

## **Abstract**

### **Knowledge, Future Economy, Future Cities**

Cities are great venues for diversity, innovation and productivity, key drivers for economic growth. Singapore began life as a trading post of Britain and has become a major global trading hub. Over the last 50 years, the downtown of Singapore has grown into a financial centre and a commercial centre. An industrial town had grown up in South Western Singapore contributing about 20% of the GDP of Singapore. Residential towns grew to provide homes for people around Central Business District and the Industrial town in Jurong. The population has grown from 1.5m in 1960's to 5.3m. The area of land has increased through land reclamation to 710 square kilometre in the same time. The challenges of urbanization land use, demographics, transportation, health, safety, and security that Singapore faces are also the same that many cities are facing. Based on the theme of "Technology and Society", this presentation will highlight how emerging technologies such as robotics and smart systems will enable Singapore as a city to continue to run an efficient and effective engine of growth. It will also outline some of the key challenges the Singapore faces, and illustrate how these technologies could alleviate them.