#### Singapore Management University

#### Institutional Knowledge at Singapore Management University

MSc in Innovation Capstone Projects

**SMU Student Publications** 

2021

#### LOKOTOPIA: Expansion to China doesn't have to be a gamble

Yiqing Pin CAI Singapore Management University, yiqing.cai.2020@mi.smu.edu.sg

Follow this and additional works at: https://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/msci\_capstone

Part of the Advertising and Promotion Management Commons, Asian Studies Commons, E-Commerce Commons, and the Technology and Innovation Commons

#### Citation

CAI, Yiqing Pin. LOKOTOPIA: Expansion to China doesn't have to be a gamble. (2021). 1-17. Available at: https://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/msci\_capstone/1

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the SMU Student Publications at Institutional Knowledge at Singapore Management University. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSc in Innovation Capstone Projects by an authorized administrator of Institutional Knowledge at Singapore Management University. For more information, please email <a href="mailto:cherylds@smu.edu.sg">cherylds@smu.edu.sg</a>.

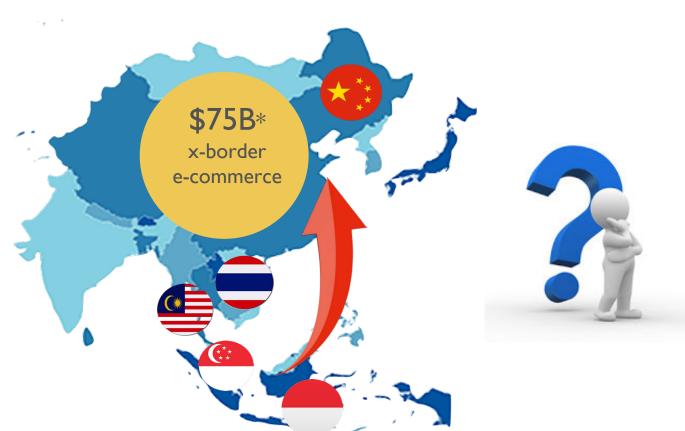


Expansion to China

Doesn't have to be a gamble

## **Problem Statement**

China is full of potential for Southeast Asian brands... but **SMEs** finding it **risky & expensive** to enter



- ? Product market fit?
- ? Which city to start?
- ? What story would sell?
- ? What is the right channel?



# **Existing Market Solutions**

Too expensive or too difficult



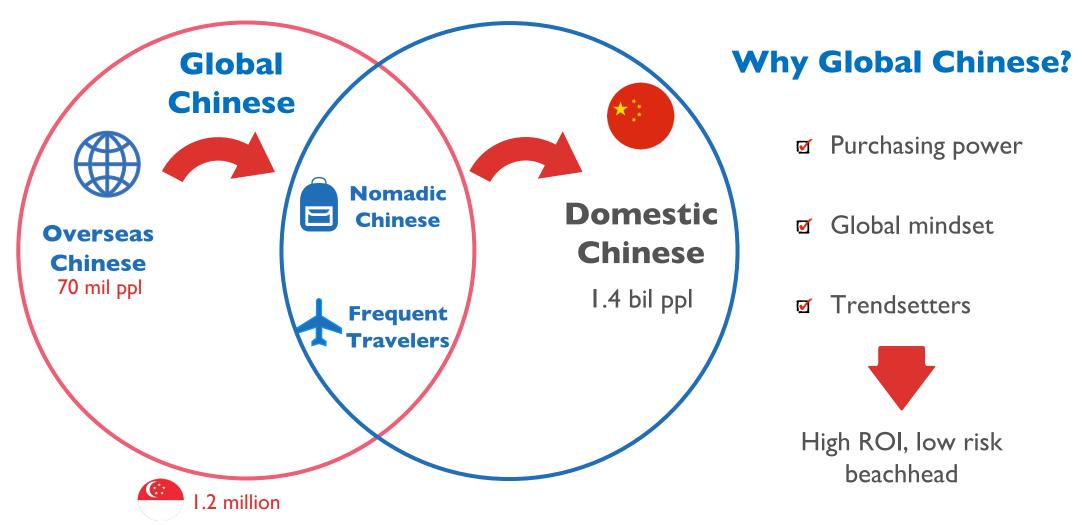
	GMA	天猫国际	<b>S</b> KIDOFY	LOK <b>⊙</b> t⊙p̃iā
Upfront cost	\$50k++	\$40k+	\$45k	\$3k
Time to	6 mths ++	3 mths	3 mths	I mth
Market study	<b>⊗</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>②</b>
Advantage	Awareness	Traffic	Simple	Speed
Disadvantage	No sales channel	Limited branding	Limited branding	Lack of scale

