



PlanEX

2026

ISLANDS OF
Tomorrow

19th September 2026 · Village Hotel Sentosa



Islands of Tomorrow: Four Islands, One Big Lesson for Planners

Prologue: The day planners went island-hopping

On one Saturday morning the 19th September 2026, at Village Hotel Sentosa, a room full of planners wasn't there for the beach clubs. These planners were there firstly to attend the graduation ceremony of SICP's second cohort in the morning. A total of 36 planners graduated from L2 SICP Certification Programme. This second cohort adding to the graduates of first cohort to a total of 87 certified planners.

After a short break, the 2nd SIP PlanEx 2026 event — themed, appropriately enough, *"Islands of Tomorrow"* started.

PlanEx 2026 Islands of Tomorrow was held on Saturday, 19 September 2026 at Village Hotel Sentosa.

The event was organised by SIP CPD and awarded 8 CPD Points for SIP members, 3 CPD Points for BOA-SIA members, 4 CPD Points for SILA members, and 3 CPD Points for SISV members.

This biennial event PlanEx is exactly what its name promises: a Conversation on Planning challenges and Exchange. No jargon-shielding. No polished-only-the-good-bits storytelling. Just senior practitioners standing up and saying, here's the island, here's the problem, here's what we're trying.

PlanEx is supported by sponsors across three tiers: Gold sponsors SJ Group, DP Architects (DP Urban), ID Architects Pte Ltd and individual partner Jia FU; Silver sponsors the Housing & Development Board, URA, MORROW Architects & Planners and JTC Corporation; and Bronze sponsors CBRE Singapore, CPG Corporation, ENCITY, Henning Larsen and Ramboll.

The programme started with opening remarks by SIP President Mrs Nina Yang, followed by message from Ms Adele Tan the CEO of URA as the Guest of Honour, then four back-to-back deep dives from the following distinguished speakers:

- **Sentosa Island and the Future of Tourism (Sentosa Development Corporation)**
Ar. Chan Beng Kiat — Divisional Director of Architecture & Land Planning
- **Long Island and the Future of Growth (Urban Redevelopment Authority)**
Lee Wai Kin — Group Director of Strategic Planning Group
- **Jurong Island and the Future of Energy and Green Transition (Jurong Town Corporation)**
Tang Hsiao Ling — Director of Urban Planning, Environment & Design / Architecture
- **AI and Planning: Future of Planning Education and Profession (Singapore University of Technology and Design)**
Assoc Prof Peter Ortner — M.Arch Programme Coordinator

The summary of each speaker's presentation is elaborated in the following session, summarised and edited by SIP Knowledge Bank, including some thoughts to take back afterwards.

Island One: The Greater Sentosa Master Plan

Ar. Chan Beng Kiat

Divisional Director, Architecture &
Land Planning | Sentosa Development
Corporation [SDC]

Sentosa — “It is time for another major refresh”

Ar. Chan Beng Kiat, Divisional Director of Architecture & Land Planning at Sentosa Development Corporation, opened with a quote that set the tone for the entire day. From the National Day Rally: “Next, let us look at Sentosa. Its last major transformation was more than 15 years ago, with Resorts World and Universal Studios. It is time for another major refresh.” — PM Lawrence Wong, NDR 2026.

Sentosa today is already a formidable asset: 500 hectares, 40 attractions, 20 hotels, 120 F&B businesses, 2 championship golf courses, 1 world-class marina and 50% greenery — including 10% of Singapore’s Heritage Trees and 850 flora and fauna species.

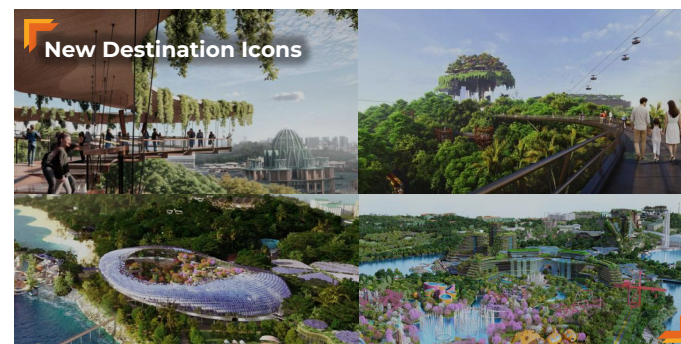
All images in this section are courtesy of Ar. Chan Beng Kiat | Divisional Director, Architecture & Land Planning, Sentosa Development Corporation



The Greater Sentosa Master Plan (GSMP) aims at a doubling of Total Island Visitorship.

Doubling visitors without doubling the crowding? That's where the planning craft kicks in. SDC's answer is **The Decompression Strategy** — a progressive decompression of development intensity, “City Buzz to Island Bliss” — expressed through five character zones: a Vibrant Cluster for lifestyle, entertainment and MICE; an Island Heart as transport hub and lifestyle commercial node; a Ridgeline heritage-and-nature zone where forest, ridgeline and terrain are playfully leveraged; a visually calm Beachfront, with each beach zone offering a distinctive mix matched to its positioning; and a new Waterfront harbourfront hub with an inclusive mix of entertainment, attractions and community spaces for both locals and tourists.

