

# Clinton and ministers meet for breakfast

**Ben Nadarajan**  
Assistant Foreign Editor

Before her speech at the Singapore Management University yesterday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was hosted to breakfast by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and several other ministers.

Mr Lee was joined by both Deputy Prime Ministers Teo Chee Hean and Tharman Shanmugaratnam as well as several junior ministers. Mrs Clinton had also met former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam when she arrived last Friday.

At yesterday's meeting, both sides exchanged views on international and regional developments, including initiatives for closer US-Asean cooperation and the agenda for the upcoming East Asia Summit (EAS), the Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

Mr Lee affirmed the warm bilateral ties and expressed appreciation for Mrs Clinton's role in ensuring US engagement of the region, including in the economic sphere. He also welcomed the continued commitment by the Obama administration to the region.

Just over a week into his re-election, US President Barack Obama is visiting Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, where he will attend the EAS. Mrs Clinton and Defence Secretary Leon Panetta are also on an Asian tour, visiting Australia before joining Mr Obama in

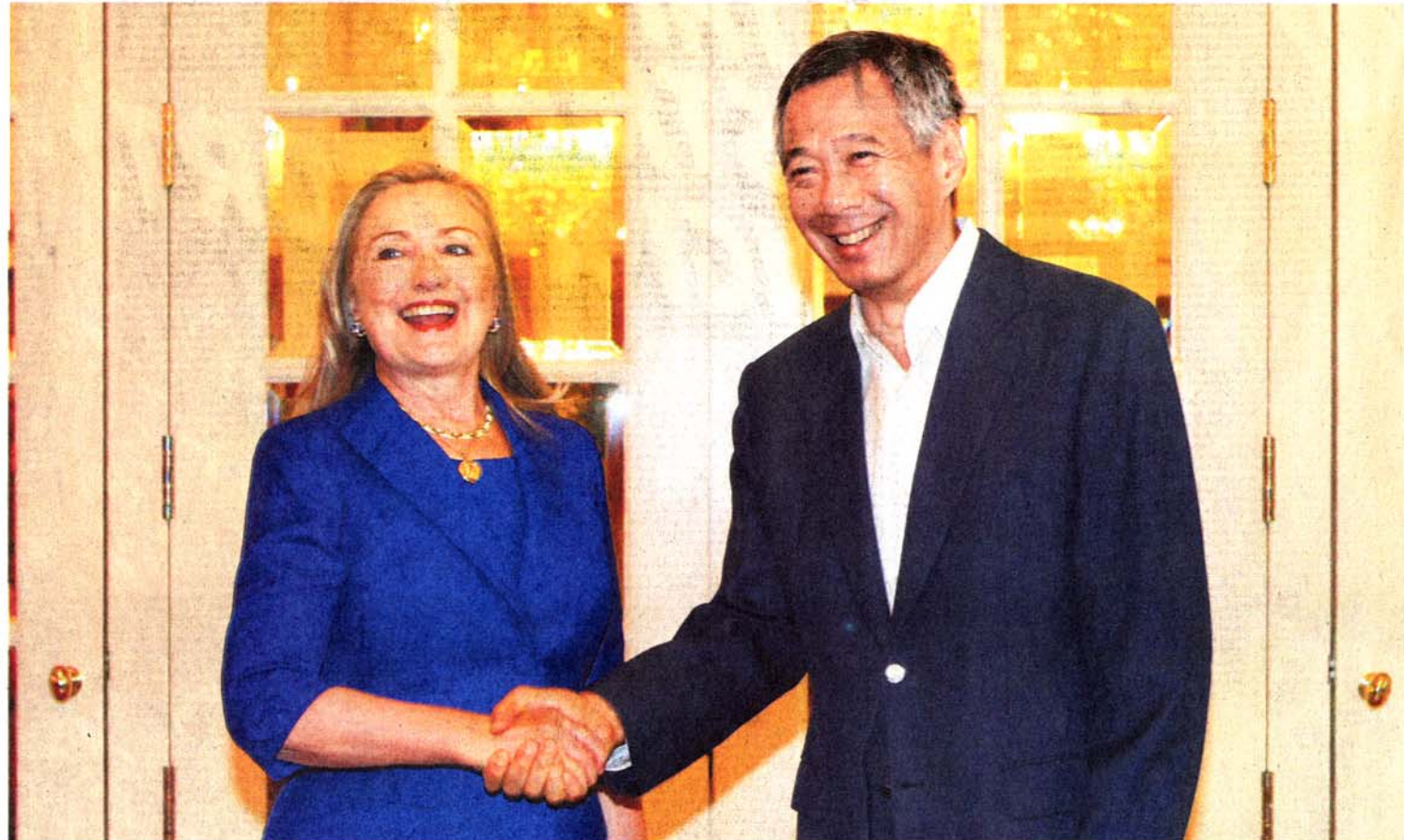
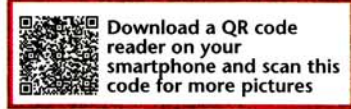


PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

South-east Asia.

In addition to her speech at the SMU, in which she touched on the progress the US was making in talks

on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, Mrs Clinton also visited the GE Aviation facility, which services high-tech jet engines.



Prime Minister Lee hosted breakfast at the Istana for Mrs Clinton before she delivered her speech at the Singapore Management University.