Andrea Teo will put a new “Wow” factor in Singapore this year. For that reason, she’s on our list – along with superpower leaders and sports heroes. Meet them in these pages.
Safeguarding life on earth

Peter Ng
Heart of theuffle Museum of Biodiversity Research and the Tropical Marine Science Institute, NUS

SINGAPORE’s national plan for biodiversity, Professor Peter Ng, 40, has a major challenge ahead. This year, the country is aiming to conserve 10% of its land and marine areas. Ng believes that the goal can be met if the government is willing to invest in conservation efforts. “We’re at the crossroads of our history, because the last time we had to think about the future of our planet,” he said. “This is the moment when we need to make a commitment to protect our planet, our children, and our grandchildren.”

“We must do more than just talk about the importance of biodiversity. We must act,” Ng added. “We need to create a new generation of conservationists who will not only protect our planet, but also teach others how to do the same.”

Ng’s vision is to create a network of biodiversity hotspots in Singapore, where every citizen will have access to nature and the opportunity to learn about the diverse life forms that inhabit our planet. He believes that by increasing public awareness and engagement, we can create a more sustainable future for all.

“By 2050, we will have achieved our goal of conserving 10% of our land and marine areas. But until then, we must continue to work hard and never give up.”

Keeping them from getting big

Steve Jobs
Apple CEO

What next from the man who transformed computers as we know them? It seems that Steve Jobs has a few more surprises up his sleeve. In an interview with The New York Times, Jobs revealed that Apple is working on a new product: a tablet computer.

The device is expected to be released later this year and will feature a larger screen than the current iPad. Jobs also hinted that Apple is working on a new version of its operating system, iOS 6, which will include improved features for multitasking and better integration with other devices.

“I think the iPad is only the beginning,” Jobs said. “We’re just getting started.”

SPENDING IT OR SPENDING IT? 2013

Tay K Rahu
Chief Executive Officer

OPENNET has announced plans to retire the fibre-optic cables that feed its network. This decision is expected to have a significant impact on the company’s operations, as well as the broader industry.

“While we are committed to providing our customers with the best possible service, we have to make difficult decisions to ensure the long-term health of our business,” said Tay K Rahu. “Retiring these cables is a necessary step in order to maintain our infrastructure and ensure that we continue to provide the highest quality service.”

The company plans to begin the process of replacing the cables in the coming months and expects the transition to be complete by the end of the year.

“A year ago, we set out to implement a network modernization program,” said Rahu. “This was a major undertaking, but we are confident that we are making the right decisions for the long-term health of our business.”

The move is expected to cost the company $500 million, but the company anticipates that it will result in significant savings in the long run.

Safeguarding the environment

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**TURIS**

The Genting duo

Tan Hee Teck

CEO

Lim Kok Thay

Genting Singapore chairman & CEO

RESORTS World at Sentosa will be the first integrated casino to open here in mid-2015. The $4.6 billion integrated resort, which is currently under construction, will feature a variety of attractions, including the world’s largest indoor theme park, a world-class casino, and a five-star hotel.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Powerful player on the arts stage

Benson Pung

CEO of the National Arts Council and the Esplanade arts centre

Mr Benson Pung, 52, has a huge task in front of him - to run two powerful national arts organisations, a dual portfolio that makes him one of the most powerful decision-makers in the arts.

The chief executive of the $100 million Esplanade arts centre has developed it into a thriving arts space which sees seven million visitors a year. Then, in August last year, he was appointed CEO of the National Arts Council.

The statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts decides the cultural policy of Singapore, determines funding policies, and oversees the $77 million annual budget for the arts.

**WOW factor for Resorts World**

Andrea Teo

Vice-president of entertainment, Resorts World Sentosa

The demanding task of making entertainment go with a bang at the upcoming Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) falls on Ms Teo, 44.

At her disposal are 500 full-time staff and performers who will be dedicated to entertainment when the integrated resort opens early next year.

She will oversee live shows at the Universal Studios Singapore, theme park, and events at the 1,000-seat entertainment strip Festive Walk and the hotels.

Already, her line-up includes the rock circus musical extravaganza Voyage de la Vie for the resort’s Festive Grand Theatre, and the Creme Dance - a free nightly show for the waterfront.

She once worked for Hong Kong’s Asia Pacific Breweries Singapore, where she was the creative brain behind its one-time $10 million multimedia Tiger Live brand Experience Centre attraction at St James Power Station.

She was general manager of Autopilot, a craft beer brand she launched in 2006.

Mr Low inherits the job, but not his predecessor’s title. ST PHOTOS: TERCYN SANG

New msnsman, new title

Low Kee Hong

General manager of the Singapore Arts Festival

Mr Low was appointed in September as general manager of the Singapore Arts Festival, replacing the festival’s artistic director, Mr Koh Ching Ling.

The festival will be transformed to reflect Singapore’s cultural identity, while maintaining its reputation for innovation and quality.

Mr Low is a seasoned arts administrator, having held several key positions in the arts sector, including director of the National Arts Council, and general manager of the Esplanade.

