

IPS - Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Conference on  
Addressing Social Cohesion and Integration in  
Singapore:  
November 4, 2014:

**“Practical Aspects of Promoting Social  
Integration in Singapore”**

Vicky Tan,  
ConneXions International



CONNEXIONS INTERNATIONAL  
国际联谊

5B Muswell Hill, Singapore 358431

# Social Integration

The need for this and social inclusion is the topic of this conference.

Aim of this paper:

- link concept of social capital to that of cultural intelligence,
- applied in the multi-racial & culturally diverse society of Singapore.



# Social Integration

- The implication for Singapore is real and fundamental for fostering national identity and ensuring national survival (Tan & Tan, 2013).
- The concept is operationalised as the **building of social capital**, and
- translated into **actual social relations or bonds** between people and various groups within a society.



**CONNEXIONS  
INTERNATIONAL**

**BUILDING  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS**



**CONNEXIONS  
INTERNATIONAL**

# **BUILDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

## **Our Mission:**

**To assist students, scholars and new residents:  
build relationships with internationals  
through cultural orientation, exchanges and  
assistance, English language classes and other  
special activities.**



**<http://www.connexionsinternational.net>**

** <https://www.facebook.com/ConnexionsInternational>**



BUILDING  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS

The mission of Connexions International (CXI) is to assist students, scholars and new residents adapt to Singapore, and to build relationships with internationals through cultural orientation, exchanges and assistance, language classes and other special activities. The goal is to establish goodwill between people of different nationalities.



# Building Bridges

- Working with universities, schools, religious and voluntary organizations, CXI seeks to develop friendship and assist students going overseas to study as well as international students, visitors and new immigrants coming into the country, in practical ways.



# CXI Vision

The vision of CXI is to help individuals find way to build social capital (bridging capital).

- The methodology for building social capital is through the use of cultural intelligence, as discussed in previous IPS conference presentation.
- To operationalise the concept of promoting social integration in a multicultural context, to enhance intercultural links, interactions and connections the application of cultural intelligence is critical factor.



# Social integration

- concept
- operationalised in terms of the possible building of social capital
- translated into actual social relations or bonds between people and various groups within a society.



# Cultural intelligence

- Social interaction and integration involve crossing cultures in everyday life and require cultural intelligence.



# Cultural Intelligence

- A concept for bridging and benefiting from cultural differences
- Dependence on the ability to create mutual understanding and synergy between people from different cultural backgrounds.
  - Elisabeth Plum



# Cultural intelligence

## Components:

**Knowledge about cultures  
(facts and cultural traits)**

**+ Awareness of yourself and others**

**+ Specific skills (behaviour)**



# Concept of Cultural Intelligence

- **Social skills and mental frameworks which enable us to bridge cultural differences.**
- **Cultural dynamics of a situation are the same in relation to professional, organisational, national or racial differences.**



# Definition of Cultural Intelligence

**Cultural intelligence** - the ability to be open ...

## **OPEN**

- Open minded - admit new information and is curious about the other culture
- Produce fruitful interaction and collaboration in situations where there are cultural differences.
- Endear oneself to the other and be understood
- Not inappropriate in multicultural contexts.

# CXI Launch – 5 August 2012

- CXI Board at the launch with Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.



# **CXI Launch cum International Friendship Day on Sep 16, 2012 at the Steward Riverboat.**



More than 140 guests and international students, from China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore.

**The Guest of Honour was Dr Vivian Balakrishnan launched CXI website**











# Other Events for 2013-2014

## *International Cycling event at ECP*



This cross-cultural and inter-generational event seeks to promote goodwill and friendship with internationals through an afternoon of fun filled activities and sports to foster wellness and social integration.

### Event Details

**Time** 1.45pm - 6 pm  
**Date** Saturday, 17 May 2014

**Venue**  
 - Bicycle Kiosk near Big Splash (East Coast Park)  
 - Register @ Connexions International Booth

**Need a ride?**  
**Location** Bedok MRT Station  
**Time** 1.15 pm sharp

*Please contact Dr Vicky Tan by Sed May 2014 to take a ride from the MRT station.*



### Programme



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# IFD 2013 -

- ConneXions International Singapore (CXI) celebrated its second anniversary with an International Friendship Day.
- The aim: to build friendship and assist international students and new residents in practical ways,
- IFD Theme: “Many Nations, Diverse Cultures, One World” .

Many Nations.  
Diverse Cultures.  
One World.

