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## New Ambassadors

### Presentation of Credentials

1st June 2017

We warmly welcome the latest members of the foreign diplomatic corps to Singapore who presented their credentials to President Tony Tan on 1st and 29th June 2017. Click on the images to view their respective biodata. (Photos credit: Ministry of Communications and Information)



HE Saad Saleh Al Saleh, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



HE Florin Marius Tacu, Ambassador of Romania



HE Ngoun Sokveng, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia

## Singapore Supports One Country, Two Systems



Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Manpower and Foreign Affairs Mrs Josephine Teo attended the Reception organised by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to celebrate the **20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to China** on 28 June 2017. She congratulated China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) on reaching this significant milestone and reiterated Singapore's support of the 'One Country, Two Systems' and wished China and Hong Kong SAR well in its continued journey of integration. (Source: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Wishing All Celebrating



## Happy Hari Raya Visits



(Sixth from left): Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman who is accompanied by spouse, Sadiyah Shahal; Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Education, Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Faishal bin Ibrahim and his spouse, Hayati binti Haron; the Mayor of Northeast CDC, Desmond Choo; and the Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Lim Hong Huai in a group photo with Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education and spouse, Datin Hajah Asmah binti Haji Abdul Rahman. (Photo by Khairil Hassan / Borneo Bulletin)

The Senior Minister of State (SMS), Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman was in Brunei Darussalam for an official visit from June 26 – 30, 2017 in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festivities. While in Brunei, He visited the open house of Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education and his spouse, Datin Hajah Asmah binti Haji Abdul Rahman on the first day of Hari Raya. He accompanied by Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Education, Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Faishal bin Ibrahim and his spouse, Hayati binti Haron; the Mayor of Northeast CDC, Desmond Choo; and the Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Lim Hong Huai.

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**New Ambassadors****Presentation of Credentials****29th June 2017**

HE Federico Alejandro Barttfeld, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic



HE Judith Kangoma Kapijimpanga, High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia

**Royal Open House at Istana Bukit Serene**

Minister for Health Gan Kim Yong and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee attended the Hari Raya Open House hosted by the Sultan of Johor, His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, on 25 June 2017 at the Istana Bukit Serene, Johor Bahru. Minister Gan, Minister Lee, and their spouses had a joint audience followed by lunch with the Sultan, Permaisuri Johor Her Royal Highness Raja Zarifah Sofiah, and members of the royal family. Minister Gan and Minister Lee conveyed their Hari Raya greetings and reaffirmed the strong people-to-people ties between Singapore and Johor. Their visit continues the longstanding tradition of Singapore's representatives attending the Sultan's Hari Raya Open House, and reflects the continued warm relations between Singapore and Johor. (Source: S'pore MFA)

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The Singaporean Senior Minister of State also visited Istana Nurul Iman yesterday to convey Hari Raya wishes on behalf of Singapore's leaders to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, and other mem-

bers of the royal family.

The Singapore delegation will also be visiting the open houses of Brunei's Cabinet Ministers, deputy ministers, and other prominent Bruneian personalities. Dr Mohamad Maliki will be the guest of honour at the Hari Raya open house hosted by the Singapore High Commission in Brunei Darussalam on tomorrow for Brunei government officials and the Singaporean community in Brunei Darussalam. (Click here for source: *Borneo Bulletin*).

**Eid Celebrations at India House**

HE Mr Jawed Ashraf, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, opened India House to invited members of Singapore's community on 25 June 2017 in celebration of Eid, the religious festival marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. His Excellency and his wife (pictured left) were on hand to welcome everyone to the beautifully restored Architectural Heritage Award winning home of the Indian High Commissioner at Pierce Road (photos bottom row of this page).



Some guests (above from left to right): Dr R Theyvendran, Secretary-General of Management Development Institute of Singapore; Mr Mohammad Alami Musa, Singapore's Ambassador to Algeria & spouse; Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies & spouse and Mrs Nomita Dhar, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief IN Diplomacy & spouse

**INTERVIEW****HE Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz****DCCS New Dean: We'll Have A Ball...**

(Above): Ambassador HE Dr Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz (centre) with other members of the diplomatic community at Fullerton Hotel on 6 June 2017 and (above right) with his predecessor HE Jairo Hernandez Milian

On 6th June 2017 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland HE Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz, took over as the Dean of Singapore's Diplomatic and Consular Corps from H.E. Jairo Hernandez Milian, Ambassador of Costa Rica. In conversation with Editor-in-Chief of IN Diplomacy, Mrs Nomita Dhar, he shares his thoughts and plans for his tenure as Dean.

**Your Excellency, could you please share with our readers the nature of the work handled by the Dean of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps?**

For one, it does not matter whether he is a junior or senior ambassador in the diplomatic corps. He is the Dean. This is not a new function. In my understanding the Dean should be the representative of all ambassadors and high commissioners for all official authorities in Singapore. Secondly, the Dean should be also responsible for co-operation within the diplomatic corps itself.

