



ISSUE 38

CAMPUS

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Ahoj

Bonjour

привет
(PRE-VYET)

Ola

안녕하세요
(ANNYEONGHASEYO)

CIAO

Oi

สวัสดี
(SÀ-WÀT-DEE)

Cześć

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Servus

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ISSUE

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(Nǐ Hǎo)

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(KONNICHWA)

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Labas

HI

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ROUND THE ISLAND

From the north to the south, every traveller is bound to find something for themselves to enjoy in Taiwan – from the lush green landscape and mountains that spread for miles, to its heritage-rich architecture and diverse folk traditions for the avid history fanatic. The best part of it all? Everything is easily accessible even if you have less than a week!

TAIPEI

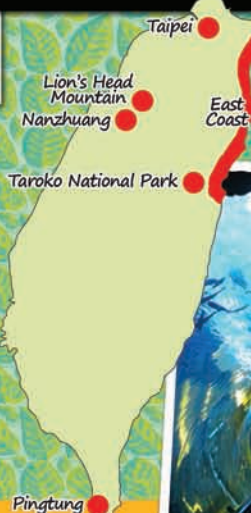
From landmarks like Taipei 101 and Miramar Ferris Wheel to popular night markets like Shilin, one aspect that most visitors often overlook is its religious landmarks. A traditionally religious country, colourful Buddhist temples dot Taiwan, including bustling Taipei City.

Located in Taipei's Zhongshan District, Xingtian Temple – the largest in the city – is devoted to Guan Yu, the patron god of businessmen, although due to its central location, it is also frequented by people from all walks of life. There is no donation box here, nor is burning of offerings encouraged, making it rare for a temple in Taiwan.

Shilin Night Market



Xingtian Temple



EAST COAST

A short drive away from Taipei, the East Coast stretches for 170kms, and is perfect for sports such as diving, paragliding, surfing and even rock-climbing. Prices start as low as NTD\$2,000 per person for half a day of diving with an instructor at Longdong Bay, and rentals of surfboards start from NTD\$500 near Wai-Ao Beach. On winter days, the cool climate makes it a perfect time to head to Longdong Bay for some rock climbing (it's top-rated in the world!).

The East Coast is also the only area in Taiwan offering whale watching tours. If you're lucky, you may encounter dolphins as well. If you're into coastal scenery, nothing beats the east coast with its dramatic cliffs at Cingsui.

Longdong Bay



Dramatic cliffs of Cingsui



Rock climbing at Longdong



PINGTUNG

Located in the southern part of Taiwan, Pingtung is well-known for its fruits such as pineapples, wax apples and mangoes. It's also home to the National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, which includes research centres as well Taiwan's largest outdoor water park. With a 81m-long underwater moving track, it is also the longest underwater tunnel in Asia.

For an interesting experience, you can spend a night in the underwater tunnel (rates start from NTD\$2,380 per person, sleeping bag included) where you can sleep with fishes swimming over-head.



Sleeping with the fish





Nanzhuang Old Street



Old cafe in Nanzhuang



Grinding Thunder tea

Caozaiguo



Go hiking around Lion's Head mountain



Get an awesome view from Quanhua Tang



Quanhua Tang

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NANZHUANG & SURROUNDS

In the west of Taiwan in Miaoli County, Nanzhuang is a colourful little town that is now famous as a Hakka stronghold. The mountains near Nanzhuang, however, are inhabited mostly by Taiwan's aboriginal peoples, including the Atayal and the Saisiyat tribes.

Nanzhuang Old Street retains much of its old architecture, like the old Japanese-style postal office and its quirky cinema featuring a facade of hand-painted movie posters. Noted as one of the ten most treasured historical architectures of Miaoli, the town is a popular site for photography.

The Old Street is also well known for Hakka food, ranging from all kinds of snacks like Caozaiguo (草仔粿), a sweet glutinous rice dough filled with either a sweet red bean filling or savoury preserved vegetables, to the famous Thunder Tea (leicha), which is made with ground grains - the fun part is in making your own bowl, which involves hand-grinding of the nuts, seeds and grains into its powder form.

A majority of the Saisiyat tribe still live up in the mountains at Baguali and Xiangtian Lake, where walking trails take you around the pretty lake lined with stalls selling aboriginal crafts like honey and rice wine. The area is dotted with aboriginal artwork, as can be seen on signboards, suspension bridges and at the Visitor's Center at Donghe.



Donghe Bridge



Saisiyat man



Xiangtian Lake

LION'S HEAD MOUNTAIN

Listed among the 12 most enchanting scenes in Taiwan, Lion's Head Mountain is well-known for its temples and caves (there are 11). The best way to explore the area is to tackle one of the few walking trails that link all the temples in the area - some lead to amazing mountain viewpoints.

The biggest and considerably grandest temple in Lion's Head Mountain Scenic Area, you can get a panoramic view of the entire mountain from Quanhua Tang (勸化堂). Built on a cliff face, natural caves are utilised within as places of worship, and intricate carvings of dragons, pagodas and other mythical creatures adorn the pillars and rooftops. You can also overnight here; room rates (with private bathroom) start from NTD\$800 a night, which includes a vegetarian dinner and breakfast. Book early and you'll get a room with a balcony that has an amazing panoramic mountain view.

TAROKO NATIONAL PARK

Taroko National Park is one of the nine national parks of Taiwan, and is home to the famous Taroko Gorge - an amazing limestone gorge sluiced with crystal-clear waters and plenty of picturesque viewpoints. Part of the attractions here are the many tunnels that are hand-carved to allow vehicular access through this rugged mountain range.

Some of the most popular spots include Swallow Grotto (燕子口) and the Tunnel of Nine Turns (九曲洞). The Swallow Grotto is interspersed with tunnels and overlooking the most rapid portion of the river, featuring natural rock formations (due to corrosion) containing hundreds of potholes, which have now become nesting sites for swallows. The Tunnel of Nine Turns, constructed in 1996, follows a particularly dramatic series of tight turns along the narrow gorge - the distance between the two cliffs is a mere 10m wide.

Another attraction is Hehuanshan (3416m), which is part of the Central Mountain Range, criss-crossed with many hiking trails. Popular with locals for outdoor adventure, the mountain is also home to Taiwan's highest motorable road at 3275m which passes through the small townships of Wuling and Jingjing Farm where visitors can spend the night.



Taroko tunnel



Taroko Pagoda



Views from the central mountain range

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Checking into a Whole New World

By Kirstin Sow



♥ Love Hotels ♥



Wego in Taiwan

Aimed at amorous couples seeking some extra privacy (or just a change of scenery), over-the-top love hotels are in an accommodation class of their own. Entrances may be discreet, but bedrooms are what counts as they often include features

like round beds, karaoke sets, video game consoles and even in-room swimming pools and the occasional water slide to boot. Meanwhile, over-the-top room themes range from classrooms, to medieval castles, Batman rooms, and 50 Shades-esque S&M dungeons. There are also rooms with a more subdued decor.

These 'boutique hotels' can be found easily in Japan (ie. at Shibuya's "Love Hotel Hill" area), Taiwan (ie. the Wego chain of motels) and South Korea (ie. the Hotel Yaja chain in Seoul). Some of Taiwan's and South Korea's establishments can also be booked online. Love hotels can also make for a surprisingly affordable accommodation with their all-night rates, which are 2-3 times the hourly or 'rest' rate which start from about S\$40.

We've all stayed in hotels at one time or another. But there are of course hotels, and then there are HOTELS.



Karosta Prison Hotel

PRISONER FOR A DAY

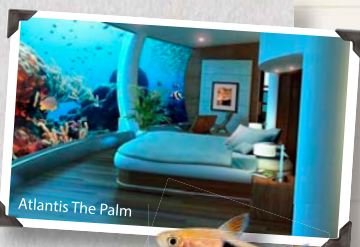
Situated in the city of Liepaja on Latvia's Baltic Sea coast, the Karosta Prison Hotel was a Soviet-era (read: KGB) prison, which has been turned into a theme hotel (it's unsurprisingly said to be haunted).

Adding to the experience, guests are treated like prisoners, being brought handcuffed into their cells, and being fed stale bread, pickles and Russian tea at mealtimes. Bedtime involves changing into prison attire, and in-room amenities include a small bed, a dresser and a toilet (essentially a hole in the ground with a rusty tap). At around S\$25/night it's a small price to pay for the experience.

If you're not into the actual prisoner treatment, there's the The Old Mount Gambier Gaol in South Australia with simple dorm bunks (AUD30), or the ultra luxurious The Liberty hotel in Boston, with rates from US\$600.

going deep

Fancy sleeping with the fishes? There are a number of underwater hotels where your room window doesn't open for good reason.



Atlantis The Palm

Originally a marine research facility, Jules Undersea Lodge is located 20 feet beneath the surface of Florida's Emerald Lagoon. At US\$800 per couple, you'll need diving license or take a mandatory short course to book a room – which you have to dive into – but the payoff is you'll be staring at fish out your glass bubble window.

More high-end options include Zanzibar's Manta Resort's private floating underwater room which lies 4m below the floating deck (US\$1,500/night), and the Atlantis

The Palm in Dubai with its butler service and floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the aquarium – an underwater suite is at S\$12,000 a night.

Lastly, there's Lovers Deep – a fully-loaded luxury submarine in the Caribbean, which for those who can afford it (£175,000/night) is basically a cross between a super villain's underwater lair and a submersible love hotel; unlike other underwater hotels, this one can go wherever you like.



HANGING OUT

If you fancy a room with a view, check out the Natura Vive Skylodge in the heartland of the Incan empire in Peru. Three transparent pods (complete with beds, dining area and toilet), are dangled 400 feet above the Sacred Valley on a the vertical cliff face, so you get an amazing unobstructed view. The only way to get into one is by climbing a via ferrata route – and you leave by ziplining down to the valley!

If S\$400 is too much, think about the £500 Gaia Adventures' portaledge option in Wales, where your 'room' is essentially a piece of stretched canvas hung onto the cliff edge as you dangle precariously over the

raging ocean. You'll have to abseil to get to your 'room', and room service consists of hot meals lowered down via a rope.



Natura Vive Skylodge

PACKAGE TOUR

BY CHONG ZHI HAO

VS

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

THE PROS AND CONS



From colourful newspaper ads to large-scale travel events such as the annual NATAS Travel Fair, travel agencies pull out all the stops to sell one of their many package tours, which can range from short breaks within the region to round-the-world trips. One can book these package tours and enjoy a fully-organised visit to the country of their choice, sans the need to worry about details such as accommodation or transport.