Sales Focus



# **Our Solution**

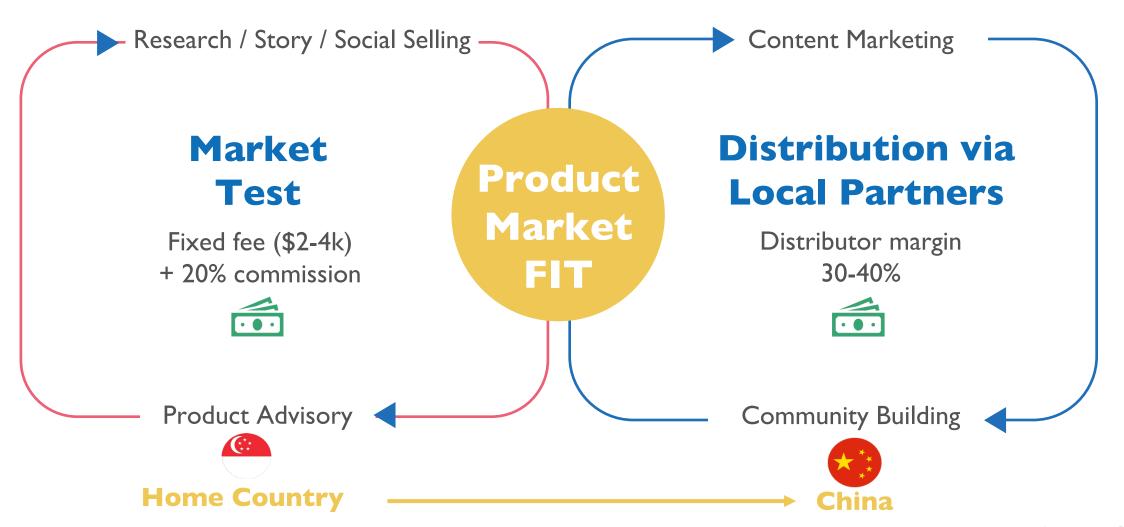
Market test through Global Chinese Consumers





# **Our Services**

Rapid Market Test | Expert Advisory | Effective Connection





## **Market Validation**



**☑** MVP2

**→ MVP3** 

Business Model



Marketing Consultant Distributor Under Own Brand

**Brand Incubation Platform** 



Market test in SG ⇒ interest in China Market test in SG 

Brand building in SG ⇒ fast growth in China

Clients



**Functional** Skincare Brands

JV Durian Mooncake

JV Durian Brand; other SG F&B brands



Limited willingness to pay

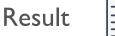


among global Chinese \$63k+ sales in SG \$224k+ sales in CN Gross margin 50%+

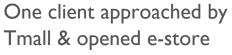
Effective market test

Ongoing brand building for multiple products

Exploring co-branding with SME F&B brands









# Next step: Durian Product Portfolio

OCT - NOV

DEC - FEB

MAR - MAY

JUN - JUL

AUG - SEP

Low season

Christmas/CNY

**Dumpling Festival** 

Durian Season

Mid-Autumn

- Frozen durian
- Durian puree



- Gift box
- DIY kit



- Durian dumpling
- Cultural gifts



- High-end durian
- Creative recipe



- Mooncake
- Peripheral products





# Next Steps & advice needed

### **Next Steps**

**Build a brand** that sells innovative durian products



Launch multiple new products every season to attract core customers



Secure high-quality ingredient, R&D and production capabilities



Strengthen distribution and logistic capabilities in SG & China

### **Advises Needed**

How to drive effective **partnership**?



