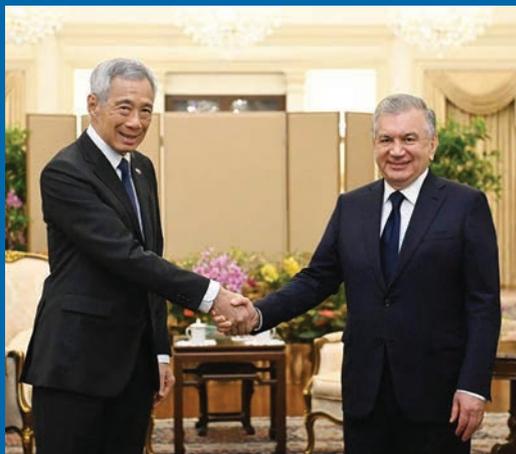


## SINGAPORE WELCOMES PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



### SPECIAL STATE VISIT REPORTS

- Uzbekistan-Singapore Key Areas of Cooperation
- Uzbekistan-Singapore Business Forum
- President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visits LKY School of Public Policy

**Presentation of Credentials**  
El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau  
and Luxembourg



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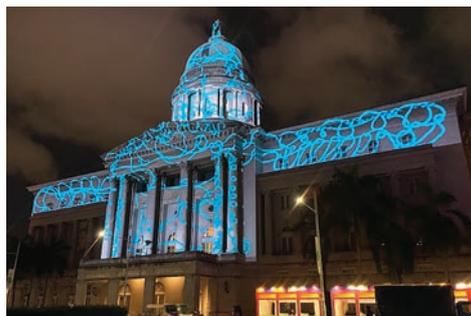
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## PRESENTATION of CREDENTIALS

President Halimah Yacob received the credentials of the Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador, the Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and the Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 10th January 2023 at the Istana.

### H.E. Arturo Alfonso Acevedo Valencia the Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador



**PRIOR** to Ambassador Acevedo Valencia's accreditation in Singapore, he also held the position of Minister Counsellor (Deputy Head of Mission) at the Embassy of El Salvador in Türkiye.

Ambassador Acevedo Valencia is a career diplomat. He has served in El Salvador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2012, with stints also in Moscow, London and Tel Aviv.

Ambassador Acevedo Valencia graduated from the International University of La Rioja with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration.

### H.E. António Serifo Embaló the Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau



**H.E.** Ambassador António Serifo Embaló is the current Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the People's Republic of China. He is also accredited to Singapore, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

Ambassador Embaló has held Ministerial roles from 2001 to 2019, including in the Ministry of Trade and Handicraft Industry, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources.

Ambassador Embaló holds a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism Economics from the Higher School of Economics in Varna, Bulgaria.



### H.E. Patrick Hemmer the Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



**PRIOR** to his accreditation to Singapore, H.E. Patrick Hemmer is the Luxembourg Ambassador-Designate to Thailand with co-accreditation to Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Viet Nam, and ASEAN. Ambassador Hemmer is a career diplomat. Before his posting to Thailand in August 2022, Ambassador Hemmer served as the Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel, since 2016.

He also served at Luxembourg's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium (2004-07), as Deputy Chief of Mission at Luxembourg's Embassy in Warsaw, Poland (2007-11), as Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York, United States of America (2011-2015) and as Deputy Chief of Mission at Luxembourg's Embassy in Moscow, Russia (2015-16).

Ambassador Hemmer attended the European School in Luxembourg before studying political sciences and philosophy. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Essex, United Kingdom. The Ambassador also obtained a Master's degree from the University of London, Birkbeck College, United Kingdom. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003, he worked as a reporter in Luxembourg and as a junior professional expert for the European Commission in Niamey, Niger.

He is married to Magdalena Hemmer with one daughter. His interests includes music, reading, cinema, cooking, and travel.

# Singapore Welcomes President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



*President Halimah Yacob with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the new orchid, Dendrobium Shavkat Mirziyoyev*

A warm welcome was extended to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on his maiden State Visit to Singapore from 16th to 17th January 2023. The President, who arrived here at the formal invitation of Singapore's President Madam Halimah Yacob, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations, also met Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

A ceremonial welcome greeted President Mirziyoyev at the Istana Palace, the official residence of the President of Singapore. A line-up of a Guard of Honour was posted at the square in front of the Palace as a mark of respect for the country's distinguished guest. The military band played the national anthems of both countries as part of the ceremony. The two Presidents walked around the Guard of Honour and greeted the members of official delegations present on the occasion.

