Rojak, the ingredients are a mix of pineapple, cucumber, turnip, bean sprouts, kang kong, tau pok and yu char kway. Similarly, the the people making up Singapore are as diverse as these ingredients. Sometimes, other new ingredients such as fruits of green mango, green apples, jambu or an addition of pangang dried sotong or dried fish Into the rojak mix. Likewise, when new people come in, they could probably be bringing new ingredients and a fusion of exciting flavours. However, just like in rojak, it is the prawn sauce that binds the ingredients together. What is this sauce that is such a powerful binding agent for a harmonious society?

One way to look at it is that it is the common values we uphold such as those of equality, justice, respect, meritocracy, safety, security and freedom. We are again looking at 'common spaces'.

We asked some stakeholders: Singaporeans and PRs what they think is it that will help us be a more successful inclusive society.



Active citizenship includes reaching out but it is not everyone's cup of tea as we are at different stages of being a cultural champion. We reflect on our own individual effort at fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance. We may not have a nation that is perfect at integration but we become more as we learn, share and give, and we work towards a gracious country and truly thrive Together IN Singapore.



# Final Words

As the producer of this eBook, my challenge was to bring together various people to put together a credible book on our effort towards integration in Singapore but the 2 main groups from the Art Design Media and Technology Department: Media Talent Development Programme team of current students and the team of three alumni who had taken Design Studies in SST, embarked on this project with no or little experience in producing an ebook of this nature and scale.

It was no mean feat but the journey is worth it all because whilst researching, interviewing and producing the articles, videos, we met different people with their diverse insights about how we could live together in Singapore amongst the different races and ethnic groups and this prompted us to consider/ reconsider our ways of doing things in order to be better neighbours and how we could truly evolve into a caring society. We know it is not an easy goal when everybody has differing ideas and standards but we can take the first step to try.

This eBook project has also helped us develop skills in media and design to tell the many stories in this eBook. The need to 'get it right' in editing is not only about forging for excellence but also to build the resilience we need to overcome challenges in life. We had wanted a visually impactful book so the Design Team had to be sensitive to the nuances of the articles to bring out the visual messages to complement the text.

Using these art, design, media and technology skills in an authentic project is our way of contributing back to society, to you. We may not have been able to address every issue but we hope that what we did, will in some ways, help you be reflective of your role in Singapore in shaping the society we live in and how you can try to build a more inclusive Singapore at whatever starting point you are at.

The titles to the three volumes in 'Together In Singapore' has been inspired by a stanza in our school song:

*Here we grow ourselves*

*We bridge our hearts through giving.*

*We celebrate our diversities, building a gracious community*

and it is my hope that our aspiration for our students is also one for you.

**Patricia Ng Seen Leng**



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# Our Media TDP Production Team



## **Sec 2 & Sec 3 members & Teacher Mentor**

From L to R: Zowie Ong, Peh Kai Yuan, Tew Yuxin, Suhan Krishna, Ang Lija, Jia Zeyu, Ng Hong Rong, Tan Yi Kai & Ms Patricia Ng Seen Leng.  
Absent: Dharsan Arumugam

## **Sec 4 TDP members**

From L to R: Chow Zen Teng and Cephass Koh





# Our Alumni Design Team

Toby Gail Lim (Alumnus, 2014)

Valery Tan (Alumnus, 2014)

Kimberly Tan (Alumnus, 2016)

## Articles

Artemus Lee Ren Kai, extra research for *My Grandfather's Road* & local jokes, and a response to *What it means to be Singaporean*.

David Sorkin: Research for *RHD SST* and *SMU Host Programme*.

Dawn Lim Gin (Alumnus 2016) General editing & response to *Why Bother?*

Kenneth Mah (Alumnus 2016) for *Media POW!er*.

## Proof-reading

Dawn Lim Gin (Alumnus 2016)

Chia Peng Han Wayne (Alumnus 2017)

## Illustrations

Josephine Cahyadi, Lim Chia Wei (Alumnus, 2017) for The comparison of the ethnic composition of 1890 and 2018.

Desiree Wong Kai Xin, for Who's taking whose jobs?

