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### Residential

#### **From condo flippers to homebuyers: Are buying patterns shifting for foreigners in Singapore's real estate?**

Foreign buying has always been a major force driving real estate markets across the world, and Singapore is no exception. But increasingly, many in the property sector are observing that more foreign buyers now see their Singapore residential property as a home rather than just a quick flip. Anecdotal evidence points to a structural change in how foreigners regard their residential home ownership here, with more buying to stay rather than as an investment with quick returns.

The level of speculative activity in private homes has come down over the years. Even for Singaporeans, there is a shift in mentality that one has to hold for the medium to long term in order to make money, says Lee Sze Teck, Huttons Asia director, research.

While mainland Chinese buyers dominate the international contingent - and have done so for some years now, many of the Chinese buyers are already living in Singapore. Some are expatriates working for the rapidly growing number of Chinese companies which have set up operations here, says Mr Lee.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/brunch/from-condo-flippers-to-homebuyers-are-buying-patterns-shifting-for-foreigners-in-singapore>

#### **The Linq @ Beauty World sells 96% of residential units in digital launch**

Mixed-use development The Linq @ Beauty World sold 115 out of 120 apartments over the weekend, in a Covid-19-era, tech-enabled launch.

The project, at Beauty World MRT station, includes two floors of shops and a 20-storey residential block.

Units fetched between S\$2,150 and S\$2,200 per sq ft on average, mainboard-listed construction group BBR Holdings said.

The bulk of the apartments - which ranged from one- to four-bedders - went to Singapore citizens and buyers from neighbouring Hillview, Dairy Farm and Upper Bukit Timah.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/real-estate/the-ling-beauty-world-sells-96-of-residential-units-in-digital-launch>

### **New home sales set to rise after falling in Oct on fewer launches, options curb**

Developers' private home sales halved in October over the preceding month amid a paucity of new launches and an official clampdown on the re-issuance of options to purchase (OTPs) by developers.

However, property consultants are predicting a recovery in primary-market private home sales in November and December with upcoming launches.

These include The Landmark in Chin Swee Road, Ki Residences at Brookvale in the Sunset Way locale, Phoenix Residences in Phoenix Avenue (off Choa Chu Kang Road) and Clavon in Clementi Avenue 1.

Data released by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) based on its survey of licensed housing developers showed that 642 new private homes were sold in October, 51.7 per cent fewer than the 1,329 units sold in September. Year on year, developers' private home sales shrank 31.1 per cent from 932 units in October 2019.

In all, developers released just 423 new units last month, a drop of 68.4 per cent from the 1,340 units in September and the lowest monthly figure since December 2019, when 370 units were released.

The curbs on re-issuance of OTPs by developers - unveiled on Sept 28 - were also behind the sharp slowdown in developers' sales last month.

"Some buyers, though they belong to the group who do not need re-issuance of OTP to make their purchase, waited on the sidelines to see if developers will adjust their prices," said Huttons Asia research director, Lee Sze Teck.

On a more optimistic note, Huttons' Mr Lee said: "Buyers who aspire to upgrade their lifestyle took advantage of the buoyant conditions in both the HDB and private resale segments to market their properties for sale.

"There was a noticeable increase in resale activities in October vis-a-vis September, and this will translate to higher new private home sales once the resale transactions are completed and funds are in."

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/real-estate/new-home-sales-set-to-rise-after-falling-in-oct-on-fewer-launches-options-curb>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/property/new-private-home-sales-halve-in-oct-after-options-curbs>

### **Guillemard site sold for S\$93m in year's biggest private residential deal**

In what would be Singapore's largest private residential transaction in the year to date, mainboard-listed property and hospitality group Roxy-Pacific Holdings is set to acquire a freehold residential development site for S\$93 million.

Located at 217-223A Guillemard Road and 1-21A Jalan Molek, the property occupies a total land area of about 37,131 sq ft.

At the moment, there are 15 adjoining two-storey terrace houses on the site with a baseline gross floor area of around 77,071 sq ft.

