

Doing Business Reform Programme

Prem Chandiramani
IDA International

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Singapore - the improbable story



1965 – independence

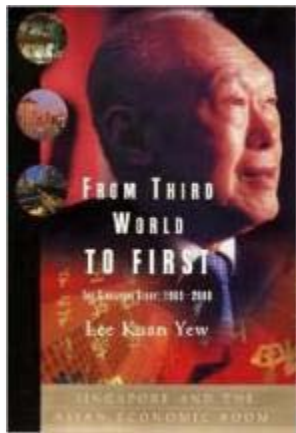
Land: 600 sq km

Population: 1.9 million

GDP: \$965 million

GDP per capita: S\$512

Unemployment: 13.3%



"To understand Singapore, you've got to start off with an improbable story: It should not exist. It is a nation with almost no natural resources, without a common culture, a fractured mix of Chinese, Malays and Indians, relying on its wits to stay afloat and prosper"

- Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew
(The New York Times, 2007)

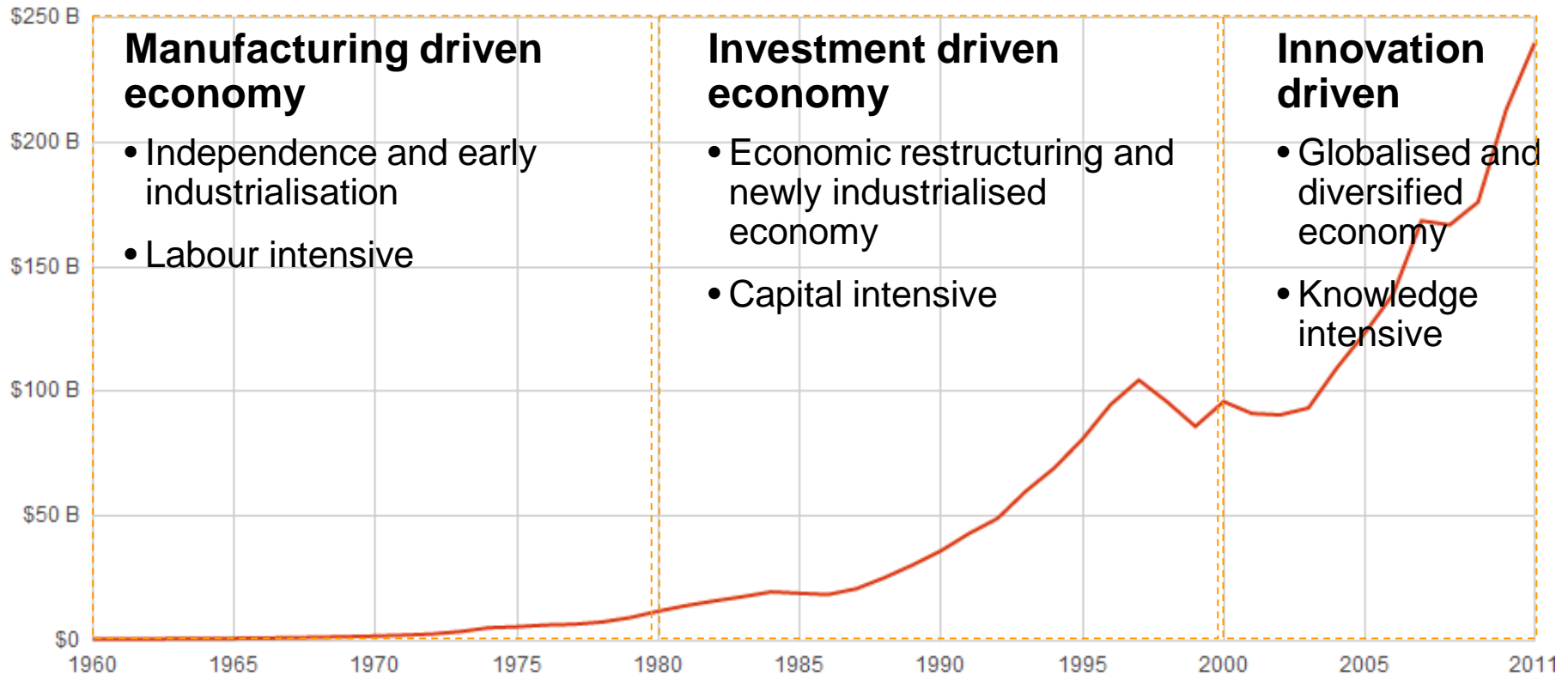
Singapore Today

- 
1. Land Area : 714 sq km
 2. Population : 5.18 million (3.79m residents)
 3. GDP : S\$326.8 billion (US\$260.8 billion)
 4. GDP Per Capita : S\$65,048 (US\$52,051)
 5. Literacy Rate : 96.1%
 6. Labor Force : 66.1% of population (aged ≥ 15)
 7. Government Agencies : 15 Ministries & 65 Statutory Boards
 8. Public Sector Officers : $\approx 127,000$

