

SUPPORT FOR SINGAPORE'S MEASURES

World Health Organization

<http://www.sars.gov.sg/archive/WHO%20Praises%20S'pore's%20Moves%20To%20Fight%20Virus.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has praised Singapore for its measures to contain the SARS outbreak. WHO communicable diseases chief David Heymann said: "We're very pleased with the efforts that are being made, and I believe that we are confident that the epidemic has peaked and that it's on its way down."

(The Straits Times, 1 May 03)

US President George W Bush

<http://www.sars.gov.sg/archive/Joint%20Statement%20between%20the%20USA%20and%20Singapore.html>

In a joint press statement issued (6 May) between the US and Singapore after a meeting between US President George W Bush and Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, it was noted that "President Bush commended Singapore for its quick, decisive, and transparent response to SARS and expressed confidence that Singapore's efforts to prevent the spread of the disease would succeed."

American Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.amcham.org.sg/News/Press%20Releases/American%20Businesses%20endorse%20Singapore%20on%20SARS%20april%202003.doc>

On 24 April, the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore issued a strong endorsement of the steps being undertaken by the Singaporean government to deal with the current outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS.

It said Singapore deserved recognition for:

- A robust, highly coordinated and proactive strategy to the SARS outbreak that has involved preventative measures such as closure of schools, home quarantine restrictions, and the prompt tracking of SARS transmissions;
- An open and transparent approach towards release of information about SARS, outreach programs to the community and business sector, and willingness to work with international health care authorities;
- Ground-breaking use of technology, such as thermal imaging sensors at airports, in a bid to balance the needs for border checks with the desire to maintain international freedom of travel;
- A medical system that is providing SARS victims with world-class treatment; and
- An emphasis on providing a clean and hygienic environment within Singapore that mitigates the potential for the spread of any disease, including SARS.

“In short, although the battle with SARS has not yet been won and there may be significant challenges ahead, AmCham believes the Singaporean authorities are taking the right steps, under extremely trying circumstances, to confront the SARS problem. Singapore has taken a leadership role, globally, in the fight against SARS and its approach is a model to be adopted by other countries,” Chairman, Ms Kristin Paulson said.

“Although the number of SARS cases in Singapore is clearly of concern, it must be remembered that all these cases have been traced back to a small handful of people who brought the disease into Singapore. Unfortunately a few of these people have turned out to have been particularly infectious, but that should not detract from the significance of Singapore’s overall efforts at containing SARS.”

Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry

On 13 May, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Singapore (JCCI) issued a press release to express its “deep appreciation for the efficient measures and transparent attitude which the Singapore government has taken in handling the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)”. JCCI President Takashi Muraki said: “Singapore has made the right decisions promptly ever since the first outbreak of the deadly virus in March; based on the knowledge they had at that time. The government’s open and transparent attitude in handling the crisis has definitely helped to win the confidence of foreign investors, including Japanese companies.” Mr. Muraki also expressed his confidence that Singapore would overcome this crisis in the shortest possible time.

JCCI noted that besides thorough nationwide precautionary measures, “Singapore also wasted no time in organising a regional response and taking the lead in the initiative. The Chamber applauds this action to initiate a common united strategy and understands international cooperation is necessary in order to curb the spread of the infectious disease in the region.”

“Singapore’s ability to respond promptly and effectively to the crisis has definitely reaffirmed the Chamber’s confidence in Singapore as a safe place to invest and live in,” it said.

Swiss Business Association

[http://www.sars.gov.sg/archive/Swiss%20Salute%20For%20S'pore%20Response%20\(ST\).html](http://www.sars.gov.sg/archive/Swiss%20Salute%20For%20S'pore%20Response%20(ST).html)

“Swiss businessmen told (Singapore) government officials ... that they are convinced Singapore has been taking all necessary steps to deal with the outbreak. Mr Manfred P. Rist, SBA chairman, said: 'Singapore has been so efficient and straightforward in putting all the measures in place. We Swiss fully understand this, as we would probably have done the same.' ... And the diagnosis from Swiss businessmen on Singapore's response to SARS was an unqualified thumbs-up. 'There was absolutely no complaint about what more can

be done by the Singapore Government,' said Mr Rist.” – The Straits Times, 6 May 03

German Business Association

[http://www.sars.gov.sg/archive/German%20Business%20Association%20Praises%20Singapore%20Efforts%20To%20Fight%20SARS%20\(CNA\).html](http://www.sars.gov.sg/archive/German%20Business%20Association%20Praises%20Singapore%20Efforts%20To%20Fight%20SARS%20(CNA).html)

“The German Business Association (GBA) has commended the Singapore government for its efforts in fighting the SARS virus. GBA says the swift response has cemented Singapore's reputation as a role model for crisis management in the region. It says Singapore's decisive and transparent action has also further boosted business and investor confidence in the country.” – Channel NewsAsia, 12 May 03

European Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.eurocham.org.sg/background%20files/press%20release.htm>

The European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore said that not only had the Government's open and thorough communication from the outset “minimised speculation”, but it also helped to build confidence and trust among the population and business community. “We believe that the way in which the Singapore authorities and the people have dealt with this crisis to date clearly demonstrates that Singapore deserves a renewed vote of confidence from foreign investors in years to come,” said EuroCham president Shanker Iyer. - The Straits Times, 30 Apr 03

British Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.britcham.org.sg/asp/NewsDetail.asp?OrigNewsId=643>

In an open letter sent to more than 100 business groups around the world on 29 Apr 03, the British Chamber of Commerce said: “Although none of us have a crystal ball, BritCham has confidence that if any nation can deal with the SARS situation, Singapore can.” Though travel from Britain to Singapore had been affected recently, BritCham also said travellers should be “reassured” rather than “frightened” by measures to ring-fence Changi Airport. The Straits Times (30 Apr 03) reported: “Singapore's move to install non-intrusive thermal scanners at Changi Airport to detect anyone with an abnormally high temperature was 'surely the ultimate in global social responsibility' and showed that the Republic was leading the world in dealing with SARS, said BritCham.”