Written permission has been obtained for the proposed construction of a part-five, part-eight-storey residential development of 137 units.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/real-estate/guillemard-site-sold-for-s93m-in-years-biggest-private-residential-deal>

### **Singapore housing market a safe haven amid pandemic**

Home sales in Singapore so far in this pandemic-ravaged year have exceeded expectations amid a lower-for-longer rates environment and a still-low unemployment rate - a phenomenon also playing out in some other countries.

Cash-rich buyers have pushed new homes sales for the first 10 months of 2020 to 8,021, as the unemployment rate rose to 3.6 per cent in September from 3.4 per cent in August. Economists think the unemployment rate will stay sub-4 per cent for the full year. The 8,021 volume is 4.5 per cent lower than the 8,401 units sold in the first 10 months of last year.

Projections for full-year sales range from 9,000 to 9,500, which some find comforting given the current health and economic crisis. Last year, developers sold 9,912 units.

With the strong volume, some expect that private residential property prices for 2020 as a whole may end in positive territory after prices rose 0.8 per cent quarter-on-quarter in Q3, nudging the overall price index up 0.1 per cent year-to-date. In comparison, prices increased by 2.1 per cent in the first three quarters of last year.

The pandemic has brought home the safe haven that is Singapore. And for some, it is the only asset worth owning.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/hub-projects/property-2020-nov-issue/singapore-housing-market-a-safe-haven-amid-pandemic>

### **Geylang landed homes to make way for HDB flats**

In a first for residential properties in Singapore, 191 two-storey terraced houses in Geylang Lorong 3 that are set to be returned to the state upon their lease expiry will be demolished to make way for future public housing.

Demolition works are expected to start in the third quarter of next year and will be completed by the first quarter of 2023, according to tender documents seen by The Straits Times.

The 37 families still living there are expected to hand back their homes to the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) by the end of this year with no compensation.

This is the first time a residential plot of land in independent Singapore has reached the end of its lease. The 70-year leasehold private houses in Jalan Chempaka Kuning and Jalan Chempaka Puteh, near Tanah Merah MRT station, are the next in line to reach expiry, in 2034. There are at least two

other private residential areas - Fuyong estate in Upper Bukit Timah and homes in Rifle Range Road - with less than 40 years left on the lease.

Link to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/housing/geylang-landed-homes-to-make-way-for-hdb-flats>

### **Keen interest in 5,795 BTO flats up for sale in five estates**

A total of 5,795 Build-To-Order (BTO) flats spread across seven housing projects in five estates were launched for sale by the Housing Board yesterday in the final sales exercise for the year. Interest was so high that HDB's website saw heavy traffic yesterday evening. Some flat applicants also faced issues when submitting their applications online.

The exercise's biggest project is the Bishan Ridges, where 1,502 two-room flexi, three-room and four-room flats are on offer.

Besides Bishan, the other flats are spread across the mature towns of Toa Payoh (Bidadari) and Tampines, and the non-mature towns of Sembawang and Tengah.

In February next year, HDB will launch some 3,500 flats in Bukit Batok, Tengah, Kallang/Whampoa and Toa Payoh (Bidadari).

Another 3,800 flats will be offered in Bukit Merah, Geylang, Tengah and Woodlands next May.

Links to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/housing/keen-interest-in-5795-bto-flats-up-for-sale-in-five-estates>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/housing/bigger-bto-flats-in-bishan-toa-payoh-see-strong-demand>

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## **Retail**

### **Orchard Road malls keep decorations simple for Christmas**

Orchard Road malls are keeping it simple for the peak shopping season, scaling down Christmas decorations amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Orchard Road Business Association, which organises the annual light-up on the street, had earlier said that while the light-up remains as bright this year as in previous years, safe-distancing measures mean there will be no street-level activities like pop-up stores and performances.

Although Christmas downtown is less glitzy this year, malls have come up with innovative ways to ring in the Yuletide season.

Link to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/consumer/orchard-rd-malls-keep-decorations-simple-for-christmas>

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## **Government**

### **Singapore, 14 countries ink world's largest trade pact**

The world's largest trade pact was inked by ministers from 15 countries including Singapore, in a move likely to spur the region's economy as it battles its worst crisis in decades.