**How do you plan to go about your duties during your tenure?**

I would like to continue what my predecessor started here. There were many events which were planned. One of the main duties as a Dean is the setting up of farewell parties or lunches for those ambassadors who have completed their missions here in Singapore. So, the first one of these is planned for July 20 as three fellow ambassadors are leaving—these are the representatives of Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium... So we will have a meeting here to say goodbye to our friends. Then we also have some sports events planned by the year end—there are at least three such events on the cards.

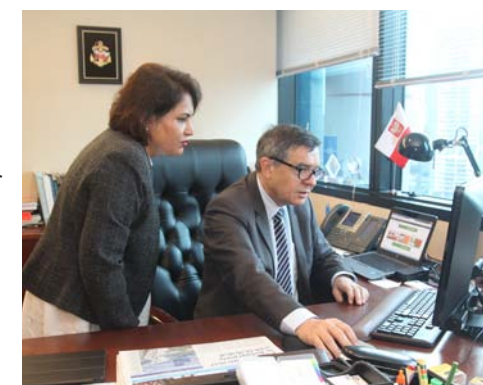
This week I will be meeting the Chief of Protocol with whom I would like to raise the matter of the co-operation between the diplomatic corps and the protocol of Singapore. I would like to ask him to share his expectations and in turn I would

like to share some of my experiences from the countries where I was posted before—this is my third ambassadorial function and my sixth diplomatic posting; I have had the pleasure of serving in two continents—Europe and America.

This is my first time in Asia. I would like to learn much from here, but would also like to share the experiences and practices in Canada, where I spent four years—as well as those from the many different European countries, where I spent more than 20 years.

**What are these practices you would ideally like to be followed here as well? Could you share some of those with us?**

Well some of those practices might involve events that cannot be done here, e.g. what we did in Canada, because of the different climate. But I



would like to continue all possible sports activities here. Not necessarily all where the diplomatic corps or protocol would be involved - golf for example is already fairly common. There are many other sports activities such as soccer, badminton and even tennis which is very popular.

I would like to start some new activities. We had a very nice tradition in countries where I was posted before—this was the setting up, once a

year, of the Diplomatic Ball with performances such as national dances and the like. I think it would be something quite new here... may be held sometime after the New Year and before the preparations for the Chinese New Year - we could do something like that.

In our diplomatic life, we have many opportunities to meet each other as diplomats, and many opportunities to socialise, many of these get-togethers are all at a professional level. What's important I think is sometimes we would like to have some private get-togethers involving our families, our spouses. In my opinion this is an obvious step for further integration—not just between us but also between us and the local community.

You know what I appreciate here in Singapore is the openness of this multi-cultural country. You don't have any problems getting in touch with the local people—no matter how high the level is—be it an important CEO or businessman, or just your next door neighbour.

I believe some of these events should be dedicated for the local community, not just only for the diplomats. As diplomats our duty is also to understand and engage with the local people in the country where we are posted. So one of the ways is to socialise together—not necessarily at a Diplomatic Ball, but rather events to which we can invite our local Singaporean friends as well.

When I was in Canada we had a huge diplomatic corps made up of about 120 ambassadors, and there was something called the 'Diplomatic Association' which was a voluntary affair and provided access to everyone from the ambassador to the third secretary. I was the president of this association and actually we had organised all these events—not the Dean. We arranged activities such as excursions as well as the Diplomatic Ball.

IN Diplomacy has covered the events organized by the spouses of the ambassadors which is a good idea. It's a good tradition. I remember when I was in Slovakia my wife had more meetings with the wives of the foreign ministers than I did! It was a very efficient group and they were doing some fantastic work—and not just socializing! I would like to encourage something like that here as well.

**Tell us how does it work? Is the wife of the Dean the Chair?**

When I came here I don't think the Dean's wife played that role. But I do recall there was excellent co-operation between the ladies in the corps. While I would enjoy the support of my wife in my capacity as Dean, I feel the ladies in the diplomatic corps should remain independent in their pursuits.



## EVENT

## Philippines 119th Independence Day 19 June 2017



Kalayaan 2017, the diplomatic reception hosted by the Philippine Embassy in Singapore to celebrate the 119th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence was held at the St Regis Singapore on 19th June 2017 with Guest of Honour Mr Lim Hng Kian, Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry. He was joined by Members of Parliament (MPs) Dr. Lee Bee Wah of Nee Soon GRC and Mr. Tan Wu Meng of Jurong GRC. Ambassador Morales noted that the well-being of Filipinos whose presence in Singapore is mutually-beneficial to the two countries remains one of the priorities of the Philippines. He concluded by thanking Singapore for its support during its ASEAN chairmanship and for being Philippines' true friend. At the reception, the Embassy also launched *Partner Philippines* magazine. The Ambassador expressed great satisfaction with the quality and contents of the magazine (for video message [click here](#)) and reiterated this again at a post-reception meeting (pictured right) with Mrs Nomita Dhar, Sun Media's Publisher on working together in getting the publication's messages out to potential investors on the opportunities awaiting them in the Philippines.



