



Passport to Profit

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The Lion at the Gate

Trade mission to explore new business opportunities

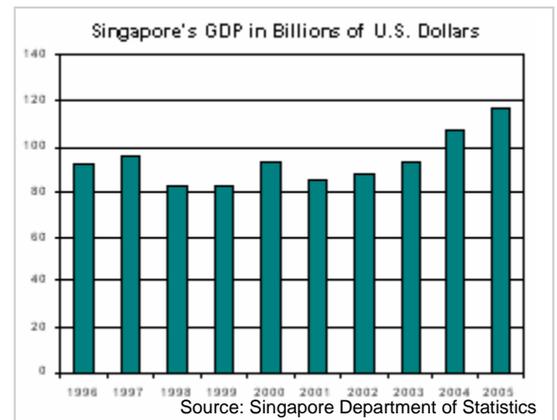
By Zoe Durner-Feiler and Greg Wolf

With China and India's dramatic economic ascent capturing much of the world's attention, other nations in the region are often overlooked. But while "Chindia" is still on the road to modernization, Singapore has achieved it, and is flourishing. As one of the most prosperous of the "Asian Tiger" countries, Singapore has a GDP per capita the equal of many countries in Western Europe. Last year, Singapore's GDP per capita measured at \$28,100, just \$3,400 less than Japan. Singapore has a strong economy that has weathered the Asian Economic Crisis (1997-1998) and SARS (2003) with only slight, temporary drops in its annual GDP. Singapore's economy is projected to grow another 4-6% this year, after a strong first quarter where growth was up 10%.



The statue of the Mer-lion before the towering buildings of central Singapore. The thriving nation of 4.5 million people is a gateway to China and S.E. Asia.

"Singapore" means "Lion City" in Malay, and though it is a small island country with a population of about 4.5 million, Singapore is a lion in terms of trade. As a gateway to Southeast Asia and China, Singapore has been an important strategic trading point since it was founded. Modern Singapore is considered to have been founded by Sir Thomas Raffles when he arrived at the behest of the British East India Company in 1819. It was a bold move, creating a British entrepot trade outpost in the middle of Dutch territory, but it was worth it, profiting both Singapore and Great Britain and setting Singapore on the road to becoming one of the world's largest trade hubs. Today, the Port of Singapore is one of the busiest in the world, and has been frequently voted The World's Busiest Port in terms of tonnage handled, most recently winning the title for 2004 and 2005. In addition, its airport was recently ranked the fourth most vital international air travel hub in the world.





DISCOVER NEW CUSTOMERS AND MARKETS FOR YOUR BUSINESS



World Trade Center Alaska will lead a Trade Mission to India and Singapore, September 23 - October 5, 2006

If you are interested in receiving details about the trade mission, please call us at (907) 278-7233 or send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to: info@wtcak.org or fax us at (907) 278-2982




In 2006, from January through April, Singapore ranked fifteenth among Alaska's overseas markets. Exports to the city-state totaled \$7.1 million during this period. Refined fuel products accounted for about 90% of these exports. Considering that Singapore imports more than \$2 billion worth of fish and meat each year and that it is an island country which needs to import practically all of its natural resource requirements, opportunities to expand Alaska's trade relations with the country are abundant.

From September 23 to October 5th, World Trade Center Alaska will be leading the first Alaskan trade mission to India and Singapore. Mission participants will meet with government officials in both India and Singapore, U.S. government officials specializing in trade, and private business executives. Participants will learn about potential business opportunities, gain a greater understanding of the economic and business climates of the two countries, and get some valuable advice on how to navigate those markets. For more information about the trade mission, please contact us at 278-7233 or visit our website at www.wtcak.org.