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY**

NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING LEVEL 5  
15 SEPTEMBER 2013, 2PM - 6PM

GUEST OF HONOUR:  
MR LAWRENCE WONG  
ACTING MINISTER, MCCY

Organised by: **cx**i  
ConneXions International

Supported by:

National Integration Council  
People's Association  
NLB  
National Library Board Singapore



# IFD 2013 at the NLB



# IFD 2013 Facts:

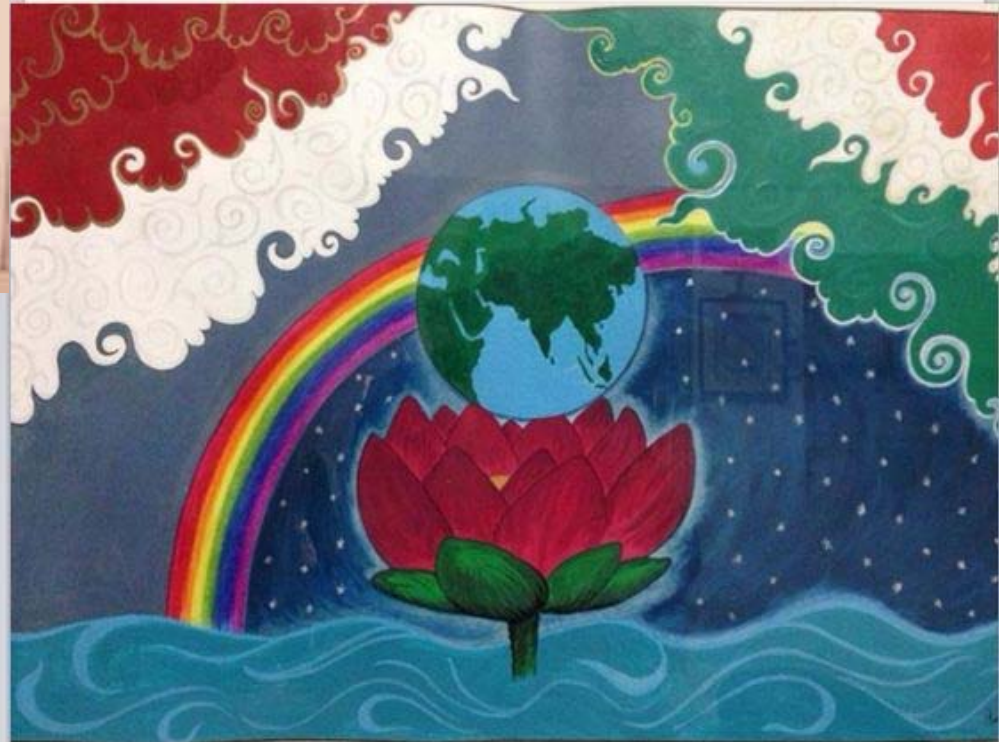
- Participants – Total about 350;
- Represented 21 nations
- Occupations – Diplomats; Locals and Students, mainly tertiary institutions; professionals in various fields.
- Students were from six institutions of higher learning including Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, AEC College, SIM University, Global Indian International School and some local Secondary schools
- Prizewinners of the Art Competition were from local Secondary & Intl schools who attended with their parents/families.

**IFD 2013:  
Art Competition –  
theme “Many Nations, Diverse  
Cultures, One world”**



**cx**i Connexions International  
4 October, 2013

Beautiful Painting by Mr Adhikary Tanmoy  
for International Friendship Day 2013.  
Title: Many Nations,  
Numerous Colours, One World.



# Many Nations. Diverse Cultures. One World.

NLB 's Presentation

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

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*Organised by:*



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National  
Integration  
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People's Association



