

IN Diplomacy

MISSION TO COMMUNICATE



Published by Sun Media Pte Ltd
www.sunmediaonline.com

Supported by



DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS SINGAPORE

Issue 45 December 2018
www.indiplomacy.com



ARGENTINA 2018
BUENOS AIRES



Merry X'mas
and a Happy
2019!

From all of us at
IN Diplomacy!



Featuring

FOCUS ON ARGENTINA

**PM Lee at G20
Buenos Aires Summit**

**BIT and DTA Agreements
to Spur Trade Growth**

**Argentine
Ambassador
Federico
Alejandro
Barttfeld:
New Reforms
Signal
Economic
Turnaround**



Focus on Argentina

Page 4



PUBLISHER Sun Media Pte Ltd

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Nomita Dhar

EDITORIAL Ranees Sahaneey
Jenny Tan
Syed Jaafar Alkaff

ADVERTISING Swati Singh

PRINTING Stamford Press Pte Ltd

Contact

Sun Media Pte Ltd
20 Kramat Lane #01-02 United House,
Singapore 228773.
Tel: (65) 6735 2972 / 1907 / 2986
Fax: (65) 6735 3114
Email: edit@sunmediaonline.com

Website www.indiplomacy.com

For Advertising enquiries contact:
Swati Singh m: (65) 9082 9590
Email: business@sunmediaonline.com

MCI (P) 078/06/2018



© Copyright 2018 by Sun Media Pte Ltd. The opinions, pronouncements or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of contributors or authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official stance of any other organisation or authorities. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of all information contained, the publisher cannot be held liable for loss incurred in any way whatsoever by a company or a person relying on this information.

CONTENTS ISSUE 45



Page 7

- 3 **Dr VB Represents Singapore at Mexican President's Inauguration**
...Next Stop Japan
18th Doha Forum: Shaping Policy in an Interconnected World



Page 5

- 4 **FOCUS ON ARGENTINA**
 - Singapore Set to Tango with Argentina with Conclusion of BIT and DTA Agreements in 2019
- 5 **INTERVIEW HE Federico Alejandro Barttfeld Ambassador Argentina:**
New Reforms Signal Economic Turnaround
- 6 **EVENTS**
 - Mumbai Remembered
 - National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand
 - Finland 101st Anniversary of Independence
 - UAE 47th National Day
 - DCC: Au Revoir to Colombian Colleague
- 7 **PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS**
 - Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain
 - Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania

Front Cover and Photos appearing in this issue courtesy of:

- Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Singapore Ministry of Communication & Information
- G20 Argentina

Supported by



DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS SINGAPORE

Dr VB Represents Singapore at Mexican President's Inauguration

Singapore was represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at the Inauguration Ceremony of the President of Mexico Andrés Manuel López Obrador (pictured right) on 1 December 2018. He was accompanied by Non-Resident Ambassador to Mexico, Jennie Chua, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Federal Executive Transfer Ceremony was held at the Legislative Palace of San Lazaro in Mexico City. Four hundred foreign guests attended the inauguration which included 20

heads of state. Singapore and Mexico established diplomatic relations in 1975 and since then have signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty, an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement, and an Air Services Agreement. According to the Foreign Minister, "Today, we cooperate in a wide range of areas such as tourism, education, investment promotion and health." He said the two countries share a similar outlook on trade and were amongst the first countries to ratify the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and that "We are also working with Mexico and other



Photo: Presidency of Mexico

members of the Pacific Alliance to conclude the Pacific Alliance-Singapore Free Trade Agreement as soon as possible."

...Next Stop Japan

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan made a working visit to Japan from 3 to 5 December 2018. He was hosted to dinner by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, and met personages from government, political circle, academia, and the business community.

Minister Balakrishnan and Minister Kono also signed and exchanged the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21) MOU (pictured left), which jointly provides technical assistance to third countries. The JSPP21 MOU underscores both countries' commitment to support the future-oriented growth of ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific through technical assistance. On the last two days of his visit Minister Balakrishnan also met Minister in Charge of Economic Revitalisation Toshimitsu Motegi, General Council Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Katsunobu

Kato, Komeito Chief Representative Natsuo Yamaguchi, former Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera, former LDP Deputy Secretary-General Shinjiro Koizumi, members of the Japan-Singapore Parliamentary Friendship League, National Security Secretariat Secretary-General Shotaro Yachi and Keidanren Chairman Hiroaki Nakanishi. In these meetings, Minister Balakrishnan reaffirmed the excellent state of bilateral ties with Japan and explored ways to elevate bilateral and regional cooperation through new areas of collaboration.

