



MEDIA RELEASE

PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES *FROM SINGAPORE TO SINGAPOREAN: THE BICENTENNIAL EXPERIENCE*

A revamped edition of a book charting Singapore's 700-year history, as well as an online interactive book were also launched

Singapore, 30 May 2019 – The centrepiece event of this year's Bicentennial commemoration, *From Singapore to Singaporean: The Bicentennial Experience*, was launched today at Fort Canning Park, ahead of its public opening on 1 June. Officiated by President Halimah Yacob, *The Bicentennial Experience* comprises an indoor multimedia showcase and an outdoor exploratory trail, taking visitors back in time to witness key moments in Singapore's history.

Members of the public can also take a deep dive into Singapore's 700-year journey with the release of *Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore*, co-written by four of Singapore's foremost historians. Besides this hardcopy book, an online interactive book, 700years.sg, will also be released.

Exploring Singapore's history through time and space

Set in the historic Fort Canning Park, *From Singapore to Singaporean: The Bicentennial Experience* tells the story of our country's evolution in the preceding 500 years before the arrival of the British in 1819, presented in two showcases: *Time Traveller*, an indoor experiential journey through the nation's history, and *Pathfinder*, a series of outdoor pavilions and installations designed to show Singapore's connections with the rest of the world.

Entry to *The Bicentennial Experience* is free of charge and open to all. Ticket bookings for June opened to the public in April, and over 75 per cent of tickets have been snapped up. Tickets for July will open in the first week of June, and tickets for subsequent months will be made available within the first week of the preceding month via the [Singapore Bicentennial website](#) and at the ticketing counter at Fort Canning Centre.



Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore and 700years.sg

In conjunction with the launch of *The Bicentennial Experience*, the Singapore Bicentennial Office has released a hardcopy book titled *Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore* and an online interactive book, accessible at 700years.sg.

Penned by four prominent historians – Kwa Chong Guan, Derek Heng, Peter Borschberg and Tan Tai Yong, *Seven Hundred Years* offers a singular historical trajectory for Singapore over seven centuries. Building on the foundations of an earlier book, *Singapore, a 700-Year History: From Early Emporium to World City*, this edition is written in a compelling and accessible manner. It also includes new discoveries and insights from historical sources that have emerged in the last ten years, including the research of Associate Professor Borschberg, an addition to the original trio of historians. *Seven Hundred Years* will be on sale at all major bookstores as well as at Fort Canning Centre from 1 June.

To further engage Singaporeans of all ages, an online interactive book – 700years.sg has also been launched. Designed for the social media-savvy generation of today, 700years.sg showcases the multiple perspectives of our history through the imagined social feeds of historical characters from various epochs over the past 700 years. Through this, readers will be able to discover and make sense of Singapore’s history in their own ways. The interactive book will be rolled out in phases, starting with characters from the pre-colonial period, including Sang Nila Utama, Parameswara and explorer Jacques de Coutre.

The interactive book is accessible at the URL www.700years.sg.

Minister Desmond Lee, Co-Chair of the Ministerial Steering Committee for the Singapore Bicentennial said, “Reactions from over 10,000 visitors during the two-week preview of *The Bicentennial Experience* have been extremely encouraging. Of those surveyed, over 90 per cent of respondents indicated that their knowledge of our history has increased. The two books we are launching alongside *The Bicentennial Experience* are thus



important and timely complements, and we hope many will take the opportunity to discover more about our 700-year history.”

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AKA Asia, on behalf of the Singapore Bicentennial Office
Prime Minister's Office

About the Singapore Bicentennial

The Singapore Bicentennial marks the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the British in Singapore, a key turning point in our history. But our story didn't start in 1819 – it started 700 years ago. The Singapore Bicentennial is an occasion for us to reflect on this history, before and after 1819; to understand our journey from a place with a geographically strategic location, to a people with a unique Singaporean DNA. The commemoration seeks to feature the huge cast of contributors who've led to our evolution, look at the regional and global developments that have influenced our place in the world, and more.

About the Singapore Bicentennial Office

Part of the Prime Minister's Office, the Singapore Bicentennial Office (SBO) is committed to coordinating a nationwide commemoration that incorporates partner agencies and various community groups in programmes that contribute to a shared reflection and appreciation of Singapore's longer history. SBO is guided by an Advisory Panel comprising historians, archaeologists and community leaders, and supported by a diverse group of volunteers in this ground-up initiative.

Beyond events, SBO collaborates with many longstanding religious and educational institutions, associations and clans, as well as businesses and individuals, to provide research and resource support, even as they make plans to release a range of diverse projects and products. We hope that this will generate interest and spark reflection on our rich cultural heritage.