NLB

National Library Board  
Singapore



## Other Events:

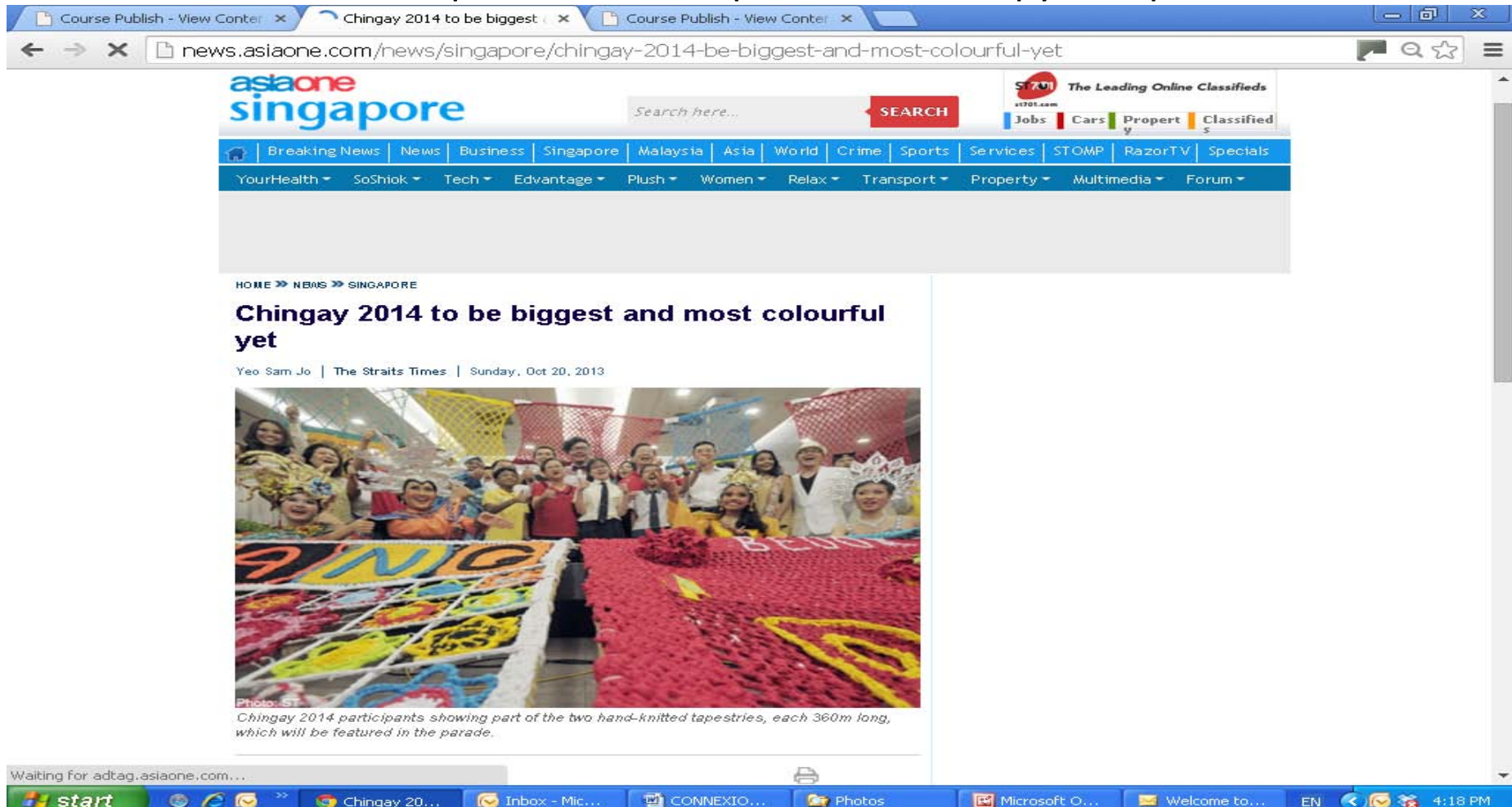
- CXI hosted a group of international students to a Christmas musical for a culture exposure.
- Many, including an Iranian family liked the concert and enjoyed the event.
- Hosted Russian and Japanese social workers
- Had talks and gatherings





# 2.5 IFD 2013 - Media Coverage:

- Channel News Asia report on 15 September 2013 see link
- [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8\\_1Y5vtIij9X2Q3MGIVVWVnRUE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8_1Y5vtIij9X2Q3MGIVVWVnRUE/edit?usp=sharing)
- Lianhe Zhao Bao reported on 16 September, see copy of report .



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a news article on the AsiaOne Singapore website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/chingay-2014-be-biggest-and-most-colourful-yet](http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/chingay-2014-be-biggest-and-most-colourful-yet). The website's header includes the "asiaone singapore" logo, a search bar, and navigation links for various categories like Breaking News, News, Business, Singapore, Malaysia, Asia, World, Crime, Sports, Services, STOMP, RazorTV, and Specials. Below the header, the article title "Chingay 2014 to be biggest and most colourful yet" is displayed, along with the author "Yeo Sam Jo" and the publication "The Straits Times" dated "Sunday, Oct 20, 2013". The main image shows a group of people, including children and adults, holding up large, colorful hand-knitted tapestries. The tapestries are long and feature various patterns and colors, including red, yellow, and blue. The caption below the image reads: "Chingay 2014 participants showing part of the two hand-knitted tapestries, each 360m long, which will be featured in the parade." The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications, and the system clock displaying "4:18 PM".