Sources :

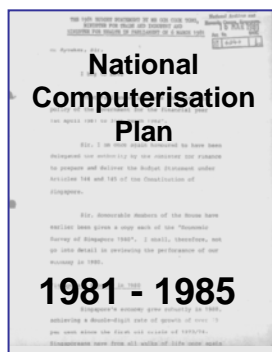
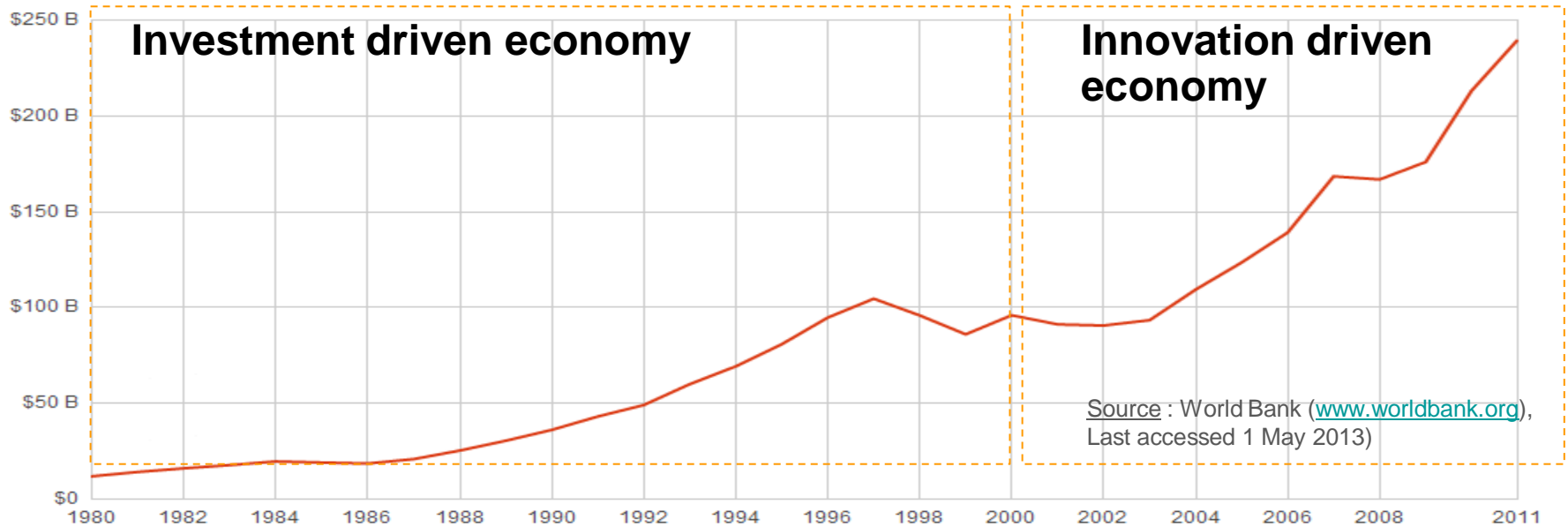
- 1-6: Singapore Department of Statistics, (<http://www.singstat.gov.sg>). Last accessed on 14 May 2012
- 7: Singapore Government Directory, (<http://www.sgdi.gov.sg>). Last accessed on 20 March 2012
- 8: Public Services Division (<http://www.psd.gov.sg/PublicService/SingaporePublicService/>), Last accessed on 20 March 2012.

Evolution of Singapore's Economic Development



Source : World Bank (www.worldbank.org),
Last accessed 1 May 2013)

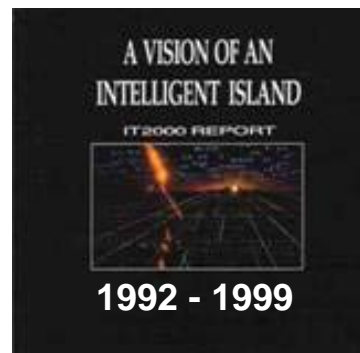
Our economic evolution has been heavily supported and enabled by ICT