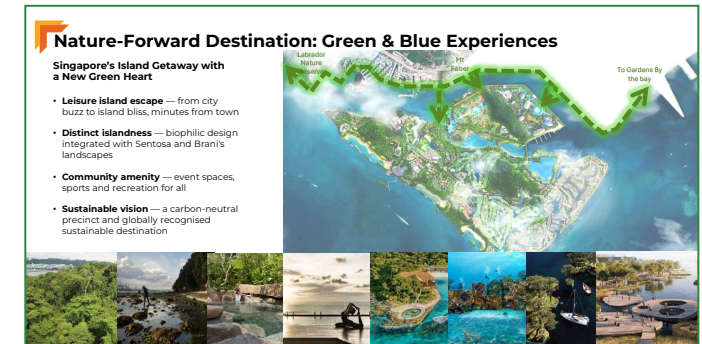
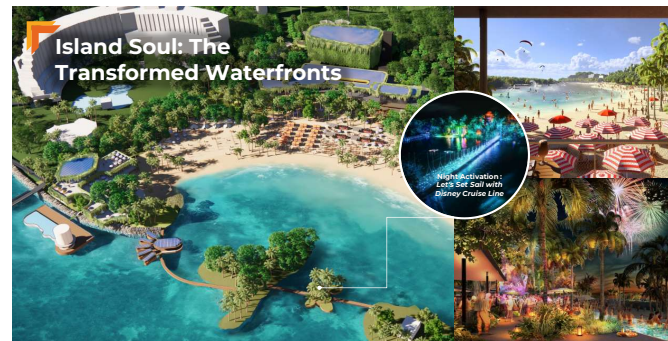
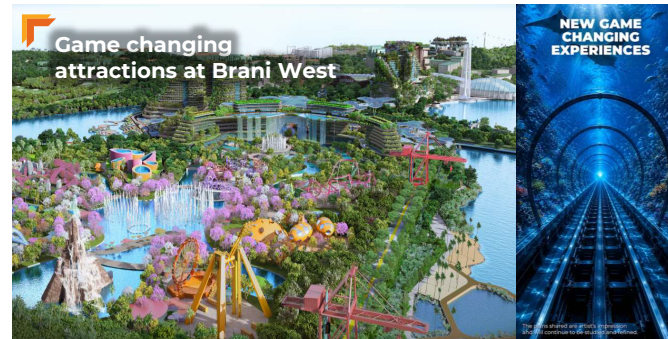
As part of URA's Greater Southern Waterfront “Southern Gateway to Asia” narrative, GSMP builds on the vision for future live, work, PLAY — with GSW as the extension of the CBD and Greater Sentosa preserving the sense of “islandness” at the city edge; 15km of continuous waterfront carrying a container port heritage identity; green linkages integrated with



the Southern Ridges; and a phased approach synced with GSW timelines.

The planning nerd's favourite slide? Green plot ratio. As a GSMP development guideline, all new developments must strive for green plot ratio provisions higher than the mainland to support the sense of “sanctuary in nature” — delivering cooler outdoor environments, reduced cooling requirements, and stronger biodiversity connectors.

And the sustainability record is not aspirational hand-waving. Sentosa has been conferred the Global Sustainable Tourism Council - For Destinations (GSTC-D) certificate in 2022, with 100% of hotels green-certified, solar power across 48 locations saving up to 2,800 tCO₂e annually which would offset the carbon emissions from 100,000 hotel room-nights. The Cool Nodes and Zones are also lowering the Physiological Equivalent Temperature (PET), or the “feels like” temperatures by up to 4°C.



Island Two:

