**Singapore – A city in a garden**

This would hardly be believable, but in 1965 Singapore was a polluter’s paradise: mucky rivers, polluted canals and raw sewage running rampant. It was a developing country, newly split from neighbouring Malaysia, an island surrounded by waters that now they had to govern on their own.

Walk around Singapore today, and you will not see smelly, polluted rivers, but plants that literally crawl up skyscrapers, a garden or park in virtually every corner of the city, and teams of eco-volunteers who scour the island nation looking after its wildlife of all stripes. But it took Singapore a long journey to be what it is now.

Unlike other developing nations of the same period, Singapore’s environment was not sacrificed in the name of economy. Those in authority have long been well aware of the crucial components the would promote sustainable development in the country, thus a well-rounded approach based on sound economic principles and science has been in favor.

For example, Singapore replaces greenery lost on the ground from development with greenery in the sky through high-rise terraces and gardens.

There is even a man made island that is made of trash. People burn trash, collect ashes, then ship it to an island and bury in a special water. Singapore’s trash island is now a tourist spot and generate a considerable revenue for the government’s budget.

Singapore is simply an evidence that environment and economy are not necessarily contrasting factors in the course of development, and other countries should more or less learn from this world’s greenest island.