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DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS SINGAPORE

## 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila

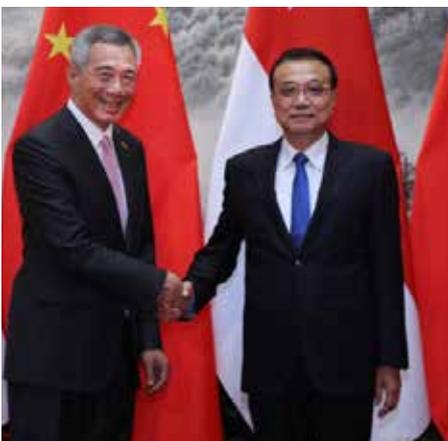


Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. He was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade) Lim Hng Kiang and

officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry. Prime Minister Lee was also accompanied by Mrs Lee Hsien Loong. The ASEAN Leaders took

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## PM Visit to China



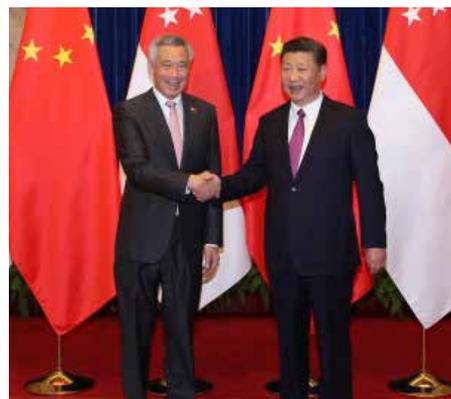
PM Lee meeting (above) Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on 19th September and (below right) Chinese President Xi Jinping on 20th September 2017. (Photo: Singapore Ministry of Culture and Information / Chwee)

On 26th October 2016 PM Lee Hsien Loong sent a congratulatory message to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang on their respective re-appointments to the of the People's Republic of China, 26 October 2017 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee. In his message he singled the following areas he hoped both nations will continue working closely together on:

**"I look forward to continue working with you to strengthen Singapore-China cooperation, particularly in areas such as the Sino-Singapore (Chongqing) Connectiv-**

**ity Initiative, the Belt and Road Initiative, finance, defence as well as legal and judicial matters. As you had mentioned during my recent visit to Beijing, our two countries share strategic congruence over many issues and this will form a strong foundation for us to bring our relations to new heights."** He also highlighted how Singapore's turn as incoming ASEAN Chair in 2018 will coincide with the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China strategic partnership. He said, "Singapore looks forward to working with China and other ASEAN members to further broaden and deepen ASEAN-China cooperation for the mutual benefit of our peoples."

The mention in his message of his Official Visit to China (Beijing and Xiamen, Fujian Province from 19 to 21 September 2017) it was at the invitation of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Keqiang.



## New Ambassadors

IN Diplomacy welcomes the first group of ambassadors and high commissioner to Singapore to present their credentials to Her Excellency President Halimah Yacob on 25th October 2017. Please click on the photos or captions for their official biographical summaries by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Ambassador of the State of Israel Her Excellency Simona Halperin (standing extreme left)



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway Her Excellency Anita Nergaard (standing extreme left)



The Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union Her Excellency Barbara Plinkert (standing extreme left)



The High Commissioner of Malaysia His Excellency Dato Zulkifli Bin Adnan (standing extreme left)

## India Takes Centrestage in Singapore & ASEAN Sphere in **January 2018** with Major Diaspora Convention



**ASEAN INDIA**  
**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**  
6-7 JANUARY 2018  
MARINA BAY SANDS | SINGAPORE



The major annual diaspora convention **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** (PBD) or Non-Resident India Day will be held in Singapore on 6th to 7th January 2018. Next year the accent of the annual celebration will be on marking the 25th year of of strategic partnership between India and ASEAN.

This will culminate in the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25th January 2018 involving leaders of all ten ASEAN members who will also be the chief guests at India's Republic Day on January 26.

For the India-ASEAN PBD in Singapore, if all goes well and according to plan, the response from the Indian diaspora expected to attend is thought to be at least 3,000 participants, making it one of the largest groups to attend a MICE event in Singapore. The PBD is organised by India's Ministry of External Af-

fairs and guests will include Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of India, leading statesmen, leading figures involved in the world of academia, culture, industry, entertainment and business.