'Long Island' — an integrated solution that will meet multiple national needs

Lee Wai Kin

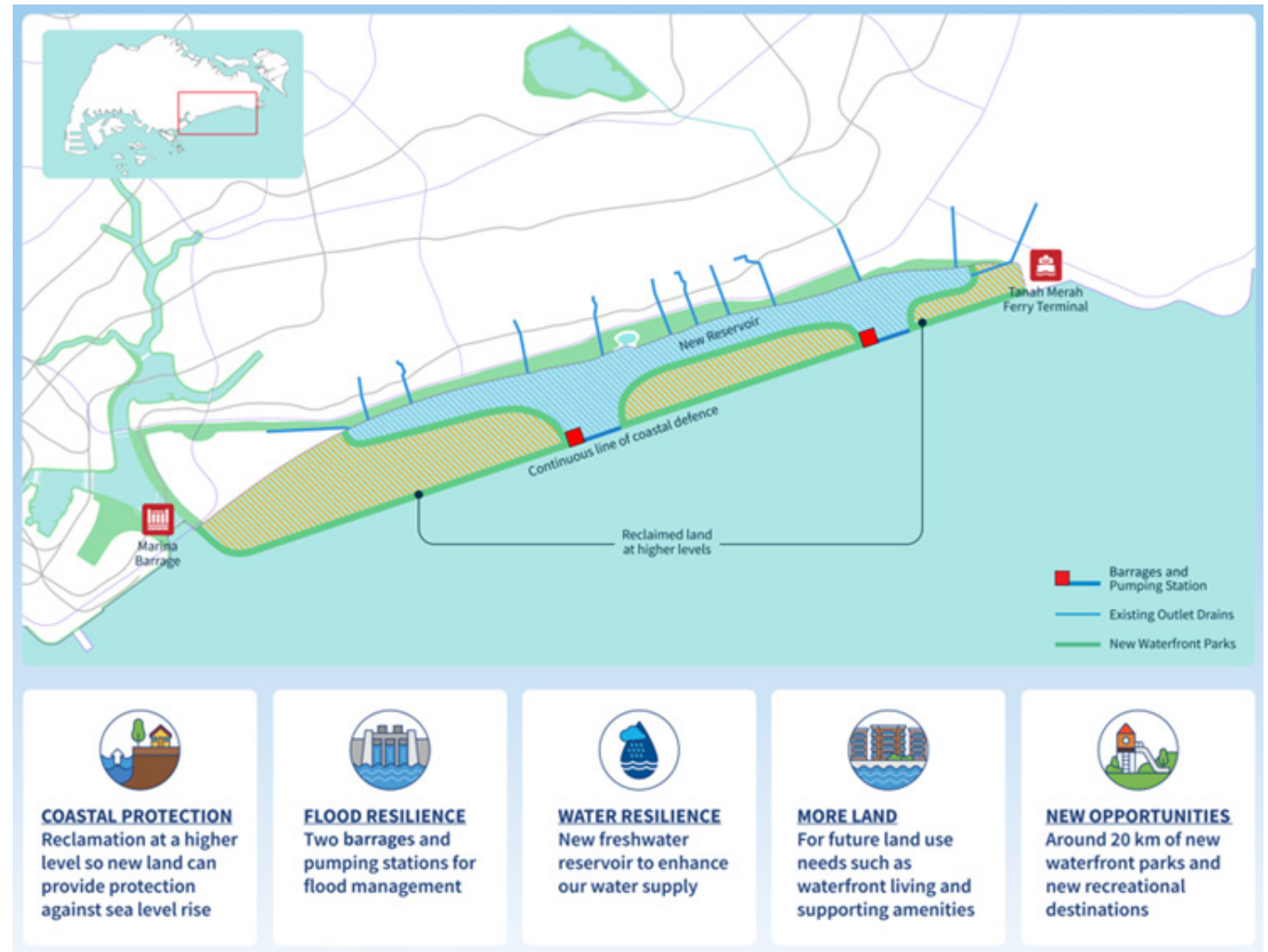
Group Director of Strategic Planning Group | URA

'Long Island' — planning for a sea that is rising

Lee Wai Kin, Group Director of URA's Strategic Planning Group, began not with the future but with the past. From our early years of independence, Singapore has always had to plan upstream and long-term to address complex and multifaceted issues.

The mass resettlement of kampung dwellers and those living in overcrowded shophouses into public housing to address multiple issues of public health, fire safety, ethnic integration and a rapidly growing population was one example cited. The reclamation of Marina Bay, which started since the 1970s, so that our city centre could expand southwards, creating new economic space, while enabling the conservation of heritage districts like Chinatown and Little India, was another example.

All images in this section are courtesy of Lee Wai Kin | Group Director, Strategic Planning Group, Urban Redevelopment Authority



