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## **Featuring**

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Ambassador HE  
Margriet Vonno**





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# Presentation of Credentials

IN Diplomacy welcomes the following Heads of Mission following their presentation of credentials to the President of Singapore Her Excellency Halimah Yacob in March 2019



*The High Commissioner of New Zealand  
HE Joanne Diedre Tyndall*



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives  
HE Abdulla Mausoom*



*The High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana  
HE Frank Okyere*



*The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
HE El Hacen Mohamed Eleyatt*



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen  
HE Dr. Abdulghani Nassr Ali Al Shamiri*

## 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.

## LATEST

### A Gathering of Remembrance for Christchurch Victims



President of Singapore, Madam Halimah Yacob, on 3rd April 2019 headed a gathering held in remembrance of the innocent lives that were lost in the Christchurch, New Zealand terror attack. The event at the Raffles Town Club was organised by the Inter-Religious Organisation, Singapore (IRO) and was supported by the communities of all faiths here; in attendance at the event were also several ambassadors, including the the new High Commissioner of New Zealand, HE Jo Tyndall who was presented a book of handwritten condolences, titled *Love and Prayer* and flowers. Singapore has always made a conscious effort to work towards maintaining racial and religious harmony and the IRO, which celebrates 70 years as an organisation this year, sent a message: "Let us extend our hands of friendship to others by looking beyond our differences and focusing on our common values and our humanity."

**More photos of the event visit**  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

### Singapore-Malaysia Joint Statement on Maritime Issues

Measures taken to "de-escalate situation on the ground and demonstrate commitment to preserve the strong and bilateral relationship"

The Foreign Ministers of Singapore and Malaysia have taken quick action, following up on their first meeting held on 8th January 2019 in Singapore, by releasing a joint-statement outlining their commitment to resolve the maritime issues surrounding the port limits of both countries by their second meeting at Putrajaya, Malaysia on 14th March 2019.

HE Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, and his counterpart, HE Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, discussed a Working Group report on maritime issues surrounding the overlapping Johor Bahru Port Limits off Tanjung Piai and Singapore Port Limits off Tuas. The report was submitted by the Working Group headed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Mr Chee Wee Kiong.

In the Joint Statement, the Foreign Ministers agreed that Malaysia and Singapore shall implement the following five recommendations in the report with effect from 14 March 2019:

- To mutually suspend the implementation of their overlapping port limits and apply their port limits in effect prior to 25 October 2018 and 6 December 2018 respectively
- To not authorise and to suspend all commercial activities in the area
- To not anchor government vessels in the area
- For Malaysia and Singapore vessels to operate in the area in accordance with international law including the United Nations



Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The relevant agencies on both sides will work out practical modalities to avoid untoward incidents in the area

■ To establish a committee chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore for boundary delimitation which will ensure implementation of the first four recommendations within one month, and that negotiations for maritime boundary delimitation in the area will commence within one month following such implementation

■ These measures taken by both countries shall be without prejudice to Malaysia's and Singapore's respective maritime boundary claims in the area. In the event that the committee is unable to reach an amicable solution on delimitation, Malaysia and Singapore may mutually agree to resort to an appropriate international third-party dispute settlement procedure on terms to be mutually agreed by the parties that these measures were vital to de-escalate the situation on the ground, and pave the way for maritime boundary delimitation of the area

### UAE Crown Prince & Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Forces Official Visit

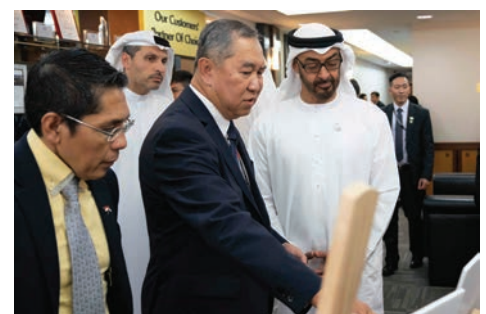


HRH Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan was on an official visit to Singapore on 28th February 2019 at the invitation of Singapore's President Halimah Yacob. According to the release by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the visit they both affirmed the long-standing and broad-based partnership between Singapore and the UAE.

They also exchanged views on ways to promote religious tolerance and inter-faith harmony, and agreed on the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties. HRH Sheikh Mohamed also met Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and had a wide-ranging discussion on developments in Asia and the Middle East. This was followed by a ceremony held at Parliament House where HRH Sheikh Mohamed and PM Lee witnessed the exchange of the Joint Declaration on a Singapore-UAE Comprehensive Partnership (SUCP). The SUCP represents a shared desire on both sides to elevate ties and deepen bilateral

cooperation in mutually-beneficial areas such as trade and investment, finance, defence and security, sustainable development, education and human resource development and health.