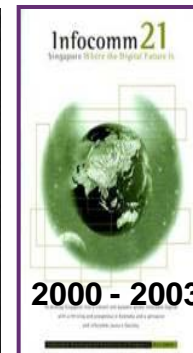
Computerisation



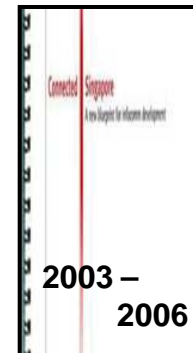
Communications



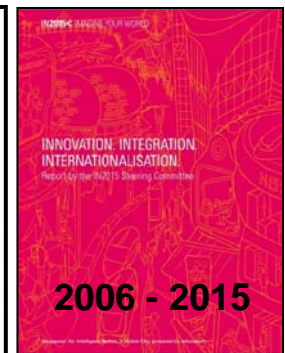
Connectivity and Content



Convergence



Connectedness



Creation

Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) has played a pivotal role in Singapore's economic development

- Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) is a statutory board under Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) and is the ICT authority and eGovernment agency in Singapore

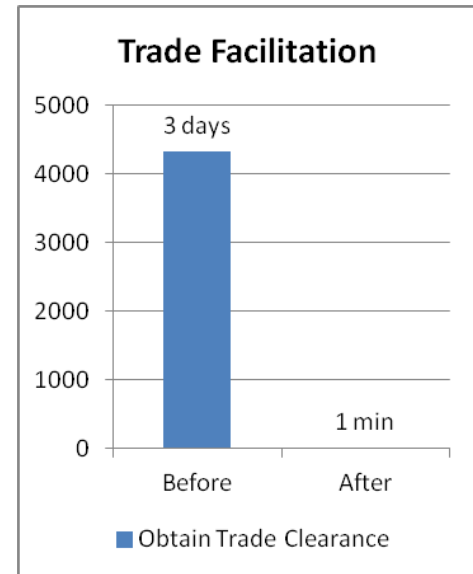
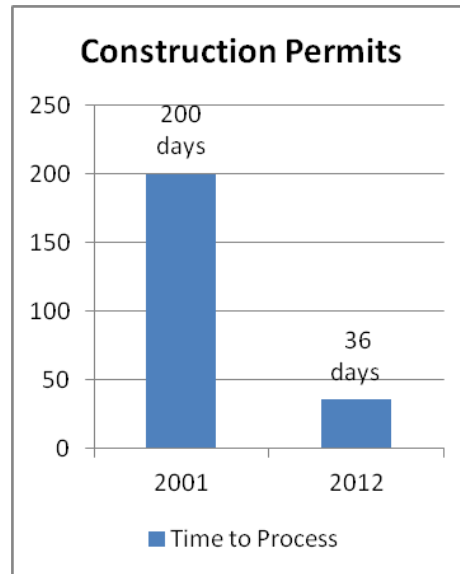
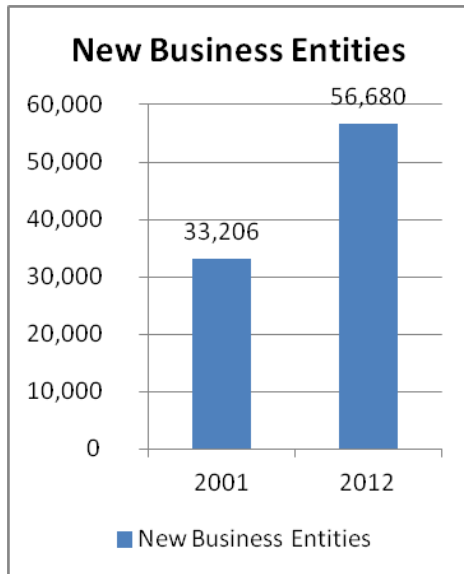