How do we get priorities aligned?



Co-branding: when should we do it? And how to make it effective?



When to bring additional partners in? What collaboration models to use?







Cai Yiqing

+65 9170 9426

yiqing.cai.2020@mi.smu.edu.sg

# Appendix



# Our Team Cross-Pollinators | Trust Agents | Future Builders



Cai Yiqing

CEO

CN, SG, US

13 Years MNC **Business Transformation** 

Finance, Supply Chain, **Project Management** 



**WEI Qiluo** 

**BD Director** 

CN, SG

**Digital Entrepreneur** Social Media Marketing

Family Business in **Interior Design & Logistics** 



Ryan, LIU Runjia

**Community Director** 

CN, US, SG

**Event Host Community Expert** 

Family Business in **International Trade** 



Sissy, YAN Jiameng Rivers, LEE Kuan-Fu

**CMO** 

TH, CN, PH, SG

**Digital Marketing International Trade** 

Family Business in **Fashion Apparel** 



**CPO** 

TW, SG

**Digital Entrepreneur Project Management** 

**Digital Marketing** Consultant



## **MVP1 Chinese Brand Story**











## MVP1 KOL/KOC Product Reviews



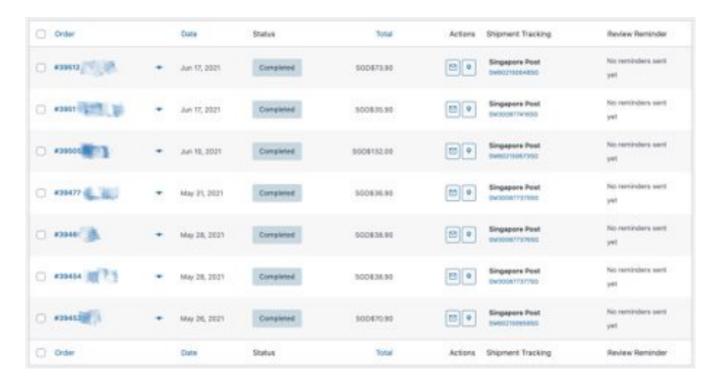




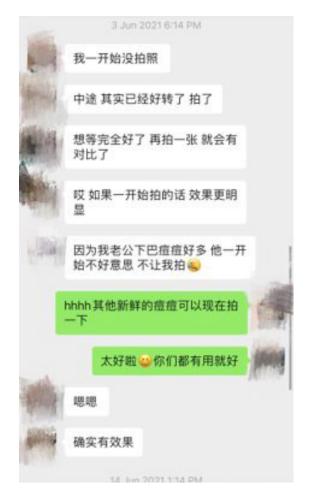


## **MVP1 Social Selling**

### 7 purchases generated, total value \$400+



#### Customer Feedback





### MVP1 Online marketing campaign

2 Wechat posts published,

500+ views generated







### MVP1 WeChat Official Account & User Community

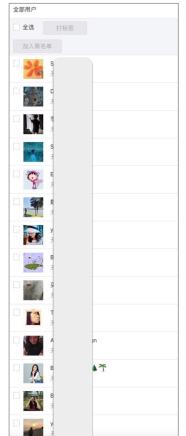
12 posts published

7000+ Views generated

179 fans accumulated









## **MVP 2 Client: Gorays Pte Ltd**

Product: Durian Mooncake

Marketing service fee: \$4K



- 110 customer preference survey
  25 product feedback survey done
  Overwhelming positive feedback
- ✓ Social media seeding, ROI 2X+
- Client has distribution partner in China
- \$63k+ sales in SG (900 boxes) \$224k+ sales in China (3200 boxes)











