英語作為工作語言：摘要

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英語作為殖民地行政、法院及歐洲商行的語言傳入新加坡，並透過教會學校和政府學校、女皇獎學金，以及後來發展為新加坡大學的各所學院而普及。自治和獨立之後，國家承認四種官方語言，並保留馬來語為國語，但選擇以英語作為政府、法律和商業的工作語言，因為英語在各族群之間保持中立，並把這個小小的共和國與世界經濟連繫起來。從1966年的雙語政策到1987年的統一國民教育制度，學校把幾乎所有學生轉入英文源流教育，代價是華文學校、南洋大學以及大部分方言傳統。到2025年，英語已成為明顯多數居民在家中最常用的語言；標準新加坡英語與口語化的新加坡式英語（Singlish）並存，成為大部分專業人士可以輕鬆切換的兩種語域。對金融中心而言，英語意味着法規、監管公告、合約、法院程序和仲裁全部以國際金融的語言運作。這是新加坡與其主要競爭對手共享的優勢，新加坡必須把它與本身的亞洲語言及廉潔聲譽結合，才能保持獨特之處。

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