Language, people and the region

Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP
Attorney-at-Law (Switzerland and Germany),
Solicitor (England & Wales and Hong Kong)
Of Counsel, KGP Legal LLC
alexander.ressos@kgplegal.com.sg
www.ressos.com.sg

- **English** – 英语 (Yīngyǔ) – bahasa Inggeris: the working language of government, courts, business and finance in Singapore (Chapter J.I).
- **Mandarin** – 华语 (Huáyǔ) – bahasa Mandarin: the standard Chinese language, called Huayu in Singapore, taught as the mother tongue of Chinese Singaporeans (Chapter J.II).
- **Malay** – 马来语 (Mǎláiyǔ) – bahasa Melayu: the national language of Singapore and one of its four official languages.
- **official language** – 官方语言 (guānfāng yǔyán) – bahasa rasmi: one of the four languages recognised by the Constitution, namely Malay, English, Mandarin and Tamil.
- **national language** – 国语 (guóyǔ) – bahasa kebangsaan: Malay, the language of the national anthem *Majulah Singapura* and of military commands.
- **mother tongue** – 母语 (mǔyǔ) – bahasa ibunda: the second language learnt in school besides English, assigned by ethnic group (Chapter J.II).
- **bilingual policy** – 双语政策 (shuāngyǔ zhèngcè) – dasar dwibahasa: the education policy under which pupils learn English and a mother tongue (Chapter J.II).

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. General information only, not legal, tax or investment advice. No client relationship is created. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. More information at SingaporeIQ.com and ressos.com.sg.

- **Speak Mandarin Campaign** – 讲华语运动 (Jiǎng Huáyǔ Yùndòng) – Kempen Bertutur Bahasa Mandarin: the government campaign to replace Chinese dialects with Mandarin (Chapter J.II).
- **dialect** – 方言 (fāngyán) – dialek: a regional Chinese language such as Hokkien, Teochew or Cantonese, spoken by earlier generations of immigrants (Chapter A.V).
- **Employment Pass** – 就业准证 (jiùyè zhǔnzhèng) – Pas Pekerjaan: the work pass for foreign professionals, managers and executives (Chapter J.IV).
- **ASEAN** – 东南亚国家联盟 (Dōngnányà Guójiā Liánméng) – Persatuan Negara-Negara Asia Tenggara: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which Singapore is a founding member (Chapter F.IV).
- **Belt and Road Initiative** – 一带一路 (Yídài Yílù) – Inisiatif Jalur dan Jalan: China's programme of infrastructure investment and connectivity across Asia and beyond (Chapter I.II).
- **Johor–Singapore Special Economic Zone** – 柔佛—新加坡经济特区 (Róufó–Xīnjiāpō Jīngjì Tèqū) – Zon Ekonomi Khas Johor-Singapura: the cross-border economic zone agreed by Malaysia and Singapore (Chapter I.IV).
- **safe haven** – 避风港 (bìfēnggǎng) – tempat perlindungan selamat: a jurisdiction to which capital and people move for security in times of political or economic uncertainty (Chapter I.V).

Disclaimer

This article is provided for general information only. It is based on publicly available sources as at its date of publication. These sources have not been independently verified against licences, regulatory registers or the records of the entities concerned. It is not legal, tax, financial or investment advice. Nor is it a recommendation to invest in, transact with or use the services of any entity mentioned. Law and regulation change frequently, so the content may be incomplete or outdated. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Dr Alexander Ressos and the publisher of SingaporeIQ exclude all liability for loss or damage arising from the use of or reliance on this article. Readers should obtain advice on their specific circumstances before acting or refraining from action.

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. General information only, not legal, tax or investment advice. No client relationship is created. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. More information at SingaporeIQ.com and ressos.com.sg.

Names and trademarks of the entities discussed belong to their owners and are used for identification only. Their mention implies no endorsement, affiliation or allegation of wrongdoing. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. Corrections and updates: contact@ressos.com.

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. This article may be quoted with attribution to SingaporeIQ (SingaporeIQ.com). Reproduction in full and any commercial use require prior written consent. The Legal Terms at https://singaporeiq.com/legal-terms apply.

Author contact: Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP · contact@ressos.com

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. General information only, not legal, tax or investment advice. No client relationship is created. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. More information at SingaporeIQ.com and ressos.com.sg.