Three Memoranda of Understanding, in areas covering environmental protection and climate change, greenery projects and education, were also concluded. Following the ceremony, while in Singapore, HRH Sheikh Mohamed also visited GlobalFoundries, a semi-conductor company owned by Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company.



The Crown Prince during his visit to GlobalFoundries was accompanied by Senior Minister of State Dr Maliki Osman (Source: GlobalFoundries.com)

Usually the Prime Minister receives foreign dignitaries at the Istana, but he received the Crown Prince at Parliament House as the Ministers involved were in Parliament (Source: MCI / Fyrol)

**INTERVIEW H.E. MARGRIET VONNO**

## Interaction at All Levels Important for Netherlands Ambassador

While the Ambassador of Netherlands is passionate about her country's achievements she is also committed to be fully engaged with Singapore's social and civic scenes, especially those related to women's causes. She shares with Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of IN Diplomacy, Mrs Nomita Dhar, there is more to Netherlands than just windmills and tulips



**Y**our Excellency, good morning! How long have you been in Singapore?

From August 2017. In fact, I arrived here just before Singapore's National Day and that was my first public event that I attended.

**What was your impression when you witnessed the National Day celebrations?**

It reminded me of our own National Day celebrations. In Netherlands what was different was everyone there was dressed in orange. Here in Singapore everyone is dressed in the national colours of white and red. I have excellent local staff, so I asked them for advice before going. They said the ministers on the floating platform will be in national colours and it would be great if I do so too. So this year I asked a lot of my colleagues to dress in white and red for the event at which most of the guests were dressed in the national colours... and it was very nice.

**Since then what has kept you busy in moving Netherlands and Singapore ties moving forward?**

Promoting innovation is most important to both Netherlands and Singapore. Both are small countries and depend on trade and they both strive to be No. 1. So they have to innovate. We are old friends, in fact, Netherlands was one of the first countries to acknowledge Singapore when it became independent. The late Albert Winsemius, who was the economic advisor to the Singapore government, was a friend of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and for 22 years was the prime economic advisor

*Full transcript of interview please visit [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)*

sor to him on the development of Singapore. Many Singaporeans still remember the contributions of the Dutch economist and are grateful for his advice which has helped Singapore's growth. During my tenure I was privileged to witness the first ever state visit of the President of the Republic of Singapore, HE Halimah Yacob, last November.

**Excellent. Please tell us more about the visit and any interesting behind-the-scenes episodes.**

President Halimah had wanted to know more about our Triple Helix Model of Innovation that we use in business, education and governance. But there was so much to share! We first thought it would take a day and a half, then it became two, three... in the end the President was in Netherlands for five days! She went around and saw many things in the country and also made visits to our universities and polytechnics, seeing tulips in bloom, tasting Dutch ice cream (it's the best!) as well as official functions. There was a state banquet at the Palace with the King and Queen and another state dinner hosted by the government. There was so much going on where both the Netherlands and Singapore learned so much from each other and I think that's what I like best about the visit and my work here. My being here is about give and take. We have a lot to offer from the Netherlands and we have, equally, a lot to learn from Singapore.

**Your economy is doing very well. Please**

**tell us about the state of trade and investments between our two countries.**

We have a very large Dutch community here in Singapore, more than 10,000 and over 1,680 Dutch companies from start-ups to banks. In fact, the first foreign bank set up in Singapore was a Dutch bank in 1853. So we have a long history of investment and mutual collaboration and also lots of trade. The total trade last year was over S\$15 billion, and most of it as exports from Singapore to Netherlands; in the form of very high tech goods, not just commodities, such as shipping, aircraft, turbojets, helicopter engines, marine propulsions, engines... We are also the second biggest fruit supplier worldwide. We supply mostly to Singapore after the US. We are a relatively tiny country, but there is S\$90 billion worth of exports from Netherlands in fruits and plants and tulips.

**Those are impressive figures of an economic success story. What else would you like Singapore to know about the Netherlands?**

Firstly, I would like Singapore to know that we are not just a country about tulips and windmills or experts in water, as most Singaporeans know us. Our ambition is to be seen as partners for cutting-edge multi-disciplinary solutions that can build a better future for all. So we think it's more about co-creating and pioneering solutions for global challenges. We don't think it's just about national interests any more; we think global and we want to be a partner. We find Singapore is very open to that and wants to be No. 1 in every possible way. I like that attitude. Another thing I admire here is the quick pace of implementation once a decision is taken. That is something that is really unique to Singapore and we can learn a lot from. I think both countries see ourselves as 'Smart Nations' and we can collaborate in areas such as from self-driving car systems to the recycling of urban waste. One example that we are now actually doing here where the Netherlands is collaborating with Singapore to set up an urban farm in the middle of the city on 15 floors and getting organic greens to the public. This is an entirely new way of doing things.