We have been awarded numerous global accolades

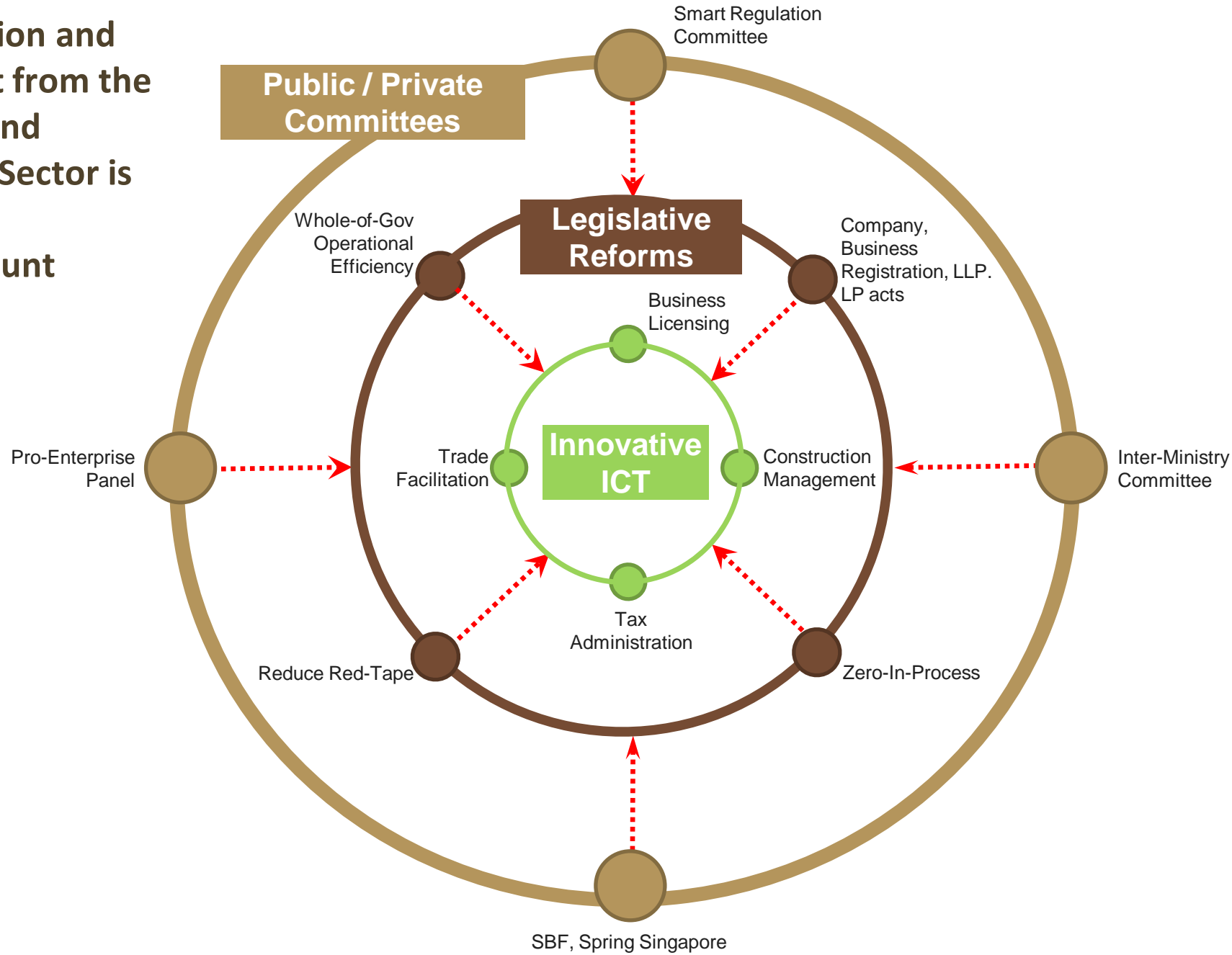
- **3rd most competitive IT Industry**
Economist Intelligence Unit, 2011
- **Best eGovernment**
Waseda University eGovernment Global Ranking, 5 years, 2009 - 2013
- **City with the best investment potential**
BERI Report, 2011
- **2nd most network ready country**
WEF Global Information Technology Report, 2 years, 2012 - 2013
- **2nd most competitive country**
WEF Global Competitiveness Index, 2 years, 2011 - 2012
- **Easiest place to do business**
World Bank Ease of Doing Business, 7 years, 2007 – 2013

Sector transformation helped to drive efficiencies, making Singapore the easiest place in the world to do business

ECONOMY OVERVIEW		PRINT EXCEL		
REGION	East Asia & Pacific	DOING BUSINESS 2013 RANK	DOING BUSINESS 2012 RANK	CHANGE IN RANK
INCOME CATEGORY	High income	1	1	0
POPULATION	5,183,700	DOING BUSINESS 2013 DTF** (% POINTS)	DOING BUSINESS 2012 DTF** (% POINTS)	IMPROVEMENT IN DTF** (% POINTS)
GNI PER CAPITA (US\$)	42,930	91.7	91.7	0.0



Legislation and Support from the Public and Private Sector is equally paramount



Tangible benefits to Businesses

Business Needs	Previously or manually	Now through eServices
Incorporating a new company	S\$1,200 to S\$35,000 (depend on company size) Time required: 5 days	S\$300 (flat fee) Time required: 2 hours
Submitting building plans	Manual dispatching of documents to 12 agencies 200 days	Online Submission 36 days 160m cost savings
Trade Clearance	At least 3 working days 3 – 30 documents	< 1 min 1 document 25% Productivity Increase 50% Cost reduction
Register a New Vehicle	1 working day \$5 - \$10 (courier service)	10 to 15 minutes FREE!
Obtaining an Entertainment license	Time required: 8 weeks	Time required: 2 weeks

Doing Business Reform Programme

Past five years, Doing Business reported that Suriname did not improve but deteriorated