Building on existing free trade deals among members, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will broaden and deepen economic linkages across the Asia-Pacific, ease trade in goods and services, facilitate the flow of foreign investments, and enhance protections in areas such as e-commerce and intellectual property.

RCEP members account for 30 per cent of the world's economy and one-third of its population. They comprise all 10 Asean members and key partners Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

It will eliminate tariffs for at least 92 per cent of goods, with additional preferential market access for exports. The flow of goods will also be faster.

More companies will be able to provide services in the region, with foreign shareholding limits raised for at least 50 sub-sectors including professional services, telecommunications and financial services.

Businesses will also find it easier to navigate and integrate into regional value chains.

Links to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/spore-14-countries-ink-worlds-largest-trade-pact>

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/moving-more-production-onshore-not-sustainable-approach-to-disruptions>

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/key-areas-under-the-rcep>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/easier-cheaper-for-firms-to-do-business-with-rcep-chan>

### **More Covid-19 time relief for HP, property deals**

Temporary Covid-19 relief for options-to-purchase as well as sale and purchase agreements with property developers will now be extended until March 31 next year, instead of its original Dec 31, 2020 expiry.

This was announced by the Ministry of Law (MinLaw) in a press release.

The extension will assist purchasers of residential, commercial and industrial properties who require more time to make their payments, particularly those who pay developers directly without taking a bank loan, with minimal impact to developers' cash flow.

It will also allow developers and purchasers to seek temporary protection from being sued during the relief period, if they are unable to perform any contractual obligations due to Covid-19.

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/more-covid-19-time-relief-for-hp-property-deals>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/relief-period-extended-for-some-commercial-contracts>

### **More support for growing precision engineering sector**

The growing precision engineering sector here will benefit from new enhancements to a scheme that helps companies of all sizes - and even those from other sectors - to build partnerships, said Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing.

To this end, the enhanced Pact scheme will be available until March 2022. It provides firms with support to develop capabilities and their business through partnerships with others. The scheme has supported more than 280 projects from over 1,500 firms since it was introduced in 2010.

With the new enhancements, the support rate for firms for qualifying costs will be increased from the current 50 per cent to 70 per cent for manpower categories. It will also go up to 50 per cent for

all other cost categories. Support levels now stand at 50 per cent for equipment and 30 per cent each for materials, software and professional services.

The scheme's coverage will also be extended to support the qualification of new suppliers and new or existing products.

Links to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/more-support-for-growing-precision-engineering-sector>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/companies-markets/scheme-helps-manufacturing-solutions-firm-offset-costs>

### **Singapore will likely see Budget deficit next year**

Singapore is unlikely to see a Budget surplus next February, given the ongoing economic crisis, and even a balanced Budget will be very hard to achieve, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. In fact, it may take some time for Singapore to return to "prudence and balanced Budgets", he added.

He was responding to Bloomberg News editor-in-chief John Micklethwait, who had asked if the Government will run a Budget deficit for some time, given that Singapore has drawn \$52 billion from its reserves to see the country through the crisis.

Links to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singapore-will-likely-see-budget-deficit-next-year>

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/safer-to-freeze-some-sectors-than-open-too-early-says-pm>

### **New integrated hospital in Bedok to open around 2030**

Residents in the east of Singapore will be served by a new integrated hospital located next to Bedok North MRT station when the facility opens around 2030.

Health Minister Gan Kim Yong announced that the hospital will be built on a plot of land bounded by Bedok Reservoir Road and Bedok North Road.

The general hospital will provide emergency services as well as inpatient and specialist outpatient services, while the community hospital will offer intermediate services such as rehabilitation and sub-acute care to support patients discharged from the general hospital.

SingHealth will operate the new hospital in Bedok, which will help to better serve the healthcare needs of the community in the east of Singapore, Mr Gan said.