Compared to the past, the digital age makes it easier for one to make bookings for a wide variety of things, including the quintessential elements of a holiday, including plane tickets, hotel stays, tickets to attractions and so on, effectively making it possible for one to plan their very own vacation from the comfort of their computers. So what do differences between these two options mean to you as a traveller?

WHAT'S A PACKAGE TOUR?

Package tours are booked via by travel agents who organise your entire itinerary from start to finish. As these agencies book hotels and airfare in bulk, thus reducing rates, this means you'll have to travel with strangers throughout the entire trip. However, included in the price are all your meals, transport, as well as professional tour guides, and entry fees to attractions. Additional items such as travel insurance and tips differ from package to package, so do check before booking.

PROS OF PACKAGE TRAVEL

Convenience: With a package tour, you don't have to worry about where you'll eat or sleep while you're on holiday as it's usually all-inclusive. Plus, it usually works out cheaper compared to doing the same tour on your own, as travel agents enjoy bulk rates.

Meet new people: Travelling in a tour group is often a good chance to meet people, since the group always travels together. This is a good chance to mingle and possibly make a new friend by the end of the tour!

Accountability: The unforeseeable may present itself at any time, which can disrupt even the best travel plans. Travel agencies have an obligation to protect their customers by helping them to resolve any problems that may occur during the trip and to refund customers whose trips may have been spoiled by unforeseen circumstances.

CONS OF PACKAGE TRAVEL

Lack of freedom: As tour guides strictly follow a planned itinerary, you may either spend too little or too much time at an attraction, and you don't have much choice on where to stay/eat. Usually, the day starts very early and ends quite late, so it can be quite tiring.

Less interaction with locals: A package tour may not be the best option for travellers seeking a chance to interact with locals, since aside from contact with your tour group and your guide (who may or may not be a local), your chances of talking to a local may be slim, if not non-existent.

WHAT IS INDEPENDENT TRAVEL?

Independent travel means that you travel on your own (or with a few friends), without a tour guide and make all the necessary bookings and arrangements on your own. As an FIT (Free Independent Traveller) this means planning where you will go, deciding what you'll be doing and how much time you'll be spending at each attraction in your itinerary. In a nutshell, you are fully in control of your own visit.

PROS OF INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

More Freedom & Flexibility: Independent travellers have the freedom to decide which places they want to visit, as well as when and how much time to spend at any of the locations. This also means that they can choose when and where to eat, or stay, or when to start the day's tours.

A more authentic experience: As there's no tour guide, you'll be interacting with the locals directly – be it to ask for directions or to order a meal at a restaurant or café – which is an ideal option for those seeking a more 'personal' touch to their trip.

Cost-efficient: It's possible for one to get a better deal on things like meals and souvenirs, particularly when you venture away from the tourist districts. Since there are no restrictions on where you can stay (a hostel, perhaps) or eat, you can potentially save on your whole trip.

CONS OF INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Do-Everything-Yourself: Without a guided tour, you'll need to settle all aspects of your holiday, from accommodation to transportation and insurance, all by yourself. For those uneasy with booking things online or are bad with organisation, this may be a slight challenge.

Language Barrier: Depending on the country that you visit and the language that the locals speak, communicating with the locals can either be a breeze or be a 'memorable' experience where the language barrier hinders your exploration.



THE MIDDLE

For those of you who crave the freedom, and yet want to take advantage of better rates and hassle-free booking, there's always the 'Free & Easy' option which includes only the airfare and accommodation – these are bookable via travel agencies.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER: HERD MENTALITY

Ever wondered why people desire to have the same things their peers have? Or why some people queue simply because there's a line at the store? This behaviour is termed by social psychologists as 'herd mentality', when everyone wants to feel included in a part of a group. In a Singapore context, it's basically 'kiasu' – fear of losing out - and it's a trait that's commonly linked to Asian cultures.

Conversely, those who stand out with their own opinions are often referred to as being 'different', or even 'western'. It's no surprise that our cultural backgrounds influence the way we think and behave.

INDIVIDUALISM VS HERD MENTALITY

In Asia, people are more associated with having herd mentality; individuals are treated as part of a group and expected to conform to the same opinions. Students, for example, are taught 'model' solutions and trained to memorise them during examinations in order to be considered top-scorers.

In countries like the US, Australia and Denmark, however, people tend to form their own opinions based on personal values. You've probably heard from your friends studying overseas that class structures are not based on memorisation of facts – it's more about what students think of the facts.

According to Hofstede's Dimensions of Culture, countries such as the US and Denmark scored 91 points and 74 points respectively in terms of individualism, whereas Singapore only scored 20 points, and South Korea a mere 14! So how does social upbringing influence these behaviours?



INDEPENDENCE AT A YOUNG AGE



It's very common in Asia to have multi-generational households, where the will of the elder is usually one that's adopted throughout the family chain without question, so individual thought is often filtered out.

In the West, it's common to have children move out of the family household from the time they start college. This breeds independence at an early age.

MONEY OR HAPPINESS



Money is one of the reasons behind herd mentality amongst Asians, instilling the idea that being rich means being happy. It's common to hear Asian parents drilling the importance of pursuing fields like medicine and business to secure a successful career path, and often comparing their children to others who are more talented.

Outside Asia, children are often given the freedom to decide their paths in life, allowing them to pursue whatever career choices fit their personality rather than monetary gain. This is why you'll see more artists from outside Asia.

SERIOUS SUPERSTITION



Superstitious beliefs tend to cement Asian groups together, and explains why some people cannot let go of superstitious practises even if there are no scientific grounds. Why else would 10 religious groups pray for good weather during Singapore's F1, or why people don't step on joss sticks on the 7th month?

In the West, being superstitious isn't 'serious business' – take Halloween, for example.

GO WITH THE HERD



In general, Asians feel more comfortable having a stake in trends in order to be considered a fully-fledged member of society. This could be a strong reason why Asians are brand conscious and tend to horde luxury brands favoured by their peers in order to fit in with the crowd, rather than because they really need it.

Not surprisingly, this also manifests itself in other aspects of life, like in the office. In Japan or Korea, office workers are often expected to follow orders rather than question them; those with individual opinions run the risk of being ostracised by their peers.

HERD MENTALITY IS NOT UNIQUELY ASIAN



Herd mentality may be a trait most associated with Asians, but it's not unique to our region. Stockbrokers worldwide follow herd mentality because they don't want to miss the boat on something their peers are cashing in on. Even scientists can fall victim to herd mentality, often believing in the mass appeal of certain ideas.

While 'going with the flow' can be seen as a lazy way out (of thinking), there is something to be said about social stability. As author James Rozoff puts it:

"Sheep only need a single flock, but people need two: one to belong to and make them feel comfortable, and another to blame all of society's problems on."

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by Darren Wan

water wars

Water is undoubtedly one of the most potent yet unpredictable forces of the natural world, with the power both to give life and to wash it away at the blink of an eye. Despite the awe it inspires, water is still a fundamental human necessity, and has always been a hotly contested natural resource. According to urban legend, Mark Twain once quipped that "whisky is for drinking; water is for fighting over." Twain's declaration is not only apt, but also increasingly prescient.

Since the dawn of recorded human history, the deprivation of water was used as a military tactic. The Persians diverted Babylonian rivers, the Spartans poisoned Athenian wells, and the Gauls destroyed Roman aqueducts. Water was used primarily as a tactical strategy in war. Yet the tides have turned, and the role of water is often foregrounded as a cause leading to many international conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries.

It is especially because of climate change that Twain's proclamation seems all the more ominous. With global warming, the driest regions of the world will only get drier, threatening the sustainability of communities that already live on the brink of water shortage crises. Compounded with population booms and water pollution, rivers that cross national boundaries often spark disputes that could exacerbate the already intractable conflicts that plague much of the world today.

Here are some conflicts, or situations that could potentially escalate to conflicts, that affect countries across the Asian continent:

Mekong River Basin:

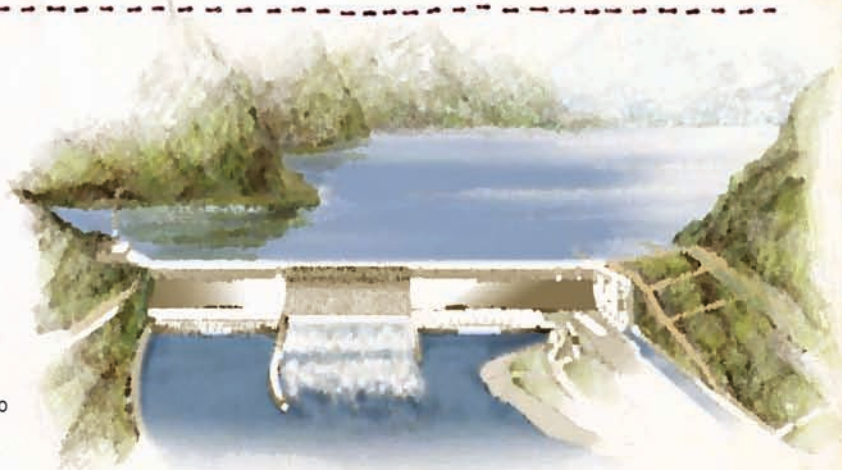
the dam problem



With its source in the Tibetan Plateau in China, the Mekong River snakes through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and empties into the South China Sea via Vietnam. Its course through multiple international boundaries, coupled with its importance to agriculture in all six countries, makes the Mekong a highly contested water body.

Since 1949, China has resettled 20 million people for dams, reservoirs, and river diversions, the most famous case being the construction of the Three Gorges Dam across the Yangtze River. Despite these upheavals, the Chinese government shows no sign of stopping. With plans to double its hydropower capacity by 2030, six Chinese dams have been built across the Mekong, leading to discontent among local rural populations that have been resettled and forced to abandon their agrarian lifestyles in the name of industrialisation.

But what makes the Mekong a powder keg for regional conflict is that it courses through multiple countries that rely on its waters for various uses. The consequences of the Chinese dams to the other five downstream countries are innumerable, especially to Cambodia and southern Vietnam, where the Mekong has had a key role in shaping people's livelihoods. For one, these countries experience an exacerbation in the damage inflicted by floods and droughts, as they are at the mercy of the Chinese who control the floodgates of the Mekong headwaters – which is only the beginning of the source of the Mekong's geopolitical implications. In addition, dams prevent the downstream travel of river sediment, depriving rice paddies in countries like Vietnam (where the Mekong delta is located) the natural fertilizer that has traditionally spurred its agricultural productivity.