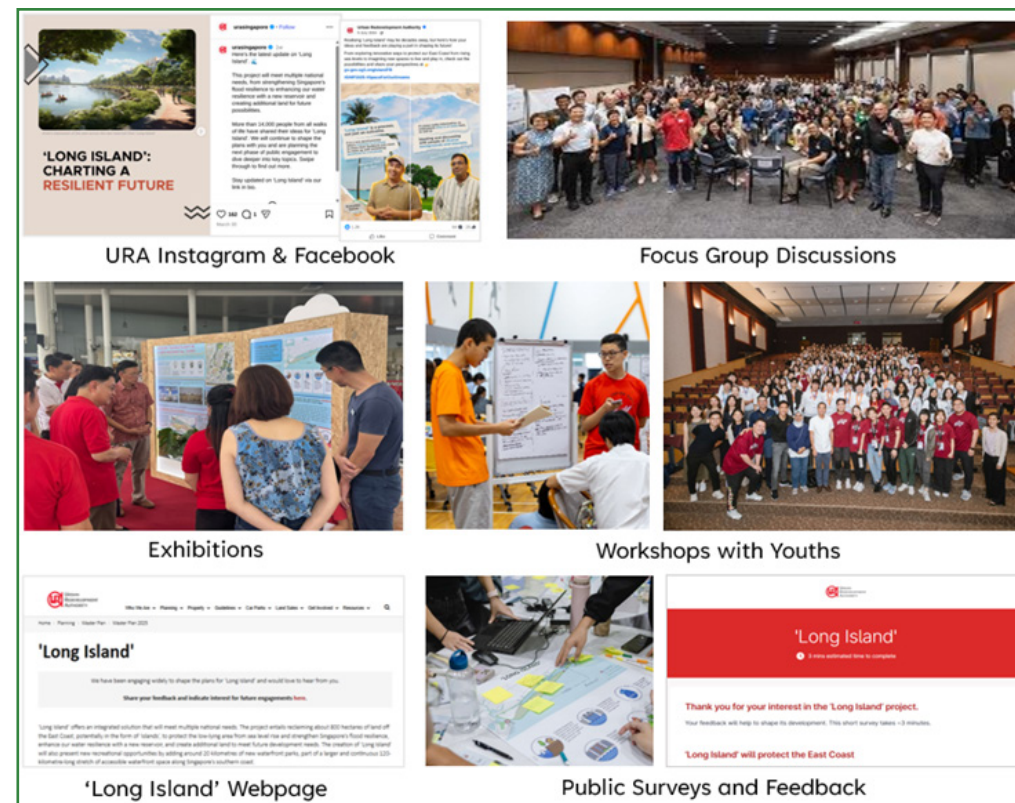
Why the history lesson? Because similar to how we used to find innovative solutions to complex and multifaceted problems and to plan for the long-term, we are doing it again with 'Long Island'. The facts are sobering. Up to 1.15 metres of mean sea level rise projected by 2100; up to 4–5 metres if extreme high tides coincide with storm surges; 30% of our land sits below 5 metres above mean sea level; and more than 50% of the population lives within 3.5 km of the coast. As a low-lying island, climate change, particularly sea level rise, poses a critical threat to Singapore. The East Coast is especially vulnerable due to its low-lying terrain — and this is already seen when high tide caused sea water to overflow a drain at East Coast Park in 2024, and to backflow into the park again in January 2026.

Enter 'Long Island': an integrated solution that will meet multiple national needs at once — coastal protection, flood resilience, water resilience, more land for future needs, and new recreation opportunities for the East Coast.

'Long Island' is not something being planned behind closed doors. Since 2023, agencies have commenced technical studies and public engagements, with over 14,000 people engaged through various online and offline platforms, including more than 10 focus group discussions.

During the engagements, participants were asked what they hoped to see in 'Long Island'. Broadly, there was consensus on the critical need to protect the low-lying East Coast, and recognition that 'Long Island' is an optimal solution.

Participants also indicated for accessible living spaces integrated with green and blue spaces, to implement works in phases to minimise impact on affected stakeholders as much as possible, and incorporate nature-based solutions to support marine life and inter-tidal habitats.



What Wai Kin shared next was a personal “Pay-It-Forward” story of how he took part in the ‘Long Island’ School Planning Project Competition as a student way back in 1992, following the release of the 1991 Concept Plan where ‘Long Island’ was first conceived. That experience got him interested in urban planning and he eventually joined the Urban Redevelopment Authority as a planner years later and is now working on the ‘Long Island’ project and partnering more stakeholders to imagine how ‘Long Island’ could present future opportunities for Singaporeans.

And the public engagement effort continues. From end-2026, agencies will begin the next phase of public engagement on topics like recreation options and connectivity issues for ‘Long Island’.

Wrapping up his sharing, Wai Kin reminded all that “Planning is essentially a long-term endeavour. ‘Long Island’ is a multi-decade endeavour. We are still at the early stages, and plans will continue to be refined through technical studies and public engagement.”



Island Three:

Jurong Island Future of Energy and Green Transition

Tang Hsiao Ling

Director_Urban Planning, Environment & Design / Architecture | JTC

Jurong Island — where one company's waste is another's raw material

Tang Hsiao Ling, Director of Urban Planning, Environment & Design / Architecture at JTC, told an origin story with a delicious twist.

EDB's then-Chairman Philip Yeo favoured an island site free of residents to minimise health and safety risks. Sentosa was considered first — but rejected, because at 3.4 km² it was far too small for the cluster's 30 km² land requirement.

All images in this section are courtesy of JTC Corporation



The masterstroke was the model, not the site. EDB adopted a cluster model in which co-located companies share infrastructure and resources — roads, utilities, water, feedstock — lowering costs and reducing waste, with an extensive pipeline network of “pipe expressways” transferring materials between plants so that one company’s output becomes another’s input.

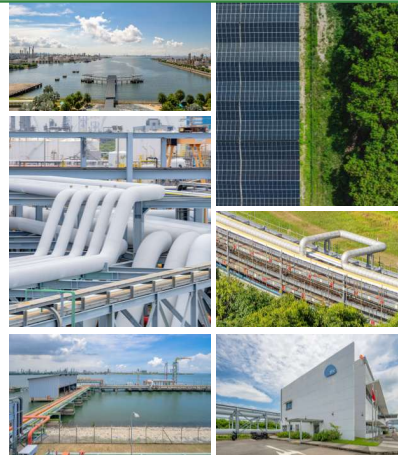
The results: Jurong Island opened on 14 October 2000 with 60 companies, over S\$20 billion invested, and 6,500 jobs. Twenty-five years on, it contributes 3% of Singapore’s GDP and supports over 27,000 jobs. Today it is a world’s top-6 refinery export hub, a world’s top-9 chemicals hub, and home to more than 100 companies.