	Starting a Business	Construction Permits	Getting Electricity	Registering Property	Getting Credit	Protecting Investors	Paying Taxes	Trade Across Borders	Enforcing Contracts	Resolving Insolvency
2009	N	N	NA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
2010	N	N	NA		N	N	N	N	N	N
2011		N	NA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
2012	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
2013	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N

- **DB 2010** – Suriname implemented new valuation requirements to insure proper tax payments at the Land Registry which increased procedures, cost and time to **Register Property**
- **DB2011** – VP reduced the time to under 21 days and simplified the procedures to **Start a Business**
- **DB 2013** - Suriname increased the time to export by involving more customs departments in clearing exports making it more tedious to **Trade Across Borders**

NA – Not Assessed



Positive Reforms

N – No Reform



Negative Reforms

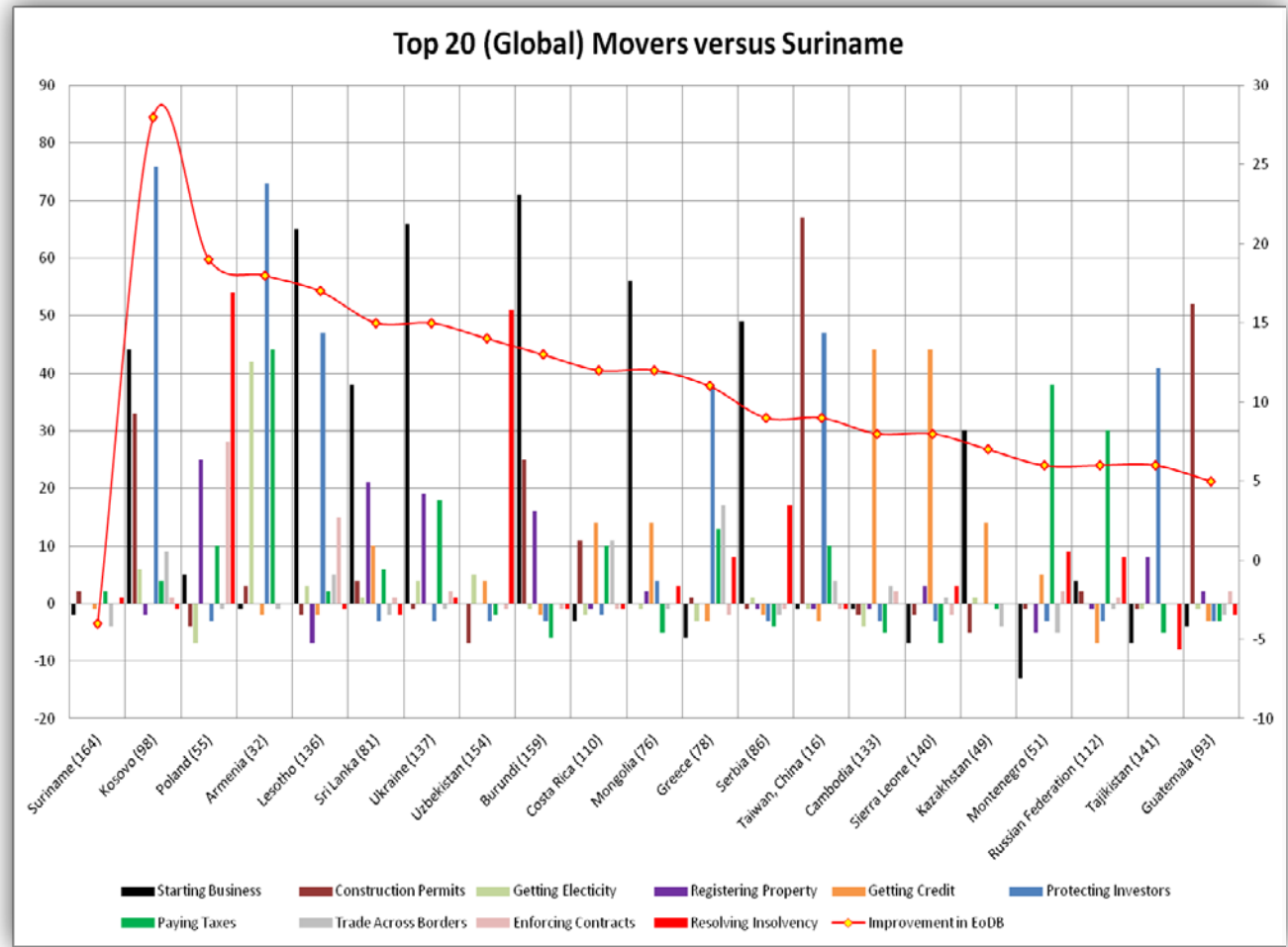
Our analyses of top performers provides a framework to replicate successes that will enable Suriname to keep up with the “High-Movers”