Minister Balakrishnan also met LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Fumio Kishida, former LDP Secretary-General and former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Hiroto Izumi, Japanese academics and Singaporean business representatives in Japan.



Photo: Presidency of Mexico

18th Doha Forum: Shaping Policy in an Interconnected World

Senior Minister of State (SMS), Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman visited the State of Qatar from 15 to 16 December 2018 to participate in the 18th Doha Forum. Since 2001, the Doha Forum is an annual high-level meeting for government officials, business representatives, technical experts, and civil society representatives to discuss issues on regional and global stability and economic prosperity. The theme for this year's Forum was 'Shaping Policy in an Interconnected World'.

A statement released by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs said SMS Dr Maliki participated as a panellist in a session titled "Asian Connectivity Conundrums: From Trade Routes to Trade Strategy" and attended a high-level, closed-door luncheon discussion on "Regional Security in the Middle East" hosted by the Munich Security Conference (MSC).

SMS Dr Maliki called on Qatar Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Bin Jassim Al Thani. They reaffirmed the excellent relations between Qatar and Singapore and looked forward to further bilateral cooperation following the inaugural Implementation Monitoring Mechanism meeting, co-chaired by Sheikh Mohammed and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan in April 2018.

SMS Dr Maliki met with Secretary to the Emir for Security Affairs Mohammed Bin Ahmed Abdullah Al Misnad. They exchanged views on developments in Asia and the Middle East.



Dr Maliki Osman in discussions with the Emir for Security Affairs Mohammed Al Misnad (Source: Dr Maliki Osman Facebook)

SMS Dr Maliki also met with Palestinian Chief Negotiator and Palestine Liberation Organisation Secretary-General Dr Saeb Erekat. Dr Erekat thanked Singapore for its continued commitment to the capacity-building efforts of the Palestinians under the Enhanced Technical Assistance Package.



Argentina received the distinction of being the first country in South America to host the G20 Meeting. At the invitation of Argentine President Mauricio Macri, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong made a working visit from 28 November to 1 December 2018 for the 13th G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires.

On 29 November, Prime Minister Lee was hosted to breakfast by President Macri (pictured above) at the Quinta de Olivos, the official residence of the President.

A Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement on the visit said that Prime Minister Lee welcomed the strengthening of bilateral relations under President Macri's Administration, which saw the re-opening of the Argentine Embassy in Singapore in September 2017.

Both Leaders agreed to continue regular high-level political dialogue, as well as more frequent and active exchanges to further develop the bilateral relationship. President Macri noted Singapore's successful Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018, and thanked Singapore for supporting Argentina's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia at the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August 2018.

Affirming their commitment to boosting economic ties between Singapore and Argentina, Prime Minister Lee and President Macri welcomed the good progress made on Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) negotiations and looked forward to the conclusion of negotiations by the first half of 2019. They also agreed to start negotiations on an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) in 2019. The finalisation of the BIT and DTA will boost investor confidence and facilitate greater trade and investment flows between Singapore and Argentina.

Singapore Set to Tango with Argentina with Conclusion of BIT and DTA Agreements in 2019

Argentina's presidency of the G20, the world's pre-eminent forum for economic, financial and political cooperation, showed "Our nation is integrated with the international community and has much to offer it...Argentina seeks to play a constructive role in finding solutions to global challenges," said President Mauricio Macri

Both leaders welcomed the progress made towards strengthening economic ties between Singapore and MERCOSUR through the launch of the MERCOSUR-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (MSFTA) on 23 July 2018. The MERCOSUR member states – Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay – make up a market of 295 million people with a combined GDP of US\$ 2.9 trillion. The leaders agreed to work towards holding the first round of negotiations by the first quarter of 2019. Prime Minister Lee also expressed Singapore's support for Argentina's Pro-Tempore Presidency of MERCOSUR, which will begin in January 2019.