The cornerstone of Singapore’s Energy & Chemicals industry

Jurong Island (JI) is home to **more than 100 leading global petroleum, petrochemical, and specialty chemical companies** such as ExxonMobil and Chevron-Oronite.

Built as an **integrated ecosystem** that connects suppliers to customers in one place, JI allows companies to benefit from greater economies of scale and resource efficiencies, while ensuring **the highest standards of safety, security, and operational integrity**.

[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive]



A Time of Change

World-class Integrated Energy & Chemicals Complex

Conceived to anchor Singapore’s chemicals industry, Jurong Island officially opened on **14 October 2000** with 60 companies, over S\$20 billion invested, and 6,500 jobs created.

25 years on, it has grown into a world-class integrated Energy & Chemicals complex, contributing **3% to Singapore’s GDP** and supporting over **27,000 jobs**.

Beyond oil and gas, the island also produces specialty chemicals for specific applications, enabling everyday products like rust-resistant paint and skin-strengthening diapers to perform better and last longer.

[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive]



Why Jurong Island

Site Selection & Cluster Strategy

EDB’s then-Chairman, Philip Yeo, favoured an island site free of residents to minimize health and safety risks. Sentosa was considered first, but rejected, as at 3.4 km², it was too small for the cluster’s 30 km² land requirement.

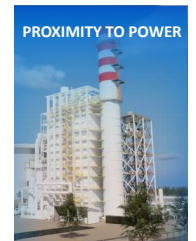
To differentiate Jurong Island from other Energy & Chemical hubs, EDB adopted a **cluster model**, central to the island’s success. Co-located companies **share infrastructure and resources** (roads, utilities, water, feedstock), lowering costs and reducing waste.

An extensive **pipeline network**, known as “pipe expressways,” transfers materials between plants, so **one company’s output becomes another’s input**.

[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive]



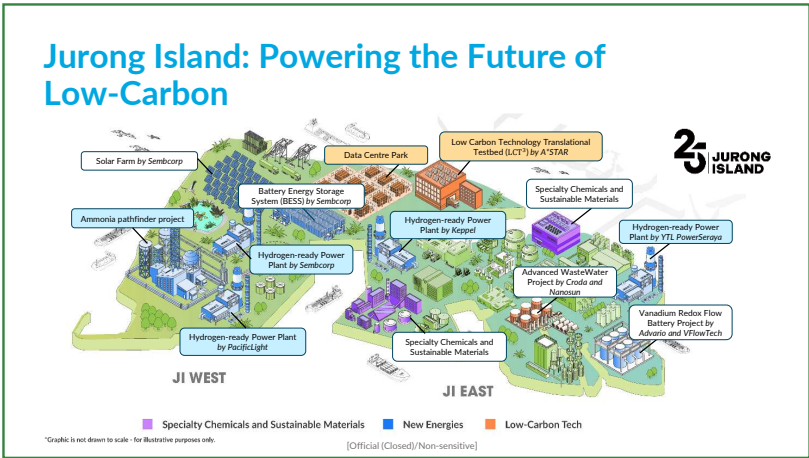
Jurong Island: Integrated Ecosystem and Infrastructure



[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive]

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And it keeps reinventing itself: Jurong Rock Caverns pioneered underground oil storage — 1.47 million m³ of capacity, saving 60 hectares of land; NParks and JTC worked with the Jurong Island community to plant 34,000 trees since 2020; and the industry-first Jurong Island Circular Economy Study saw 51 companies share data and identify synergies to reduce resource use at the system level. JTC’s self-description says it all: “JTC is more than just an industrial landlord” — playing roles as advocate for manufacturing, receptacle for innovation, leader for sustainability, and matchmaker for talent.



Renewable Energy Solar Deployment

- Renewable projects on the island, with many implemented at scale.
- SG’s largest land-based solar farm, solar rooftop deployment and energy storage system

[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive] Jurong Island Solar Farm Credit: Sembcorp

Jurong Rock Caverns
Pioneering underground space to store oil

- 1.47 mil m³ of storage for oil
- Saves 60 ha of land
- Enhanced safety and security

[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive]

Partnerships & Collaborations with Companies

JTC is more than just an industrial landlord. In fact, we play several key roles to catalyse the growth of new industries and transform existing enterprises:

Advocate for manufacturing	Receptacle for innovation	Leader for sustainability	Matchmaker for talent
Aster & Air Liquide Aster & Air Liquide have signed a MOU to jointly collaborate on the development of an innovative Auto Thermal Reformer (ATR) unit for the production of hydrogen with integrated carbon capture capabilities in Singapore.	A*STAR ISCE² & Surbana Jurong The Low Carbon Technology Translational Testbed (LCT3) will be established on Jurong Island (JI) to support the testing and scale-up of emerging low-carbon technologies in the areas of carbon capture and utilisation, and low-carbon hydrogen production processes.	JTC & Keppel Under the MOU, JTC and Keppel will explore and facilitate research, pilot studies, and proof-of-value initiatives that demonstrate technically and commercially viable low-carbon energy infrastructure solutions. The collaboration will leverage JI as a living lab for innovation and scalable deployment for new energies.	JTC & NUS Under the MOU with JTC, NUS will explore developing training modules for professionals, student projects, internships, and a course specialisation in industrial decarbonisation and sustainable digital infrastructure, to nurture future-ready talent for infrastructure projects on JI.