According to the High Commissioner of India, Singapore, HE Jawed Ashraf, "The theme of the PBD Convention is "Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic India-ASEAN Partnership". The two-day event will feature discussions on a broad range of issues with outcomes that deepens diaspora's relations with India and their role in promoting closer ties between India and ASEAN; events to engage the diaspora youth; business, finance, technology events; and, a gala dinner with cultural show. There will be exhibitions, competitions, cinema, yoga and Ayurveda, too."

He also said Singapore can look forward to "officials from key ministries in New Delhi; and chambers of commerce are expected to participate in the event. We also expect the leadership in Singapore and the region, as also persons of eminence from the Indian community to participate."

If you would like to participate or know more information on the PBD, please visit / click on the following links:

- <http://www.pbdsingapore2018.org/>
- Facebook page: Profile Name - **India in Singapore**
- Twitter: Hashtag **#INSEAPBD18**
- <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInSingapore>

### About PBD

It's usually celebrated on 9 January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. On this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. PBD conventions are being held every year since 2003 providing a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields. The event also provides a forum for discussing key issues concerning the Indian Diaspora.

## Chief Minister of Maharashtra Announced Infrastructure Projects for City and Airports with Singapore



HE Dr Devendra Fadnavis (seated right) announced the MOUs signed with Surbana Jurong with HE Jawed Ashraf Ambassador of India in Singapore looking on

The Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis led a delegation comprising senior officials of the state government on his first visit since taking office in October 2014. The visit is part of a growing cooperation initiative to promote economic partnership between Singapore and Maharashtra. An official statement highlighted the state accounts for 15% of India's GDP; 25% of Indian exports; and 30% of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. In 2016, Maharashtra received US\$29 billion in FDI which is 46% of the

total FDI received by India that year.

During his visit, he called on Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, Tharman Shanmugaratnam. The High Commission of India (HCI), Singapore organised an Investment Roundtable event with leading companies and financial institutions based in Singapore where the CM co-chaired the event with Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry (Industry) S Iswaran. The CM also visited Changi Airport's new

Terminal 4.

The CM invited Singapore investors to participate in the large range of business opportunities in Maharashtra state. In a press conference here he also announced the state will join with Singapore Airport International Pte Ltd in a greenfield airport development project in Pune. He said, "I have offered the partnership of Maharashtra government in the new airport at Pune and passenger and cargo airport at Nagpur." They will also work on upgrading Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport at Nagpur into a regional logistics and cargo hub.

He also disclosed that the delegation had discussions with businesses here that included Surbana Juorong for the masterplans for Pune and Nagpur.

Dr Devendra Fadnavis is also the 57th Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellow and delivered the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS)-Confederation of Indian Industry Chief Minister Lecture titled '**Infrastructure-led Growth: Maharashtra - India's Engine of Development**' on 28th September 2017 at the Hilton Singapore. To view the lecture by the Chief Minister and an interactive session that followed moderated by Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, the Chairman of ISAS, click [here](#).



## PA Seeks to Strengthen Economic Cooperation & Integration Among its Members

**P**A is a strategic platform for in-depth economic and commercial integration with a clear focus on the Asia-Pacific region. It was founded six years ago by Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Currently Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Singapore are seeking 'Associate Country' status in the Alliance

The above mentioned four Latin American embassies here together with IE Singapore organised a seminar on **Trade and Investment Opportunities with the PA** on 28th September 2017. Along with the ambassadors, the seminar speakers also included HE Peter Govindasamy, Director of International Trade Cluster, Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry and Chief Negotiator Free Trade Agreement PA and Singapore.

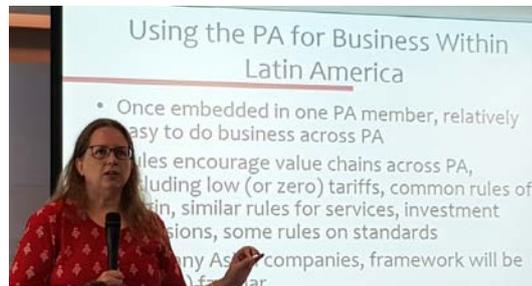
They presented a formidable case for the future of the Alliance. Taken as an economic block the countries of the PA make up almost 40% of the GDP of Latin America with a total population of almost 220 million. The average GDP per capita in the PA is over US\$17,5000 measured in "purchasing power parity". The majority of its population is young and the PA is a market that is increasing dynamically with its constantly growing purchasing power. Over the next five years, economists envisaged that as a bloc PA will rank fourth in its contribution to the world's growth.



