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## Feedback

### Rethinking Singapore

Singapore's lack of entrepreneurship stems from fundamental issues (COVER STORY, May 4). Manufacturing is a fulcrum around which enterprise blossoms. Singapore does not have a large domestic demand to promote "genuine" manufacturing, whether cars, electronics or chemicals. Only the last stage of processing is done in Singapore. (Hong Kong, which offers the closest comparison, has one major difference: a manufacturing giant next door.) Moreover, globalization tends to reward cost-efficient countries. Singapore's neighbors have always been more cost-efficient, riding the crest of a large local demand and low wages. So in Singapore, enterprise has been restricted to service industries. Its entrepreneurial future lies therefore in its ability to identify high-end, knowledge-based manufacturing that is not weighed down by low-cost considerations.

***S. Balasubramanian Singapore***

**Resentment against the ruling class in the Philippines runs deep. But at least Estrada pandered to the poor, something most leaders do not even bother to do**

Rafael Reyes, Philippines

The dotcom explosion has allowed enterprising Singaporeans to set up business models and global networks that would have taken Old Economy players at least a decade to achieve. Some of these "netrepreneurs" have returned to more established jobs. But there are still a number trying to stay afloat in order to meet the next technological wave — m-commerce and 3G. The government should encourage them. First, help them financially. Second, let them share their experiences with small and medium enterprises, especially the "I-told-you-so" group. SMEs have to be proactive with their implementation of new technology. Third, study the convergence of the Internet, wireless and wearable technology with the life-sciences industry. Netrepreneurs can enable Singapore as well as the region to grow.

***Colin Ong Tau Shien Singapore***