



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SINGAPORE HONOURS DENG XIAOPING WITH A DEDICATED MARKER**

**Singapore, 14 November 2010** – In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and China, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, who is on an official visit to Singapore, unveiled the Deng Xiaoping marker at the Asian Civilisations Museum Green today. The marker is part of National Heritage Board's (NHB) efforts to enrich the public's understanding of Singapore's unique role in regional and world history, as well as honour the achievements of one of China's outstanding leaders.

The Deng Xiaoping marker is the fourth marker in NHB's *Friends to Our Shores* series, which commemorates eminent overseas personalities who had a connection to Singapore.

Deng was the first senior Chinese leader to visit Singapore. His visit in 1978 spurred subsequent interactions in various fields between the two countries.

Professor Tommy Koh, Chairman of NHB said: "This marker records Deng's historic visit in 1978, pays tribute to him as the architect of China's spectacular success and expresses our gratitude for his contributions to the flourishing relations between our two countries."

Comprising a text panel and a bronze bust of Deng commissioned by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the marker was brought to fruition by the joint efforts of the Chinese Embassy and NHB.

For more information, please refer to the attached documents:

**– Factsheet on the Deng Xiaoping marker**

- ANNEX 1 – NHB's *Friends to Our Shores* markers
- ANNEX 2 – Text on the Deng Xiaoping marker

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### **About the National Heritage Board**

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging partnerships with both private and people sector counterparts. NHB leverages on state-of-the-art technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting for different audiences. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, the Preservation of Monuments Board and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1 August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA). Please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

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## **Factsheet on the Deng Xiaoping Marker**

In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and China, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, who is on an official visit to Singapore, unveiled the Deng Xiaoping marker at the Asian Civilisations Museum Green on 14 November 2010 (Sun).

This is NHB's fourth marker to be unveiled under its *Friends to Our Shores* series (please refer to ANNEX 1), which commemorates the connection between Singapore and eminent personalities who contributed much to his or her home country and are revered by his or her people. These persons must also have had links to Singapore, either as a visitor or diplomat.

The marker comprises a text panel and a bronze bust of Deng by Chinese sculptor, Li Xiangqun (李象群), commissioned by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. It also features Deng's signature etched below the bust, and a famous quote by Deng, "Development is of overriding importance" (发展才是硬道理), inscribed at the back of the marker.

The marker sets in stone the accomplishments of this visionary – detailing his early life, political activities, his visit to Singapore in 1978, how Singapore inspired him in initiating economic policies, and his role in Singapore-China relations. (Please refer to ANNEX 2 for more details)

A result of the joint efforts of the Chinese Embassy and NHB, the marker reflects closer bilateral ties between Singapore and China, and will bring people together to share and learn about our history.

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### **NHB's 'Friends to Our Shores' Markers**

NHB's *Friends to Our Shores* series of markers commemorates eminent personalities from abroad who had a connection to Singapore, by erecting a marker on the person. The personality must be revered by his or her people back home, had contributed much to the country of origin and had links to Singapore, either as a visitor or diplomat.

Highlighting the significant role that Singapore has played in regional as well as world history, this series aims to increase Singaporeans' understanding of our history and how we are intricately linked to the region. It is part of NHB's ongoing efforts to forge heritage collaborations with our regional and international neighbours.

Started in 2004, three personalities have been featured other than Deng Xiaoping. They are: Joseph Conrad, a Polish-born English writer (2004), Ho Chi Minh, the first President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (2008) and Dr Jose Rizal, national hero of the Philippines (2008).

- **Joseph Conrad marker (2004)** – a Polish-born English writer who made Singapore and the whole of Southeast Asia better known to the world. This plaque was officially unveiled by H.E. Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of the Republic of Poland, on 24 February 2004.  
Refer to: [http://heritagetrails.sg/content/516/Joseph\\_Conrad\\_Plaque.html](http://heritagetrails.sg/content/516/Joseph_Conrad_Plaque.html)
- **Ho Chi Minh marker (2008)** -- On 20 May 2008, Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem unveiled a heritage marker dedicated to Ho Chi Minh – the father of modern Vietnam, at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) Green. This was held to commemorate the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Vietnam.
- **Dr Jose Rizal marker (2008)** – In an affirmation of the strong friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and Singapore, H.E. President S R Nathan unveiled a heritage marker dedicated to Dr Jose Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines, on 19 June 2008. The ceremony at the ACM Green was witnessed by the Philippines' Secretary of Education, Mr Jesli Lapus and Chairman of the National Heritage Board Professor Tommy Koh.
- **Deng Xiaoping marker (2010)** – Unveiled on 14 November 2010 in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and China, the Deng Xiaoping marker is the fourth in the *Friends to Our Shores* series.

For this series of markers, the NHB works closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective foreign embassies.

To give each marker a unique identity, each marker usually includes an artwork created by an artist from the country of origin. This also provides the overseas counterparts a platform to showcase their artists. For example, the Joseph Conrad and Jose Rizal markers include a medallion crafted by a leading sculptor from Poland and the Philippines respectively. The artwork is sponsored by the respective embassies located in Singapore. A famous quote by the personality and his/her signature are also incorporated into the marker.

