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Golden Jubilee State Visit to Philippines



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Featuring



**India High
Commission
Hits High
Marks with
India-Singapore
Business and
Innovation Summit**





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Presentation of Credentials

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

29th August 2019



*The Ambassador of the State of Israel
HE Sagi Karni*



*The High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Her Excellency Rukhsana Afzaal*



*The Ambassador of the United Mexican States
HE Agustín García-López Loaeza*

26th September 2019



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Benin
HE Makarimi Abissola Adechoubou*



*The Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay
HE Rosario Portell Casanova*



*The Ambassador of Burkina Faso
HE Pascal Batjobo*

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.



VISIT **State****President Halimah Visit to Mark Singapore-Philippines Jubilee**

Singapore's President Halimah Yacob's 5-day state visit to Philippines zeroed in on many aspects of the ties between the two nations, while at the same time drawing attention to the opportunities of deeper engagement with regard to business, infrastructure development and people-to-people connectivity.

During the course of the visit in which President Halimah Yacob also met Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte in Manila; she later did a quick side trip to his home city of Davao in Mindanao. Mdm Yacob pointed out that as founding members of ASEAN, the two countries' close ties, resulting in public and private collaboration, are ultimately about raising the quality of life for people in the region. In her view the two nations have opportunities to collaborate in human capital development, innovation and infrastructure, not just in the megacities but also in the provinces. "I think that our businesses which have niche core capabilities in the areas of sustainable town development, urban development will find...

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VISIT **Official****PM Lee in Armenia to Witness EAEU Signing**

PM Lee Hsien Loong at the Joint Press Conference with Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister Of The Republic Of Armenia, and Tigran Sargsyan, Chairman Of The Eurasian Economic Commission, held in Yerevan, Armenia, on 1 October 2019. (Source: PMO)

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was in Yerevan, Armenia from 28th September to 1st October 2019 to attend the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, at the invitation of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. The Council is a meeting of the leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

PM Lee and the EAEU leaders witnessed the signing of the Framework and non-Services & Investment Agreements, as well as the Armenia-Singapore Services & Investment Agreement, that form part of the **EAEU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EAEUSFTA)**. Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam was Singapore's

signatory. When in force, the EAEUSFTA will help foster stronger ties as well as trade and investment links between Singapore and the EAEU.

PM Lee also had several bilateral meetings on the sidelines at the request of the President of the Republic of Moldova Igor Dodon, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani.

During PM Lee's meeting with Iranian President HE Hassan Rouhani, they discussed...

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SM Tharman @Vladivostok

Senior Minister Tharman co-chaired High-Level Russia-Singapore Inter-Governmental Commission and was a speaker at the Eastern Economic Forum.



SM Tharman Shanmugaratnam and DPM Maxim Akimov exchanging the signed Joint Statement of the 10th Session of the IGC in Vladivostok, Russia, 6th September 2019. (Source: Singapore MFA)

Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited Vladivostok, Russia from 4th to 6th September 2019. Senior Minister Tharman co-chaired the 10th Session of the High-Level Russia-Singapore Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC10) with Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Maxim Akimov on 6th September 2019.

In conjunction with IGC10, Senior Minister Tharman also attended the Fifth Eastern Economic Forum on 5th September 2019 where he spoke on the "Digital State: New Business Models Brought by Total Digitalisation" on a panel with Deputy Prime Minister Akimov and other prominent government and business leaders.

IGC Agreements Signed

The IGC is an annual high-level dialogue aimed at strengthening broad-based cooperation between Russia and Singapore. This year, the IGC will build on the momentum in economic relations in recent years, and explore opportunities in areas such as innovation, urban transport management and vocational training. SM Tharman and DPM Akimov also took stock of the progress made since the 9th Session of the IGC in 2018. They welcomed the growing cooperation across all sectors, including in the area of digital development, skills training, start-ups and innovation. They witnessed the signing of six agreements which include:

- Roadmap between Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and the St Petersburg Government to signal the continued commitment of both Singapore and Russian stakeholders to the speedy implementation of the Urban Transport Management System (UTMS) project in...