Rhea Chua Yue Ning for RHD SST

Brandon Kang, Clio Lim Mixuan, Tan Zee Heng, for The gotong royong spirit is still alive

## The Inter-Polytechnic International Student Integration WorkGroup project

Wayne Low (Alumnus 2016) Videography & Co-Editor, The Cross Cultural Symposium

Kenneth Mah (Alumnus 2016) for Photography/ Videography, Temasek Community Day

Ong Dan Rei (Alumnus 2016) for Videography: Cross Cultural Symposium

# Other Contributors



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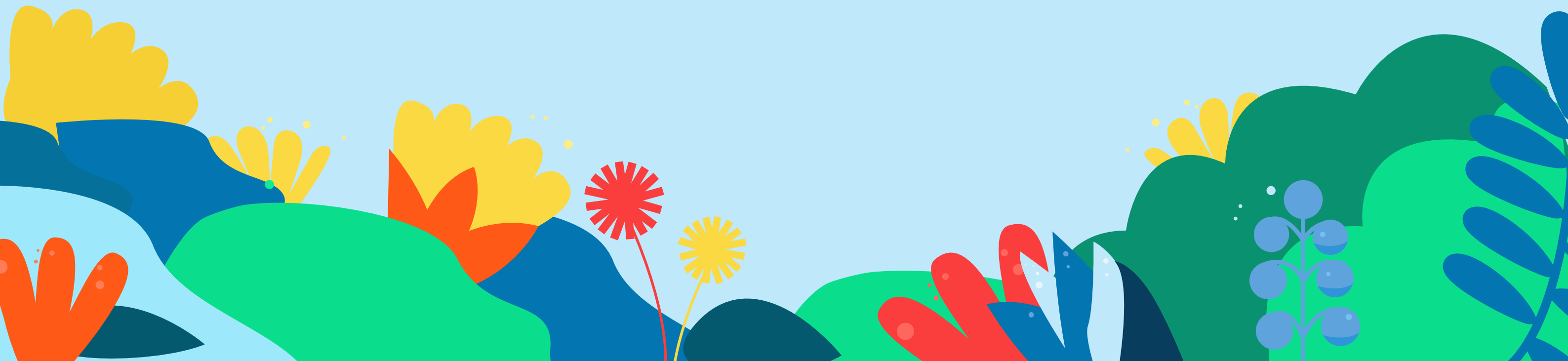
**MINDEF Singapore** for photo of Ragul Balaji.

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Produced for

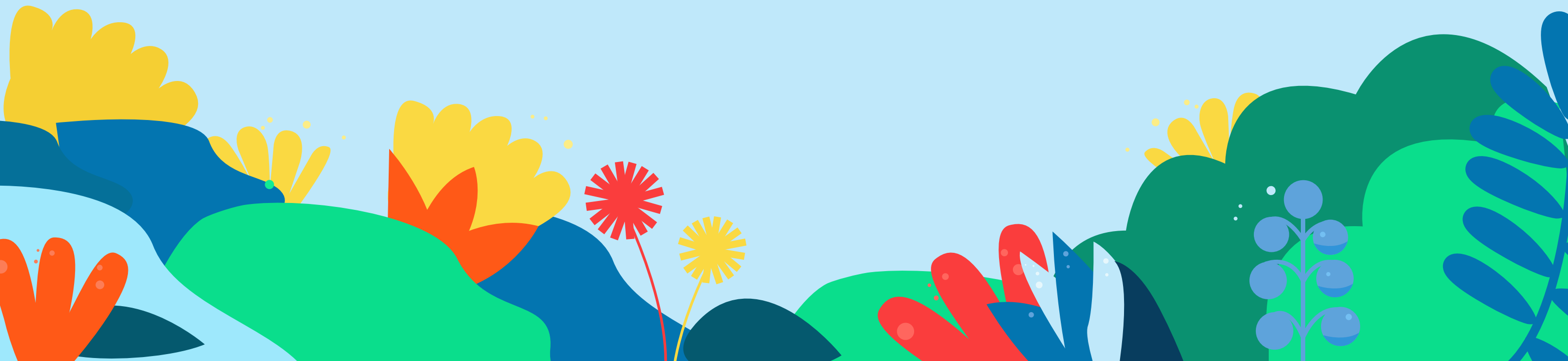
# NIC and SST's 10th Anniversary Celebrations





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