Dams also hinder the migratory patterns of freshwater fish and lead to lower breeding rates, thereby denying people a major source of protein. Many endangered species, like the Mekong giant cat fish and the Irrawaddy dolphin, are on the brink of extinction.

These problems are compounded by the proposed construction of several dams in Laos. Financed largely by Thai investors in a bid to turn Thailand away from an overdependence on fossil fuels, the Xayaburi dam is close to completion in northern Laos. The Laotian government unilaterally proceeded with dam construction plans that could endanger the livelihoods of downstream agrarian communities, despite objections from the Cambodian and Vietnamese governments and various environmental organisations. These plans have come in spite of Laos' participation in the Mekong River Commission that, since 1995, serves to promote multilateral consultation among Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in determining developments on the Mekong. Relations between these governments have been tense and will undoubtedly intensify with the imminent completion of the Xayaburi dam, with disputes over food security and environmental issues at the forefront.



"Whisky is for drinking; water is for fighting over"

- Mark Twain

Indus River Basin:

tale of two countries

Disputes over a river and its waters, however, can turn awry and lead to violence. The Indus River flows through Indian Kashmir and Pakistan, and is an important water source for both countries. When both countries gained their independence from the British in 1947, India attempted to cut the flow of water to downstream Pakistani irrigation canals along the Indus. Disputes ensued and took 12 years of World Bank negotiations to resolve, culminating in the 1960 Indus Waters Agreement.

As tensions between India and Pakistan continue unabated, impacting the politics of today, questions of water allocation have resurfaced. The Tulbul Project, formulated by India in 1989, plans for the construction of the Wular Barrage across the Jhelum River, located within the basin of the Indus River. India contends that the dam only serves navigation purposes, but the Pakistani government fears that India will heavily regulate Pakistani water flow, even though it is protected by the Indus Waters Agreement.

In 2012, militants, alleged by India to be sent by Pakistan, sabotaged flood protection systems and detonated explosives that destroyed dam construction works around Wular Lake.

While the situation has yet to escalate, it continues to be a thorn in already difficult Indo-Pakistani bilateral relations, and could potentially breed further violence.



The West Bank:

ground zero

Located in one of the driest regions of the Middle East, the survival of both Israel and Palestine has always depended on the judicious management of scarce water resources; conflicts between Israel and its neighbouring states have often involved water disputes. For example, the 1967 Six-Day War saw Israel's occupation of the then Syrian territory of the Golan Heights, the source of the Jordan River, thereby securing Israel's water supply till today.

What is unique about the ongoing water crisis in the West Bank is that it is a conflict not based on rivers or lakes, but on groundwater. As 96% of all fresh water in liquid form is found under the Earth's surface, groundwater has, throughout human history, been an important source of drinking water. Since groundwater still remains out of immediate reach, managing such subterranean water sources can be an almost insuperable challenge, especially when they are situated across contested boundaries, as in the case of the Israeli-Palestinian one.

The Mountain Aquifer, situated under the West Bank, is important to Palestinians and Israelis alike, providing 370 million cubic metres of water per year. A territory claimed by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War, the West Bank houses over 2 million Palestinian Arabs and about 500,000 Jewish Israelis in Israeli settlements.



Israel, however, claims 80% of the aquifer's flow, leaving only 20% to Palestinians. A 2009 World Bank report states that an average Israeli consumes about three times as much water as an average West Bank Palestinian. Besides, West Bank Palestinians must purchase water from Mekorot, the Israeli national water company, leading to an asymmetrical economic relationship between the two states. Desperation has led to the digging of many illegal wells to tap on the aquifer. This is a dangerous practice as the aquifer's water is becoming increasingly polluted, and is often consumed untreated.

While this water crisis is hardly the primary cause of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it is undoubtedly one of the factors that will prolong and further entrench tensions between the two peoples, providing this already intractable conflict with one more major impediment.





Cheat Sheet

by Jethro Wegener

#38 Organisations to Know and What They Do

Everyone has heard about organisations like the UN, the WHO or Greenpeace, but do you know what they actually do?

UNITED NATIONS (UN)

The UN was established in 1945 in the aftermath of WWII in order to prevent a similar catastrophe from happening again. It is an organisation dedicated to peace that started with 51 countries and now has 193 member nations, including everyone from Burundi and Vanuatu to the UK and of course Singapore. The UN is actively involved in 38 different areas of global interest, ranging from peace and security to human rights and humanitarian emergencies.



GREENPEACE

Greenpeace is an international environmental group, founded in Vancouver 1971 with the purpose of stopping a nuclear test that was scheduled to happen in Alaska at that time. Although it was unable to stop the test, Greenpeace continued campaigning for the environment by fighting for other ecological issues, including banning whaling worldwide, as well as preventing the drilling for oil in places like the Arctic. It is now an organised group with offices in over 40 countries, with their main goal at present to promote awareness about climate change.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

Established on the 7 April 1948, the WHO is a specialised agency of the United Nations Development Group concerned with international health issues. Since its creation, it's played a significant role in the elimination of smallpox and polio. They also conduct the 'World Health Survey' yearly and work with over 70 countries to generate the 'World Health Report'. Currently, there are 194 member states, including almost all of the EU. They are the main global-level body that monitors and coordinates responses to new outbreaks or pandemics that might occur, such as an outbreak of bird flu or Ebola.



NOBEL PRIZE

The Nobel Prize was created when Alfred Nobel, a genius inventor and businessman who had 355 patents, 87 companies and the creator of dynamite, decided that he wanted to leave a better legacy behind. Therefore he stipulated in his will that his large fortune would be used to establish the Nobel Prize, a cash prize for those who benefited mankind in the areas of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace. Since 1901, 567 prizes - of about US\$1.1 million each year - have been awarded to the best and brightest of those fields, either as individuals or split between 2-3 laureates.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO)

NATO is an organisation that was formed to safeguard the security of its members through political and military means. Originally a defensive alliance against the USSR, NATO shifted its focus to remain relevant after the fall of the Soviet Union. They are now a defensive military alliance that has been present as a peacekeeping force in conflicts in countries such as Bosnia and Afghanistan. Although NATO may seem outdated, if one member is attacked, they all go to war, so current events like the IS in Syria are still very relevant to one of NATO's member state, Turkey.



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ART, DESIGN AND MEDIA

Designer's Toolbox

Draw or paint digitally with Wacom Intuos Pro Pen & Touch



PEN TABLET

Wacom has been a standard for pen tablets over the years, and one of their more popular lines is the Intuos Pro Pen & Touch. Available in 3 different sizes (the large one has a generous active area of 32cm wide), the super sensitive pen coupled with multi-touch gestures allows designers to draw, sketch and scribble with ease. With 8 customisable keys that give easy access to software shortcuts, there's also a wireless kit included so you can pair your computer with the tablet without the cords. The smallest Intuos Pro retails from S\$359 onwards.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

There are plenty of online resources and free apps tailored for designers out there, so here are some that you may find useful.

The **iDisplay** (www.getidisplay.com) is a free app that lets you use your smartphone, tablet or both as additional displays (and touchscreen input devices) for your desktop or laptop. You can put your floating palettes on your iPad, and keep your desktop artwork free from obstructions, or share whatever you're working on your desktop to your portable tablet for all to see. You can also connect multiple devices to one computer.

Split your work screen onto your tablet or smartphone with iDisplay

Get design feedback with Five Second Test



Adobe Photoshop Sketch for iPad



So you're a designer? Then you'll find some of these 'tools' useful to help you achieve a new level of creativity to your work.

Print 3D things with 3Doodler printer



3D PEN PRINTER

If you're in the mood to create 3D objects, then you can easily do it with the 3Doodler – the world's first 3D printing pen that lets you to draw in mid-air by extruding heated plastic filament that cools almost instantly into a solid, stable structure. This makes it super easy to draw in the air and create literally anything – a character you sketched, Christmas decorations, even jewellery. Retailing at S\$149, the 3Doodler has free online stencils that allow you to create more complex items.

Sketch on luxurious HandBook Journals



SKETCHING GOODIES

Even with all the technology available for designers, most of us often start our ideas with a simple sketch.

When it comes to sketchbooks, there are plenty of choices out there. **HandBook Journals** stand out with their gorgeous buff-coloured paper and curved corners – plus they come with heavy 130gsm paper. This makes it suitable for pencil or pen-and-ink drawing. Available in a range of colours, the 128-page cloth-bound sketchbooks also come in 5 formats including landscape.

If you're the type who takes your sketchbook everywhere you go, then you'll probably run into the problem of what to do with your pens/pencils if you don't have a pencil case. The **Journal Bandolier** is a simple solution – handmade using reclaimed rubber and elastic, this simple strap is two inches wide, able to fit most sketchbooks, and offers 7 loops for holding pencils, pens, erasers, markers, knives, or whatever else your creative endeavors demand.

If you're a traditional illustrator and work with plenty of gradients, then you'll appreciate **Chameleon** pens. This easy-to-use pen comes in 20 colours to produce over 2,000 colour tones, and has 2 replaceable nibs (a bullet and a brush). The pens use alcohol-based ink (they're refillable) which you can mix with the toning medium in a special chamber to change the intensity of the colours.



Keeping pens with the Journal Bandolier

Chameleon Pens make gradients easy





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An ARTIST in a DIGITAL WORLD

By Jethro Wegener



The CG industry has some of the hottest and most sought after jobs in the art world at the moment. Video games, films and even product marketing all make use of CG to enhance the experience. Animated hits like 'Frozen' regularly top the box office charts and even live action spectacles like 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' feature heavy usage of computer animation. Although this industry is considered part of the arts, there is a fairly large amount of tech involved. If you're an artist, the lure is hard to ignore, but to get into this business there are a few things you need to know.

The Studios

Firstly, let's take a look at the types of studios out there. Basically, there are two groups; small studios and large ones, like Pixar or ILM. Smaller ones tend to have more generalists - people that can work in a lot of different aspects of CG, from modelling to rendering to everything in-between. This allows them to run efficiently with a limited number of people.

To work in one of the bigger studios, you'll most likely have to be a specialist, someone that is really good in a certain area. The big teams mean that you'll be like a small cog in a large wheel, working with a lot of other people to achieve a goal.

The real meat of the industry requires at least some tech knowledge. Modelling, texturing, rigging, animation and rendering all require the artist to be proficient in the necessary software, and of course, knowledge of programming like Unix and shell scripting is extremely helpful. While animators can get away just with knowledge of software like Maya, others will have to constantly keep up with the latest technology or software in order to be in the business.