Both Leaders agreed on the importance of enhancing air connectivity between Singapore and Argentina to boost business and people-to-people linkages. In this regard, they welcomed the expansion of the bilateral Air Services Agreement in August 2018.

Prime Minister Lee thanked President Macri for inviting Singapore to the G20 Leaders' Summit, and congratulated President Macri

on Argentina's successful Presidency of the G20 in 2018. In support of the G20's mandate to promote "Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth", Prime Minister Lee reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to work with Argentina and other G20 members to promote the deepening of cooperation in areas such as the Future of Work, infrastructure, and trade.

Prime Minister Lee expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation, and reiterated his invitation for President Macri to visit Singapore in 2019.

Prime Minister Lee also met Pro Tempore President of the Argentine Senate Federico Pinedo, Senator of the Province of Buenos Aires Esteban Jose Bullrich, and other influential members of Congress at the National Congress of Argentina. Prime Minister Lee also called on the Mayor of the City of Buenos Aires, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta. During these meetings, both sides discussed avenues to expand cooperation between Singapore and Argentina's key provinces, as well as the City of Buenos Aires.

PM Lee and President Macri welcomed the good progress made on Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) negotiations and looked forward to the conclusion of negotiations by the first half of 2019. They also agreed to start negotiations on an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) in 2019. The finalisation of the BIT and DTA will boost investor confidence and facilitate greater trade and investment flows between Singapore and Argentina



PM Lee Hsien Loong came across this tango display at Barrio La Boca on his first day in Buenos Aires. Photo by PM Lee Facebook

INTERVIEW H.E. FEDERICO ALEJANDRO BARTTFELD

Argentina: New Reforms Signal Economic Turnaround

by Nomita Dhar, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

The Ambassador of the Argentine Republic on the significance of the re-opening of the embassy here, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's visit to Argentina and an invitation to investors to be part of the country's economic growth

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was on a working visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina in conjunction with the 13th G20 Leaders' Summit. Please tell us more about the visit.

It was very important for us to have Prime Minister Lee visiting Argentina for the first time. We worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore to ensure the success of the visit, and are confident that we achieved the goal.

During his visit, Prime Minister Lee participated in the G20 Leaders Summit and was able to maintain a very productive bilateral agenda as well.

As part of the latter, Prime Minister Lee held meetings with President Mauricio Macri together with Horacio Rodriguez Larreta, Mayor of the City of Buenos Aires, and Esteban Bullrich, Senator for the Province of Buenos Aires, which is the most densely populated city in Argentina and has the highest GDP among all the provinces.

The meeting with President Macri consisted of a working breakfast wherein other Argentine national authorities also participated. Opportunities to increase bilateral trade, investments and cooperation between both nations were discussed by both leaders.

In September 2017 Argentina re-established an Embassy here in Singapore, how have opportunities grown since?

The journey thus far has been so good that it is hard to think of any negative experience we encountered.

The reasons that led President Mauricio Macri to reopen the Embassy in Singapore were mainly two-fold:

First, it was unthinkable for a country that aims to re-assert herself into the world not to have a representation in a country like Singapore, which is the epitome of international order in terms of trade and investments.

Second, to take advantage of the opportunities that Singapore offers as a logistic hub for Argentine exports to the region, which are increasing by leaps and bounds in recent times.

Moreover, Singapore and Argentina are two complementary economies, thanks to Singapore's expertise in advanced technology and Argentina's experience in high-quality food and beverages produced under the highest standards of food safety. Because of this, every trade mission that we have organised for Argentine businessmen in Singapore or for Singapore businesses to travel to Argentina has yielded results beyond our expectations. We have been able to confirm Singapore companies' eagerness to offer Argentine products to their local consumers, especially for chicken, beef, fish, wines and fruits.

In the near future, we plan to expand our

promotional activities to include Argentine cuisine. Next year, we are expecting the visit of a number of very prestigious chefs from our country to present to Singapore foodies the secrets of our most traditional dishes.

Could you share the trade and investment figures between our two countries?

In 2017, the trade balance between the two countries reached US\$173 million. For the period January-October 2018, the total bilateral trade stands at almost US\$150 million.