Economies in this group channelled significant efforts in reforming:

- Starting a Business
- Protecting Investors
- Paying Taxes
- Construction Permits

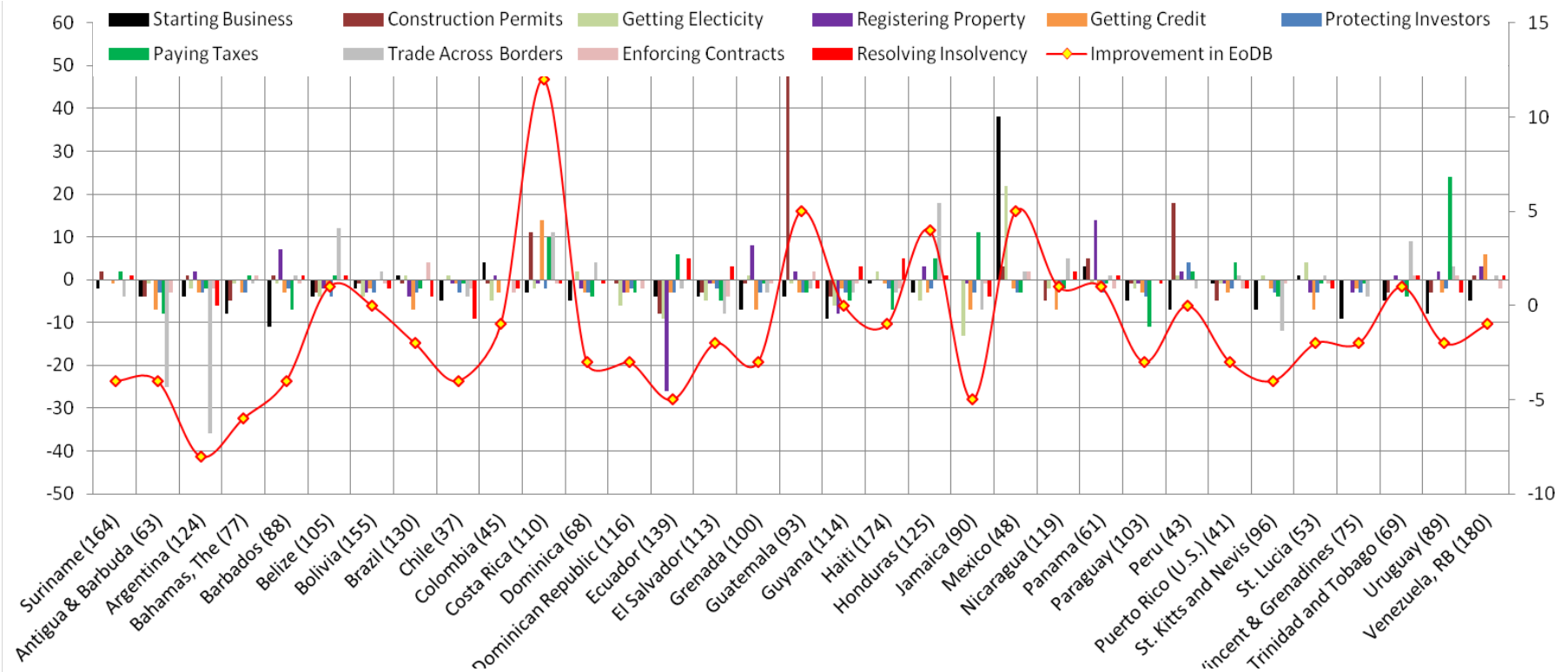
10 economies in this group reformed **Starting a Business**, which represents a cumulative increase of **428 ranks** for these 10 economies.

Suriname should consider following suit to keep pace with the top movers while reforming **Trading Across Borders**, a criteria that top movers have not been focusing on