As you can see, being a generalist will require some doing. The many different types of software and constant updates to them means you'll have to constantly keep learning to avoid getting left behind. It goes without saying that those who are more proficient at their job can get ahead much faster. A generalist's role is basically one that combines the jobs of entire teams of people (from riggers to texturers and more) so they're pretty sought after, and (good ones) are hard to find.

Artistic & Tech Roles

Not all these roles are equal in an artistic sense, with some requiring a lot more technical knowledge than others. For example, concept artists can get away with basic technical knowledge (like Photoshop), but to be someone like a rigger you'll need to be a lot more technical.

Character riggers are experts at building skeletons of characters so that they interact with environments. This means they have a thorough understanding of physics and anatomy, and operating systems like UNIX, plus software such as Autodesk Maya, Motion Builder, 3D Studio Max, and XSI.

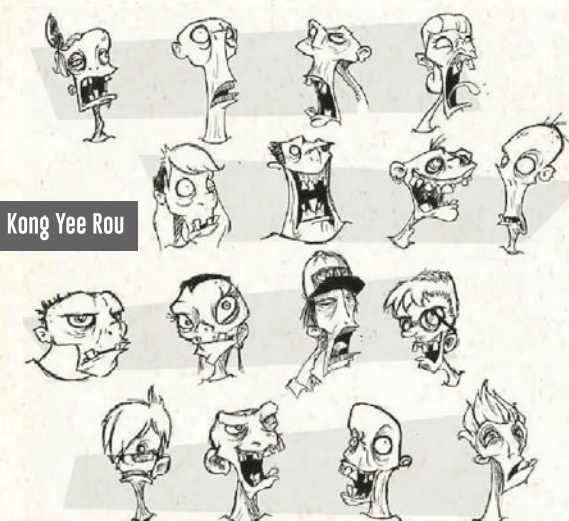
Every department or team has supervisors and directors; they are responsible for blending



the artistry and tech into a seamless product. Thus various members of a team are expected to be able to execute orders as efficiently and thoroughly as possible, which means relying on their mastery of the technology - is usually a key job requirement.

Being a concept artist is not glamorous. A large percentage of your work will end up scrapped, and you have to be very open to criticism. There is heavy competition as the number of job openings is very small - even large studios may have only 2 concept artists, compared to a team of riggers or modellers. In many studios, there will be concepts artists who specialise in areas like "machines" or "backgrounds". While knowledge of 3D software (like Maya) isn't usually a requirement, artists will need to conceive things that are doable in 3D, and may be called upon to provide textures, so an understanding of UV mapping would be an asset.

In this business, people work as a team to bring a project to life, meaning each element is essential.



Kong Yee Rou

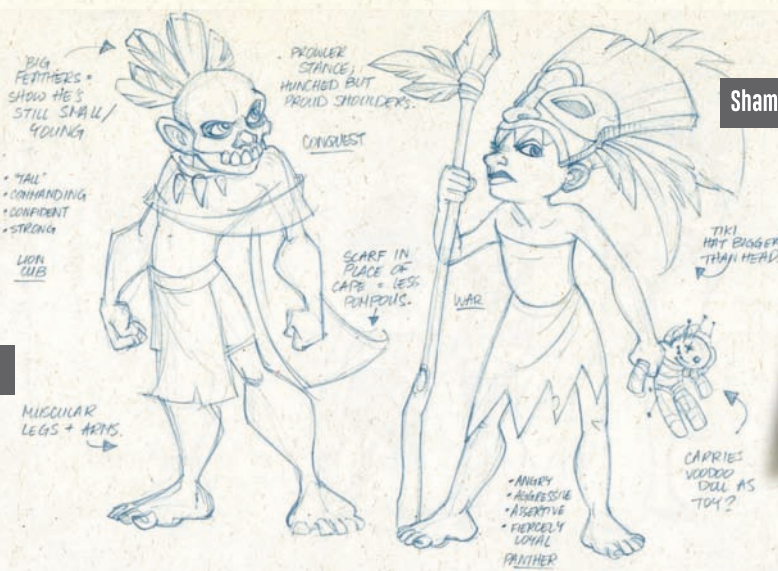
Tech in Artistic Roles

If you're an artist who is tech phobic, the bad news is that there aren't a lot of roles that are purely art, and even those are hard to get. Art centric jobs would be that of concept or storyboard artist, but that's basically it.





Cynthia Tedy



Shamine King

Special Thanks:
Animation department
at LASALLE College
of the Arts for their
artwork.

Job Progression

According to industry mentors and seniors, available roles and corresponding salaries are often lower than expectations for most looking to start out in this industry.

In terms of upward mobility, the progression is simple: for example, animators will start off as junior animators before progressing to more senior roles, working towards the post of animation director. However, this doesn't mean that there isn't lateral progression; it's not rare to find an animator becoming a storyboard artist either. The key to mobility lies in your ability as well as adaptability.

Where to Start

Working in a smaller studio will mean having to take on more than one role, giving you an opportunity to experience the various positions within the industry. You might end up modelling, texturing, rigging and animating your character in one of the smaller businesses, giving you invaluable knowledge that will help later on down the line. The upside is that you'll get to see projects from their inception all the way to the final thing, but the projects might not be as glamorous. You might end up doing a short TV ad, for example, instead of the full feature animated pieces that Pixar produces.

Working in a big studio means having to learn a very specific set of specialist skills, which can be beneficial in terms of employment since there are many more companies requiring those skills.

Marie Toh

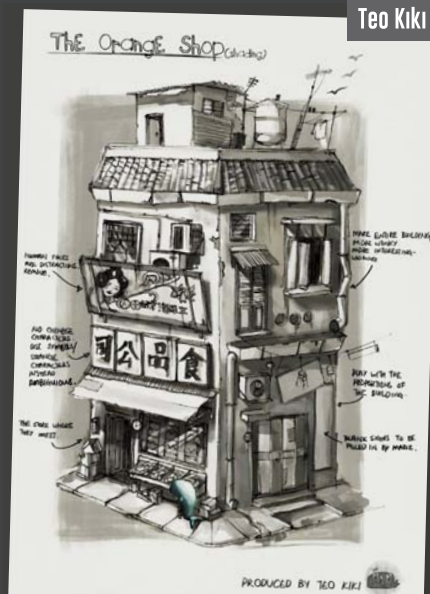


The advantage of working in a bigger studio is that the work will be very specific and you'll have a lot of people there to help you out. However, this also means that you won't really be able to form a connection with most of the staff, as there will simply be too many people working there.

In animation, people tend to switch jobs pretty regularly, so knowing a range of skills will make you more attractive to hire. Part of the reason is that most big studios today tend to hire contract staff (who work on a project basis rather than on a full time contract), due to the constantly evolving nature of the industry.

The 3 main components for success are: your aesthetic skill, speed, and a good attitude. In a nutshell, you'll need to have an open mind and a willingness to learn in order to succeed. Networking with industry professionals is also a very good idea.

Teo Kiki

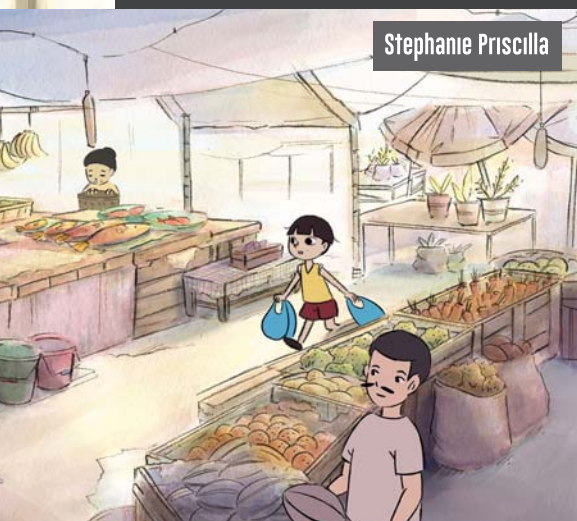


Advice from the Pros

Most important is to not have a big ego; getting the job depends on working well with others. Being open to criticism is key, since it is, essentially, a business and you'll meet a lot of people who have more experience than you do.

Exposure to more projects is a good thing for your portfolio, and if you don't have a chance to shine at work, try doing personal projects to showcase your abilities instead.

Stephanie Priscilla



by Jethro Wegener

THE LIST

CITIES FOR CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Consistently ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world, Melbourne also has a burgeoning fine arts scene. Home to the Melbourne Festival, Australia's premiere international arts festival, it is a hub for young artists looking to get their works out there. Even the streets have art on them, as the city's street talents leave their mark wherever they can. The downsides however, include the high cost of living and the confusing public transportation.

MELBOURNE



CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

As the 2014's World Design Capital, Cape Town is rapidly becoming one of the best places for designers. Local galleries are showing off works by new designers, giving them a great place to get noticed. The city has also long been a centre for architects and furniture designers just starting out, thanks to it having the highest standard of living in South Africa and a great ecosystem of service industries. Downsides are the rather weak local currency, meaning that one would effectively earn less, and in addition to that, the relatively high crime rate.

CAPE TOWN



TOKYO, JAPAN

For the fashion-centric, Tokyo is the place to be. With countless boutique fashion stores offering plenty of opportunities for young designers, it is also a place that is very open to weird and whacky designs with nothing being too 'strange' for them. Known as a springboard for up-and-coming young designers, it's a great place to go for those just starting out. However, it can be costly, as evidenced by the fact that it consistently ranks as one of the most expensive places to live in Mercer's Annual Cost of Living surveys, and it is incredibly crowded.

TOKYO



BERLIN



BERLIN, GERMANY

Berlin has it all. Designers, artists, musicians, painters; therefore making it a good fit for any young creative professional to head to. Coupled with high living standards, a strong endorsement of creative freedom (Germany values its artists) and surprising affordability, it makes a great destination for someone just starting out. In Berlin you will find plenty of like-minded individuals to help spur you on - you can even pursue further education in the arts for free here.

CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

For musicians, the Windy City is a great place to start out. Not only is it a very accessible place for budding performers, its size means there are plenty of opportunities for every genre of music - including plenty of musicals. The large number of music festivals mean that there is no shortage of places to play or watch a good performance. However, if you're looking to move there, the chilly winters are a factor to keep in mind.