[Official (Closed)/Non-sensitive]

Island Four:

AI and Planning: Future of Planning Education and Profession

Assoc Prof Peter Ortner

Cheng Tsang Man Early Career Chair
Professor; MArch Programme Coordinator
SUTD ASD; Director, Net Zero Futures Lab,
Adaptive Design Lab | SUTD

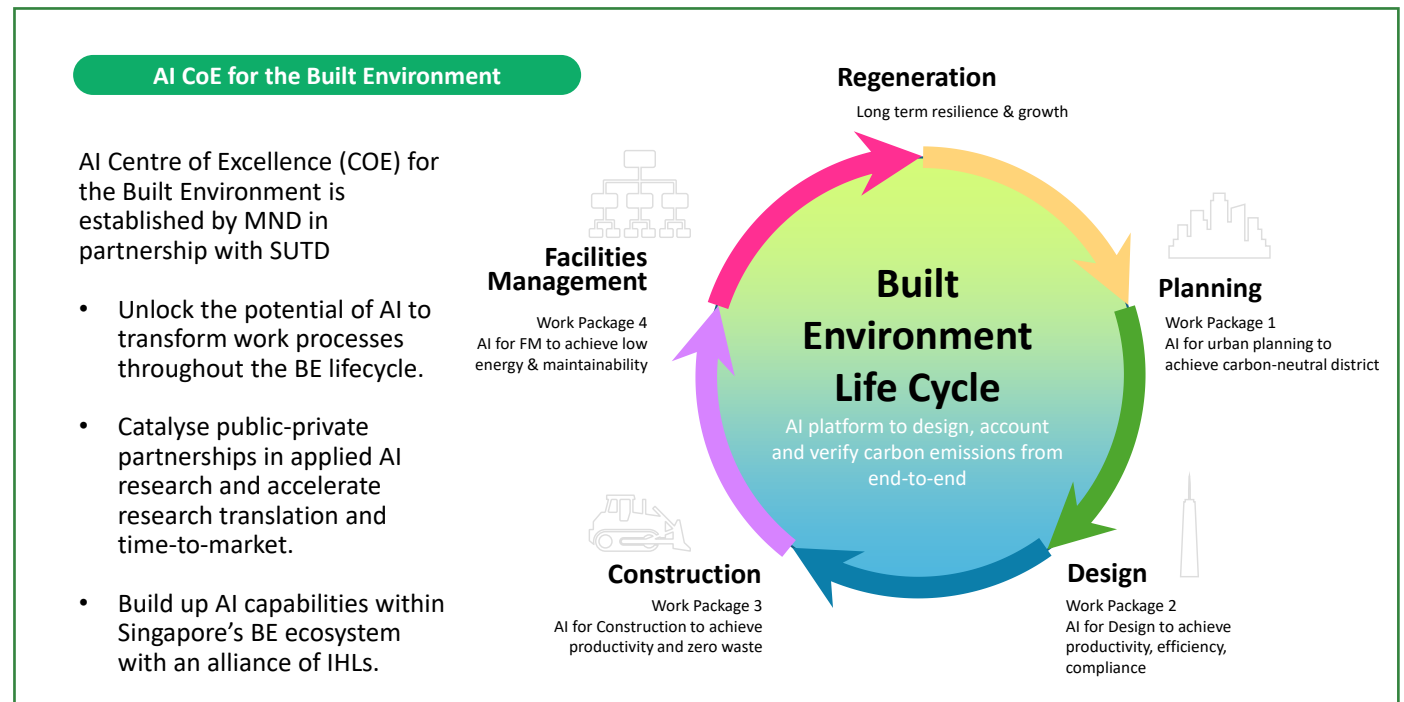
The digital one — AI and the planner's job

Assoc Prof Peter Ortner of SUTD, MArch Programme Coordinator and Director of the Net Zero Futures Lab and Adaptive Design Lab, delivered the session everyone privately worries about — and left the room more confident, not less.

His starting point was refreshingly humble: understanding how planning actually happens, and the challenges designers face.

From there, the value proposition: maximise AI's strengths to accelerate slow processes and repetitive design tasks; use surrogate models to substitute predictions for physics-

All images in this section are courtesy of Peter Ortner | Associate Professor, Cheng Tsang Man Early Career Chair Professor, MArch Programme Coordinator SUTD ASD



based simulations; use spatial reasoning to accelerate repetitive tasks like optimisation; integrate the two — but measure and mitigate error and bias, because explainability is a must.