**Text on the Deng Xiaoping Marker (English)**

**Deng Xiaoping (1904 – 1997)**

Originally known as Deng Xiansheng and his school name Deng Xixian, Deng Xiaoping was born on 22 August 1904 in Guang'an County, Sichuan Province. In 1920, Deng left for studies in France. His six-year stay in France proved to be a turning point in his life. He met Zhou Enlai and other founders of the Communist Youth League in Europe, and joined the League in 1923 and the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1924.

In early 1926, Deng left Paris for Moscow to study at Sun Yat-Sen University. Deng returned to China in the Spring of 1927. He played an instrumental role in the revolutionary struggle led by the CPC. After the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, Deng held a number of important leadership positions and became the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee in 1956. Deng's career suffered a setback during the ten years of the "cultural revolution". After the end of the "cultural revolution", he returned to work and eventually became the Vice Chairman of the CPC Central Committee in 1977 and Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission in 1981. In 1978, Deng launched the reform and opening-up policy which paved the way for China's rapid growth and development in the following decades. Deng visited Singapore in the same year.

**Reforms**

Deng was a staunch communist and a great patriot who aspired to achieve China's rejuvenation. On the domestic front, he implemented bold reforms. Internationally, he took steps to gradually open China up to the world. Deng's economic and administrative reforms were marked by pragmatism, and served the need for social order and a corrupt-free government. His pragmatic approach towards reforms is best captured in his own words, "It does not matter if it is a yellow cat or a black cat as long as it catches mice". He introduced the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics. All forms of economic controls were relaxed and the first group of

Special Economic Zones (Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou and Xiamen) were initiated. These economic initiatives resulted in exponential growth for China. Internationally, Deng started China's closer ties with the world. Relations with the United States were normalised on 1 January 1979.

### **Singapore-China Relationship**

In November 1978, Deng paid his first and only official visit to Singapore. He was impressed with what he saw and showed a particular interest in the benefits of foreign investments for Singapore. At the Third Plenum of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC in 1978, Deng initiated the dual policies of economic reform and openness to the world. His visit in Singapore also laid the foundation for the strong ties that exist between the two countries today, even though diplomatic relations were established only on 3 October 1990. Following Deng's famous Southern Tour in 1992, when he commented on Singapore's good social order and management, many Chinese officials were sent to Singapore for training. Over the years, the bilateral relationship had been further deepened through the frequent exchange of high-level visits, strong economic cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.

Deng passed away on 19 February 1997 at the age of 93. He is best remembered as one of the most successful statesmen of modern China, and the chief architect who transformed China into an economic giant.

## 邓小平纪念碑碑文(中文)

### 邓小平（1904—1997）

邓小平，原名邓先圣，学名邓希贤，四川广安人，生于 1904 年 8 月 22 日。1920 年赴法国勤工俭学。在法国学习的六年成为他人生的转折点。在那里，他结识了旅欧中国共产主义青年团的创始人周恩来等人，于 1923 年加入中国共产主义青年团，之后于 1924 年加入中国共产党。

1926 年初，邓小平离开巴黎赴莫斯科中山大学学习。1927 年春回国。他在中国共产党领导的革命战争中发挥了重要作用。1949 年新中国成立后，他担任多个重要领导职务，于 1956 年担任中共中央委员会总书记。十年“文化大革命”期间，其事业遭遇挫折。“文化大革命”结束后，他重新出来工作，于 1977 年当选中共中央副主席，1981 年当选中共中央军事委员会主席。1978 年，他倡导实行改革开放政策，为中国之后几十年的迅速发展开辟了道路。同年，他访问了新加坡。

### 改 革

邓小平是一名坚定的共产主义者，也是一名伟大的爱国主义者，立志实现中国的伟大复兴。对内，他大胆推进改革。对外，他逐步推进开放。他推行经济和行政改革的特点是务实，符合构建社会秩序和廉政体系的需要。他推行改革的务实作风在其名言中得到最好的诠释：“不管黄猫黑猫，捉住老鼠就是好猫。”他创立了中国特色社会主义理论，主张放宽各种形式的经济管制，提出并推动建立了首批经济特区（深圳、珠海、汕头、厦门）。这些创举，给中国经济带来了几何式的增长。在国际上，他开启了中国与世界更加紧密的联系。1979 年 1 月 1 日，中美关系实现正常化。

## 新加坡—中国关系

1978年11月，邓小平对新加坡进行了首次也是唯一的一次访问，所见所闻给他留下了深刻印象。他特别注意了解外国投资给新加坡带来的好处。在1978年中国共产党十一届三中全会上，他倡导实行经济改革和对外开放两项政策。尽管新中两国于1990年10月3日才正式建立外交关系，但是这次访问为今天两国关系的发展打下了牢固基础。邓小平在著名的1992年南方谈话中曾谈到新加坡管理得好，社会秩序井然。此后许多中国官员被派到新加坡培训。多年来，两国高层互访频繁，经济合作不断加强，人文交流日益扩大，双边关系进一步深化。

邓小平1997年2月19日逝世，享年93岁。世人将牢记，邓小平是现代中国最成功的政治家之一，是推动中国成为经济强国的总设计师。