

STATIC 1 INDIVIDUAL – OPEN

FIRST PLACE

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TITLE OF SUBMISSION: A Glimpse into Singapore 2040: Innovation, Sustainability, and Progress

SUMMARY: In the year 2040, a reporter called Vikki Yeong reports from the futuristic city of Singapore, showcasing incredible innovations like vertical farming and AI robots in eco-friendly cafes. Residents benefit from government support programs for individuals with disabilities. Singapore excels in renewable energy and climate resilience with floating solar-powered cities and an AI weather control system. The city also preserves its cultural heritage with digital archives and holographic historical figures. The people of Singapore work together to embrace sustainability and create a better future for all. Vikki ends her report on a high note reminiscing on how far they have come.

Hello, lovely readers! This is Vikki Yeong, reporting to you from the bustling streets of Singapore in the year 2040. As I walk through the futuristic cityscape, I can't help but marvel at the incredible innovations that have transformed our tiny red dot into a beacon of progress and sustainability.

I started my day with a saunter around the block and a drink of a Green Smoothie from one of the many eco-friendly cafes that have sprung up around town. The smoothie was made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients that were grown using vertical farming techniques, a popular method of agriculture in our densely populated city.

The cafe owner of 'Pandan Power', is an elderly uncle by the name of Uncle Peng, whose assistant who does most of the work is a robot that slices and dices the fruits and vegetables. Kale, carrot, apple, and mango with precision and efficiency that was truly impressive.



Uncle Peng then controlled the robot via his smartwatch, and it quickly placed the cut produce into the blender, resulting in the perfect concoction of nutrients and flavors. I chatted with Uncle Peng as I sipped on my delicious smoothie, asking him how he felt about working alongside a robot.

He chuckled and mentioned that the robot, whom he had affectionately named 'Buddy', had been with him for the past year and had revolutionized his business. With Buddy's help, Uncle Peng could serve more customers in less time, allowing him to focus on providing excellent customer service and expanding his menu to offer even more healthy options.

He said that he used to be a business manager back in 2024 when he was in his twenties, but he was severely stressed and suffered from burnout and fatigue. It did not help when he went to the psychiatrist of last when he was in his thirties and was not only diagnosed with anxiety and depression but also autism.

"It was an eye-opener, but of course, I was not happy, though I must admit I felt a great sense of relief as I finally had a name to put to my struggles," Uncle Peng shared. "But with the help of therapy and medication, I was able to manage my condition better and eventually found my passion for cooking and serving healthy food. Buddy here has been a blessing in disguise, helping me run my business smoothly and efficiently."

Uncle Peng was and is still under the SGEinable program, a government initiative that provides support and resources for persons with disabilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives. He underwent multiple courses to get certified in food hygiene and safety.

Upon completing the courses, all of which were funded by the government, he received not only certificates, and funding to open 'Pandan Power', but also, Buddy, the helper robot.

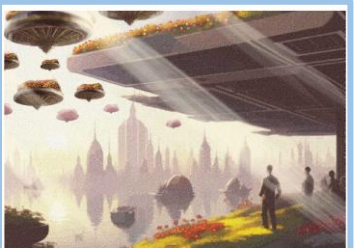
It was truly heartwarming to see how technology and innovation were being used to empower individuals like Uncle Peng to thrive in our rapidly changing society.

I bid Uncle Peng and Buddy farewell as I began to make my way through the bustling streets, taking in the sights and sounds of this far city I am proud to call home.

Our garden city boasts towering skyscrapers that seem to touch the sky, each one a masterpiece of modern architecture that has built a world of wonder. However, what truly catches the eyes of these visiting holidaymakers, who come in droves by the thousands, are the floating solar-powered warehouses and ports that dot the horizon, a testament to Singapore's innovative spirit in the face of rising sea levels.



These floating solar-powered cities not only generate clean energy but also serve as vibrant hubs of community living.



These floating cities are connected by a network of invisible floating bridges, creating a stunning and eco-friendly urban landscape in the blue skies.

The government in the year 2035 commissioned the most eminent climatologists to study the potential impacts of climate change on Singapore, and from their findings, developed a comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

This plan included measures to reduce carbon emissions, enhance green spaces, and implement sustainable practices in various sectors. As a result, Singapore is now a world leader in renewable energy, with wind farms and solar panels covering a significant portion of the island.

