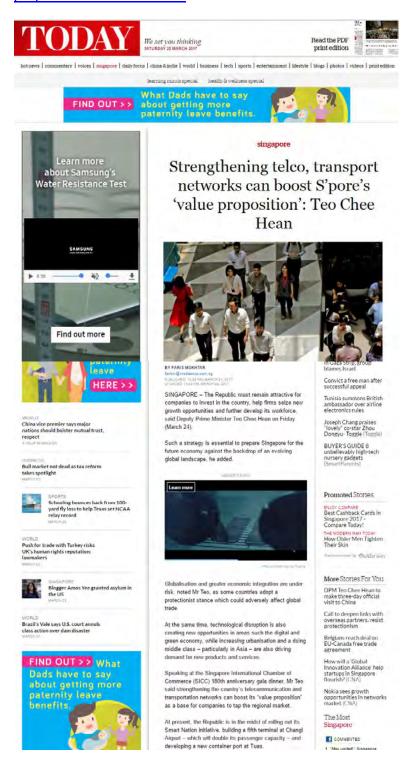
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An existing comprehensive network of 20 Free Trade Agreements with 31 trading partners, including the Association of South-east Asian Nations and key economies such as the United States and China, will also ease and lower the cost of doing business in those countries from Singapore.

To enable firms to tap growth opportunities, the Government will assist them to develop new products and services which can be exported to overseas markets, Mr.

India and China, will also enable companies here to

For Instance, firms here can venture into markets along China's "Belt and Road" initiative – a trade corridor spanning across Central Asia to the Middle East and

Mr Teo also pointed out that the new Global Innovation Alliance - announced in this year's Budget - will give Singaporeans, including tertiary students, overseas experience so that they can build connections in global innovation hubs.

Building a pipeline of talent is a 'key factor for companies to grow their operations from Singapore

We will continue to strengthen our tripartite partnership we will continue to strengthen our impattive partnership— employers, trade associations and chambers, unions and workers and the Government – coming together and putting ideas into action," he added.

To support tertiary students to gain overseas exposure, the SICC announced during the dinner that it would be making a S\$400,000 donation each to the Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). The Government will match the donations.

For SMU, the money will be used for the SICC International Exchange Scholarship, which will be given to three undergraduates in each academic year. They will spend a semester studying at overseas universities including the Wharton School in University of

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SMU said 47 students had benefited from the scholarship since it was introduced in 2005.

Meanwhile. SUTD will use the donation to establish the SICC Global Exchange Award. With up to six undergraduates to receive the award each year, it will help to defray their expenses when they go for overseas exchange programmes, which will run between three and 16 weeks.

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