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PM Lee on the Spirit of Singapore

In a departure from past telecast practice the Prime Minister's National Day Message was delivered by PM Lee Hsien Loong with the Marina Bay as a backdrop to highlight how Singapore's successful development rests on not just tackling pressing issues of today but also addressing the challenges of the future - this he said was the Spirit of Singapore. The choice of the Bay East Garden, the eastern section of Gardens by the Bay location is also where the Singapore Founders Memorial will be sited. *For the full text of his speech click [here](#).*



Co-chairing the ASEAN-China Post Ministerial Conference with PRC FM Wang Yi
(Source: Dr Balakrishnan's FB page)

ASEAN Jubilee Meeting in Manila

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan attended the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM), Post-Ministerial Conferences (PMCs), 18th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), 7th East Asia Summit (EAS) FMM and 24th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila, Philippines from 3 to 8 August 2017.

Against the backdrop of ASEAN's 50th Anniversary this year, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers (FMs) took stock of progress in regional cooperation and planned the path ahead for the **ASEAN Community Vision 2025**. Discussions covered ■ How to strengthen ASEAN Centrality and unity

■ Review ASEAN's external relations and exchange views on regional and international issues.

At the PMCs, the ASEAN FMs met their counterparts from ASEAN's Dialogue Partners (namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States) to discuss both ongoing and future cooperation. The ASEAN FMs will also engage their counterparts at the APT FMM, EAS FMM and ARF on key regional developments and the evolving regional architecture. Minister Balakrishnan will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Lecture

S.T. Lee Distinguished Lecture of
the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public
Policy, Singapore
12th July 2017

India, ASEAN and Changing Geopolitics

by Dr. S. Jaishankar Foreign Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
India to mark 25 years of India-
Singapore Partnership

Click [here](#) for transcript

IISS-Fullerton Lecture
20th July 2017

India, the United States and China

Click [here](#) to visit IISS website for the transcript
of the speech and video clip of the speech and
Q&A session that followed.

Dr VB Visit Sri Lanka



Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan made an introductory visit to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from 17 to 20 July 2017. Minister Balakrishnan visited Colombo and Jaffna.

In Colombo, Minister Balakrishnan called on President Maithripala Sirisena and was hosted to dinner by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe (pictured above). Minister Balakrishnan met Minister of Foreign Affairs Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development Champika Ran-

awaka, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development Sagala Ratnayaka and Leader of the Opposition Rajavarthiam Sampanthan.

During the meetings with Sri Lankan leaders, Minister Balakrishnan reaffirmed the warm and growing relations between Singapore and Sri Lanka, and discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation. Minister Balakrishnan underscored the **importance of the expeditious conclusion of the Sri Lanka – Singapore Free Trade Agreement negotiations**. Minister Karunanayake hosted Minister Balakrishnan and Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop to a joint breakfast meeting, where they discussed trade, investment and connectivity initiatives across the Indian Ocean. Minister Balakrishnan also witnessed the signing of a MOU between the Singapore Red Cross and the Sri Lankan Red Cross on relief and rehabilitation programmes in Sri Lanka.

In Jaffna, Minister Balakrishnan met Governor of the Northern Province Reginald Cooray and Chief Minister of the Northern Province C V Wigneswaran where he expressed Singapore's support for Sri Lanka's development and national reconciliation process. He also participated in a book donation ceremony from the Singapore National Library Board to the Jaffna Public Library and the launch of a Lee Foundation-SingHealth Orthopaedic Development Programme at the University of Jaffna.

New Canadian Scholarship Programme for ASEAN Jubilee

To mark ASEAN's 50th Anniversary and the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada dialogue partner relations, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced on behalf of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, that Canada will support a new scholarship programme for ASEAN. This initiative will provide US\$10 million over five years for post-secondary students and mid-career professionals from Southeast Asia to access world-class education in Canada. The Minister made the announcement at the Canada-ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference in Manila, Philippines.

Canada is committed to combating poverty and promoting human rights in Southeast Asia, especially the rights of women, girls and migrants. The Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development initiative will provide individuals from ASEAN member states, especially women, the opportunity to apply for short-term studies or research in Canada. Scholarships will be awarded in fields that contribute to ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap and reduce poverty in Southeast Asia, such as climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, public financial management, and sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls.

COMMUNIQUÉ

Global Ceylon Tea Party

On 6th July 2017 to mark the 150th Anniversary of Ceylon Tea, a 24-hour long global tea party was hosted by Sri Lanka's Diplomatic Missions around the world. Starting in Fiji and spreading across every time zone, starting sharp at five in the evening at each of the 50 or so countries taking part.

Tea is Sri Lanka's most important agricultural commodity, with Ceylon Tea being one of the top exporters of the nation. The tea industry has played a vital role in shaping not only the economic, but cultural and social identities of the country as well, so such a grand celebration was definitely in order.