These climatologists were also tasked to work with architects and engineers to design the Weatherer, an AI system, and robot that can control the weather itself.

It is an evolution of cloud-seeding that was considered revolutionary in the past, with Weatherer now providing real-time weather adjustments to mitigate extreme weather events and ensure a stable climate for all citizens.



It schedules rain on optimum days for crops, reduces temperatures during heatwaves, and prevents flooding during heavy rainfall. This technology has greatly enhanced Singapore's resilience to climate change and has become a model for other countries to follow.

But it wasn't just the infrastructure that had undergone a dramatic change.

In addition to these physical developments, Singapore has also made great strides in preserving its cultural heritage and history. As I wandered further, I came across the famed floating libraries that were a stone's throw away from the residential flats.

Our libraries have been transformed into digital archives that contain a treasure trove of information about our past, from the early days of independence to the present. These archives serve as a reminder of where we came from and where we are headed, ensuring that future generations never forget the rich tapestry of our nation's story. These libraries not only house an extensive collection of books but also archive Singapore's rich history for future generations to learn from. It is heartwarming to see how the past is being preserved for the future.

One of the most striking features of our beloved Singapore is the seamless integration of technology into every aspect of daily life. Data and AI technology are used to streamline processes and make life more efficient for its citizens and are part of daily life. With holograms a

common sight, providing interactive experiences and virtual tours of historical landmarks. Holograms are a common sight, providing interactive experiences and virtual tours of historical landmarks, with augmented reality glasses allowing users to access information about their surroundings in real time. The holograms of notable historical figures such as Sir Stamford Raffles, Lim Bo Seng, and Lee Kuan Yew who are fully interactive are a highlight that delights both the locals and tourists but especially the young who get to learn about our history in a fun and engaging way.

Public transportation has also seen a significant upgrade, with self-driving cars and drones zipping around the city, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. The Ministry of Transport has invested heavily in smart technologies to monitor traffic flow, predict demand, and optimize routes for maximum efficiency. Commuters can now enjoy a seamless and stress-free journey to their destinations, thanks to these advancements in transportation.

It is all fully automated, and connected through a smart grid system, thus reducing congestion and emissions. Furthermore, all of this is solar-powered, and we all know in the year 2030, our scientists created the first panels that would be powered by the light of the moon and stars. They called it S-Planets, and thanks to their invention, Singapore has become a shining example of sustainable transportation with zero emissions, both day and night. It has truly revolutionized the way we move around the city.

Moreover, healthcare has also seen significant improvements with the usage of advanced medical technology. Telemedicine has become the norm, allowing patients to consult with doctors from the comfort of their own homes. Robotic surgeons assist in intricate surgeries, ensuring precision and accuracy beyond human capabilities. The healthcare system in Singapore is now more efficient, accessible, and patient-centric than ever before.

But the innovation doesn't stop there. Singapore has continued to uphold its reputation for racial harmony and peace, with neighborhoods that are a beautiful tapestry of diverse cultures living together in harmony. The towering flats that dot the skyline are not just residential spaces but also community hubs, with convenience stores, clinics, and daycare facilities for the elderly and children on every alternate level.

As such, elderly residents do not feel isolated and are always surrounded by the warmth of their community and have the facilities nearby to meet their needs. All the vertical wall farms lining the corridors of the HDB flat, of every level, that are cared for by AI residents on the same block, provide free vegetables for all residents. It's truly heartwarming to see how Singapore has continued to prioritize the well-being of its citizens, creating a society where everyone is taken care of and no one is left behind.



Poverty and hunger have been all but eradicated with this policy. The incentive for residents to care for their block's wall farm is that there is a yearly competition where the block with the biggest reported yield of vegetables has been tallied monthly and sent for score by the Block's AI digital assistant which is an integral part of the community, will have the crowned block of flats, have its residents all receive vouchers for various goods and services as a reward.

This not only incentivizes residents to care for their wall farms but also fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among neighbors. The streets are also lined with vertical gardens that produce fresh, organic vegetables, making food scarcity a thing of the past in Singapore.