Argentine exports accounted for approximately US\$55 million, 11% higher compared to the same period in 2017. The main products exported by Argentina to Singapore are toothfish, chicken, beef, wine, whey, quebracho extract and fuel oils. With regard to Singapore exports to Argentina, they reached approx. US\$89 million. The main products are bumpers and parts of vehicles, insecticides, batteries, parts for gas turbines and electrical machines.

As for investments, the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) of Singapore in Argentina was US\$149 million in 2016. The main recipients of that FDI were the Logistic sector (key investor - PSA International), the Food sector (Olam

I would like to begin by saying that they should visit our country first and then decide whether or not it is a great place to bet on its future. The city of Buenos Aires, the Iguazu Falls, the Glaciers, Ushuaia, Mendoza and its wine trail, and, of course, not forgetting its 11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites are just some of the many incredible places and provincial economies to develop. Experiencing our country for themselves will give Singapore investors an idea of the immense potential and opportunities Argentina has to offer.

Then, I would recommend Singapore businessmen to test the competency level of our human resources. Many foreign companies have been pleasantly surprised at the level of our human capital even though Argentina is considered a developing country.

Last but not least, they should seize this golden opportunity to be part of our country's transformation. After all, with the structural and financial reforms that Argentina has implemented in recent times, it is becoming a very different economy.

Full transcript for interview please visit www.indiplomacy.com

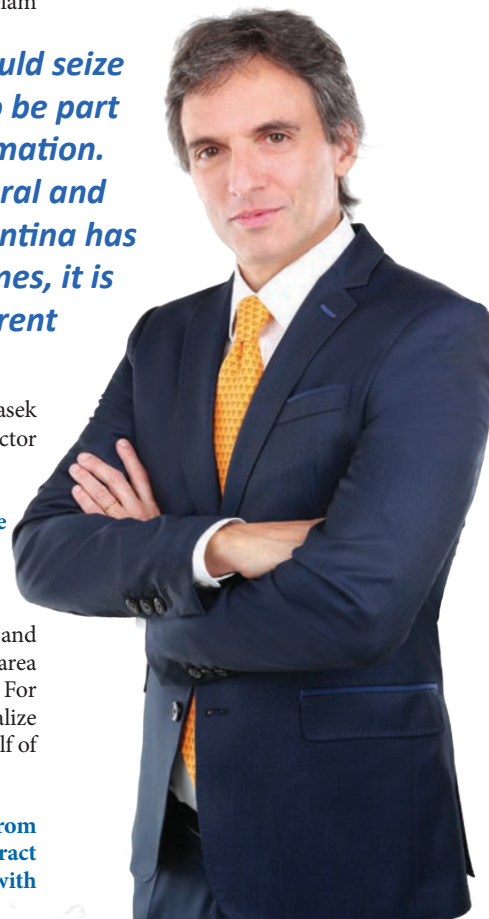
"...they (businessmen) should seize this golden opportunity to be part of our country's transformation. After all, with the structural and financial reforms that Argentina has implemented in recent times, it is becoming a very different economy"

International), the Tech sector (Temasek Holdings and GIC) and the Oil and Gas sector (Trafigura Group).

With the recent visit of Prime Minister Lee to Argentina, more opportunities are bound to emerge; which are the areas you see potential in?

After the meeting between President Macri and Prime Minister Lee, it became clear that the area to be explored further is that of investments. For this reason, both leaders committed to finalize two fundamental treaties during the first half of 2019: the BIT and DTA treaties.

Many perceive Argentina is far from Singapore. How do address this and attract more Singapore investors to do business with your country?



Mumbai Remembered

ON 26th November the High Commission of India in Singapore organised a gathering to remember the tragic events of 10 years ago when the barbaric terrorist attack on the Indian city took the lives of 164 people. The Indian High Commissioner in Singapore, HE Jawed Ashraf, in a solemn speech reaffirmed the country's resolve to defeat terrorism and thanked everyone present, which included officials from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of the diplomatic corps for attending the event.

Singapore Government Statement

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also issued a statement marking the 10th anniversary of the Mumbai attack: "Singapore was shocked and saddened by the series of terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. 164 lives were lost, including a fellow Singaporean. A decade later, terrorism remains a clear and present threat against which all countries must stay vigilant and united. On this day, we remember the victims of the Mumbai attacks and remain resolute in working with the international community in the fight against terrorism."