Link to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/new-integrated-hospital-in-bedok-to-open-around-2030>

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## **Economy**

### **Singapore-Shandong trade surges to US\$3.6b in Jan-Sept this year**

Two-way trade between Singapore and Shandong province in eastern China more than doubled for the first nine months of this year to US\$3.6 billion, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Transport Chee Hong Tat said this at the 22nd Singapore-Shandong Business Council (SSBC) meeting, as he acknowledged the

resilience of the partnership and highlighted ways for Singapore and the province to deepen cooperation.

The bilateral trade figures, provided by the Shandong Department of Commerce, included trading activities by Singapore companies which imported from Shandong food and medical supplies such as surgical masks in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Mr Chee also noted in his speech that Shandong is now Singapore's fifth largest Chinese provincial destination for investment, with the Republic injecting some US\$750 million in foreign direct investment into the province last year across 70 projects.

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/singapore-shandong-trade-surges-to-us36b-in-jan-sept-this-year>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/spore-shandong-can-boost-cooperation-chee-hong-tat>

### **Companies could take over two years for business to return to normal: poll**

Singapore companies could take more than two years to return to business as usual, a regular poll from The Business Times has shown.

The corporate outlook rose from a second-quarter trough and returned in the third quarter to levels last seen at the start of the year, according to the quarterly BT-SUSS Business Climate Survey, a tie-up with the Singapore University of Social Sciences.

Half of the 156 respondents believed sales would return to pre-pandemic levels by Q3 2021.

Yet recovery also looks like an uphill slog, and it could take until Q4 2022 for the pick-up to extend to nine in 10 companies, the survey found.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/companies-could-take-over-two-years-for-business-to-return-to-normal-poll>

### **Environmental services job fair offers 350 positions**

More than 350 job vacancies in about 20 organisations are on offer at the event, which is running at the Hong Kah North Community Club.

The jobs range from waste collection truck captain to waste or recycling facility operations executive, with 20 per cent of the vacancies for professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs).

The fair is organised by Hong Kah North Grassroots Organisations in partnership with the Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS).

Link to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/environmental-services-job-fair-offers-350-positions>

### **Singapore chips demand may last despite shock October export dip**

Shipments of integrated circuits ebbed in October, catching economy watchers off guard after earlier signs of an export growth rebound in Singapore's linchpin electronics cluster.

Still, the electronics sector is expected to overcome trade tension speed bumps and continue its global upswing to drive the underlying pick-up in non-oil domestic exports (NODX). Despite a year-ago low base, NODX shrank by 3.1 per cent year on year in October - reversing the 5.8 per cent increase seen in September and breaking a four-month winning streak. The main drag came from non-electronics exports, which were down 3.9 per cent in October, against a rise of 1.7 per cent in September, according to figures put out by trade agency Enterprise Singapore. The decrease - which followed a 21.4 per cent expansion in September - came on the back of the 12.8 per cent slide in integrated circuits.

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/singapore-chips-demand-may-last-despite-shock-october-export-dip>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/unexpected-31-decline-in-spores-non-oil-exports-in-oct>

### **Prudential plans to hire up to 500 more financial consultants in 2021**

Prudential Singapore said it plans to hire more mid-career individuals and fresh graduates amid the Covid-19 downturn.

The life insurer intends to hire up to 500 more financial consultants in 2021 than this year, as the "current health crisis has triggered growing awareness of and interest in insurance", it said in a press statement.

The new hires will include up to 200 mid-career individuals selected for its new S\$1 million talent management programme, slated to launch in January next year. Eligible candidates will undergo a two-year training programme, including a 12-month competency and skilling course, Prudential noted.

The course covers both soft and hard skills such as technical training, product knowledge, leadership development, effective communications and social media content creation.

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/prudential-plans-to-hire-up-to-500-more-financial-consultants-in-2021>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/jobs/prudential-hiring-up-to-500-consultants-next-year>

### **Singapore's Emerging Stronger Taskforce forming new coalition to focus on medtech**

A new industry-led coalition focusing on medtech could create 4,000 new jobs, mostly in the areas of in-vitro diagnostics for disease preparedness, containment and control.

The coalition is one of many created in recent months under the purview of the Emerging Stronger Taskforce (EST), part of the Future Economy Council.