**That sounds very futuristic. The island republic's constraints in terms of size and can benefit greatly from such projects.**

That's why I believe the President also visited Netherlands to seek some new ideas, and we are now setting up partnerships with Dutch firms to try some things out. Singapore is often seen as a testing ground for the rest of the world in areas, for example, related to water management and smart cities solutions. That's another reason why many Dutch companies are here because they think that Singapore is the gateway to ASEAN and it's a sort of hub to create new innovative solutions. We diplomats try to help by arranging visits such as the first ever block chain mission from the Netherlands to Singapore two years ago and more recently, related to Artificial Intelligence. That's the way forward.

## Germany Offers Good Education Opportunities



HE Michael Kretschmer and PM Lee: They agreed there was potential to strengthen economic cooperation (Photo: MCI / Kenji Soon)

The Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Michael Kretschmer visited Singapore on a working trip from 14th to 16th March 2019. According to a Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement he called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and reaffirmed the warm ties between Singapore and Saxony, and agreed there was potential to strengthen economic cooperation. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments.

While in Singapore he also met Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung. The Minister-President was also the Guest of Honour at the Semperoper Dresden performance at the Esplanade.

Singapore, is considered an important partner for Saxony, especially in the fields of economy, research and culture said Mr Kretschmer. In the areas of AI, IT or digital studies or research he felt Germany and Singapore can also learn much from each other. In an informal note on social media welcoming the *Ministerpräsident*, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said, "Education is an area where we can do more. Mr Kretschmer explained that many German tertiary institutions teach in English too, not only in German. He welcomed our students to consider pursuing their



HE Michael Kretschmer together with the German Ambassador in Singapore Dr Ulrich A. Sante and spouse. (Photo: Pawel Sosnowski)

studies in Germany, or to spend a semester or two on exchange there, just as quite a few German students spend time in Singapore.

Singapore has notable investments in Saxony, in aircraft engineering and solar energy. The SAF trains in the Oberlausitz Military Training Area in Saxony. We also have cultural exchanges: the Dresden Semperoper Ballet is performing at the Esplanade. There is much potential to deepen ties, and learn from each other in many fields. Happy to see our relationship continue to grow!"

## OECD Connecting with Southeast Asia



Mr Tan Wu Meng, Singapore's Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry, represented Singapore in Paris where he spoke about Singapore's 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship deliverables relating to ASEAN connectivity. He was at the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) Forum on 14th March 2019 with the theme of "Connecting Southeast Asia". At the plenary High Level Panel, he had also highlighted

the importance of upholding the rules-based multilateral trading system, and how it provides a conducive environment for SMEs to thrive in an increasingly inter-connected world.

SPS Mr Tan also met OECD Secretary General Ángel Gurría (pictured left) and discussed the OECD's cooperation with Singapore including the Programme for International Assessment (PISA).

In Paris he also met Minister of State reporting to the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne and reaffirmed the strong bilateral relations and thanked him for France's support for the EU-Singapore FTA (EUSFTA). Mr Tan also delivered the opening speech for the DeepTech France-Singapore Workshop to highlight Singapore's value proposition as a hub for DeepTech startups in Asia. He also, separately, met French business organisations and SMEs to highlight Singapore's role as a gateway to the ASEAN market. He said, "As a small country, Singapore must make every effort to ensure our voice is heard, even as we grow our network of friends around the world."



## BAPA+40 UN Conference on South-South Cooperation

Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development, (MOS) Sam Tan visited Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20 to 22 March 2019 for the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

The main theme for BAPA+40 is the "Role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities". MOS Tan (pictured above) in his address at the conference said, "We live in an age of great uncertainty. The world is becoming "more risky" in a sense. Studies have shown that geopolitical and security threats have increased over the past four years, while risks from economic shocks, climate change, and pandemics continue to cast a shadow over the global community.

It is therefore timely that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 to set out a development road map for the future for many countries."