**EDUCATION**

The challenge in learning

Thomas Magnanti

SINGAPORE University of Technology and Design (SUTD) president

SUTD, which is designed to be an experiment in multi-disciplinary education, which Singapore hopes will help nurture future entrepreneurs and investors.

Learning in the inter-disciplinary, collaborative and hands-on. Students will be surrounded in maths and science, and social science.

He will also be part of the university’s research thrust in areas such as areas such as artificial intelligence, materials science, and energy.

Mr Low had been working for 10 years as director of the National Arts Council, and general manager of the Esplanade.

The arts festival this year will be held under his leadership, with a focus on innovation and sustainability.

Mr Low is expected to lead the festival to new heights, and to continue the tradition of excellence that has made the festival one of the most successful in Asia.

He will also be responsible for ensuring that the festival’s programme is inclusive and accessible to a wide audience.

Mr Low has a strong track record in the arts sector, having held several key positions in the arts sector, including director of the National Arts Council, and general manager of the Esplanade.

He has been described as a visionary leader, who is committed to ensuring that the arts are accessible to all.

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Swimming's golden girl

Quah Ting Wen
National champion

LAST year was a special year for the Singapore swimmer. At this year's short-course World Championships, she will be aiming to repeat her success from the big-time events of 2014.

While the 17-year-old will be the youngest swimmer for the Youth Olympic Games being held in Aug- gsburg, Germany, where she will compete in the 50m freestyle, she said she will focus on her performance in the big-time events, having just completed her studies at the National University of Singapore.

Ting Wen, who is set to graduate from NUS in July, said: "It's a really tough situation for me where I need to choose between swimming and studies. But when it comes to swimming, I'll choose that."

She added that she will be able to swim with the athletes from all over the world and this will be a great opportunity for her to learn from them.

"Just being there and learning from them will be a good experience for me," she said.

Sports

Big year for paddler

Fong Ting Nan
Table tennis champion

A BIG year ahead for the Singapore table tennis team, which will be taking part in the 2017 World Championships in Germany. The team is set to have a strong performance and is expected to do well in the tournament.

The team has been successful in recent years, winning several medals in international competitions. With the addition of new players and the return of experienced ones, they are expected to perform well.

"We have a strong team and we are confident of our chances," said the team coach. "We are looking forward to the tournament and we are ready to give our best."}

Defence

Guardian of the Sea

Bernard Miranda
RNNAV

SINCE 2005, Singapore's foremost defence

Top 5

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2. Fong Ting Nan
3. Tiger Woods
4. Michael Schumacher
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BUSINESS

A healer of the economy

Charmian Shanmugamparn

DESPITE being battered and battered by the global downturn, Singapore appears to have aged well through the recessions.

But how is it doing so well?

And how does it continue to do so well?

Now, not only the experts, but also the Singaporeans. To date, the economy is growing at a healthy rate of 5.9 per cent, making Singapore the only major economy in Asia to do so.

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Now, not only the experts, but also the Singaporeans. To date, the economy is growing at a healthy rate of 5.9 per cent, making Singapore the only major economy in Asia to do so.

This is not the first time Singapore has experienced such a growth rate.

In the past, the economy has grown at a healthy rate of 5.9 per cent, making Singapore the only major economy in Asia to do so.
B U S I N E S S

A year of reckoning

Timothy Galtvich

All The United States is in a year of reckoning, it has never been that way. In fact, it's been a year of reassessment, at least this year, as we move towards a new year of reckoning.

But deep-seated problems remain in the country whose global system triggered the global recession. All around the world, the US government is expected to take a look at those issues head on.

Mr. T GURLICH, senior director of the US economy, said: “For our part, we have to focus on some really troubling problems – including a record-high budget deficit and health-care reform. But while the US has led the way in addressing these issues, we still have to be prepared for the future of the US economy.”

Behind China's prosperity

Zhou Xiaochuan

Central bank governor of China

In a year when China has continued to consolidate its position as a global economic power, it is easy to see why many economists believe China is the new economic superpower. It is true that China has been growing at a double-digit rate for the past decade, but is it still possible to believe in China's economic power?

As the global recovery gains speed, China’s ability to prevent the economy from over-heating becomes more likely. But is it really possible to smooth things out for the economy in the long run? Without the leadership of the central bank, it is difficult to say.

Property bubbles are beginning to surge in China, with prices rising in some areas. It is now up to the authorities to ensure that the economy does not overhear.

Anwar’s star power and peril

Anwar Ibrahim

Opposition leader

At the end of June, Malaysia’s opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was arrested on corruption charges. He was released on bail on December 25.

Anwar’s arrest sparked a flurry of protests, with many arguing that his arrest was politically motivated. The news triggered a surge in stock prices, with the Malaysian ringgit strengthening by 0.3%.

The trial will be heard in the Kuala Lumpur High Court, with the trial expected to continue for at least two months before a verdict is reached.

