Globalizing Singapore: One Global City, Global Networks, and the Developmental State

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Globalizing Singapore

Presentation Outline

- Placing global cities
- Singapore – THE global city-state
- Global production networks and regional integration in Southeast Asia
- Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster
Placing global cities

- Connecting knowledge, creativity, and economic development at the urban scale: varieties of global cities

- Beyond the internal attributes of creative cities
  - Strategic coupling of creative cities and transnational networks
  - The role of global networks
  - Singapore – from THE global city-state to THE global knowledge cluster: territoriality and extra-territoriality in global flows
1. Hyper Global Cities

- Very well integrated into the global economy through both inward and outward flows

- Global city-regions
  - Cities

  e.g. London and New York

2. Emerging Global Cities

- More reliance on inward flows from the global economy

- Global city-regions

- A/B Emerging global cities
  - Cities

  e.g. Shanghai and Dubai

How does Singapore fit in as a global city state?
- a marker of the transition towards a knowledge based economy

- an indicator of the increasingly significant role of information technology in underlying global development processes

- a symbol of social control and surveillance in high-tech authoritarian times

- a celebratory icon of the new Millennium

- knowledge, innovation and talents?
Singapore – THE global city-state

- Characteristics
  - National political capacity and legitimacy
  - Avoidance of national-versus-urban politics
  - Colonialism and post-colonial dynamics: outward orientation and cosmopolitanism
Singapore – THE global city-state

- Global reach: a globalizing city by default

  - Deliberate effort by strategic actors to extend their influence and relations beyond their limited geographic space: elites in private firms, social organizations, and state institutions

  - Global city-state – a powerful node in global networks AND an important window to extend our “spheres of influence” in the global economy
Singapore – THE global city-state

- Global reach: a global city by default
  - Developmentalism: state institutions and policy frameworks in *UrbanNational* developmental strategies

FIGURE 4. Singapore as a Global City-State

- Very well integrated into the global economy and experience direct influence

- Global city-regions
- Global city-state
- Cities

Source: Adapted from Olds and Yeung (2004: Figure 2).
Global production networks and regional integration in Southeast Asia

Dynamics of global production networks

- What are lead firms? Market control through product and market definition
- Lead firms and partners in global production networks: OEMs, ODMs, EMS, and strategic partners
- Three competitive drivers in GPNs: cost (spatial fix), flexibility (organizational fix), and speed (technological fix)
- Technological upgrading and innovative knowledge development
FIGURE 1. A Stylized Example of Global Production Networks
Figure 1. Changing industrial organization and global production networks and their impact on knowledge diffusion

Source: Ernst (2005: Figure 1, p.11).
Global production networks and regional integration in Southeast Asia

GPN dynamics and regional integration in Southeast Asia: processes of strategic coupling

- The emergence of transnational communities
- Changes in industrial organization
- Initiatives by states and institutions
Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster

- Economies of urbanization = economies of agglomeration
  - Clusters as deliberate state-driven attempt
  - Innovation and knowledge development
  - R&D activities in geographical clusters
  - Spatial contiguity in innovation processes
Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster

Some examples:

- Financial services
- Electronics (e.g. HDD): Singapore and Penang-Greater Bangkok
- Petrochemicals and biomedical sector: Singapore’s Jurong Island
- What next?? Cultural industries?
Figure 3. The role of Singapore in Seagate’s hard disk drive production network

Source: Adapted from Gourevitch et al. (2000: Figures 1 and 3).
Figure 4. DHL’s global connectivity in the electronics production networks

Source: Bowen and Leinbach (2006: Figure 4).
Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster

- Implications for future pathway

  - Innovative clusters as intentional creation: both local and non-local flows of capital, people, knowledge

  - Less coordinated and managed national innovation and knowledge system: critical to creative cities

  - Continual importance of political credibility and policy consistency