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Great idea with positive impact

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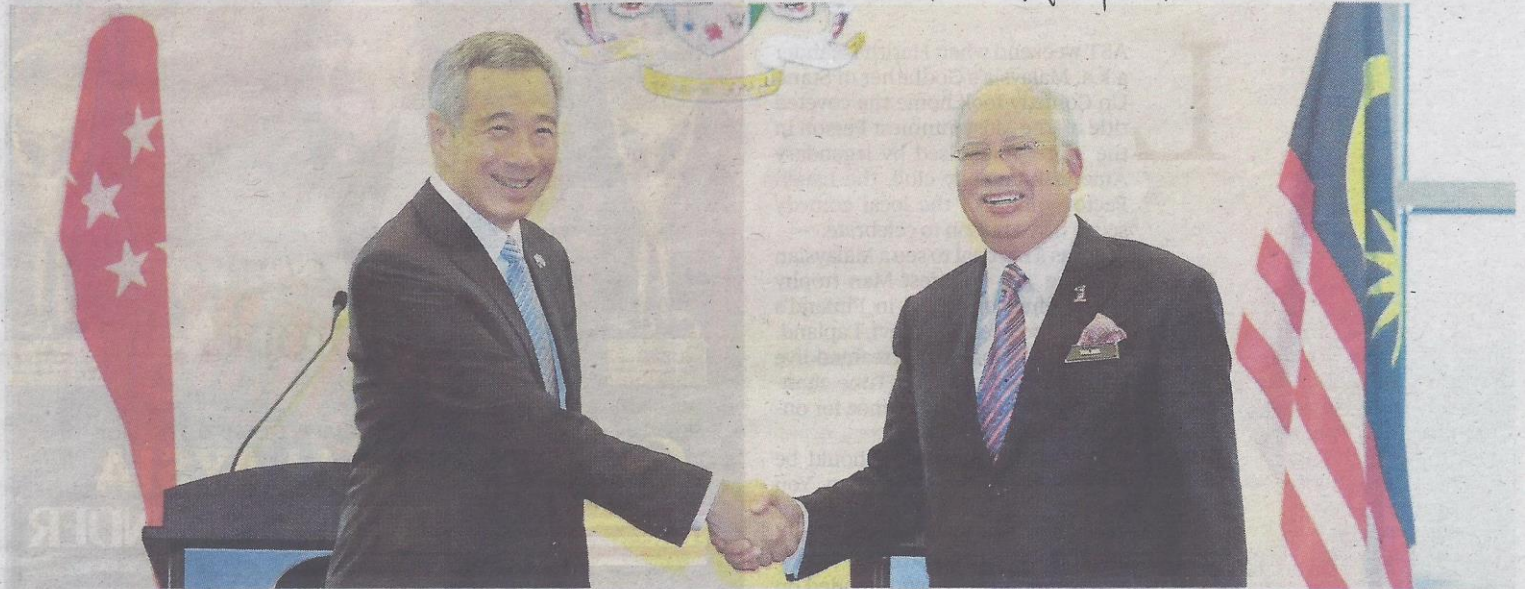
I WISH to present my view as a layman with regard to the joint bidding formed by China, Japan and South Korea for the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail (HSR), as mentioned by Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in conjunction with the signing of the agreement on the project in Putrajaya, on Dec 13.

The idea proposed by Lee that the three countries get together to bid for HSR is not impossible, though the probability of it materialising is slim.

However, if this great idea becomes a reality, it will have positive impact, not only on Malaysia and Singapore, but also globally.

Firstly, a joint bidding would not only eliminate the tension among the countries, but also improve co-operation, which would boost ties and build peace and stability in the region.

Secondly, a HSR jointly undertaken by five Asian nations will make Asians proud. This will, in turn, attract tourists to Malaysia and Singapore.



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** (right) and Singapore Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong** shaking hands after the signing of the **Kuala Lumpur-Singapore HSR project MoU** in Putrajaya.

Thirdly, a successful cooperation between the participating countries will set a precedence in the project management. This breakthrough may lead to the realisation

of the trans-Asian Railway.

Lee had said that although a three-country joint bidding was not common, it did not mean that it would never happen.

Let us all pray that the great challenges ahead can be overcome and that a breakthrough in the project management through joint bidding will bring a very important message

to the world — that through unity, we are stronger and successful.

■ **GOH H.H.**,
George Town, Penang