



MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
SINGAPORE

May 6, 2003

The Honorable
Robert B. Zoellick
United States Trade Representative


Dear Ambassador Zoellick,

In connection with signing on this date of the United States - Singapore Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement"), I have the honor to confirm the following:

1. Singapore will commit to the recognition of the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence ("J.D.") or equivalent law degree, conferred by four U.S. law schools for the purposes of admission into the Singapore Bar, based on the following criteria:
 - (a) Such recognition will only be conferred on persons who are Singapore citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents at the time they receive the J.D. or equivalent law degree from one of the four designated U.S. law schools;
 - (b) Such recognition will only apply to a J.D. or equivalent law degree obtained by a full-time internal candidate (as defined in Singapore legislation) after a 3-year course of study, the entire course of which was conducted within the United States;
 - (c) Such recognition will only be conferred on persons who have been ranked by the law school as being amongst the highest 40%, in terms of academic performance, of the total number of law school graduates in the same batch who have been conferred that degree by that law school; and
 - (d) The person seeking recognition must obtain the Diploma in Singapore law conferred by the National University of Singapore, attend and pass the Postgraduate Legal Practice Course organized by the Board of Legal Education, complete the prescribed periods of pupillage, and comply with all other requirements which may be imposed from time to time by Singapore on graduates from non-Singapore law schools provided that such additional requirements does not discriminate against graduates of U.S. law schools vis-à-vis graduates from other non-Singapore law schools.
2. Singapore and the United States (the "Parties") will initiate consultations on the selection of the four law schools prior to the entry into force of the Agreement. The Parties will further consult with a view to expanding the number of U.S. law schools whose J.D. or equivalent law degree is recognized by Singapore.

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3. This side letter is not subject to the dispute settlement provisions of the Agreement.

Sincerely,


George Yeo