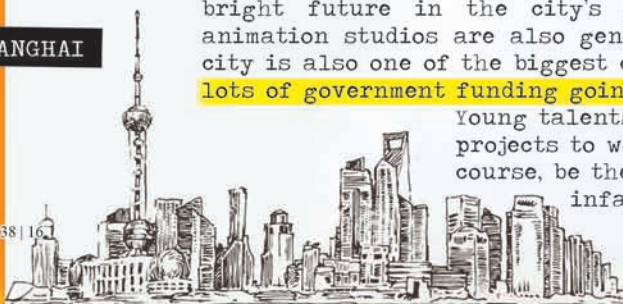
CHICAGO

SHANGHAI, CHINA

Shanghai is a good place for young designers and animators who wish to kick-start their careers, as industry players like Hollywood studios see a bright future in the city's animation industry. Plenty of boutique animation studios are also generating jobs for young professionals. The city is also one of the biggest creative centres in the world as well, with lots of government funding going into boosting the creative industry.

Young talents will find it relatively easy to find projects to work on. The downside to Shanghai would, of course, be the really bad pollution that the city is infamous for.

SHANGHAI



the designer toy movement

by Jethro Wegener

Kidrobot's
2-tone Dunny
series



Gone are the days when toys were solely for children. Once mere playthings for their amusement, toys have now moved into the realm of art with the advent of designer toys. Produced in limited editions, these figurines are created by artists and designers and turned what was once a cheap piece of plastic into a work of art fit for a gallery.

born in the east



Lau's Gardener
Collection

From far left:
Bounty Hunter's
'Skull Kun Mickey';
Batman B@arbrick

It began in the late 1990s, when Hong Kong artist **Michael Lau** took influence from local hip-hop culture and customised Ken dolls, turning them into his **Gardener Collection**. Tattooed, pierced, wearing trendy clothes and designed to look as if they had come from real life, the figurines bridged the gap between art, toys and popular culture in a way none had before. Packaged in handmade and hand decorated boxes, they were sold by Lau at conventions in Hong Kong.

At the same time, Japanese boutique fashion brands like **Bounty Hunter** started making toy mascots. Produced in limited numbers, the toys became collectors' items not only because of how rare they were, but also because of their value as art.

Perhaps one of the most popular collectible Japanese toy series is Medicom's **Kubricks**, figurines which are produced with pop culture themes like Star Wars. Its spin-off, **B@arbricks**, was created in 2001 featuring a bear-like version.

journey to the west



From left:
Kidrobot's Dunny
Triclops; Kozik's
Labbit;

Right:
Freeny's
Dissected Barbie.

During one of his frequent trips to Japan, pop artist **Frank Kozik** started collecting toy mascots, including Bounty Hunter's Kid Hunter. After returning to the United States, he worked with designer toy company **Kidrobot** to produce figurines like his iconic **Labbit** series. Along with Kidrobot's own **Munny and Dunny** toys and works from graffiti artist **KAWS**, the seeds of the designer toy movement were born.

In the early 2000s, more and more artists – with backgrounds that include production design and graffiti art – came up with their own designer toys. Creatives like **Huck Gee**, **Simone Legno** and **Jason Freeny** began making toys that brought together a variety of different subcultures through their own unique styles, combining urban art, street fashion and popular trends, peppered with Asian influences. Fans of designer toys today will recognise **Gee's iconic Skullhead**, **Simone's signature Tokidoki artwork** and **Freeny's infamous dissected Barbie**.

the toy movement booms

Designer toys have since become so massively popular that small-scale manufacturers have sprouted to produce custom vinyl and resin designer pieces. These soon began to flood retail stores and galleries alike, blurring the lines between art, toy and collectible.

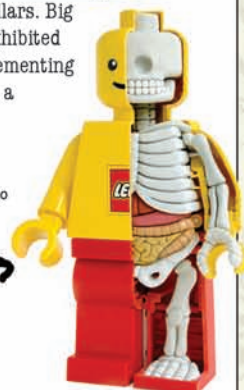
Kidrobot's Munny and Dunny range even became part of the permanent collection of the **Museum of Modern Art**. While every year, the **Designer Toy Award** recognises the top toys and their creators.

Designer toys are also regular fixtures at major conventions like Comic Con, with huge numbers of fans turning up to add to their collections and get pieces signed by artists. Some pieces are adaptations of existing works, such as **Freeny's Lego Anatomy**, and others are original works of pop art, like **Gee's Dame** figures – with pieces sometimes selling for hundreds of dollars. Big companies have even joined the trend, as exhibited by **Hasbro's Mighty Muggs** series, further cementing the designer toys' value as a commercial product.



Freeny's Lego
Anatomy

Kidrobot's DIY
Mini Munny



The movement is even picking up steam in Singapore at events like **STGCC** (Singapore Toys, Games and Comics Convention), with local toy producers like **Mighty Jaxx** regularly working with Kozik, Freeny and others, while designs by other local artists like **Clogtwo** and **Daniel Yu** are quickly gaining a following overseas.



Legno's Tokidoki
Cactus Kitties
series

Huck Gee's
Skullhead
illustration



Huck
Gee's
Dame
figure



toy or art

Having gone from children's toy boxes to art galleries, designer toys have evolved to become an art form and collectors' items. Not only do they have artistic value, but their rarity makes them a unique commodity among enthusiasts – a trend that shows no sign of abating.

ONE PACT TO RULE THEM ALL

TPP AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY

Countries in the TPP



You may have heard the buzz about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which was largely a trade agreement between 12 Pacific Rim countries including Singapore, Japan and the US. The partnership was signed on October 5 this year with the aim of lowering trade barriers, and more importantly, to enforce a common framework for intellectual property.

Many sources speculate one of TPP's goals is to neutralise China's power (who's not party to the agreement) and to make American companies more competitive, as the New York Times reported that the clearest winners would be corporate America, especially in fields like pharmaceutical and entertainment.

Undoubtedly, a number of global health professionals and internet freedom activists have protested against the treaty as it is clearly a move to give large corporations more power than they already have.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CREATIVITY?

We all know the old cliché that good artists borrow and great artists steal. Intellectual property like music, art and cultural production traditionally thrives because artists are constantly borrowing, sharing and reinterpreting them. However, a few chapters of the TPP will affect creative artists and cultural industries.

EXTENSION OF IP

Under the agreement, the protection of intellectual property (IP) copyright is extended from 50 years to 70 years (or 120 years for corporate copyright). This means that corporations like Disney, and Hollywood will get longer copyright protection, and importers of this (mostly American) creative content will wind up paying millions of dollars in additional royalties.

This also means putting more material out of the public domain and locking away great works of art for decades. So, if you're an artist or writer looking to reference an artwork from the 40s, you'll have to wait another 20 years.

50 70

END OF FAN WORK?

According to TPP, any derivative work – like fan fiction, fan art or cosplay – can fall under a criminal offense, even if the original copyright holders are aware of the infringement and aren't looking to press charges.

Not surprisingly, this is causing concern to a huge network of fan fiction writers who use popular movies and books as reference material.

In Japan, fan art manga (doujinshi) traditionally thrives side-by-side with their original anime or manga material, and official publishers (the copyright holders) actually welcome these fans rather than punish them; with their

popularity, it helps everyone in the industry. However, many in the fan art market are worried that TPP may kill this happy partnership; in theory, American distributors that license anime and manga for sale in the U.S. could see doujinshi's unsanctioned use of intellectual property (IP) as a threat to their business. Some are even worried that this copyright enforcement might spill over to its huge cosplay market, as well as festivals and markets dedicated to this fandom (like Comiket).



INTERNET FREEDOM

The TPP is also seen as a global threat to the internet, restricting what anyone can do online. A new provision now requires social media providers like Facebook or Youtube to remove content after only one complaint (as is already the rule in the US), meaning that if you're an artist creating something that someone doesn't like, it could go the way of the dodo.



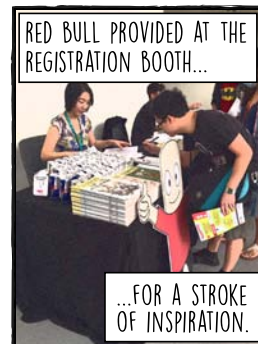
It also means that if you distribute content online, even if it's not money-making, you could face the threat of criminal charges due to the very viral nature of the internet. These include sharing of remixed films, movies, games, music, or even memes.

While the TPP benefits many smaller countries like Singapore in terms of trade, it may not benefit much in terms of growing our creativity. Clearly the biggest winner (at least in monetary terms) is the US, where most of the intellectual property rights are held. In this gross monopolisation, only one thing can be said of TPP: go big or go home.

WHAT WENT DOWN DURING THE **24 Hour Comics Day**



A BLOW BY BLOW ACCOUNT:



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Campus Magazine was at LASALLE College of the Arts on 3 & 4 October for the '24 Hour Comics Day'! With over 200 participants, students were given the opportunity to draw a 2-page comic with our dear mascot, Ah Boon, for a chance to WIN a trip for 2 to Tokyo!

We will be publishing the 12 shortlisted finalists online, so stay tuned to see the finished versions of these cute, funny and inventive comics created for Ah Boon! Who will win the trip to Tokyo?

www.campus.com.sg [campus.singapore](https://www.facebook.com/campus.singapore)

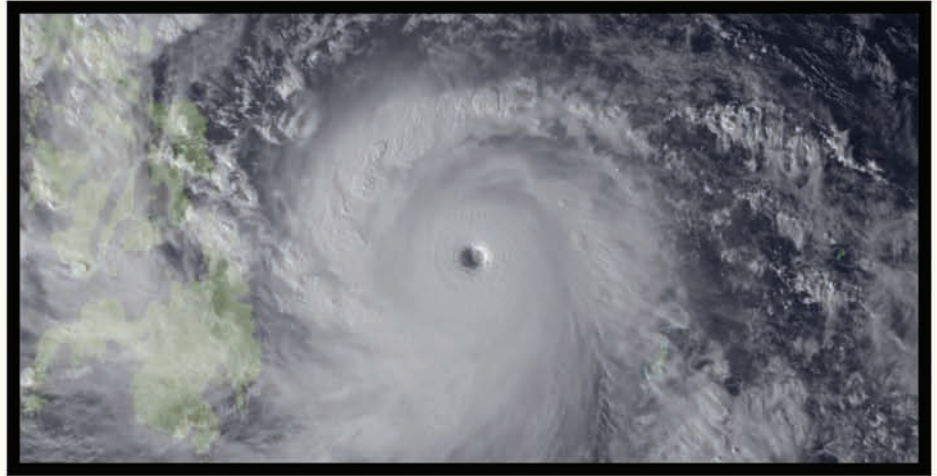
THE PERFECT STORM

THE ECONOMICS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

BY DARREN WAN

Natural disasters have always been one of the greatest unknowns throughout human history. Even with the technological advances of the 21st century, predicting disasters like earthquakes and floods is guesswork at best.