The Sri Lankan embassy here organized the Singaporean segment of the record-breaking tea party, inviting members of the Singapore community to take part in the celebrations. The host, HE Mr Nimal Weeratne, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Singapore, proudly recalled the humble beginnings of Ceylon Tea and its inspirational journey of 150 years.

Guests were treated to a generous spread of Sri Lankan delicacies but the star of the evening was, of course, the piping hot cups of freshly-brewed Ceylon Tea of every flavour imaginable, which put a smile on everyone's faces



PM Lee Visit to Germany and G20 Summit



PM Lee Hsien Loong with Chancellor Merkel
(Photo source: Ministry of Communications and Information / Kenji Soon)

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was on a working visit to Germany from 6 to 11 July 2017 at the invitation of Her Excellency Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. PM Lee visited Berlin and Hamburg (to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit) and Munich.

In Berlin, PM Lee was hosted to lunch by Chancellor Merkel where they discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

In Hamburg, PM Lee participated in the G20 Leaders' Summit discussions on global economic growth, trade and finance, digitalisation and jobs, as well as other global challenges such as climate change and public health. The Prime Minister also had bilateral meetings with other leaders on the sidelines of the Summit.

In Munich, Prime Minister Lee had

roundtable discussions with business leaders from top German Multinational Corporations, Mittelstand and World Market Leaders. He was the Guest-of-Honour at the Certificate Presentation Ceremony for the newly-appointed Singapore Economic Ambassadors for the Mittelstand, and at Siemens' launch of their Singapore Digitalisation Hub. Prime Minister Lee also attended a National Day Reception with the Singapore Community while he was there.

Prime Minister Lee was accompanied by Mrs Lee, Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat, as well as senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, the Economic Development Board and Monetary Authority of Singapore.

EVENT

Colombia National Day 20 July 2017



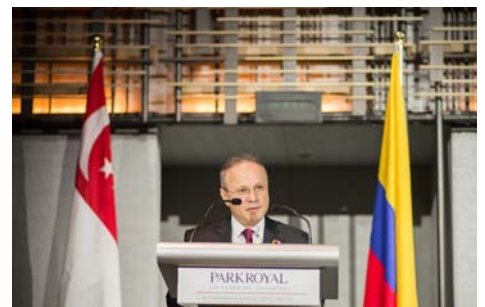
Joyful Announcement at Colombia National Day Reception

HE Mauricio Baquero Parado, Charge d'Affaires to the Republic of Singapore shared with joy "The oldest internal conflict in Latin America has come to an end. After almost five years of negotiations, the Colombian Government and the FARC signed a Peace Agreement".

The Colombian National Day was celebrated on July 20th at Park Royal Hotel where Mr Amrin Amin, Singapore's Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health was the guest of Honour. Also attending were Members of Parliament Mr Sitoh Yih Pin and Mr Murali Pillai.

In his welcome address marking the 207th Anniversary of Columbia's independence, he said this has been a very positive year for the country as well as a very productive one in its bilateral relationship with Singapore. The new Peace Agreement with the FARC will place Colombia into a new era of peace and development. He quoted the President of Colombia who said, "Peace is the road to reconciliation, to opportunities, to development, to tranquility and to a more solid and deep democracy.

... Peace summons us all." Ambassador Parado who is in his third year in Singapore said the Colombian Embassy was established in 1982 and next December will be its thirty-fifth Anniversary and that the City-State is a model of sustainable development, economic growth, productivity and innovation. Colombia too has a very attractive business environment, with a competitive legal framework and it is well interconnected to the world economy. According with UNTACD, in 2016, it was the third most attractive country in Latin America for foreign investors, bringing more than US\$13,500 millions of dollars its economy. Tourism has increased 700% since 2010. *For the full text of Ambassador Parado's speech click [here](#).*



(From left) Mr Sitoh Yih Pin, Mr Amrin Amin, HE Mauricio B Parado and Mr Murali Pillai

EVENT

Egypt 65th Revolution Day 25 July 2017

HE Mohamed Abulkheir Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt shared some insights in his welcome address on how strongly the people of Egypt have held on to their cultural identity throughout history, through turbulent times, political and economic upheavals and paid tribute to Singapore's own unique identity made up of diverse ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. He said, "Egyptians and Singaporeans face the common challenge of preserving their identity, at a time of the rising challenge of countering religious extremism and terrorism, which aims at imposing its radical ideology on our countries. These common challenges further bring Egypt and Singapore closer together." Guest of Honour at the reception which was held at the Hyatt Hotel was Ms Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law. Members of Parliament, Mr Lim Biow Chuan, Mr Christopher De Souza also attended the celebration of 65th anniversary of the 1952 Revolution. *For the full text of Ambassador Mohamed Abulkheir speech please click [here](#)*



(Above photo): Joint honours in cutting the commemorative cake (2nd & 3rd from right)) HE Ambassador Mohamed Abulkheir and Senior Minister of State Ms Indranee Rajah resp. (Extreme left) MP Mr Christopher De Souza, and (extreme right) MP Mr Lim Biow Chuan.