(Top photo, from left): His Excellencies Nathan Wolf (Mexico), Manuel G Talavera (Peru), Mauricio Baquero (Colombia), James Sinclair (Chile) and Peter Govindasamy from Singapore Ministry of Trade & Industry



(Right photo, seated from left): Peter Hill (Hon. rep for IE Singapore in Chile & moderator), Mr Raja Saoud (Olam), Ms Yvonne Koo (PIL) and Mr Gustavo Davis (Crimson Logic)



(Left): Ms Deborah Elms, Founder and Executive Director of the Asian Trade Centre and (below) Mr Jorge E Intrigo, Tax and law Partner at EY, spoke on the Importance of the PA for Asian countries

The individual speakers and panel members spoke on the many competitive advantages offered by the PA and how it permits the free movement of goods, services, people and capital in the member countries.

EY has published the excellent *Pacific Alliance Business and Investment Guide* which can be found at <http://www.rreee.gov.pe/sitespages/guias.aspx> or click [here](#) to view or download a copy.



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stock of the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and discuss how to take ASEAN forward. They also signed the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and announced the official commencement of negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

The ASEAN Leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues with their counterparts during the 20th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the 12th East Asia Summit, and Summits with China, India, Japan, the

Republic of Korea, and the United Nations.

### Commemorative Summits

They also held Commemorative Summits with Canada, the European Union, and the United States to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN's relations with these Dialogue Partners.

As Singapore will take on the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018, Prime Minister Lee also delivered brief remarks at the Closing Ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits on 14 November 2017.

# Foreign Affairs Cup: Fought with Heart & Passion!

On the Saturday of 28th October 2017, four diplomatic corp teams showed up each led by: Ambassador Tumur Lkhagvadorj (Mongolia), Ambassador Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz (Poland), Ambassador Nathan Wolf (Mexico) and Ambassador Andy Detaille (Belgium) led what was affectionately called the Kazkastan

The Mongolia team was made up of diplomats from: Mongolia, Israel, Timor-Leste, Poland and the USA. The Polish team was made up of diplomats from the Polish and French Embassies while the Mexico-led team had diplomats from all over Latin America including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Peru. The Kazkastan included Kazakhstan, Russia and Belgium.

The tournament followed the standard FIFA Futsal rules for a Round Robin game and would be scored on a point percentage. All five teams played against each other once, and in the end the team with the best point percentage would be the winner.

Last year the final game was played between the EU team led by Ambassador Michael Pulch against the team from MFA. This year, MFA came out on top with a total of eight points. We would like to congratulate the Team Captain, Mohamed Firdaus and all his teammates: Mohamed Fazuddin, Joash Chong, Nicholas Zheng, Teo Tze Ern, Edgar Pang,



