



iFuture - Touching tomorrow's technologies

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For the tech-savvy and those who have always been yearning to witness future technologies, they now have their chance at the Singapore Science Centre (SSC). The latest partnership between SSC and the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) is in form of iFuture, an exhibition showcasing advanced technologies and futuristic concepts globally for the first time here.



iFuture is in line with IDA's iN2015, an ambitious 10-year master plan to map Singapore as a well-connected city driven by infocomm technology. At the press conference, Exhibitions Group Senior Manager Daniel Tan lets us in on the fact that plans for iFuture started in 2005. A whopping 10 million dollars, not including sponsorship and dynamic investments, was directed into iFuture and for relevant purposes over the next 5 years.

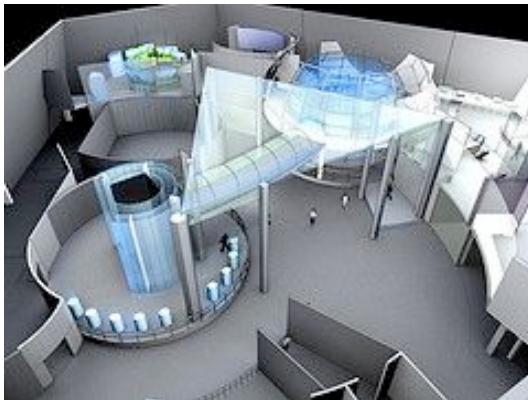
Client:	Singapore Science Centre
Subject:	Dinosaurs! A T. rex Named Sue And Friends
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Don't you want to see where some of this money has gone into? There are five main specialty categories, and Youth.SG gives you a sneak peek of a few iFuture displays:

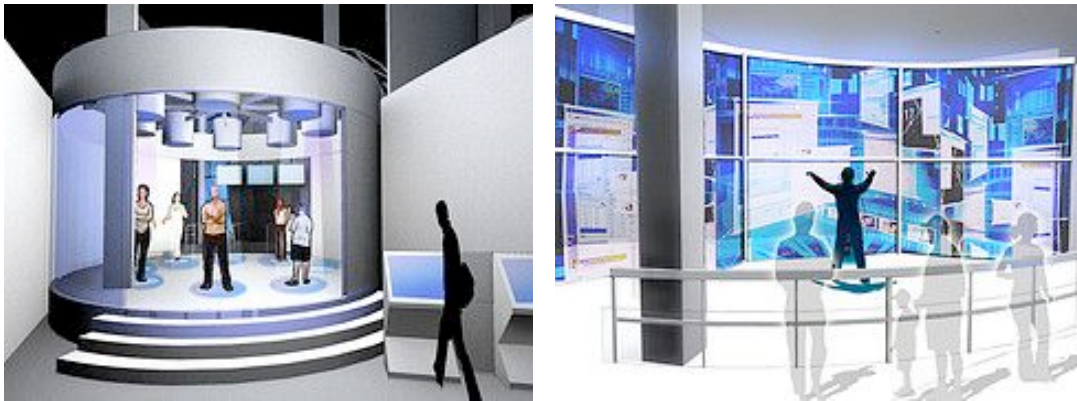
iSpace

It is the crown jewel of the whole exhibition, taking up about half of the 4,000 square metres exhibition space over two levels. iSpace employs an intensive use of Radio Frequency Identification technology and is highly interactive for visitors who can have a literal feel of the technologies.



iSpaceiCafe

The Odyssey Report is part of the display. Visitors will be able to shift digital panels around using their hands, a la Minority Report style. iCafe will act as more than just a gathering point for club members and have the latest gadgets on show. There is even a Teleportation booth.



Gizmo Dome

Here is an exhibition of some of the advanced inventions of different technologies. Some of these gadgets are not even on the shelves yet.

One of these is the Magic Mirror, a high-technology version of the one in Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. The subject's image is detected via a two-way camera, after which the computer superimpose images of flowers and butterflies over the image. As you move left to right or up and down, the butterflies will follow you. (All the girls, go "ooo!") Don't jump or move too fast though, the butterflies cannot catch up. The Magic Mirror is super princess-y, a must-see for all aspiring royalties.





Next, the exhibit is O'Neill MP3 Player Windbreaker, newly up in the market. It is catered to people doing extreme sports. There is no need to fiddle with the cumbersome wires or fear of damaging the mp3 players. The Play, Stop, Forward and Rewind buttons are all on the sleeve of the windbreaker. Also, its ability to keep you warm is perfect for snow-skiing.



Another gadget on display is Augmented Reality , an educational program that simply needs a monitor and a webcam to function. Place a card with a Chinese character in front of the webcam, and the program will generate a 3D-image above the card on the monitor and a pronunciation for the word. It is clever enough to correctly detect words paired up together. Take for example, a train, which is literally translated into “fire car” (huo che) in Chinese. The separate word shows fire and a car each, but when put beside each other, an image of a train will appear. Smart!



Mechanical Cabaret Theatre

It is a showcase of automatas, or mechanical toys from United Kingdom . An instance is The Barecats (an anagram of the word Cabaret!). As the larger cat turns the automata, the small cat will point up, following which the larger cat will look up at what he is pointing at.



The last two sections are The Singapore IT Story , a trail through the local history of infocomm, and the stimulator Virtual World, where visitors get an evolving perspective as they move around interacting with realistic images of breathtaking sights like dinosaurs and aliens.

All these feasible technologies are so user-friendly they might well be the norm for tomorrow. Be one of the firsts to get wowed by these technologies and make a trip down to iFuture at the Singapore Science Center !

iFuture – a touch of tomorrow

Date: 11 December 2006 to 18 March 2007

Opening Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays, 10.00am – 6.00pm

Closed on Mondays except School & Public Holidays

Ticket Prices: S\$9.00 (Adult), S\$7.00 (Child), S\$28.80 (Family Package 2 Adults & 2 Children)

Public Enquiries: 6425 2500

For more information, please click [here](http://www.ifuture.com.sg/). <<http://www.ifuture.com.sg/>>