Another prestigious ceremony followed, which was the special naming of a new variety of orchids in honour of the President of Uzbekistan. The orchid is the national flower of Singapore; historically being a symbol of honour on such occasions, it has been bestowed upon highly distinguished guests of Singapore and eminent individuals as well. As per tradition President Shavkat Mirziyoyev personally placed a sign with the name of a new variety of orchids - "Shavkat Mirziyoyev's Orchid" near the chosen bloom.

The flower selected to honour the Uzbek President is in fact a gorgeous and free flowering hybrid of Encbi Purple and Kila Blue orchids. It produces semi-double inflorescences about 45 cm long, with 17 to 20 flowers, each flower about 5 cm wide. The lilac-purple petals and sepals feature an orchid-purple border.

This ceremony was followed by both Presidents meeting up in private to discuss matters of State on various subjects. The duo, while mutually endorsing the strengthening of ties between the two nations, discussed the prospects for further cementing their bilateral partnerships and people-to-people ties. A conversation was also opened on potential areas of cooperation in the future between Singapore and Uzbekistan, particularly in the areas of education, sustainable development, and green energy. Also discussed at length was the experience of the two countries in regional cooperation and integration in Central and Southeast Asia. President Madam Halimah Yacob also encouraged Uzbekistan to use Singapore as the gateway to engage Southeast Asia.

President Mirziyoyev took the opportunity to extend a formal invitation to Halimah Yacob to visit Uzbekistan at any time convenient for her.

Later, President Halimah Yacob hosted a State banquet at the Istana in honour of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

## Meeting Business Leaders

During his visit President Mirziyoyev had also held several meetings with the heads of Singapore's major businesses and financial institutions. The head of the 15 largest companies, including Indorama,

Meinhardt Group, CPG Corporation, Changi Airports, Management Development Institute of Singapore, TMC Academy, Virtus Health, and others, as well as Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Tan See Leng and Chairman of Singapore Business Federation Ming Yan Lim.

While welcoming the august gathering, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev directed their attention to the significance of the visit to Singapore, the first overseas in 2023, which shows Uzbekistan's exceptional keenness to establish strong and mutually beneficial relations with Singapore.

Light was shed on how, with implementing systemic reforms in Uzbekistan, the inflow of investments increased to a level exceeding 30 percent of the GDP. In 2022 alone, it attracted \$8 billion of foreign direct investment in the economy. The President talked of attracting about \$30 billion in investments in 2023 and launch over 300 projects worth \$8 billion.

Noting the excellent results of the Uzbekistan-Singapore Business Forum, held the day before, it was pointed out that new investment, trade and financial agreements worth almost \$5 billion were signed as part of the event.

"This is evidence of a significant intensification of our cooperation, its obvious success and filling the

*Continued next page...*

## Visit to LKY School of Public Policy: Education A Key Reform in Uzbekistan



DURING his maiden State Visit to Singapore, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev stopped over at the Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) School of Public Policy and highlighted that education is one of the key points on the agenda of Uzbekistan's reforms and growth.

The LKY School ranks amongst the most prestigious public administration schools in the world. The school was named after the former Prime Minister-reformist of Singapore and the architect of Singapore's "economic miracle". It is known for combining the most advanced trends of Western education and the pragmatism of Asia, and has long been noted for its specialization in training for Master's programmes in public policy and international relations, scientific and political research. The school also offers short-term training programmes for senior officials from foreign countries. Over 3,500 students have graduated from the time the school was founded in 2004. President Mirziyoyev was particularly impressed by the

school's well-thought-out personnel policy and the attention it pays to training competent and honest leadership, which was a driving force in Singapore's economic and social success. In the light of this, special focus was on the study and application of Singapore's experience in training civil servants. In the course of his visit to the school the President was treated to deep insights into its activities and programmes; he also had an opportunity to discuss the prospects for bilateral cooperation with the school leadership.

A Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Public Administration Academy of Uzbekistan, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore system and the Singapore Civil Service College. At the outset, in 2023, almost 200 civil servants will improve their skills in Singapore in public policy, civil service, human resource management, international relations and global issues.