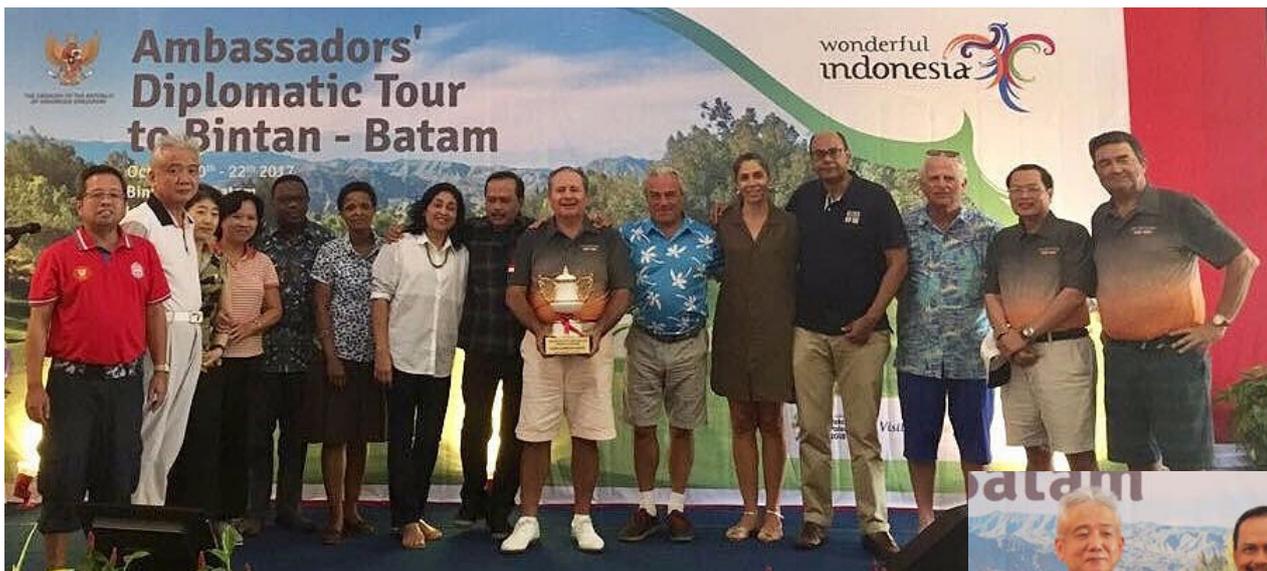
(Top): Dean of DCCS and Ambassador of Poland Kosiniak-Kamysz presenting the cup to the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs team. (Above): Diplomats and MFA group photo

Hafizan Ishak and See Chong.

Second place was a point tie of seven between Mexico and Kazakhstan. The goal differential of 6 in favor and 2 against for Mexico, versus 6 in favor 3 against for Kazakhstan, put Mexico in second place and Kazakhstan in third.

It was a great effort by all those present, a special thank you to the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador Kosiniak-Kamysz and his PA Jagoda Takahashi for putting this together and making the second edition of the Foreign Affairs Football Cup a reality. Stay tuned for 2018!

## Congratulations to SAGA



SAGA's championship team and their spouses with the winning Trophy

IN Diplomacy received this welcome news from HE Manuel G Talavera who announced on behalf of the Singapore Ambassadors Golf Association (SAGA), "It's a pleasure to inform you that on the 21st and 22nd of October 2017

in Bintan and Batam, Indonesia, respectively, we had fraternal golf games with the members of the Jakarta Ambassadors Golf Association (JAGA) that culminated in a final result that saw SAGA bringing the 'Trophy home!'"



# COMMUNIQUÉ



Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Manpower Sam Tan delivering the opening remarks at the launch reception at the 'Ice in the Tropics' photo exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore, 9 November 2017 (Photo: MFA)

## ICE IN THE TROPICS A Canada 150 - Finland 100 Singapore Arctic Collaboration

High Commission of Canada and Embassy of Finland jointly organized a seminar "Ice in the Tropics" and "Arctic Photography Exhibit", which was also supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 November, 2017.

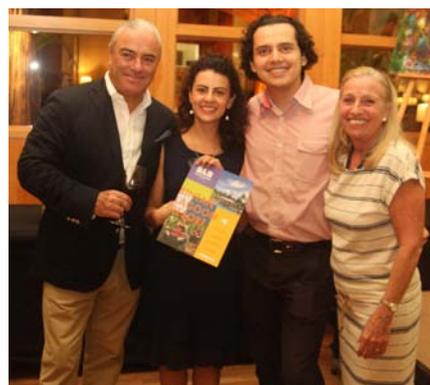
A fascinating afternoon of expert discussions on climate change in the Arctic at the National Museum of Singapore on November 9, from 1.30pm-6:30pm. Visiting expert speakers from Canada and Finland joined local Arctic experts to discuss the impact of climate change in the Arctic on the environment, economy, geopolitical context, and local communities.