He said that the challenges ahead are "enormous but not impossible" and "With this purpose in mind, Singapore has re-aligned the Singapore Cooperation Programme's objectives to better support the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, we have developed technical assistance programmes that

draw on Singapore's experience in water and sanitation, sustainable urbanisation and public institutions, to support progress on SDGs 6, 11 and 16. We have also put together a special Climate Action Package to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change – this is really a serious threat which small island developing countries like Singapore are currently facing."

### Paraguay Visit

Before Argentina the Minister visited Paraguay on 19th March 2019 for bilateral meetings with key Paraguayan leaders. He met the Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Castiglioni and Minister of Industry and Commerce Liz Cramer was hosted to lunch by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Hugo Saguier Caballero, and attended a business presentation by the Industrial Union of Paraguay. They discussed ongoing efforts to promote greater cooperation between Latin America and Southeast Asia, and welcomed the upcoming first round of negotiations on the MERCOSUR-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (MSFTA) in April 2019.

## SCP Inspired by BAPA

BAPA+40 commemorates the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. This framework of cooperation, also known as South-South Cooperation, encourages developing countries to work together to find solutions to common development challenges, whilst being guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership.

In the spirit of such cooperation, Singapore established the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) in 1992 to share its development experience and provide technical assistance to other countries. To date, over 125,000 officials from developing countries have received training under the SCP.

## Chinese Minister Song Tao Calls on PM Lee and Minister Heng Swee Keat



**H**E Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, The People's Republic of China visited Singapore between 23rd to 26th March 2019. While here he called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (pictured above) at the Istana where they reaffirmed the close links currently between both countries and cooperation in multi-faceted areas, including the Belt and Road Initiative.

At a separate meeting the Chinese Minister also called on the Minister for Finance Mr Heng Swee Keat (pictured right). They discussed global developments and how both countries can work more closely together. They also recognised the importance of good governance and citizenry engagement to improve the lives of the people.

Minister Song also attended a constituency event hosted by Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information and Community, Culture and Youth Sim Ann to better understand how the Singapore government engages the grassroots and the people.



## DPM Teo Chee Hean: State Visit to Vietnam



DPM Teo opened the Vietnam-Singapore Cooperation Centre and officiated at the Singapore Festival in Hanoi with Hanoi People's Committee Chairman Nguyen Duc Chung

**D**eputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean made an official visit to Vietnam from 21 to 26 March 2019. He visited Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and met several Vietnamese leaders, including Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee's Commission for Communication and Education Vo Van Thuong, HCMC Party Secretary Nguyen Thien Nhan, Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee Chairman Nguyen Duc Chung, and Thua Thien-Hue Party Secretary Le Truong Luu.

DPM Teo also launched the **Vietnam-Singapore Cooperation Centre**, as well as officially opened the Singapore Festival in Hanoi and the new chancery of the Singapore Consulate-General in HCMC.

DPM Teo also made his first visit to Hue City in Central Vietnam and met Thua Thien-Hue Party Secretary Le Truong Luu and discussed opportunities to increase cooperation in areas such as tourism, education and training. Singapore is one of the top investors in Thua Thien-Hue Province. He was accompanied by MPs Dr Intan Azura Mohktar, Mr Patrick Tay and Mr Henry Kwek, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### EVENTS

### ISSUE 48

## 48th Anniversary of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh

26th Mar 2019

Marina Mandarin Singapore



**O**n the occasion of the 48th Anniversary celebrations, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, HE Mustafizur Rahman, in his welcome speech touched on the tremendous strides made to date and maintaining the steady progress in the country including consistent GDP growth of more than 6% annually. The economy, he shared, expanded by a robust 7.86% in the financial year 2017-18, up from the 7.28% growth recorded in the previous year, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Guest of Honour representing the Singapore government, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, HE Ms Amy Khor was accompanied by her parliamentary colleagues Zainal Sapari and Alex Yam. She said the occasion was also an opportunity to celebrate the bilateral relations between Singapore and Bangladesh. She concurred with the High Commissioner that Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, growing in tandem with

it was the private sector's increasing interest in Bangladesh. Singapore's SembCorp alone she said has invested in power projects there worth more than US\$1.1 billion and in the most recent Singapore Business Federation mission to the country in July 2018, the participating delegation consisted of companies in banking and financial services, engineering and construction, logistics, hospitality and in general trading. She said there is definitely great potential for both countries to do more together.

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Swiss Week Coming in April

Interview with HE Fabrice Filliez, the Swiss Ambassador to Singapore who shares some of the highlights of the week-long event organised by the embassy here to showcase Swiss excellence on many fronts from food, furniture to design!

**L**et's start with the most topical issue! Your Excellence, could you share with our readers about the upcoming Swiss Week from April 15 to 21, 2019? What should we expect?