While we will never be able to mitigate the effects of any natural disaster fully, what causes disparities in the economic and human costs a disaster inflicts on a rich country vs. a poor one?



Satellite picture of Typhoon Haiyan

THE EFFECTS OF A TYPHOON: PHILIPPINES VS JAPAN

Let's examine two natural disasters of comparable magnitude in two very different countries: namely Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and Typhoon Vongfong in Japan in 2014.

Both were classed as Category 5, the strongest intensity a storm can attain, and Typhoon Haiyan was a catastrophe for the Philippines with more than 6,000 deaths and 600,000 people made homeless. The Philippine government estimates that the economic cost of Typhoon Haiyan was US\$15 billion, with US\$225 million alone in agricultural damage.

In contrast Japan saw only 3 fatalities and little damage to homes or infrastructure in the wake of Typhoon Vongfong. In addition, there was just US\$8.5 million of agricultural losses, approximately 25 times lower than agricultural losses in the Philippines in 2013. Why is there such a stark difference?

ECONOMIC COMPARISON

While the less economically developed Philippines evacuated about a million people ahead of the typhoon, most infrastructure was not suited to withstand strong winds or storm surges. Many people, for instance, evacuated to an allegedly storm-proof stadium in Tacloban, which was later destroyed, drowning hundreds.



Conversely, Typhoon Vongfong caused little infrastructure damage beyond power outages as strict Japanese building codes ensured homes withstood high winds and waves. By comparison, preparatory work like enforcement of building

codes not only takes years to execute, but also incurs huge costs that many homeowners in the Philippines could never bear.

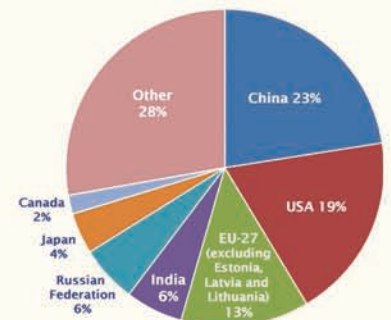
Responses to the typhoons also differed greatly. Storm surges in the Philippines destroyed key infrastructure, delaying rescue teams by days, even weeks. And with the lack of sanitation and clean water, diseases like cholera and typhoid spread easily, raising the death toll further.

In contrast, coastal areas in Japan are equipped with well-stocked typhoon shelters, allowing residents to evacuate and later return home in a matter of hours.

In short, the differentials in economic development and the policies they produce guaranteed citizens of a more developed country better protection from a typhoon.

THE IRONY

What is most poignant is the fact that industrialised countries have contributed the most to global warming, a phenomenon that increases the



Global emissions by country, 2008

frequency and magnitude of disasters like typhoons. For example, the top 20 carbon emitting countries account for 80% of global emissions, with Japan itself responsible for 4% of global totals. By contrast, the Philippines emits 0.25% of global totals – 1/16 of Japan's emissions, with the Japanese emitting more than 10x as much carbon per person.

When you compare that against other indicators, such as healthcare and disaster response mechanisms, it becomes clear the Philippines is at a huge disadvantage. From 1991 to 2010, the Philippines received disaster management grants totalling US\$834.6 million, but of that, over US\$500 million was spent on emergency response rather than preparation or resiliency programmes. It's a perfect storm of the combined impact of lower national income, less investment in preventative infrastructure, and the lack of funds to redress this imbalance before the next disaster strikes, that exacerbates the situation further.

This means that poorer countries from the Pacific to the Caribbean are bearing the global burden of managing more destructive disasters even though they have scarcely contributed to climate change. A situation that will sadly only get worse if the political will of industrialised nations to address not only the symptoms but the root cause of global warming remains as weak as it is today.

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WELCOME TO THE BRAZILIAN TERRITORY!

Here's your chance to appear on Campus magazine's front cover and win a pair of shoes from Havaianas' latest collection! The final 6 (3 guys, 3 gals) will also receive a hamper from Mandom.

HOW TO ENTER

1. Upload a photo or video of your OOTD on Instagram with a Brazilian theme.
Hint: you can use inspiration from its beaches, flowers or casual fashion.
2. Hashtag your entry with **#CoverMe2015**
Follow [Facebook CommonThreadSG](#) [Instagram CommonThreadSG](#)
3. Entry Period: Oct 20 - Nov 30. Finalists will be picked and photographed between 1-13 Dec.

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LAW & ORDER

By Wong Si Jia



If there's a word to describe Singapore's law, it would be stringent – break the rules, and bear the harsh consequences. Fortunately, local laws are mostly logical and reasonable, compared to some of the more quirky ones that exist in other parts of the world.

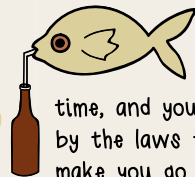
FACT OR FICTION?

Where strange laws are concerned, there's much difficulty in proving their authenticity, since they're buried under countless legal statutes. Some lack a clear target for law enforcement; others are no longer in effect – in Switzerland, the illegal offence of flushing an apartment block toilet after 10pm isn't enforced anymore.



The validity of such laws is thus often brought into question, but you can always decide for yourself whether they're true or just urban myths.

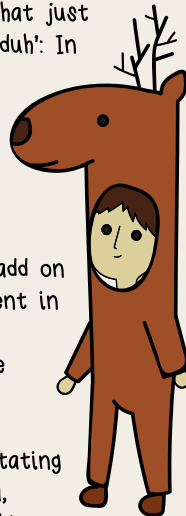
'DUH', BIZARRE, OR LUDICROUS?



Fast forward to present time, and you'll be amused by the laws that just make you go 'duh': In Alabama, it's

illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while driving; eating in a place that's on fire is against the Chicago laws; meanwhile, a cab in London is forbidden to carry rabid dogs or corpses.

That's not all, for there are more bizarre laws to add on to the list! For instance, smiling is a legal requirement in Milan – the only exceptions being at funerals and hospital visits – while passing wind in a public place after 6pm on Thursdays is illegal in Florida.

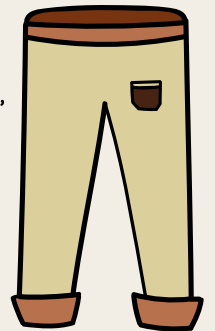


Now, how about some ludicrous laws? Imitating an animal goes against the law in Florida, getting a fish drunk is an offence in Ohio, and lastly, England forbids individuals from dying in the Houses of Parliament (coincidentally voted the most ridiculous UK law in 2007).



Fans of lawyer or investigative content like CSI, Suits, and Ace Attorney are surely no strangers to the abundance of weird laws that are present in the fictional universe. Surprise, surprise, there are actually many of them in the real world, too, be it now or in the past.

For example, Finland once banned Donald Duck comics because he never wore pants, Switzerland deemed the slamming of car doors illegal at one point in time, and Turkey imposed a death penalty on coffee drinkers in the 16th and 17th centuries. The peculiar laws don't stop here, however.



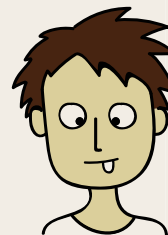
LAWS OF THE PAST

After a glimpse into the world of quirky laws, you'd think that the ones in Singapore are fairly normal – or are they? The infamous ban on selling chewing gum is often beyond the comprehension of many, and being fined for not flushing public toilets is considered to be absurd. It's also considered illegal to walk around naked in your own apartment.



We probably wouldn't find them weird, but it's understandable if others around the world do.

LOCAL CONTEXT



CONCLUSION

The world's bound by rules, of which strange laws are included. While their validity remains to be seen, it's always handy to know a fair bit about a country's laws. After all, you wouldn't want to get into trouble for making faces at a dog in Oklahoma while travelling, would you?



Maze of Emotions

The Maze of Emotions was the inaugural fashion festival for the first batch of graduating degree students from MDIS School of Fashion and Design. Students got the chance to showcase their projects to a crowd of industry professionals in an exciting graduation ceremony held at the National Design Centre.

Instead of a regular graduation, the young designers were able to display their projects to a live audience of professionals and fashionistas, receiving a fantastic opportunity for them to get their work noticed. The show was an incredible success, drawing a large crowd eager to see the designs on display and to interact with the designers themselves. They filled the hall, giving the night a vibrant, colourful atmosphere that left a lasting impression on the attendees.

The efforts of some distinct graduates were also acknowledged through the presentation of the Industry's Choice and People's Choice Awards.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

- Chowlyn Ng Xin Ni's Sustainable Fashion Made Chic was a project designed to dispute the belief that sustainable fashion is boring. The project sought to rebrand local fashion house ZHAI by using today's ever advancing technology.
- Drishti Makhija's project highlighted the human body's imperfections in a unique and interesting manner by embracing them as something positive.

INDUSTRY'S CHOICE AWARD

- Yuna Yun's collection 'Soft Outside, Strong Inside' reflected its designer's nature and Korean heritage, creating a subtle balance between Korean cultural legacy and modern fashion. The award partnered her with retailer Inverted Edge, with whom she will co-design and market a new joint line - a prodigious first step for any graduating student.
- Lancer Wong whose project 'Robinson's: The Integrated Shopping App' was a mobile application designed to improve a customer's experience at Robinson's.

The MDIS School of Fashion and Design currently has four courses available for those interested in fashion design, marketing and communication:

- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fashion Marketing and Branding
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fashion Design
- Diploma in Fashion Design and Marketing
- Diploma in Fashion Marketing and Communication

NEW

The Bachelor's Degrees are awarded by Nottingham Trent University, UK and the Diplomas are awarded by MDIS.

To find out more about our programmes



MDIS.SFD

OUT AND ABOUT

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SPECIAL EVENTS

The Castlewood Group Battle of the Reds 2015

When: 14 Nov, 6pm
Location: National Stadium
Tickets: \$19 - \$45

Back for a second year, catch the clash of Liverpool Masters and Manchester United Masters live here in Singapore. Featuring Liverpool stalwarts Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman, Dietmar Hamann, Jerzy Dudek and Luis Garcia, and Paul Parker, Lee Sharpe, Andy Cole, Ronny Johnsen and Karel Poborsky of the Red Devils, the match will certainly be an action-packed 80-minute.



SUPAA JAPAN

When: 14 Nov, 1pm - 8pm
Location: Wave House Sentosa
Tickets: Free - \$20

Bringing together music and dance, SUUPAA JAPAN aims to create awareness and appreciation for both traditional and pop culture of Japan. Guests include Takeru Satoh, best known for this lead role in the Ruroni Kenshin movie trilogy, and TRISTAQ, the only Japanese dance group to reach the finals of Asia's Got Talent.