Dr Loo is one of the members of the EST. Together with newly appointed members Fidah Alsagoff, joint head, Enterprise Development Group and head, Life Sciences, Temasek International, and Amos Leong, president and CEO of Univac Group, the three are heading up the new coalition.

Said Dr Loo: "If it grows 10 per cent per year, there'll be a \$100 billion business and at least some of this will be contract manufacturing. (It is) estimated that we can create 4,000 new jobs of which 2,000 jobs are for PMETs and 1,000 jobs for individuals involved in product design, etc."



This will be the eighth coalition, dubbed Singapore Together Alliances for Action (AfAs). The first seven AfAs, focusing on supply chain digitalisation, sustainability, digitalising built environment, smart commerce, robotics, safe and innovative visitor experiences, as well as edutech, were convened by the EST in June to act on key growth opportunities for Singapore.

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/singapores-emerging-stronger-taskforce-forming-new-coalition-to-focus-on-medtec-0>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/spore-to-reignite-growth-with-collaborative-approach>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/six-shifts-in-the-global-economy>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/industry-led-groups-working-to-spur-growth-in-seven-key-areas>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/new-alliance-to-steer-efforts-in-medtech>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/six-new-members-to-bring-expertise-to-emerging-stronger-taskforce>

### **250,000 workers saw a pay cut between March and September**

About 250,000 employees had their wages cut between March and September, according to notifications received by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

This is about 7 per cent of the estimated 3.37 million-strong workforce here in September, excluding foreign domestic workers.

As at the end of September, the ministry had received close to 7,300 notifications on cost-cutting measures from about 5,000 employers, said a report yesterday. Since March, employers with 10 or more employees have had to notify MOM if they take cost-saving measures that affect employees' monthly salaries.

Link to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/jobs/250000-workers-saw-a-pay-cut-between-march-and-september-0>

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## **Shophouse**

### **Five shophouses, three Bukit Timah Plaza retail units for sale**

More shophouses in Singapore have come to the market, with five along Tras Street, North Bridge Road and Balestier Road launched for sale.

At the same time, three adjoining retail units at Bukit Timah Plaza are also available for purchase. These shophouses and retail units carry a combined indicative price of S\$33.3 million.

One of the shophouses sits on Tras Street with a land area of 1,994 sq ft and a total floor area of about 5,283 sq ft. The 99-year leasehold site is zoned for commercial use under the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019.

The portfolio also includes a pair of freehold shophouses along North Bridge Road occupying a land area of about 2,445 sq ft and a gross floor area of about 3,876 sq ft.

Also in the portfolio are two freehold shophouses on Balestier Road, across the road from Zhongshan Mall and Zhongshan Park. The pair spans a land area of about 3,890 sq ft and an existing gross floor area of about 5,422 sq ft.

The properties on Balestier Road are zoned for residential and commercial use, with a gross plot ratio of 3.0.

The three retail units at Bukit Timah Plaza are located at a basement level of the mall. Fully tenanted, the trio has a total strata area of about 1,322 sq ft.

The expression of interest exercise for the portfolio of shophouses and retail units closes at 3pm on Jan 5, 2021.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/real-estate/five-shophouses-three-bukit-timah-plaza-retail-units-for-sale>

### **Bukit Pasoh shophouse up for sale with S\$10.5m guide price**

Singapore's shophouse blitz is showing no signs of abating, with another one at 6 Bukit Pasoh Road up for sale at a guide price of S\$10.5 million.

The indicative price translates to about S\$3,750 per sq ft on the total floor area.

Occupying a land area of 1,363 sq ft, the central business district (CBD) shophouse has a total floor area of about 2,800 sq ft, subject to site survey.

The shophouse is zoned for full commercial use under the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019. Foreigners are eligible to buy the property, and the sale will not incur additional buyer's stamp duty.

The tender for 6 Bukit Pasoh Road will close at 3pm on Dec 17.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/real-estate/bukit-pasoh-shophouse-up-for-sale-with-s105m-guide-price>

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## **Hospitality**

### **Businesses still holding back on travel despite new green lanes**

Even as Singapore works to establish essential business travel arrangements with other countries, the take-up rate among local businesses may be limited by the onerous application and approval process, as well as a sense of caution around overseas travel.