The Swiss Embassy is pleased to organise its first Swiss Week in April 2019! This week-long festival will focus on showcasing Swiss excellence in design, architecture, handcraft, and food. Participants will have the unique opportunity to take part in Swiss cooking classes, tasting of Swiss wines, as well as hands-on sewing workshops! We also have exciting events coming up. For example, a master class of Swiss renowned contemporary architect Mario Botta (SUTD, 15 April); the exhibition "Design for Luxury and Craftmanship" by the ECAL - the acclaimed University of Art and Design in Lausanne, and a talk by its director Alexis Georgacopoulos (National Design Centre, 18 April); a Swiss-Singapore-themed trail about nature preservation at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (12 April - 2 May). Please visit our embassy's Facebook page (@SwissEmbassySingapore) for more information on #SwissWeek19. We are happy to see all!

**This is quite an interesting project aimed at awareness raising about your country. But if you had to summarize, what would you like younger generation of Singaporeans to know about Switzerland?**

Switzerland is known for its scenic landscape, cheese, chocolate and exclusive watches. But we also like young people to discover the diversity and modernity of Switzerland, based on its longstanding values.

Switzerland is also known as a nation of solidarity. One of its most famous cities, Geneva, is known for peace-making and neutrality, for its deep-rooted tradition of hosting international organisations, and for its pivotal role at the forefront of multilateral diplomacy.

Moreover, Switzerland is also known as an outstanding research and innovation center for start-ups and an ideal destination to pursue higher education!



### SOME HIGHLIGHTS of SWISS WEEK 2019

**Stories That Matter: Cortis & Sonderegger** Outdoor photographic exhibition

**ECAL Design for Luxury & Craftmanship** Exhibition by students from ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne on Fine Tableware, Swiss Craftmanship and Fashion Accessories

**Nature Wants You Back**  
Hike up Bukit Timah on the Swiss-Singapore themed trail

**Mario Botta. The Space Beyond**  
Renowned Swiss architect Mario Botta master class and screening

**Swiss Week Dinner & Easter Brunch** Atout restaurant and Chef Patrick Heuberger

**Bernina Embroidery Workshop**

*To download  
the full programme  
please visit  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)*

### Number of Swiss Visits & Activities Show Ties are Multi-Dimensional and Growing



**Could you highlight key engagements between Switzerland and Singapore since you arrived?**

My mission here started 10 months ago. Just after my arrival I had the privilege to accompany the Swiss Federal Defence Minister, Federal Councilor H.E. Guy Parmelin, to the **Shangri-La Dialogue**. The yearly conference aims at cultivating a sense of community among the most important policymakers in the defence and security domain in the region and beyond.

In August, we welcomed Swiss State Secretary Mrs Pascale Baeriswyl. As Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Baeriswyl is the Swiss Foreign Ministry's second highest official after our Federal Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Ignazio Cassis. During the **ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting** in Singapore, Mrs Baeriswyl represented Switzerland at bi- and trilateral meetings with ASEAN and a number of its member States. She was greeted with great enthusiasm, demonstrating that the relationship between Switzerland and ASEAN as well as Singapore is thriving.

Mrs Baeriswyl also joined the Swiss community for the **Swiss National Day** celebrations at the Swiss Club on 4 August. She took the opportunity to address the Swiss community in Singapore with a National Day speech pointing out many similarities and constructive engagements between Switzerland and Singapore.

Another milestone was the **FinTech Festival** last year, which brought together nearly 45,000 participants. The Swiss Pavilion hosted 16 innovative Swiss firms with representatives coming from all segments of fintech. Mr Jörg Gasser, the Swiss State Secretary for International Finance at the Swiss Federal Department of Finance (FDF), visited the festival and spoke about Switzerland's regulatory approach in the fintech area.

The festival served to expose the growing footprint of Swiss fintech companies in Singapore. With the visit to the festival, State Secretary Gasser underlined the great significance of Switzerland's fintech ecosystem.

In the realm of tourism, Switzerland Tourism launched the **Winter Promotion 18/19**, as well as the new Switzerland Stopover Program, paving the path for the first visit to Singapore by Switzerland Tourism's new CEO Martin Nydegger and Singapore's top travel agencies.

However, I would like to emphasize that the already vibrant multidimensional ties between Singapore and Switzerland (largely based on similar values and challenges) continue to show potential for further strengthening. This is being observed in all sectors of mutual interest such as political, economic, academic, cultural and financial matters as well as science and innovation.

**For full transcript of interview  
please visit [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)**