IN Diplomacy PHOTO ALBUM

Magnificent Grandeur of Visiting Mexican Sailing Ship

Singapore's Vivocity Port welcomed the arrival of the Mexican Navy vessel ARM Cuauhtémoc which arrived and berthed by the Vivocity Promenade on Wednesday morning 19th July 2017. That night a special reception was held as invited guests were welcomed onboard by Captain Rafael Lagunes Commander of Navy Training Vessel Cuauhtémoc and HE Nathan Wolf Lustbader Ambassador of the United Mexican States in Singapore. *For more photos and information above the visit please click [here](#).*



IN Diplomacy PHOTO ALBUM

**DCCS Farewell Reception
20th July 2017 Fullerton Hotel**



It was the debut of the new Dean of DCC Singapore HE Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz, Ambassador of Poland officiating at his first Farewell Reception for four outgoing Ambassadors of Norway HE Tormod C. Endresen, Netherlands HE Jacques Werner, Belgium HE Gerard Cockx and China HE Chen Xiaodong, at Fullerton Hotel on 20th July 2017. The new Dean handled the event with wit, humour and aplomb, introducing the ambassadors to the audience, remarking on each country's representative tenure during their stay here and generally adding a light touch to the occasion with the message that the event is not just about goodbyes; as is usual in the world of diplomacy there is always the great likelihood of meeting again.



The Dean with HE HE Chen Xiaodong.



The Dean with HE Tormod C. Endresen



The Dean with HE Jacques Werner



HE Gerard Cockx



EVENTS

28 Jun - 9 Sep

Singapore International Festival of Arts 2017's theme is 'Enchantment' - full programme at www.sifa.sg

8 - 27 Aug 8pm

Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
Restaging of arguably the most successful original musical produced in Singapore.

26 Aug 8pm-10pm

Foo Fighters Live in Singapore Winner of 11 Grammys including four Best Rock Albums.

26 Aug 7pm

ANZ Aotearoa Ball 2017 at Shangri-La Hotel with The Black Carpet theme will celebrate all things Kiwi with premium NZ produce, wines as well as traditional pies.

1 Sep 7:30pm - 10 Sep 10pm

Ballet Under the Stars Iconic outdoor dance event that is now in its 22nd edition!

1 - 17 Sep

Sandsational Fun at Sentosa 2017 is billed as Southeast Asia's largest sand festival and will be a great time for the family.

8 Sep 7:30pm-9:30 pm

The Sichuan Orchestra of China perform with special appearance from Seong-Jin Cho, as part of Sands for Singapore Charity Festival 2017.

8 - 10 Sep

Asia International Comedy Fest 2017 features internationally acclaimed comedians in September.

9 Sep

The Annual Africa Society Ball at Sofitel Sentosa for great food, company, drinks and dancing.

10 Sep 7:30am-11am

Singapore International Triathlon 2017 join thousands in this island's pioneer triathlon event

14 Sep 6:30pm-9:30pm

Flying Start F1 Networking Evening is organised by the British Chamber of Commerce Singapore

16 Sep 7am-10am

Believe B60 Charity Run 2017 is the only fundraising run with no registration fee (you can donate if you want to) for Care Community Services Society (CCSS).



Formula 1 Weekend

15 - 17 Sep

The Podium Lounge 2017 at The Grand Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore feature a star-studded line-up of entertainment acts.

16 - 17 Sep at 10pm

Boudoir Blanc 2017 at the Clifford Pier @ Fullerton Bay Hotel. The premier waterfront trackside afterparty with the theme *Feast for All Senses* to celebrate 10 years of the Singapore GP

From the Embassies....

Click on the cover to read or download the issue



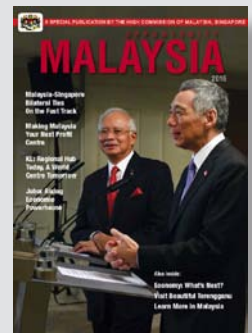
Opportunity Russia 2016



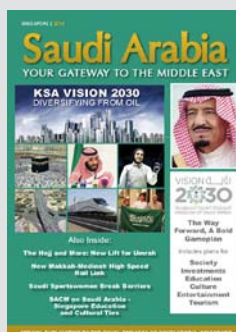
Opportunity Indonesia 2016



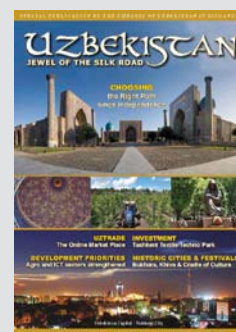
It's Time for Brazil in Singapore 2016



Opportunity Malaysia 2016



Saudi Arabia Your Gateway to the Middle East



Uzbekistan Jewel of the Silk Road



Opportunity Nigeria 2016



Partner Philippines 2017