## Business Forum Highlights Many Opportunities in Uzbekistan



THE Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Singapore co-organised the Uzbekistan-Singapore Business Forum Uzbekistan's New Economic Era, Beyond 2023 on 16th January 2023.

The Guests of Honour at the forum were Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Gan Kim Yong and Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan H.E. Laziz Kudratov. About 180 Singapore business leaders with an interest in Uzbekistan as well as 30 high-level government officials from Uzbekistan and CEOs of Uzbek corporations attended the forum.

Minister Laziz Kudratov emphasized the importance of the high-level visit, which was expected to open a new page in relations. In recent years, the volume of Singapore's investments in Uzbekistan has exceeded \$700 million dollars, and the volume of mutual trade has increased twice over.

Presentations on investment and trade opportunities in Uzbekistan were delivered by Uzbek business leaders and officials including Deputy Minister of Transport of Uzbekistan Mr Jasurbek Choriyev, Director General of Uzbekistan Direct Investment Fund Mr Atabek Nazirov and Director of the Investment Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan Mr Ulugbek Kasimkhodjaev. Conversations were opened up later with Singapore business leaders including Regional CEO Middle East South Asia & Head of Group Business Development of PSA International, Mr Wan Chee Foong, Director of Indorama Group, Mr Prakash Kejriwal, Mr Prasoon Mukherjee, Founder and Chairman of Universal Success Enterprises and Vice-Chairman for SBF South Asia Business Group (SABG) and President of Management Development Institute of Singapore, Mr Eric Kuan about

doing business in Uzbekistan. Chairman of SBF, Mr Lim Ming Yan, said, "SBF has been organising the Uzbekistan-Singapore Business Forum since its inaugural edition in 2007. Over the years, the SBF has also led several business delegations to Uzbekistan to explore new business opportunities. Working closely with the embassy and our partners, SBF looks forward to supporting more Singapore companies to successfully gain in-roads into the market and be part of Uzbekistan's development and economic growth."

About 23 bilateral agreements were signed, covering a wide range of areas that are priorities for the development of cooperation between the two countries. This testifies to the significant interest of Singaporean entrepreneurs in investment projects in almost all industries. The Singaporean side confirmed its firm intention to continue strengthening and expanding its partnership with Uzbekistan in a wide range of fields. Chemistry, textiles, pharmaceuticals, agricultural industry, education, healthcare, logistics, as well as the IT sector were identified as priority areas for further development of cooperation.



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agenda of Uzbekistan-Singapore relations with practical and qualitative content," the President of Uzbekistan shared.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said there was still a lot of potential to be tapped by both countries by significantly enhancing bilateral cooperation. "The advanced experience of Singaporean companies is of great interest to us", President Mirziyoyev said. He also put the spotlight on several promising areas for long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation, including the participation of Singaporean companies

in the privatization process in Uzbekistan, the development of urban and transport infrastructure, the implementation of joint projects in the chemical and textile industries, the green economy, education, healthcare, and others.

In the light of the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan to step up its associations with foreign partners with reliability and stability, President Mirziyoyev urged Singaporean entrepreneurs to capitalise on of the opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation and actively invest in the economy of Uzbekistan.

Representatives of Singaporean businesses highly appreciated the economic reforms carried out in Uzbekistan and shared plans for implementing specific projects in Uzbekistan. The President of Uzbekistan invited entrepreneurs to visit the country and get acquainted with the favorable investment climate created.

The leaders from the Uzbek side were instructed to develop and approve the Plan of Practical Measures, including all the voiced projects and indicating step-by-step mechanisms, specific deadlines, and executors.

## President Mirziyoyev and PM Lee Hsien Loong Discuss Singapore-Uzbekistan Ties



*The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong*

ON 17th January 2023 President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana. The two leaders had wide ranging discussions, including those on regional and international developments, as well as Singapore's experience in developing its human capital, a crucial component of the country's development. Prime Minister Lee was updated on Uzbekistan's development strategy and President Mirziyoyev welcomed Singapore companies to explore opportunities in Uzbekistan.

Attention was also paid to matters of trade, whose turnover has doubled in recent years between the two countries. The number of enterprises operating in Uzbekistan with Singaporean capital has quadrupled and direct from Singapore into the Uzbekistan economy has gone up to the tune of \$700 million. Special emphasis was laid on the availability of large reserves for stepping up practical interaction in many areas.