A stabilising influence

King Bhumibol Adulyadej

Monarch

With the king of Thailand now in his nineties, many worry about the stability of Thailand. But the king is still very much in command, according to the political scientist, latent power, and the king has a strong grip on the country.

A study of the king’s influence showed that his leadership role has not weakened. In fact, he has a strong influence on the country, which is far beyond what many people expected.

Pacman weighs into political ring

Mammy Pacquiao

Boxer

The world’s greatest boxer, Manny Pacquiao, announced that he would retire after a long and illustrious career. He is one of the most popular boxers in the world, with a career spanning over 20 years.

Pacquiao’s career has been marred by controversy, with drug allegations and legal issues. But he has always fought back, and his dedication to boxing and his fans has been inspirational.

The third coming of Daim

Daim Zainuddin

Malaysia’s former finance minister

CORPORATE Malaysia is starting to stir with increased focus on policies and strategies for growth. Daim Zainuddin, one of the key ministers in Malaysia, is set to return to the political scene.

As Malaysia grapples with its largest budget deficit in decades, the government is looking to make major changes to the economy. Daim is expected to play a key role in these efforts.

Daim was re-elected as a member of Parliament in May, after being out of office for nearly a decade. He has a long history in politics, having served as finance minister from 1998 to 2013, and again from 2016 to 2020.

As the chief technocrat of former political strongman Mahathir Mohamad, Daim also holds the power to make significant changes to the economy. This makes him a key player in Malaysia’s economic future.

Heros’ son leads presidential race

Bennyong ‘Naymy Aquino III

President’s son

Owing to his father’s well-known support, the race for the Philippines presidency may be fought on the same front. Mr. Aquino III, who was previously known as the left-winger in the family, has been given a clear path to the presidential palace.

Despite his father’s political influence, Aquino III is expected to face tough opposition. He will have to prove himself to the voters and convince them of his capabilities.

WORLD LEADERS

Training his eyes on KPIs

Najib Razak

Prime minister

He spent much of his first nine months in power trying to balance competing interests, which led to a boost in the country’s economic growth.

He has graduated from his image to become a leadership figure, not just a builder of that of a leader of the Malay community. His approach is a tried and tested formula.

The country’s economic indicators are stable. However, the government’s approach to the country’s economic growth has come into question.

By now, there should be a solid basis for the country’s economic growth. The prime minister is expected to present a blueprint for his economic policies in the near future.
The British PM apparent

David Cameron
British opposition leader

FILL THE LEADERSHIP GAPS
Fill the leadership of Britain’s opposition Conservative Party. This year will decide the course of the rest of his political career.

If he wins the general election, he will be able to select his own government and, in turn, he will become one of the most powerful prime ministers Britain has had in centuries. But if he loses, it could be the end of his political career. Cameron needs to be seen as a strong leader who can command the support of the local media.

He has to project a strong image and build a Cabinet position and only engage in a broad range of activities where he can show leadership.

The episodic path suggests that this is a far deeper issue than just the current leadership. The opposition parties are also divided over what the Conservative Party’s future will look like.

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Leading in waiting

Xi Jinping
China’s Vice-President

VOTE FOR HIM
The visit of Xi Jinping, the new leader of the world’s largest communist party, has been described as a milestone in China’s diplomatic relations with the West.

Since his rise to power in 2012, Xi has been praised for his leadership qualities and his commitment to reforming the Chinese economy. He has also been credited with improving China’s international standing and increasing the country’s influence on the global stage.

This visit is significant because it follows Xi’s visit to the United States in February, where he met with President Barack Obama and other leaders. The visit was seen as a key moment in strengthening the ties between China and the West.

It is expected that the meeting will focus on pressing issues such as trade, security, and climate change. The two leaders are expected to discuss ways to further strengthen their countries’ mutually beneficial relations.

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Bring him to change Japan

Yoko Hayasaka
Japan Prime Minister

POOR PERFORMANCE
Throughout his five years in office, Prime Minister Yoko Hayasaka has struggled to improve the country’s economic performance.

The gross domestic product (GDP) has been stagnant, and unemployment remains high. The government has implemented various policies to stimulate the economy, but these measures have not been effective.

Despite these challenges, the Prime Minister has continued to hold the position, hoping to turn things around. However, his reputation has been tarnished by a series of scandals and controversies.

The opposition parties have accused the government of corruption and mismanagement. The Prime Minister has been called on to resign, but he has refused to do so, citing the country’s need for stable leadership.

He has to project a strong image and build a Cabinet position and only engage in a broad range of activities where he can show leadership.

The man they love to hate

Shiraz Ozaana
Democratic Party of Japan

PRIME MINISTER
Shiraz Ozaana, the leader of the Democratic Party of Japan, has been in power since 2020.

Despite facing challenges such as low approval ratings and a lack of legislative support, Ozaana has managed to maintain his position through a series of political maneuvers and alliances.

He has a strong base of support among the party’s members and has been able to rallying his base with promises of reforms and economic growth.

He has to project a strong image and build a Cabinet position and only engage in a broad range of activities where he can show leadership.

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