The speed gains are genuinely startling: deep learning surrogate models achieve up to a 1,000x increase in speed. But the deeper prize isn't speed — it's scope: surrogate models expand the searchable design space, because simulation-based optimisation under-samples high-density regions and may overlook high-performing solutions that surrogate-based evaluation can reveal.

His final slide framed the whole profession: “Endpoint: working with planners to solve problems. Acting as stewards of the future built & natural environment.”

Starting point for Adaptive Design Lab: understanding how planning happens, and challenges designers face.

PlanEX 2026: "Islands of Tomorrow." Future of Planning Education and Profession

PlanEX SUMMIT Adaptive Design Lab

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Research example: site simulation workflows explore density, land use and other development control scenarios.

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Urban planning webtool: replacing manual site simulation with guided design exploration.

Hypothetical test of planning tool. This is not an official planning document.

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Advances in design/simulation tools can also advance research on city planning methods.

Hypothetical test of a digital tool. This is not an official planning document.

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Sensitivity analysis: finding impactful parameters in studying many model permutations.

Hypothetical test of a digital tool. This is not an official planning document.

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Integrating site analytics and moving toward an integrated environmental modeling stack.

Hypothetical test of a digital tool. This is not an official planning document.

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AI for Planning Value Proposition

1. Maximize the strengths of AI for planning to accelerate slow processes and repetitive design tasks.
2. Surrogate models accelerate slow processes by substituting a prediction for a physics based simulation (or site measurement).
3. Spatial reasoning accelerates repetitive tasks like optimization, for performance constraints.
4. Integration: Spatial reasoning methods are accelerated with surrogate models. Error/bias must be measured and mitigated. Explainability is a must.

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Surrogate modeling: predictive tools replace computationally intensive simulations.

- Deep learning surrogate models achieve an increase in speed of up to 1,000x.
- Results must be accompanied by uncertainty analysis.
- User must be able to interpret uncertainty analysis within decision making process.

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Surrogate modeling: predictive tools replace computationally intensive simulations.

- Beyond computational speed, surrogate models expand the searchable design space during optimization.
- Simulation-based optimization under-samples high-density regions, potentially overlooking high-performing solutions.
- Surrogate-based evaluation enables broader sampling of high-density design clusters, revealing solutions inaccessible within practical simulation budgets.

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Eight lessons to take back to your desk



Plan in decades, deliver in phases

Long Island is a multi-decade endeavour, and Greater Sentosa is phased and synced with GSW timelines. Your first plan will not be built as drawn. That's not failure — that's the job.



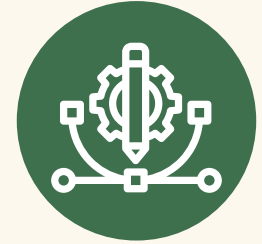
Solve five problems with one move

The Long Island proposition is coastal protection plus flood resilience plus water resilience plus land plus new East Coast opportunities. Single-purpose infrastructure is a luxury small islands can't afford.



Make the by-product the business model

Jurong Island's cluster logic — one company's output becomes another's input — is circular economy thinking three decades before it became a buzzword.



Design the gradient, not just the plots

Sentosa's progressive decompression from City Buzz to Island Bliss is a reminder that the experience of transition is a planning deliverable.



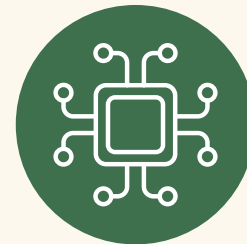
Regulate for the outcome you want

If you want a green island, mandate green plot ratios up to 80% higher than the mainland. Vision statements don't build canopies; development guidelines do.



Engage early, engage widely, engage repeatedly

14,000+ people across diverse stakeholder groups, via social media, FGDs, exhibitions, youth workshops, webpages and surveys — and another full phase still to come from end-2026.



Use AI to widen the search, not to skip the thinking

Error and bias must be measured and mitigated. Explainability is a must. Label your hypothetical tests as hypothetical, every single time.



Nature is infrastructure

The 8.9-hectare Jurong Island Pond holds up to 125,000 cubic metres of rainwater, with over 1,500 trees and 25,000 shrubs and wetland plants introduced — flood management and biodiversity in one footprint.

PlanEx 2026 Continues...

A moderated panel discussion with the four distinguished speakers followed, steered by Li Yu Zhou, Director (Planning) at ID Architects and SIP 1st Vice President.

SIP Student Planning Awards was next with remarks from URA Chief Planner and DCEO Ms Yvonne Lim. The winners are shown in subsequent pages.

After networking lunch, a Sentosa site visit was conducted and this conclude the full one-day programme of PlanEx.



The panel from left to right: Peter Ortner, Tang Hsiao Ling, Lee Wai Kin, Chan Beng Kiat, Li Yu Zhou

Some questions from the planning community



Chan Hui Min



Djoko Prihanto



Gurjit Singh

The next generation took the stage

Lessons Learned for young planners, specifically

Your career will outlast your first masterplan — so build range. Note that these "islands" are tourism, coastal defence, heavy industry and computation. Nobody in that room got there by specialising early and narrowly.

