

Diversifying Land Use: A Reimagination of Singapore's Central Business District

Executive Summary

The Central Business District (CBD) is often considered to be the commercial and business heart of a city. Through globalisation, businesses and trade have transcended into international realms, with CBDs now serving as crucial nodes for global and local connections. Singapore's CBD is traditionally regarded as Singapore's financial and commercial core and plays an integral role in Singapore's development and position as a global financial and service hub. However, prominent global trends such as climate change, advancements in technology, and the COVID-19 pandemic have brought into question what the key functions of the CBD should entail.

Despite the success of Singapore's CBD in attracting foreign businesses, multinational corporations, and office developments, the land use of the CBD has morphed into one that is highly one dimensional and monolithic. Aligned with the Singapore government's urban development goals and vision for the CBD, this report explores the ways in which the CBD can further diversify its existing functions in order to adapt and thrive amidst evolving global and local trends. Drawing on a combination of expert interviews, policy documents and secondary research, our group has identified several gaps in existing policy which hinder Singapore's push toward greater future-readiness and resilience. To this end, our report will make a series of comprehensive policy recommendations and proposed solutions to enhance the social and sustainability functions of the Singapore CBD.