But it's not just the physical infrastructure that has transformed. Singapore is now home to a thriving tech industry, with artificial intelligence and automation being at the forefront of almost every aspect of daily life. From self-driving cars and delivery drones to AI-powered personal assistants and healthcare systems, technology has become an integral part of Singaporean society.

Singapore's importance as a port has only grown over the years, with the country leveraging its strategic location to strengthen ties with other nations. The talent that Singapore attracted was unmatched, thanks to its thriving tech industry and commitment to innovation. Not only did Singapore keep its talent within its borders, but it also attracted top minds from around the world, further fueling its growth.

Despite all these advancements, Singapore never lost sight of its core values. The importance of maintaining peaceful ties with ASEAN countries is prioritized, ensuring that Singapore remains a diplomatic powerhouse in the region. It naturally has managed to maintain its racial harmony and peace from its founding to the present day, becoming a beacon of unity in a world filled with turmoil. The government's policies that ensured equal opportunities for all its citizens, regardless of their background, still hold strong.

But perhaps the most exciting advancements have come in the realm of technology. Singapore has become a leader in the use of data, AI technology, and holograms to enhance communication, education, and healthcare. Our port continues to be a vital hub of trade and commerce, attracting businesses, talent, and visitors worldwide. By leveraging AI technology, Singapore has also developed innovative solutions to help individuals with autism communicate and integrate seamlessly into society, breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity for all.

I stopped to pick up dinner at a hawker center, where I stopped at a popular stall selling delicious vegetarian dishes, a popular choice among the health-conscious citizens of Singapore. The food was not only tasty but also environmentally friendly, showcasing the city's commitment to a greener future. It was all locally sourced from the vertical farms that lined the streets.

I struck up a conversation with the hawker, Miss Kumar, who shared with me how she had embraced sustainable practices in her cooking. She mentioned that she attended cooking classes funded by the government to learn how to create healthy and delicious vegetarian dishes using locally sourced ingredients. She also participated in workshops on food waste reduction and composting, ensuring that her business was not only profitable but also eco-friendly.

I also ordered a drink from a nearby Malay stall manned by Madam Rohana, who proudly informed me that my teh tarik was made with plant-based milk, reducing the carbon footprint of the drink. The tea leaves were sourced from her block of flats, Block 360 Yishun, from the very few plants that she cared for alongside her neighbors. It was truly heartwarming to see how the people of Singapore were coming together to create a more sustainable and environmentally conscious society.



As I reflected on the incredible transformation that Singapore had undergone, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride. This was the future that we had all worked towards, a future where Singapore shone brightly as a model of progress and prosperity. And as I look ahead, I know that the best is yet to come for this tiny red dot on the map. In conclusion, Singapore in the year 2040 is a vibrant and thriving metropolis that has successfully embraced innovation, sustainability, and progress.

From floating solar-powered cities to AI-controlled weather systems, our tiny island has become a beacon of hope for the world in the face of climate change. Our commitment to preserving our culture and heritage, while integrating technology seamlessly into daily life, is a testament to our resilience and determination to build a better future for future generations.

But amidst all the technological marvels and futuristic infrastructure, what truly makes Singapore special is its people. The strong sense of community and unity that runs through the veins of every Singaporean is what sets us apart. Our diversity is our strength, and we embrace it with open arms, celebrating our differences and coming together to make our nation a better place for all.

I am grateful for the progress we have made as a nation, and I am hopeful for the future that lies ahead. Singapore may have faced many challenges, but our indomitable spirit and commitment to unity and harmony have carried us through.

As we continue to navigate the waves of change, let us never forget the values that make us who we are – Resilience, innovation, and compassion.

As I wrap up my journey through the stunning streets of Singapore in the year 2040, I can't help but feel a sense of pride and wonder at how far we've come. From our humble beginnings as a small fishing village to the thriving metropolis we are today, Singapore has truly proven that with innovation, determination, and a united spirit, anything is possible.

Together, we can sail into the future with confidence and pride, knowing that the best is yet to come for our beloved Singapore. Stay tuned for more updates from SG91, and remember to keep shining brightly, my fellow Singaporeans!