PERC says S'pore and HK best placed to cope with possible H1N1 pandemic

SINGAPORE: A report by a regional business intelligence agency has put Singapore and Hong Kong as the two economies most well placed in Asia to deal with a possible H1N1 pandemic.

The Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) cited a few reasons such as the small geographical size which makes a co-ordinated response easier.

A developed telecommunication network also makes isolation measures like working from home possible.

But most important of all, the report said the experience with SARS is paying off in dealing with H1N1.

Assistant Professor Steven Ney, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University, said: "One point which is also very important is the education level of the people. The people in Singapore and Hong Kong have a very high level of education. "They are media savvy. They are scientifically literate. They are discerning and discriminating about the information they see in front of them. And that, of course, helps the authorities in times like these."