Singapore Polytechnic's Arts Fiesta

When: 1 Nov - 29 Nov
Tickets: Free - \$25
Location: Singapore Polytechnic

For the month of November, join SP as they celebrate their annual Arts Fiesta with the various performing arts group putting together an array of performances. Based on the theme of 'Reflection' and SG50, the performances will showcase and weave history together to pay tribute to Singapore's illustrious history and more.

MOVIES



Spectre (November 5)

Cast: Daniel Craig, Ralph Fiennes, Monica Bellucci

A cryptic message from the past leads James Bond (Daniel Craig) to Mexico City and Rome, where he meets the beautiful widow (Monica Bellucci) of an infamous criminal. After infiltrating a secret meeting, 007 uncovers the existence of the sinister organisation SPECTRE. Needing the help of the daughter of an old nemesis, he embarks on a mission to find her. As Bond ventures toward the heart of SPECTRE, he discovers a chilling connection between himself and the enemy (Christoph Waltz) he seeks.

LASALLE Open House

When: 5 Jan 2016, 3pm - 8pm & 16 Jan 2015, 11am - 5pm
Location: LASALLE College of the Arts, 1 McNally Street
Admission: Free

Visit the LASALLE Open House and meet our star students as they share secrets about how to excel in LASALLE and find out how our illustrious alumni parlayed their way into some of the world's most successful companies. Experience student life at LASALLE through hands-on activities and workshops.

Our lecturers and programme advisors will also be present to respond to any queries you may have. Plus, your application fee will be waived* if you apply on-the-spot at the Open House!

*Conditions apply. Valid for the first programme applied to.





13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2015
SUNTEC CONVENTION CENTRE
HALLS 401 & 402
SINGAPORE

13 - 15 Nov | 10am - 9pm
Suntec Convention Centre
Tickets: \$12 - \$22

GameStart Asia

FESTIVALS

Inspired by the Tokyo Game Show and PAX, GameStart aims to bring the fun of international-standard gaming conventions right here to Singapore. Exhibitors include Bandai Namco Games, Blizzard Entertainment and PlayStation Asia.



27 - 29 Nov
Suntec City Convention Centre
Tickets: \$88 - \$428

AFA Singapore 2015

Bigger and better, AFA is the largest and most followed J-pop culture event in Singapore! With a line-up of popular J-pop names such as May'n and Back-On, expect exclusive content and merchandise in this 3-day event. Watch out also for the Creator's Content and the Regional AFA Cosplay Championships.

PRODUCTIONS

17 - 21 Nov
Capitol Theatre
Tickets: \$15 - \$108

Battlefield

Having premiered at the Theatre des Bouffes du Nord in Paris in September, Battlefield will have its international premiere right here in Singapore before it tours the rest of the world! Helmed by legendary theatre titan Peter Brook, who is well known for the 9-hour Mahabharata, the epic battle at the end will be featured in this stand-alone play this November.



21 Nov | 4pm
Marina Promenade, F1 Pit Area
Tickets: \$68 - \$118

Skechers Sundown Festival

Featuring artistes from around Asia, such as Korea's 'Epik High' and Japan's 'INKT', Skechers Sundown Festival will be also feature fringe acts comprising of up and coming artistes such as homegrown Singaporean musicians 'Cheryl Loon', 'Cashew Chemists' and 'Farrago'. Special guests includes 'Ground Zero' from Taiwan!



GIGS

24 - 25 Oct | 9pm
LASALLE SIA Theatre
Tickets: \$78 - \$228

A9 Tour 2015 Re:birth -Tensyou- Live in Singapore

Performing for the second time in Singapore, A9 (formerly known as Alice Nine) will be holding their concert over two days at the SIA Theatre at LASALLE as part of their Asia tour this year. Exclusive CDs which will only be sold at the band's concerts will also be available on both days.



20 Nov - 12 Dec
Drama Centre Theatre
Tickets: \$50 - \$80

Emperor's New Clothes

Putting on a Singaporean spin to the Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale about the ultimate fashion victim, WILD RICE's The Emperor's New Clothes is a brand-new musical that is guaranteed to be filled with fun and laughter.

30 Oct, 7.30pm
Esplanade Theatres
Tickets: \$15 - \$75

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2

Argentinian pianist Nelson Goerner will take centre-stage in the ever-popular Second Piano Concerto from composer Rachmaninov. Singapore audiences can look forward to hearing the SSO live in an all-Rachmaninov concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall. The first half includes an early work from the composer, the Scherzo in D minor, as well as Rachmaninov's "symphonic fantasy", The Rock.



23 - 24 Oct | 9pm
Esplanade Theatre
Tickets: \$38 - \$98

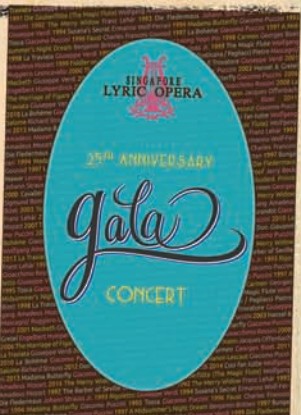
The Kings and Queens of Comedy Asia

Featuring performers such as Kumar and Harith Iskander, this will be the 6th edition of the show, after playing to sell out crowds from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

13 Nov | 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall
Tickets: \$28 - \$58

SLO's 25th Anniversary Gala Concert

Playing excerpts from over 20 opera staged by SLO in the last 25 years, be captivated by some of the region's best opera singers in this one night only concert as the Singapore Lyric Opera celebrates their 25th anniversary with this annual gala concert.



CAFE LISTING

If you are a cafe hopping addict or you just love food, then check out some of these cafes!
To further information check out our reviews at www.campus.com.sg

Tamoya Udon



Nestled in the mall associated with most things Japanese, Tamoya Udon stands out in Liang Court offering the wheat flour noodle as it's speciality. Here you have the choice of having thick, chewy udon soaked in a variety of broths that range from pork to miso as well as the much-loved Japanese curry.

177 River Valley Road
Liang Court #01-32
T 6337 0301



tamoya.com.sg

Cafe Salvation



Priding itself as the first Western vegetarian cafe to have opened in Little India, Cafe Salvation is truly a gem for vegan, vegetarians and omnivores alike. It has a mind boggling array of pastas, sandwiches, burgers and pizzas amongst many other options. There's something for everyone to salivate over. Meat-lovers beware - you may just become a convert after checking this place out.

176 Race Course Rd
T 6298 1412



www.cafesalvation.com

Vegetarian Express



If you think hawker centers are the only places to find vegetarian meals that taste home-cooked and are wallet-friendly, you obviously have not tried Vegetarian Express. Besides the familiar Chinese zi-char offerings Vegetarian Express does Japanese bento sets, Italian baked spaghetti and other fusion dishes as well - there's bound to be something for every palate.

205 Hougang St 21
Heartland Mall
#02-04
T 6383 5672



www.facebook.com/VegetarianExpress

House of Commons



An unpretentious cafe focused on serving up excellent espresso-based drinks and yumilicious sandwiches and desserts, this is the place to be if you're looking for a cafe to kick-off your shoes and lie back while sipping a Mocha accompanied by a Chocolate and Peanut Butter Tart. With an available variety of teas and milkshakes, non-cafeine lovers are not neglected. Who can resist a Nutella Milkshake?

138 Owen Road
T 6291 1774



house-of-commons.myshopify.com

Collective Brewers



Been cafe hopping to the usual food fare? How about checking out a cafe in the East that adds a local twist to your usual Western cafe favourites? If the mention of Rendang Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Milo French Toast or Ondeh-Ondeh Pancakes piques your interest, looks like this is the place for you to be at this weekend!

301 Changi Road
T 6635 7455



www.collective.com.sg

Ippin Cafe and Bar



This cosy cafe-bar offers Japanese home-cooked dishes. Think healthy yaki-soba, tuna with yuzu-miso sandwich accompanied with a bowl of fresh salad. A variety of sake, umeshu and shochu is available here too, so it is a conducive place for post-meal drinks. Any condiment or alcohol you can't seem to get enough of during your dining here can be purchased at the restaurant as well.

18 Mohamed Sultan Road
T 6733 4794



www.ippin-jpc.com

Kokomama



Situated in the fringe of town, Kokomama offers a variety of Korean fusion dishes that range from baked rice served with Korean spices in mess tins to the popular patbingsu desserts. Not in the mood for cold desserts? You'll find a variety of breads, cakes and pastries here too, with the best seller being the buttery french artisan croissant. Great accompaniment for that cuppa.

1 Zubir Said Drive
School of The Arts
#01-01
T 6835 7898



www.kokomama.sg

Cafe Mondo



Year end gatherings filling up fast in your calendar but not having enough options to gather at? Cafe Mondo may just be what you're looking for. Conveniently located in Orchard Central, this is a halal eatery with an extensive menu consisting of pastas, burgers and light bites to go round the table. For the sweet-toothed, dig into their tray of 12 Mini Putts which consists of 12 scoops of ice cream flavours of your choice.

181 Orchard Road
Orchard Central
#02-31/32
T 6884 7510

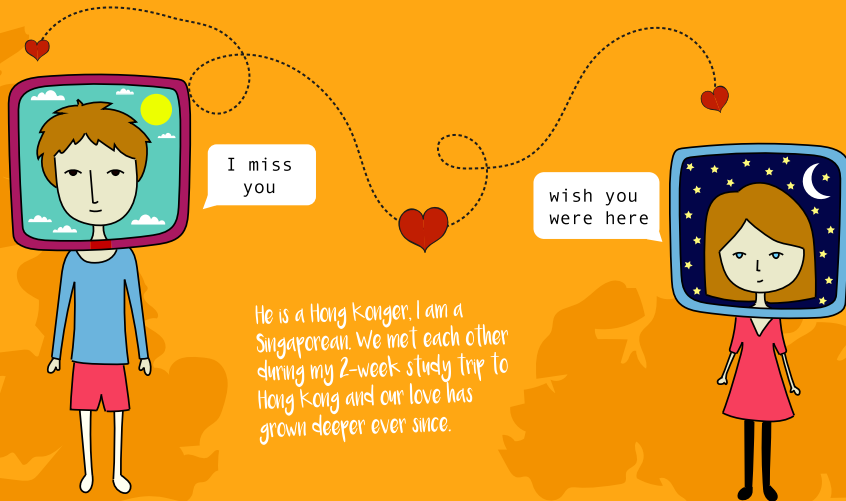


www.cafemondo.com.sg

♥ FINDING HAPPINESS IN A ♥ LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP

by Zelene Lee

When a simple love story falls under the category of “Long Distance”, it can become complicated, especially with discouraging comments from your family and friends. Even without the distance, relationships can be rather challenging. With the ‘extra miles’, cultural differences, and time differences, a long distance relationship cannot get any more challenging. However, there are perks and fun parts to being in one.