In the wake of the talks between President Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong a bilateral documents exchange ceremony took place where President Mirziyoyev and PM Lee witnessed a flurry of several Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Co-operation Agreements signed between the two nations. In the presence of the heads of delegations, a total of eight documents providing for further enhancing cooperation between Uzbekistan and Singapore were exchanged.

An agreement was reached on the establishment of an Uzbekistan-Singapore investment company with an authorized capital of \$500 million. Agreements were also reached on transport, economic, education, legal affairs, and civil service training, as well as trade and economic cooperation and interaction between the prosecutor's offices of the two countries.



*"Singapore and Uzbekistan commemorated the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022 so it was good to meet each other finally.*

*Singapore and Uzbekistan face a complex geopolitical environment. While our circumstances are different, we share a common interest to promote peace and stability in Asia. We exchanged views on regional and global developments, including Singapore's experience in human capital development, which is a key pillar of our nation's development"*

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

### Highlights of MoUs and Agreements

- Transport Co-operation Agreement between the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Singapore
- MOU between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Singapore on Trade and Economic Cooperation
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Singapore on Cooperation in the Field of Education
- Arrangement on Cooperation between the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Attorney-General's Chambers of the Republic of Singapore
- Cooperation Agreement between the Agency for the Development of Public Service under the

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Academy of Public Administration and the Civil Service College

- MOU between Investment Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Enterprise Singapore on the promotion of bilateral economic relations
- Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Nanyang Polytechnic International, Singapore on the Cooperation to Improve the Capability and Capacity of Healthcare and IT Personnel
- Framework Agreement between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore in the areas of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Applied Science and Engineering.

# President Mirziyoyev: Key Areas of Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Singapore



Following the meeting between the two leaders, Shavkat Mirziyoyev invited PM Lee to visit Uzbekistan at any time convenient for him.

IN view of the fact that Singapore is the economic center of the Asia-Pacific region and is amongst the largest and most developed economies in the world, the President of Uzbekistan identified five key areas of cooperation between the two countries.

What has further underpinned Singapore's attraction for Uzbekistan is that the island-nation's success emanates from such key industries as:

- Electronics
- Banking
- Chemicals
- Logistics
- Biotechnology
- Transport Engineering



(Above) One of several MoUs signed witnessed by President Mirziyoyev and PM Lee that included areas of transport, economy, education, legal affairs and civil service training

## Areas for Potential Cooperation and Growth

- Development of human capital and the training of highly qualified personnel for public administration. An agreement was reached on the implementation, with the participation of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, of a joint program to train and improve the skills of civil servants in management, urban planning, infrastructure development, digital transformation, innovation, education and healthcare. An intensive retraining program for civil servants will be launched at the Public Administration Academy of Uzbekistan, with the involvement of leading Singaporean experts.
- Involving the Singaporean side in the privatization process in Uzbekistan. In this context, the prospects for the implementation of new projects with the involvement of best practices, modern technologies and the management of leading Singaporean companies as part of the privatization of large enterprises in Uzbekistan were discussed. It was proposed to create a joint Investment Fund for the transformation and restructuring of state-owned enterprises to further launch IPOs and attract foreign investment.
- Attracting advanced green technologies and digital solutions. Opportunities for introducing Singapore's achievements in digitalization, as well as the application of innovations and technologies of this country in green development, were discussed.
- Improvement of urban infrastructure and communications. Measures for cooperation in urban planning and construction, landscaping, and public utilities have been agreed upon. The first step in this direction was an agreement on the establishment in Uzbekistan of a joint Design and Engineering Center for the implementation of infrastructure and industry projects.
- The importance of supporting investments and expanding mutual trade by promoting joint projects with leading Singaporean companies was noted.

# How President Mirziyoyev's Visit Herald a New Era in Uzbekistan - Singapore Relations

A special publication commemorating the historic state visit by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev details the historic impact and opportunities that are opening up between both countries. Compiled by Sun Media Pte Ltd in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Singapore, it offers insights and reports with content highlights that include the background to the economic and political developments that have led to the identifying of opportunities and trends on a global and national scale.