Learn the tools, but own the judgement. Ortner's message wasn't "AI replaces planners." It was "acting as stewards of the future built & natural environment" — and stewardship is a human verb. If AI can produce 357 scenarios where simulation produced 145, the scarce skill becomes choosing well, and explaining why.

JTC and NUS are exploring training modules, student projects, internships and a course specialisation in industrial decarbonisation and sustainable digital infrastructure to nurture future-ready talent and grooming the next generation of planners.

The SIP Student Awards 2026 received thirteen submissions within three categories — Urban Planning, Urban Design, and Urban Research category.

Conducted in three months with two rounds of judging — online review and in-person deliberation — a handful of students got their work read and reviewed closely.

The team of judges include:

- **Looi Teik Soon** | Adjunct Professor, NUS Cities, Former Advisor LTA Academy, Singapore Rail Academy
- **Tan See Nin** | Senior Director (Projects), Physical Planning Group, URA
- **Tang Hsiao Ling** | Director of Urban Planning, Environment & Design Division | Architecture Division, JTC Corporation

- **Li Yu Zhou** | Director (Planning), ID Architects, SIP 1st Vice President
- **Cathy Hang** | Lead Design Landscape Architects, Henning Larsen, SILA Young Landscape Architects of The Year 2025
- **Tram Tran** | Senior Principal Urban Planner, CPG Corporation, SIP Young Planner of The Year 2025
- **Goh Wee Heng** | Manager, Rail Vibrancy Masterplanning, LTA, SICP Accreditation Panel

At the ceremony, Ms Yvonne Lim, URA's DCEO and Chief Planner gave the opening remarks followed by the award ceremony.

All images in this section are taken from SIP documentation 2026.

Urban Planning Category

Recognises projects that demonstrate strong planning thinking and the ability to address complex urban issues through strategic, policy, and systems-based approaches.

- Silver Award:
 - Soolarpunk Isle | NUS | Wang Tianyun, Yu Lewen, He Zihan
 - Johor's Blue City | NUS | Sean Koh, He Xinyi, Samantha Lu, Yeo Megan, Zhu Qiuhui
- Bronze:
 - The Living Industry City | NUS | Mao Mei, Yang Yunting, Eng Justin Z, Yuan Zhiyi

Urban Design Category

Recognises projects that translate planning ideas into meaningful spatial and physical environments, with strong attention to people, place, form, and experience.

- Gold Award:
 - Re-imagining Orchard Road Rejuvenation | Wong Yui Heing Patrick
- Bronze:
 - Coastal Flow | NAFA | Olina Kok Xin Yun, Fionna Teh, Varaza Narayana Akbar, Muhammad Khidir Bin Mohamad Fahmi

Urban Research Category

Recognises projects that demonstrate strong research, analytical thinking, and evidence-based insights relevant to urban planning practice.

- Bronze Award:
 - Optimization of EV Charging Location Using A Generic Algorithm: A San Francisco Case Study | Lei Chuxi

Congratulations to all the winners!



SICP 2nd Cohort Graduation



Karen Tham (MC) greeted the attendees and started the graduation ceremony



Wilfred Loo (Chair of SIP Certification Committee) opened the event



Opening remarks from Fong Chun Wah as the SICP AP Chairman



Congratulations to the 2nd Cohort of SICP Graduates



PLANEX 2026



Nina Yang | SIP President gave the opening remarks



Adele Tan | URA CEO and Guest of Honour gave the opening keynote message



The two MCs - Derick Seek and Constance Leung - hard at work



SIP President with the Guest of Honour and all of the speakers
L-R: Peter Ortner, Tang Hsiao Ling, Nina Yang, Adele Tan, Lee Wai Kin, Chan Beng Kiat, and Li Yu Zhou



What's Next?

The calendar is already filling: the 10th SIP Planning Awards 2027, the SIP Young Planners Mentorship 2027, and the SIP Study Trip to Japan 2027 — designed to strengthen ties with CPIJ through practical knowledge exchange, professional dialogue and first-hand observation, and to understand how planning policies and urban-design decisions have been translated into successful places that support communities, improve environmental performance and create lasting value.

The day ended as it should have: a Sentosa site visit to Sensoryscape from 14:00 to 15:30, with planners walking the very ground they'd spent the morning discussing — because no rendering ever beats a site walk.

And then, last but not least: SEE YOU IN 2028!!!

Two years is a long time. Then again, as Long Island reminded everyone, in this profession two years is barely a rounding error.



SIP Council Members 2026 -2028

L-R: Eddie Yang, Derick Seek, Constance Leung, Bai Yan, Siow Zhi Xiang, Li Yu Zhou, Nina Yang, Lim Shu Ying, Wilfred Loo, Ratna Delia Octaviana, Cerina Niken Anggraini, Irwan Soetikno, Ching Tuan Yee, Tram Tran, Djoko Prihanto



All PlanEx participants at the end of the event

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Stay tuned for the next exciting SIP event.