



Partygoers line up to enter a nightclub at Marina Bay Sands, as haze shrouds the skyline of Singapore in the background

Singapore claims Tokyo's crown as most expensive

Singapore has become the world's most expensive city for expatriates

It replaces Tokyo, which was number one for years but has dropped down to joint sixth in the annual rankings compiled by researchers at the Economist Intelligence Unit. The reasons for Singapore's rise were its strong currency, the high price of utilities and the

cost of car ownership.

The report checks the prices of over 400 products and services. Singapore was followed by the French capital Paris, then Oslo in Norway, the Swiss city of Zurich and Sydney, Australia. The least expensive — out of 131 — was Mumbai in India, just

cheaper than the Pakistani city of Karachi, and the Indian capital New Delhi.

Paris rose six places to become the world's second-most expensive city, which the report's compilers say, in part, reflects a recovery by European economies.

London was ranked 15th while New York was in 26th place.

The report's authors said one reason why Mumbai was the least expensive major city in which to live was income inequality meant low wages for jobs like domestic help, driving down household spending.



An employee works along a solar panel production line

China's clean growth pledge at National Congress

Though steeped in tradition, the annual National People's Congress this year sought to break with the past with ambitious plans to tackle toxic pollution and economic imbalances

At the opening of the 10-day-long session, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told the 3,000 delegates gathered in Beijing that nature had given a red-light warning to blind development. The plan is to cut emissions by taking six million old vehicles off the roads as well as closing 50,000 small coal-fired furnaces.

Addressing the recent militant

knife attack in Kunming which left 29 people dead and 43 wounded, he said they would, 'crack down hard on all forms of terrorism that disregard the law and dignity of the nation', adding, 'we will work together to build a safe China'.

He also pledged to increase growth by 7.5 percent, the same as 2013 — in order to make the economy more sustainable as well as take a hard line on corruption, which has been his signature campaign.

Perhaps the most contentious announcement was a 12.2 percent increase in defence spending, which led to upset in neighbouring Japan.

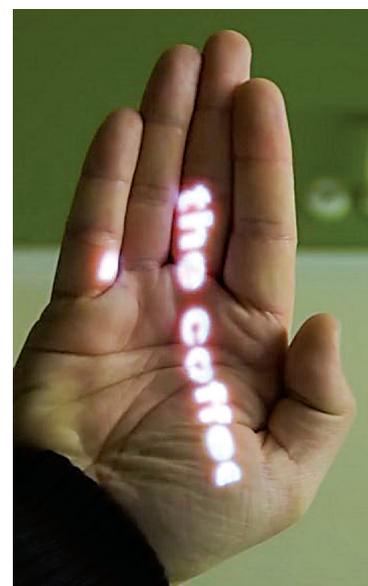
Projection project puts texts and emails on the tips of your fingers

It can be a bit of a task at times getting your mobile phone out of your pocket, turning it on and sometimes just for one text

How about having your mail and texts at the tip of your fingers — quite literally? That is the idea behind new technology called AMP-D or Ambient Pervasive Display. It will allow you to show digital information on any surface — even your hand. It also forms a continuous interaction space that is controlled by hand gestures. It has been developed by researchers at Ulm University in Germany.

"The idea with this device is not to keep on spreading new displays, but to use what exists already which is the world around us. And to use the palm of our hand that we always have with us as a display surface," explained Christian Winkler, who is head of the project.

A Kinect-style 3D sensor helps the projector continually adjust its focal length allowing users to change surfaces without having to wait for it to re-focus. The sensors recognise gestures such as a hand swipe so you never need to touch your phone. Images are projected directly onto your hands. The technology is all a bit ungainly at the



moment — remember the first big clunky mobile phones — but the team is aiming to reduce its size.

"The trend we have seen in the past three years is that the light strength of those 'pico-projectors' has become three times better. The battery technology is also improving which leads to the assumption, that in three or four years we will have a wearable device small enough to be worn around your neck or clipped to your pocket, that will be compact," said Winkler.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Bill Gates back on top as the world's wealthiest

There are more of them, amounts are higher, they come from a greater number of countries and if you want to join them in the top 20 you will need a net worth of \$31bn

That is according to *Forbes* magazine's annual ranking of the global billionaires. Microsoft's Bill Gates is back on top. His total net worth rose from \$67bn last year to \$76bn. He knocked Mexican telecoms tycoon Carlos Slim off top spot. He has been there for the past four consecutive years. Spanish clothing retailer Amancio Ortega maintained third position.

According to *Forbes*, the world's largest economy, the USA continues to dominate with the most billionaires — 492 in all. The list suggests that wealth is spreading; four new countries featured for the first time Algeria, Lithuania, Tanzania and Uganda.



Bill Gates

Rising stock markets, boosted by US and other central banks stimulus money, swelled the ranks of billionaires. There were a record 1,645 of them with a total net worth of \$6.4 trillion. That was up from 1,426 the previous year. The list also included a record number of women. Just over 10 percent were female, with 172 women compared with 138 a year earlier.

Floating buyers head to Dubai

Go where the money is. That's the motto of luxury boat-builders who are out in force in Dubai.

Those with a few million Euros to spare have floated on down to the annual boat show there, featuring nearly 450 vessels. The organisers expect more than 25,000 people, hailing from over 70 countries. Middle eastern visitors dominate, but there are also plenty from Europe, the USA and China, as well as elsewhere in Asia.

The head of one yacht brokerage and management company, Gregor Stinner of Art Marine, summed up, "The Dubai International Boat Show is become a very significant event, not only for the industry, I think it's a great indicator for the economy as such. The confidence level that there is now in the UAE, people come and invest their money, they see it as the Switzerland of the Middle East."

The United Arab Emirates is now the ninth largest yacht-building state in the world.