The seminar also included presentations on the implications of climate change in the Arctic for Singapore. The seminar was followed by the launch of Ice in the Tropics photography exhibit at the Concourse, and then a buffet reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the National Museum's Glass Atrium, with Guest of Honour Minister of State Sam Tan

## IN Diplomacy PHOTO ALBUM

### Ambassadors' Cup: Support for Outreach Programme

In the run up to this year's 18th Ambassadors' Cup on 11th November 2017 members of Singapore's diplomatic community came out in full force to participate in a charity drive that featured nice music, good food and drinks as well as an auction of beautiful jewellery and artwork donated by staff, diplomats and artists here. Proceeds went towards supporting the Singapore Sailing Club community outreach programme for youths. The lucky draw was a hit too with music by the Fullerton Hotel's Post Bar band who also had some help from singers from Chile and Brazil. [Click here](#) to view or download more photos of the event.



## EVENTS

15 & 16 Nov

**FINTECH 2017** will have its Keynote Address delivered by Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India. He would also deliver the keynote address at the **16TH ASIA PACIFIC SUMMIT** on 16 November 2017. The Asia Pacific Summit is an annual meet of global financial institutions being organised by Morgan Stanley. For more information on the Fintech event (on till 17 November 2017) visit: <http://www.fintechfestival.sg/>



24 Nov

**HIGH TEA AND HIGH HEELS AT ST REGIS** is organised by Sun Media the publisher of *IN Diplomacy* among several other titles that include *IndoConnect Magazine* for the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore. This fashion show combines the design talents of Singapore jeweller **Caratell** and Indonesian fashion house **NES by Helen Dewi Kirana**. A portion of the purchases of the fashion items and cost of tickets (S\$150 per guest) also go to a charitable cause. Call Irvin at (65) 97917704.

24 Nov - 16 Dec

**MAMA WHITE SNAKE** A hilarious take on the Chinese classic opera Madam White Snake but in English. It promises to be "full of heart, humour and home truths." This is also the first time, after 30 years, Singaporean Glen Goei returns to the stage in the title role. Tickets available online at **SISTIC**.

25 Nov

**A TROPICAL CHRISTMAS BOTANICAL ART & TEA WORKSHOP** is a Christmas-themed botanical art and tea workshop held in the garden terrace of the Pollen Restaurant. For more info: <http://christmaswithin.peatix.com/>

25 Nov

**ST ANDREWS BALL 2017** at the Shangri-la Singapore celebrates the patron saint of Scotland with a seven-course feast, free-flowing drinks, the Ghurka Pipes and Drums, and dancing until the wee small hours to a live band. It's black tie, ball gowns and a touch of tartan. For more info: [www.standrewssociety.org.sg](http://www.standrewssociety.org.sg) or [www.facebook.com/singstandrews](http://www.facebook.com/singstandrews)

2 Dec

**TUX FOR TAILS INAUGURAL GALA** is a benefit gala to raise funds for the SPCA which happens to be the only facility offer free healthcare to needy animals. This is limited to basic treatments and a small capacity. Funds raised will go towards its new clinic at Sungei Tengah. Click **here** for more info.

10 Dec

**RISING 50 FUN RUN** To mark the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations of Indonesia and Singapore, the Indonesian Embassy here with Havelocity is organising the Fun Run with musical performances and food bazaar at the finish line.. All are welcome to register @ S\$35 per person. Each successful registration (non-Indonesian) will be awarded a return Ferry Fare Singapore - Batam plus a Massage Package! To register visit: <http://risingjubilee.run>



## From the Embassies....

Click on the cover to read or download the issue



**Opportunity Russia 2016**



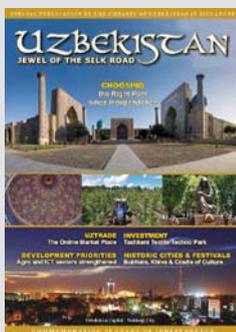
**Opportunity Indonesia 2016**



**It's Time for Brazil in Singapore 2016**



**Opportunity Malaysia 2016**



**Uzbekistan Jewel of the Silk Road**



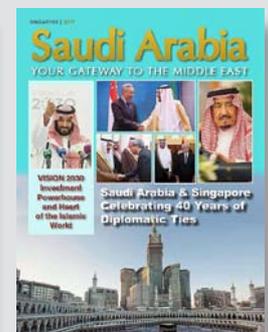
**Opportunity Nigeria 2016**



**Partner Philippines 2017**



**Opportunity Indonesia 2017**



**Saudi Arabia Your Gateway to the Middle East**