

## Excerpt



An early proposal for an integrated resort at Marina Bay.

## *The case for integrated resorts in Singapore*

*The following is a reproduction of the ministerial statement by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Parliament yesterday.*

INTEGRATED Resorts (IRs) are a significant proposal to boost our tourism industry. The government has been studying this idea for over a year. The issue has been debated intensely, both among the public and within the government, because the IRs will also include a gaming component, that is, a casino. Many Singaporeans have spoken up both for and against.

To assess the viability of the proposal, the government called a Request-For-Concept (RFC) in December 2004, to invite interested players to submit concept proposals to develop IRs on two sites – Marina Bayfront and Sentosa. The RFC attracted 19 bids.

After studying the bids, and considering all the views expressed, the Cabinet has decided to proceed with the project and to call for firm proposals to develop two IRs, both at Marina Bayfront and Sentosa.

Today, I will explain how the Cabinet reached this decision, and the key considerations that caused us to change our long-standing policy not to allow casinos in Singapore. I also want to acknowledge the concerns of those who oppose or have expressed reservations about an IR, and explain how we propose to limit the negative impact of the casinos. Finally, I hope to bring all Singaporeans together, so that even though we may not all agree on this issue, we understand and respect each other's reasons and concerns, and can close ranks and move ahead.

APRIL 19, 2005

*After de-pegging:  
what's ahead*

JULY 23, 2005

**Durai, NKF board resign  
amid public pressure**