

'Go global' call for the arts

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SINGAPORE'S creative industry was urged yesterday to take advantage of the country's role as a global hub and forge links with the best talents around the world.

Said the chief executive of Mediacorp Raintree Pictures, Mr Daniel Yun: 'Like SIA, we need to see the world as our market.'

Mr Yun, whose company produced such local movie hits as *Chicken Rice War* and *I Not Stupid*, added: 'Like other industries that have thrived, we need to work with the best around the world...and in the process, expose our creative talents to the best people in the business.'

He was one of five speakers in the afternoon session of the conference, Singapore Perspectives 2006, *Going Global: Being Singaporean in a Globalised World*.

Regional cooperation and the rise of India and China were also discussed.

Professor Amitav Acharya, deputy director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies highlighted especially the excellent bilateral relations Singapore has with such Asian giants as China, Japan and India as well as the United States. These ties can enable Singapore to play a role in being a bridge between these nations and countries in the region.

Agreeing, a participant said that Singapore could also help bring countries with different political interests together and this can, in turn, improve regional economic development.

On the topic of economic integration, Mr Rodolfo Severino, former secretary-general of Asean and now a visiting senior research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, spoke on Singapore's role in aiding regional integration.

He said Singapore could help its regional neighbours by sharing what it has achieved. He cited areas such as economic competitiveness and development cooperation.

He noted that the Singapore Government has a development programme for Asean members, particularly the newer ones. It has a training centre in the capitals of the newer members: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

In addition, a fairly large number of scholarships are made available to Asean nationals in Singapore universities.