

Singapore turned 13 in 1978. A second generation of government ministers was coming to grips with nation building. Plans for a new airport at Changi were underway. Whether to build an MRT was a hotly debated topic. Men with long hair were fined or denied entry. FOM was founded and **its “initial programmes focused on Study Groups.”** (from the FOM website)

ASEAN was 10 years old and had 5 members. China was becoming more active 2 years after Mao Zedong’s death. Japan’s electronics were all the rage; however the revolutionary Sony Walkman was not yet in the stores. Asian 1978 GDP per person was USD 1000; in 2016 it was USD 10,000.

Come join us as we learn about Asia and Singapore 40 years ago. Here are a few suggested topics, but feel free to develop your own!

- Entertainment in the late 70’s, early 80’s. What were Singaporeans listening to and watching. Colour TV was still new.
- Land Reclamation: Marina Centre & Marina South: 1978 to today
- Kuo Pao Kun: socio-political playwright (detained 1976 - 1980 under Internal Security Act)
- HDB towns developed in the late 1970’s, early 80’s: Are they still around?
- From 1978 to now: Comparative statistics for Singapore & Asia
  - Population, GDP, Literacy, Traffic, etc.
- Laying the Groundwork for Technological Innovation: Sony’s amazing products of the late 70’s, early 80’s
  - Walkman, Compact Disc (CD), Betamax
- Singapore Governmental Social Campaigns
  - Keep Singapore Clean, Speak Mandarin, Road Courtesy, etc.
- Japanese High Fashion Designers
  - Kenzo Takada, Kansai Yamamoto, Hanae Mori

- Major Political Developments of 1978
  - The Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty
  - USA & PROC establish formal diplomatic relations
- The Cambodian / Vietnamese War: China - USSR proxy war or old animosities?
- Bollywood movies of 1978
- KoreaGate - why did Tongsun Park, the Asian Great Gatsby, bribe US congressmen?