

First batch of Singapore Chronicles titles launched

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SINGAPORE: The first 10 titles of a 50-volume series on the evolution of Singapore was launched on Thursday (Dec 10).

Called the Singapore Chronicles, the series covers various aspects from governance and economy to food and sports. The first 10 titles, launched by Finance Minister and SG50 Steering Committee Chairman Heng Swee Keat on Thursday, are: Colonial Singapore, Constitution, Defence, Diplomacy, Education, Eurasians, Heritage, Indians, Law and Presidency.

"Each of the books will be giving the reader a very quick historical overview, and highlight two or three key issues, burning issues. It will also suggest the trend towards the future, but the most important thing we hope the reader will get from this is what makes Singapore Singapore, what were the cardinal principles, the key driving forces," said Mr Arun Mahizhnan, general editor of the Singapore Chronicles.

Each volume in the series is between 100 and 150 pages, and written by subject experts from the public sector, academia and journalism. The titles are designed as a primer on the subject, focusing on its essential aspects and giving a historical perspective.

Said Mr Heng: "You cannot build towards the future without a deep understanding and appreciation of your past. The Singapore Chronicles serve not only as a reminder of how far we have come, but as a reference for our way forward."

"There is a certain Singapore spirit that courses through our history, and through these 50 volumes of Singapore Chronicles. The Singapore spirit is about the qualities shown by our pioneers as they made a big difference out of almost nothing by being resilient, rugged, resourceful. And the Singapore spirit is about growing our place in the world by being principled, adaptable, self-reliant, open to the world," he added.

The 10 titles are available in leading bookstores and each volume costs S\$16. A total of 1,000 copies of each title were printed. The remaining 40 titles will be published over the course of 2016.

The choice of 50 volumes commemorates the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence in 2015, and is published by the Institute of Policy Studies and the Straits Times Press.