COMMUNICATION GETS CREATIVE

Communication is key to a long-lasting long distance relationship. Being thousands of miles apart, it is not easy to sense the body language, forcing us to develop an open and concise communication skill.

Daily messages like “morning” and “goodnight” can get rather boring, so in order to spice up the conversation, pictures, videos or even emoticons replace the mundane vocabulary. Since words are our core communication tool, our antenna in identifying emotions within sentences are far more developed than most normal couples. It’s like we’re honing our skills to ‘detect’ lies in messages.

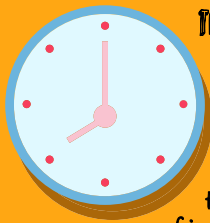
MORE THAN JUST BEING PHYSICAL

There is no ‘friends with benefits’ in a long distance relationship. Being with your partner only a few times a year can be rather torturous for people who enjoy hugs and cuddles like myself, but without the physical element, it forces us to build our relationship on something else – our emotions. We share stories about our past, talk about our current and our future situations with each other. It keeps us close, as though as we are going through each other’s lives.



TIME AND COMMITMENT

In a long distance relationship, there’s lot more ‘me’ time than ‘we’ time. We have more time to spend with our friends and family, so our ties with them are not broken (as is common with many new couples). Couples may struggle with distance (and time differences), but being able to spend time with friends and family will actually help you deal with those issues. Being in a long distance is not easy, and there are many sacrifices to be made, including spending a lot of cash. Either he’d make a transit in Singapore to meet me, or I’d have to travel to Hong Kong or the UK (where he’s currently studying) to see him.

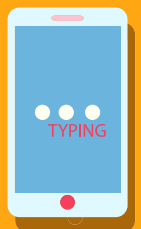


PATIENCE, PATIENCE AND MORE PATIENCE.

There’s a lot waiting going on in a long distance relationship: waiting for replies, waiting for the next meet up, waiting for the next Skype time, etc. That’s why there’s a need for plenty of patience. Even if you’re an impatient person, a long distance relationship can very well condition you to become patient – because love forces you to. With all the waiting, long distance relationship couples are more appreciative in general.

BEING APPRECIATIVE

It is human nature to take things for granted – we tend to be less appreciative of the things around us when they become part of us. In a long distance relationship, we always have something to appreciate; simple things like holding hands or hugging become something to look forward to. Like many couples, we tend to get frustrated when our other half doesn’t reply to our text or pick up our calls; however, I have become more appreciative of the little things he’d do. Even picking up my call in the middle of his night warms my heart. It’s always that little things that keeps the love alive.



PREPARATION TO SURVIVE ANYTHING

If you can survive a long distance relationship, basically you can survive anything! Our relationship began right off as long-distance. We have not experienced being ‘gapless’, thus we are easily taken away by our imagination. Picturing a perfect life is easy, however, life is much more complicated. There are so many things that we have to overcome, have to pull through; and even if we did pull through the outcome may not be as perfect as we think it will be.



Just like any other relationship, a long distance one requires commitment and trust, and this can be as romantic, loving, complicated and blessed too.

Oh, Baby, Where Art Thou?

by Nina Gan



Pop quiz: do adult or baby diapers sell faster?



It's probably no surprise to you that in some industrialised countries (Singapore included) there's a general population decline. And it's getting serious enough that even the governments are doing something about it. For example, you've probably seen the incentive package for the 'SG50 Baby' - a huge campaign involving giving new parents some, er, limited-edition goodies for babies born this year.

Singapore is not alone in the race to produce more citizens. According to analysts, the ideal Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for any country to sustain its economy is 2 (as in, 2 children per woman). According to the latest statistics, countries like Denmark, Germany, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea all have TFR well below 2.

So what are they doing to counter that?

Japan: Match Making

There is a worry in Japan that the Japanese race 'may go extinct' based on the current trend of population decrease - from 127 million today to 87 million in 2060, when 40% of the population will be older than 65. As it is, the sales of adult diapers are quickly outpacing baby ones.

I have a big pagoda...



Part of the government's efforts to increase citizen headcount is by sponsoring matchmaking events throughout the country, including speed dating. While that's not abnormal, these matchmaking sessions target all levels of society, including nuns and priests who are - ironically - supposed to be celibate. It's like they're given the blessing to 'get it on' to ensure the survival of hereditary family temples.

For the younger generation, Fukui prefectural government launched a "Marriage-Hunting Café" dating website - because, hopefully, it's a lot sexier when your MPs are in charge of your virtual dating.

Denmark: Do It For Mom

Denmark has one of the lowest fertility rates in Europe, with a TFR of 1.6. However, there has been no shortage of strange things they've done to boost those numbers. These include a bizarre carnal-themed mass in Zealand, a baby-ready dating site called Babyklar, and 2 hours of free childcare service on Thursdays for parents to make more babies.

DO IT FOR MOM

On one sexy holiday and give your mom a grandchild!



Perhaps the most creative campaign is one by a travel agency called Spies Rejser Travel: it's a hilarious tongue-in-cheek ad promising 'sexy time' by booking one of their holidays to an exotic location. Their 2015 'Do It For Mom' ad campaign encouraged wannabe grandparents to send their adult children on sporting holidays (in someplace warm) in order to make babies. Their reasoning? Nearly half of Danes say they have more sex while on holiday. The ad claims, boldly, 'if they won't do it for country, they will do it for mom.'

The commercial even promises prizes for positive pregnancy tests - which is surely a boon for couples. However, in the municipality of Thisted, the locals have actually agreed with the local council to procreate as much as possible in exchange for keeping schools, nurseries and facilities open. Because nothing says 'bring sexy back' like council memos...



South Korea: Lights Out

South Korea is also in dire straits in terms of population. In 2010, in what feels like a military exercise, they started an office blackout from 7pm every third Wednesday of the month. This was designated 'Family Day', when staff are encouraged to go home to spend more time with their family, or in this case, make one.

It's that time again.



Russia: For Motherland

Russia has battled a population decline for decades, so in 2007, they started the 'Day of Conception' on September 12, when couples are given a day off work to procreate.

But that's not all - if any couple produces a baby exactly 9 months after that date, they get an extra bonus in the form of prizes, which have included items like video cameras, TVs, refrigerators and washing machines. The grand prize-winning couple in 2011 got a jeep, and in 2012, the winning pair got an apartment. Welcome to Mother Russia, the only country where you can win a contest by producing a baby.



Do it for Mother Russia.



STRESS

RELIEF

Take a break from your stressful schedule and play BoonSnap! It's our version of the classic card game Snap, with our mascot Ah Boon dressing up as Halloween characters. It's a great way to improve hand-eye coordination too.

Ah Boon's
Halloween
Special



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

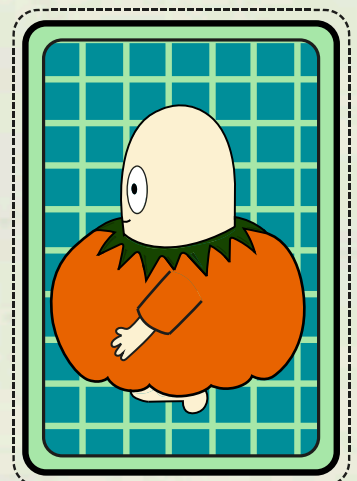
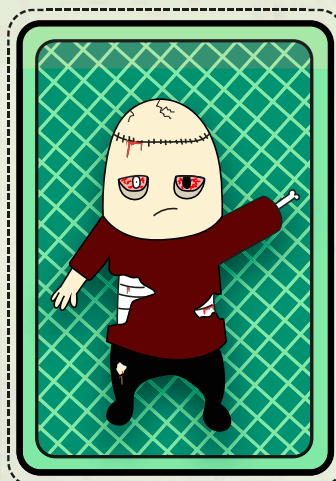
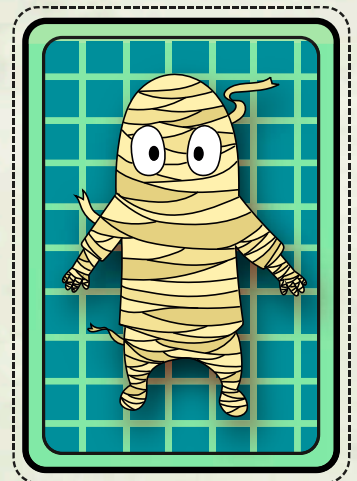
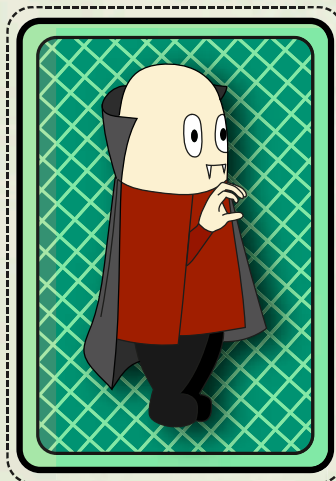
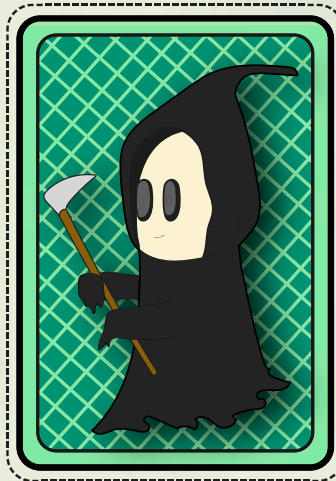
Photocopy the cards so that there are at least 48 pieces. Or even 52 if prefer. For best results, photocopy onto card (and not limp paper).

STEP 2

Cut out the cards carefully and place them in a deck.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Shuffle the cards and deal them out, face down, one card at a time and in a clockwise rotation.
2. Each player, starting with the one to the left of the dealer, takes turns flipping over the card at the top of their pile, placing it face up in front of them.
3. When players turn over a matching piece of card, the first one to say 'Boonsnap!' takes the piles with the matching cards and adds them to their pile.
4. The winner is the player that ends up with all the cards, or the one with the most cards at the end of a set time limit.



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