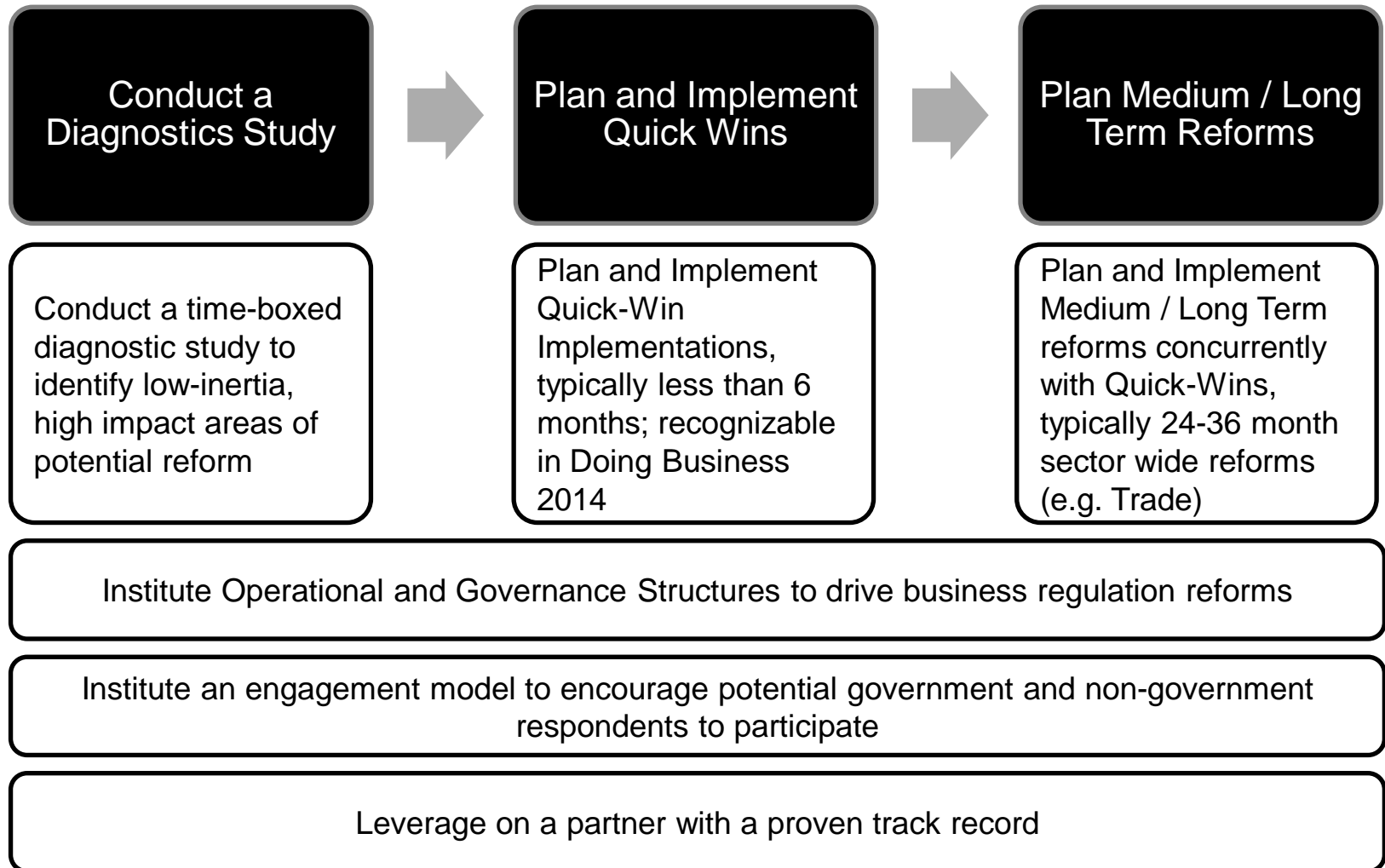
Data from [World Bank](https://www.worldbank.org/)

Lat Am & Caribbean countries have not been very strong performers; potential for Suriname to differentiate and “break away from the pack”