In response to queries from The Business Times about the take-up rates for such arrangements, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Trade and Industry said it has received a "steady stream of applications" for the various arrangements including the Singapore-China Fast Lane and Singapore-Indonesia RGL.

Usage of the RGLs by members of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) has been "modest" so far, said the federation's CEO Ho Meng Kit, noting that companies recognise that these are exceptional arrangements meant for essential business travel.

SBF's Mr Ho also highlighted the possibility of needing to observe quarantines of up to two weeks after both outbound and inbound legs of a business trip as a major concern for business travellers. Those travelling to attend to urgent business needs may not have the luxury of time to spend two weeks in quarantine, and accommodation costs for up to four weeks in total, in addition to testing and other requirements, could be prohibitive especially for smaller businesses.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/businesses-still-holding-back-on-travel-despite-new-green-lanes>

### **SIA's Covid cover for Singapore-HK flights may draw bubble flyers**

Air travel bubble travellers deciding to fly with Singapore Airlines (SIA) or Cathay Pacific may want to consider one non-price distinction between the two: Covid-covered add-on travel insurance.

Those travelling on SIA and departing from either Singapore or Hong Kong can, for a fee, include travel insurance that covers certain situations arising from Covid-19 when booking a flight or add on to an existing itinerary.

In contrast, the add-on insurance available through Cathay Pacific and underwritten by Chubb Insurance Singapore expressly states that it continues to exclude all claims directly or indirectly arising from the disease.

The difference in Covid-coverage may be worth the traveller's consideration, given that most, if not all, standalone travel insurance products available in Singapore exclude claims connected to the virus or pandemic.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/transport/sias-covid-cover-for-singapore-hk-flights-may-draw-bubble-flyers>

### **'I've got you covered': 3 insurers offer plans for visitors to Singapore**

Foreign visitors entering Singapore will now be able to buy inbound travel insurance coverage for Covid-19 related costs incurred in Singapore.

Three insurers - AIG Asia Pacific Insurance, Chubb Insurance Singapore and HL Assurance - have developed travel insurance plans which provide at least S\$30,000 in coverage for Covid-19 related medical treatment and hospitalisation costs.

The announcement was made on Wednesday by Changi Airport Group (CAG) and Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on behalf of the Emerging Stronger Taskforce Alliance for Action on Enabling Safe and Innovative Visitor Experiences.

Premiums for these inbound travel insurance plans start from S\$5.35. AIG's and HL Assurance's plans are available now, while Chubb will start sales later this month.

Links to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/ive-got-you-covered-3-insurers-offer-plans-for-visitors-to-singapore>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/covid-19-insurance-for-travellers-to-spore>

### **Trade show on franchising kicks off virtually for first time**

An annual trade show that brings together the franchising and licensing community kicked off yesterday, going virtual for the first time in its 15-year history.

Organised by Sphere Exhibits, the Franchising and Licensing Asia (FLA) exhibition brings together businesses, entrepreneurs and investors from countries such as China, South Korea, Japan and the United States.

This year's iteration has 53 exhibitors and 77 international brands participating.

Businesses hail from the food and beverage, beauty and wellness and health and fitness sectors, among others.

Link to the story:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/trade-show-on-franchising-kicks-off-virtually-for-first-time>

### **Singapore FinTech Festival to feature over 40 global satellite events**

More than 40 global satellite events from around the world will join in as part of the Singapore FinTech Festival (SFF) x Singapore Week of Innovation & TeCHnology (SFF x SWITCH) 2020, in a first for the annual affair.

To be held from Dec 7-11, SFF x SWITCH 2020 will feature a hybrid format that will combine a 24/7 online event platform with global satellite events from cities ranging from Warsaw to Nairobi to Washington DC.

Participants can access live content broadcasts running round-the-clock and on-demand sessions.

Link to the story:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/banking-finance/singapore-fintech-festival-to-feature-over-40-global-satellite-events>

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