Singapore 2035: Technology, Sustainability and Geopolitics (1990–2026)

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

- **1990**: Singapore and the United States sign a memorandum giving American forces access to Singapore's air and naval facilities. It is renewed in September 2019 until 2035.[1]
- **1 January 2003**: The Strategic Goods (Control) Act comes into force.[2]
- **2016**: MAS begins Project Ubin on distributed ledger technology for wholesale finance. The project runs in five phases until 2020.[3]
- **21 September 2016**: Singapore ratifies the Paris Agreement.[4]
- **12 November 2018**: MAS publishes the FEAT Principles on fairness, ethics, accountability and transparency in the use of artificial intelligence and data analytics.[5]
- **11 November 2019**: MAS launches its Green Finance Action Plan with a US$2 billion Green Investments Programme.[6]

© 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.

- **28 January 2020**: The Payment Services Act 2019 comes into force and brings digital payment token services under licence.[7]
- **December 2020**: MAS issues Guidelines on Environmental Risk Management for banks, insurers and asset managers.[8]
- **10 February 2021**: The government publishes the Singapore Green Plan 2030.[9]
- **17 January 2022**: MAS restricts the marketing of digital payment token services to the general public.[10]
- **May 2022**: The TerraUSD stablecoin collapses. Three Arrows Capital, which operated from Singapore, is ordered into liquidation on 27 June.[11]
- **31 May 2022**: MAS launches Project Guardian on the tokenisation of assets.[12]
- **August 2022**: Singapore auctions its first sovereign green bond, a fifty-year infrastructure bond.[13]
- **October 2022**: The United States imposes export controls on advanced computing chips and chip-making equipment destined for China.[14]
- **11 November 2022**: FTX files for bankruptcy. Temasek writes down its investment of 275 million US dollars to zero.[15]
- **15 August 2023**: MAS finalises its regulatory framework for single-currency stablecoins.[16]
- **December 2023**: At COP28, MAS launches the Singapore-Asia Taxonomy on 3 December and Singapore unveils the Financing Asia's Transition Partnership (FAST-P).[17]
- **1 January 2024**: The carbon tax rises from S$5 to S$25 per tonne. It reaches S$45 on 1 January 2026.[18]
- **15 May 2024**: Lawrence Wong succeeds Lee Hsien Loong as Prime Minister.[19]
- **2 April 2025**: The United States announces a baseline tariff of 10 per cent on imports from all countries, which applies to Singapore from 5 April despite the bilateral free trade agreement.[20]

© 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.

- **April 2025**: Singapore's share of global foreign exchange trading reaches 11.8 per cent in the BIS Triennial Survey, confirming it as the third-largest centre after the United Kingdom and the United States.[21]
- **30 June 2025**: The licensing regime for digital token service providers serving only overseas customers takes effect. Firms without a licence move to Dubai, Hong Kong or Abu Dhabi.[22]
- **27 May 2026**: The Boston Consulting Group reports that Hong Kong has overtaken Switzerland as the largest cross-border wealth centre. Singapore holds US$2.1 trillion.[23]
- 7 **October 2026**: MAS publishes its final Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence Risk Management, which take effect on 7 October 2027.[24]
- **23 October 2026**: MAS publishes details of BLOOM, its settlement initiative for tokenised money, with 24 industry members.[25]

Notes

1. Ministry of Defence of Singapore, news release of 24 September 2019; see Chapters F.IV and K.V. ↩
2. Singapore Customs, "Strategic Goods Control: Overview"; see Chapters H.IV and K.V. ↩
3. MAS, "Project Ubin"; see Chapter K.I. ↩
4. National Climate Change Secretariat and NEA, "Carbon Tax"; see Chapter K.II. ↩
5. MAS, "MAS introduces new FEAT Principles"; see Chapter K.IV. ↩
6. MAS, "New US$2 billion Investments Programme"; see Chapter K.II. ↩
7. Wikipedia, "Payment Services Act 2019"; Mondo Visione; see Chapter K.I. ↩
8. MAS, "Regulatory and Supervisory Approach"; see Chapter K.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.

9. Wikipedia, “Singapore Green Plan 2030” (accessed November 2026); see Chapter K.II. ↩
10. MAS, Guidelines on Provision of Digital Payment Token Services to the Public; see Chapter K.I. ↩
11. Wikipedia, “Terra (blockchain)” and “Three Arrows Capital” (accessed November 2026); see Chapter K.I. ↩
12. MAS, “Project Guardian”; see Chapters K.I and K.VI. ↩
13. Significant Infrastructure Government Loan Act 2021; see Chapter K.II. ↩
14. Wikipedia, “United States New Export Controls on Advanced Computing and Semiconductors” (accessed November 2026); see Chapters I.II and K.V. ↩
15. Wikipedia, “FTX” (accessed November 2026); see Chapters D.I and K.I. ↩
16. MAS, media release “MAS Finalises Stablecoin Regulatory Framework”, 15 August 2023; see Chapter K.I. ↩
17. MAS, media release of 3 December 2023; see Chapter K.II. ↩
18. National Climate Change Secretariat, “Carbon Tax”; see Chapters G.IV, K.II and K.VI. ↩
19. Wikipedia, “Lee Hsien Loong” (accessed November 2026); see Chapter K.V. ↩
20. Wikipedia, “Liberation Day tariffs” (accessed November 2026); see Chapters F.IV, K.V and K.VI. ↩
21. MAS, media release “Singapore Strengthens Position as Third Largest Global FX Centre”; see Chapters C.IV and K.VI. ↩
22. MAS, media release “MAS Clarifies Regulatory Regime for Digital Token Service Providers”; see Chapter K.I. ↩
23. Boston Consulting Group, press release of 27 May 2026; see Chapters D.V, K.III and K.VI. ↩

© 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.

24. MAS, *Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence Risk Management*, 7 October 2026; see Chapters K.IV and K.VI. ↩

25. MAS, "BLOOM", mas.gov.sg, 23 October 2026; see Chapter K.I. ↩

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.

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