## COMMUNIQUÉ

## Brazil Embassy Marks Move with Art Exhibition



The Embassy of Brazil at United Square has consolidated all of its offices to the 29th floor of the building and to commemorate the move it held an Art Exhibition that showcased commissioned work by Brazilian artists in Singapore that was officially opened on 20th June 2017. The Ambassador of Brazil HE Flavio S Damico welcomed six of the seven artists (pictured top left - Isadora Pagani, Rosie Oliveira, Thayse Madureira, Christine Veras, Patricia Cabaleiro, Ambassador Flávio S. Damico and Deusa Blümke) who contributed their art works and gave away letters of appreciation to them as well as unveiled the winning 50th Anniversary artwork of Singapore and Brazilian diplomatic ties that was won by Thayse Madureira. Also attending the event were invited guests from the diplomatic and Brazilian communities in Singapore, as well as representatives from the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs headed by Ms Jophie Tang (pictured above right). The artworks will be on exhibit between 23rd June and 7th July, from 10am to noon and from 2pm to 4pm. Note: It is necessary to book an appointment in advance to visit the Embassy. For a look at the art and artists [click here](#).



## International Day of Yoga Celebrated in 70 Centres in Singapore

Between 17th to 25th June 2017 there were yoga sessions held at 70 centres that included iconic Singapore locations, institutions and schools /centres throughout Singapore. They range from yoga centres to Changi Airport, community clubs and centres, the French Association, Gardens By the Bay, Marina Barrage, Botanical Gardens etc. IDY was well received here not only by the Indian population, but by other ethnic groups who participated in the week-long celebrations.

The free practice sessions celebrated the International Day of Yoga (IDY), designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 that fell on 21st June 2017. In Singapore the Second International Conference on Ayurveda was also held on that day attracting 300 participants. Some other highlights were:

- Special yoga session for the elderly and those recovering from mental illness that was held at SUNLOVE HOME.
- Book launch 'The Head that Won't Stand' on women who have benefited from yoga.

For the first time, **ActivSG**, part of Sport Singapore joined High Commission of India here in celebrating IDY. They join major grassroots organisations here such as the People's Association

and Civil Service Club and they helped to raise the visibility of IDY and yoga in Singapore.





## COLLABORATIONS

Singapore shares its developmental experience and knowledge with others as a responsible global citizen and the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) was established in 1992 to serve as the primary platform through which Singapore offers technical assistance to other countries especially in the area of human resource development and economic development. To date, the SCP has trained over 100,000 government officials from 170 countries.

### Upcoming Sustainable Development Courses

As a small country with limited land and natural resources, Singapore is acutely sensitised to the challenges of sustainable development. This cluster supports the United Nations 2030 Agenda by sharing insights and practices in sustainable development solutions for air and water quality management, urban traffic and congestion management, urban planning and climate change adaptation.

For more information about the courses, conditions and eligibility etc please click [here](#).

Course	Course Dates	Closing Date for Nominations
Transforming Urban Habitats: Urban Master Planning	30 Oct to 3 Nov 2017	18 Sep 2017
Urban Air and Water Quality Management	6 to 10 November 2017	25 September 2017
Climate Change Adaptation Strategies	11 to 15 December 2017	30 October 2017

### From the Embassies....

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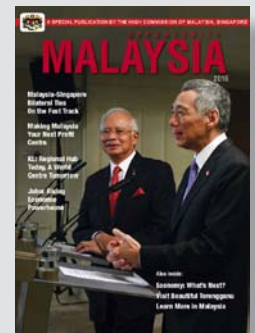
*Opportunity Russia 2016*



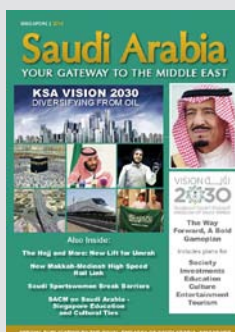
*Opportunity Indonesia 2016*



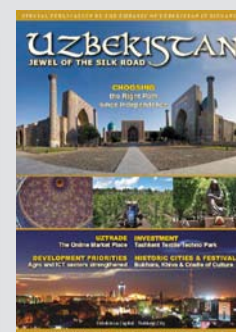
*It's Time for Brazil in Singapore 2016*



*Opportunity Malaysia 2016*



*Saudi Arabia Your Gateway to the Middle East*



*Uzbekistan Jewel of the Silk Road*



*Opportunity Nigeria 2016*



*Partner Philippines 2017*