# Other Activities:

1. Post IFD Dinner get-togethers
2. Participation in Chingay Parade Feb 2014
3. Post Chingay Get Togethers
4. K Pop Dance class
5. Talks
6. Visits



# *Participation in Chingay Parade 2014*



# CXI PARTICIPANTS @ CHINGAY 2014



# Post Chingay Parade Reception with PM



# Post IFD Get Together: on Stewards Riverboat – Guests get creative



# Post IFD Get Together: on Stewards Riverboat – friendly competition n prizes



## Follow-up contacts:

Visit with students, homely dinner -







# CXI PARTICIPANTS @ CHINGAY 2014

SingTel 7:47 am 87%

Connexions International

**cxixi** Connexions International  
9 February at 12:07 am

Groups Leaders James (left) and Antonius. Antonius returned from his native Hong Kong back to Singapore and rushed over for the Parade without taking lunch.



148 people saw this post [Boost Post](#)

21 likes

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# CXI PARTICIPANTS @ CHINGAY 2014



# Post Chingay Dinner Get-togethers



# Post Events: Participants' Feedback





# Page

**cxixi** Connexions International  
Sunday at 12:27 am

Thanks for sharing your pictures, Nur!



**Nur Umairah**  
Saturday at 11:40 pm · Edited

Dinner with CXI friends .. have fun with them laugh all night .. chat with my different friends from other country  
#littleindian  
#buffaloroad#cxixi#vitenam#myanmar#indian #umairahpic #yummy



# Timeline



**Miu Nguyen**  
Saturday at 10:47 pm

Having dinner with all my CXI friends. :) —  
😊 feeling happy with Nur Umairah and 3 others.



9 Likes



# Timeline



**Miu Nguyen**

Saturday at 10:47 pm

Having dinner with all my CXI friends. :) —  
😊 feeling happy with **Nur Umairah** and 3 others.



9 Likes



News Feed



Requests



Messages



Notifications



More

# Other Activities:

## Talks

Workshop 2:

Presentation Handouts

on

***“Cross-Cultural Intelligence”***

by

**Dr Tan Ngoh Tiong**

Dean, School of Human Development

& Social Services

SIM University

**INCS**  
SEMINAR 2013

**Narrowing Fault Lines  
through Community  
Integration**



# Other Activities:

## Talks

# IPS Colloquium

## CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

*Professor Tan Ngoh Tiong, President, CXI*

*Dean HDSS, SIM University*

*Dr Vicky Tan, Executive Director, CXI*





# Other Activities:

## Visits

- Meeting with other organizations – CIF-PMO, PA and ONE SG. to network and make connections with other volunteer groups.
- **Hosting of Study Visit for 25 Social Work Professors and Social Workers from the Soviet Union**

## Social Impact

- CXI President's active role in setting up Global Institute of Social Work (GISW),
- CXI sponsored the start up and is affiliated with GISW, acting as their social outreach arm.

## Visits :

# Study Visit of Russian Social Work Professors and Social Workers



**IFD 2014 –  
August 24,  
at NLB  
“Festival  
of  
Nations”  
with  
Global  
Citizenship  
Forum**



**International Friendship Day 2014**

*Celebrate with international cuisine, cultural performances and a public forum on Global Citizenship!*

Co-organized by:



National Library Board  
Singapore



National  
Integration  
Council



IDEAS for a Better World Forum  
OUR BETTER WORLD  
Singapore INSIGHTS  
Words on Wheels for YOUNG

270 artists and arts groups to over 50 countries

Bookdrop





# Collaboration and Support

## Events:

- Intergenerational & Intercultural Cycling event – PA
- IFD 2013 – NLB, PA, NIC-CIF (PMO)
- Chingay 2014 – PA, NIC-CIF (PMO)
- IFD 2014 – NLB, SKM, SIF, PA

## Manpower/helpers:

- Volunteers from MND, social network,
- Students from local schools, tertiary institutions and PEIs





# Volunteers, networking & collaboration

- CXI needs more volunteers to participate and host events.
- Please see Audrey/Vicky for more details and sign-up.
- We welcome you to join us as Friends.





# Challenges



Need for volunteers,

- willing to step out of own comfort zones to reach out
- Busy time schedule, busy urban lifestyle – heavy work and other involvements
- Limitations in Resources – fundings , promoting awareness of this need

Sustainability:

- staff with volunteers,
- More support while doing the social integration.



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**Thank You**