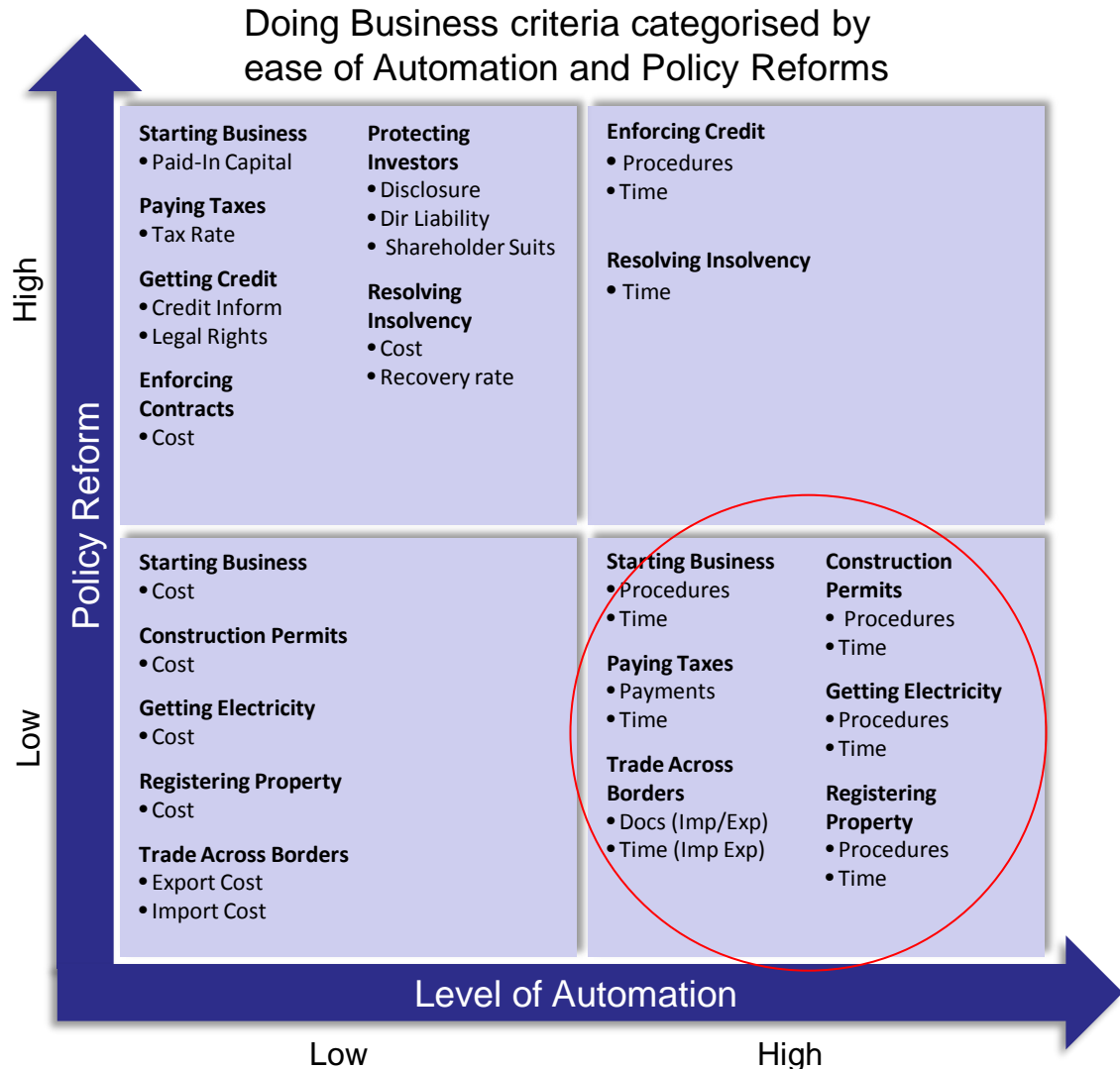
- 75% of economies in the Lam Am and Caribbean region dropped in their rankings in Doing Business 2013, with the main decliners being, Argentina, Bahamas, Ecuador, Jamaica and Suriname!
- 25% of the biggest decliners (bottom 36 economies) in DB 2013 are from this region – not a very strong performance from the region
- There were however a few high-achievers - Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico and analysis revealed a common theme
 - These economies focused on reforms in 3 or more criteria simultaneously (diversification)
 - Focus of reforms by these economies: Trading Across Borders, Paying Taxes, Construction Permits & Starting a Business

Doing Business Reform Programme will be a journey, with the first step being a Diagnostic Study to identify quick-wins and plan improvements for succeeding phases



Initial reform efforts should focus on low-hanging fruits...

- Focus initially on criteria that can be influenced by process improvements and automation
- Criteria that may require high-levels of policy reform may be tedious to implement with high change-inertia
- Potential Quick-Wins can therefore encompass the reengineering of overly lengthy business processes, e.g. Time to Start a Business, Number of Tax Payments



Analysis of Suriname leads us to conclude ...

- Suriname should channel efforts into reforming 4 criteria simultaneously
 - World Bank only recognises economies that have reformed 3 or more criteria as top-movers
- Selected criteria and specific reforms should be quickly implementable and yet yield the highest ranking and socio-economic impacts for Suriname
- Reforms should enable Suriname to keep pace with Regional and Global performers
- Reforms should be based on “proven” successes
- Keeping these in mind, the following criteria are recommended for initial focus
 - Starting a Business
 - Dealing with Construction Permits
 - Paying Taxes
 - Trading Across Borders

We seek from you, our stakeholders

- 1.** Your support and participation during the diagnostics study to help us during the information gathering process
- 2.** That you please be forthcoming with information – this is about how we can help Suriname improve
- 3.** Your opinions on areas you feel could be best improved and we welcome your suggestions
- 4.** Where would you want Suriname's Doing Business Ranking to be in 2-3 years

We have worked with various countries around the world in helping them better harness the benefits of infocomm technologies to drive socio-economic outcomes



Thank You

For further clarifications, please contact:

Mr. Prem Chandiramani, Executive Consultant

Prem.chandiramani@idainternational.sg

+65 6211 0403

www.idainternational.sg