**Uzbekistan & Singapore**  
WELCOME EDITION  
PRESIDENT SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV  
JANUARY 2023

**Uzbekistan: Gateway to Central Asia**

**Ambassador Kakhrar**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan in Singapore

**Heralding a New Uzbekistan**  
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**Samarkand Spirit: Inspiring Agenda for International Cooperation**

**Uzbekistan-Singapore Roundtable: Prospects for Cooperation & Partnerships**

**Message**  
In the year of 2023 we were celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic relations (April 8, 1997) between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Singapore.

**Business**  
Both countries take pride in the excellent level of relations nurtured over the years and look forward to the opening of several new doors of cooperation especially in the wake of the visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in January.

**Message**  
"It is a very significant visit. It's going to point to more collaboration, ventures and projects in the future. It signals a new chapter of our relationship going forward. It is a new signal of an emerging Uzbekistan that's able to progress beyond this neighborhood. It's a signal to Singapore that we welcome our friends from afar, to be closer to us, working with us for the long term."

**About the Ambassador**

## EVENTS



### Singapore Motorshow 2023

12 - 15 January 2023

After a three-year hiatus, Singapore's biggest and most well-known auto show, the Singapore Motorshow, returned to the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre from January 12 to 15, 2023. The four-day event took place on two floors, levels 3 and 4. A lineup of brand-new models from 24 automotive brands, including the newest electric and electrified vehicles that highlight innovations and green technologies, MediaCorp celebrities, and alluring lucky draws were on display at the Singapore Motorshow 2023 under the theme "It's More Than a Car Show." The Singapore Motorshow is the largest and most prestigious annual motoring event in Singapore. It has grown to become the premier platform for automotive brands to launch new models and showcases their latest products since its inception in 1992. Apart from that, the Singapore Motorshow also provides special auto deals along with discounted prices on lifestyle goods and automotive accessories.

### Inaugural SEA Air Art Exhibition Singapore

11 January - 15 February 2023

On 10th January 2023, the European Union Delegation to Singapore and Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) launched the exhibition of new works by regional artists, created after their residencies in Europe, as part of SEA AiR - Studio Residencies for Southeast Asian Artists in the European Union. Hoo Fan Chon, Citra Sasmita, Vuth Lyno: New Works marks the culmination of the first cycle of SEA AiR. NTU and the European Union Delegation to Singapore have launched an exhibition of new works by regional artists, created after their residencies in Europe, exploring issues of female empowerment, marginalized communities, and the cosmetics of food. The exhibition, Hoo Fan Chon, Citra Sasmita, Vuth Lyno: New Works, marks the culmination of the first cycle of SEA AiR - Studio Residencies for Southeast Asian Artists in the European Union. SEA AiR is a joint program funded by the European Union and developed by the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (NTU CCA Singapore).



### Light to Night 2023 Festival

6 - 26 January 2023

The Light to Night Festival was back from 6th to 26th January 2023 in the Civic District. Light to Night 2023 embraces the theme of 'Here and Now' and explores what it really means to be in the present. The festival allows people to reflect on contemporary issues through freshly commissioned pieces by local and international artists in the Civic District. The festival is inspired by the act of responding to one's time and the environment through art. The festival offers opportunities for impromptu and fleeting interactions with art as well as brief periods of reflection on the world and who we are at this moment through a number of multidisciplinary programmes.

The Light to Night Festival is organized by National Gallery Singapore in collaboration with its Civic District partners. Highlights of the Light to Night Festival 2023 included the iconic Art Skins on Monuments (the biggest facade light show in Singapore), live performances, and large-scale day-to-night art installations. The Art X Social festival market also returns with over 50 booths of arts and crafts, food and beverage, workshops, and more. Admission to the Light to Night Festival 2023 was free, and there were programs on from as early as 10 am until midnight.



### Thaipusam Festival Singapore 2023

5 February 2023

Thaipusam Festival 2023, which will be held on 5th February 2023, is an upcoming event in Singapore. Anchored by a colorful annual procession, Thaipusam sees Hindu devotees in Singapore seeking blessings, fulfilling vows, and offering thanks. The festival is celebrated in honor of Lord Subramaniam (also known as Lord Murugan), the destroyer of evil who represents virtue, youth, and power. The festival generally lasts for two days. On the eve, a chariot procession bearing a statue of Lord Murugan begins from Sri Thendayuthapani Temple at Tank Road to Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple at Keong Saik Road.