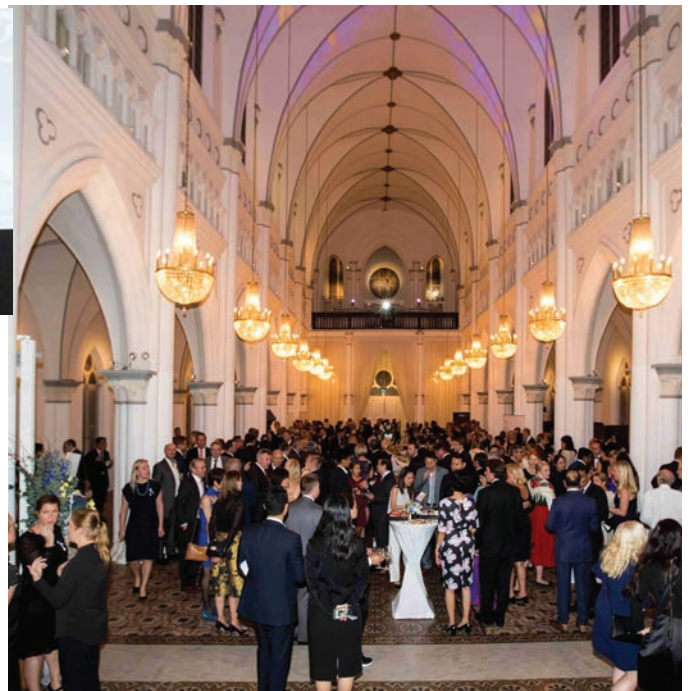
National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand 5th Dec 2018

Ballroom, the Fullerton Hotel



Finland 101st Anniversary of Independence

6th Dec 2018 CHIJMES



Photos: Kantola Milla Katariina & Embassy of Finland in Singapore

UAE 47th National Day 3rd Dec 2018

Shangri-la Island Ballroom



DCC: Au Revoir to Colombian Colleague

MEMBERS of the Diplomatic Consular Corps (DCC) in Singapore bid a fond farewell to Hon. Mauricio Baquero, Chargé d'Affaires e.p. of Colombia at the Diplomatic Farewell Lunch organised for him. The DCC's Dean, HE James Sinclair, Ambassador of Chile, gave a warm-hearted farewell speech and said everyone will certainly miss their Colombian friend and colleague.



Hon. Mauricio Baquero (left) receiving a souvenir gift from HE James Sinclair (Photo: HE Luis Lorrão, Ambassador of Portugal)

Venezuela's New Office



THE Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had a Blessing of Office ceremony at their new premises located at 163 Penang Road, #02-01 Winsland House II S(238463). Members of Singapore's diplomatic community came out in force on 17th December 2018 to celebrate the move to the new office.

Presentation of Credentials

IN Diplomacy welcomes the following heads of missions who presented their credentials to Her Excellency President Halimah Yacob.

29 November 2018



*The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain
His Excellency Ahmed Abdulla Alhajeri*



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania
His Excellency Gediminas Varvuolis*

Why Diplomacy Matters

Singapore is home to 70 resident foreign High Commissions and Embassies, 43 Consular Posts and 11 International Organisations. They act as a conduit between Singapore and their respective countries. Diplomatic missions are headed by influential newsmakers who open doors for business, trade, investment, education, the arts and culture. IN Diplomacy has a mission to communicate and be a bridge between the diplomatic community and Singaporeans.



11

PRODUCTION
FACILITIES

85

PATENTS IN
15 COUNTRIES

480

PRODUCTS IN MORE
THAN 50 COUNTRIES



**Bago Laboratories Pte Ltd
congratulates
Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong
on his successful visit to Argentina
for the G20 Summit**



Laboratorios Bagó was born in Argentina and it has grown along with the country. Since its foundation, in 1934, it has been permanently committed to its vision: to build a state-of-the-art pharmaceutical company and to achieve excellence in health care.

We share with you the outcome of more than eight decades of hard work, based on enthusiasm and effort to be up to our challenge, and to compete in a world of scientific technology with worldwide quality and human passion.

Bago Laboratories Pte Ltd
1 Scotts Road,
#26 – 11 Shaw Centre
Singapore 228208

www.bago.com.ar