For the full report visit www.indiplomacy.com

THE NEXT PHASE

InSpRENEUR 3.0

THE REGION'S FIRST GLOBAL BUSINESS & INNOVATION SUMMIT PRIME MINISTER MODI'S SECOND TERM

BRINGING TOGETHER GOVERNMENT BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY LEADERS FROM INDIA & SINGAPORE

Inaugural Business & Innovation Summit Hit the High Mark

It was the biggest business and innovation summit on India to be held here with its inaugural session featuring India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, and Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (pictured right); it was chaired by Prof Tommy Koh

The High Commission of India in Singapore together in partnership with agencies of Governments of India and Singapore, Chambers of Commerce, professional associations and innovation labs, successfully organised a 2-day Business and Innovation Summit, 'India-Singapore: The Next Phase', from 9th to 10th September 2019 at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore. The Next Phase had two inter-related conferences: A business event and the third edition of the India-Singapore Innovation and Start-up platform called **InSprenneur** that was launched by the High Commission in January 2018. At the end of the 2-day event the organisers final tally showed it had attracted 1,800 participants, more than 90 speakers, over 70 start-ups and 25 speaker panels. Apart from Dr S Jaishankar and Dr V Balakrishnan, the Summit speakers also included Mr Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister (Independent Charge), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation & State, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Mr Chee Hong Tat Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Education, Singapore. Leading this mammoth undertaking was the High Commissioner of India in Singapore HE Jawed Ashraf who explained: "The objective of this summit is to essentially set the road map of India-Singapore strategic economic partnership in the course of the next five years."



(Above): Singapore Minister of State Mr Chee Hong Tat and India's Union Minister Mr Hardeep Singh visit the High Commission of India's Startup Exhibition

COMMUNIQUÉ

Congratulations!



Congratulations go out to proud parents Indonesian Ambassador in Singapore, HE Ngurah Swajaya and Mdm Mahaswi Swajaya on the wedding of their son, Apri Swajaya to Diana Novi. Also spotted at the wedding reception held at the Ambassador's Residence here on 21st September 2019 (pictures right) were many members of the diplomatic corps including Ambassador Swajaya shown here with **IN Diplomacy** publisher, Ms Nomita Dhar.



The **INTERVIEW** column has been held over to the next issue of **IN Diplomacy**

The Return of Flavours of Peru

The Mandarin Orchard Hotel, in collaboration with the Peruvian Embassy in Singapore and the Commercial Office of Peru in Indonesia, celebrated the second edition of the Peruvian food festival "Flavours of Peru" (from 6th to 15th September 2019).

The Embassy of Peru in Singapore hosted the Opening Night for invited guests including the diplomatic community in Singapore to sample the delicious cuisine prepared by Peruvian chef Jaime Arbulú (winner of the "Chef Sur" award) and enjoy the food along with the music of Peruvian musician Manuel Granados playing the traditional Andean flute!



Ambassador Carlos Vasquez (2nd from right) with the Chef and guests at the Peruvian Food Festival Opening Event for 'Flavours of Peru' at Mandarin Orchard Singapore's Bar on 5

"Peru has been widely recognised by the international community for its cuisine and indigenous ingredients. Flavours of Peru will showcase Peruvian food as the star of the specially curated dinner buffet at Triple Three. We want to give audiences in Singapore a taste of the unique diversity of Peru's culinary offerings that are sure to delight even the most discerning palates"

- HE Carlos Vasquez, Ambassador of Peru in Singapore

COMMUNIQUÉ

Chile National Day Commemorates 40 Years of Diplomatic Relations

...The 'Esmeralda' Training Ship visits Singapore to celebrate Chile National Day and Chile Embassy presents gifts to Gardens By The Bay

Guests this year received an invitation from the Ambassador of Chile to Singapore HE James Sinclair together with the Commanding Officer of the Chilean Navy Training Ship *Esmeralda* Captain Claudio Maldonado for the Chilean national day celebratory event on 10th September 2019 at the VivoCity Promenade (pictured top right). This year is the 209th anniversary of the country's independence as well as the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Chile and Singapore.

Chile's National Day reception was held on board the *Esmeralda* and the Guest of Honour representing the Singapore government was the Republic's Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport & Ministry of Communications and Information Dr. Janil Puthuchear. The *Esmeralda* is presently the third largest tall ship in the world and has visited more than 60 countries and sailed the majority of the world's seas. Following the celebrations the ship was open to the public from 11th to 13th September 2019. In conjunction with the celebrations there was



a special ceremony at Gardens By The Bay where the Embassy donated a pair of wooden Chilean 'Chemamüll' sculptures indigenous to the Chilean culture to the Gardens. The event was graced by Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (pictured right). The "Chemamüll" sculptures were carved by the Mapuche people, an ethnic group native to southern Chile, and will complement the collection of Chilean Wine Palms that can be found in the Gardens' Flower Dome.



Costa Rica Celebrates 198th Independence Day

...with a message for potential investors seeking a gateway to Central America and the Caribbean

The Charge d'Affaires a.i. and Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica, Mr Alfonso Enrique Murillo Fallas, and wife, Mdm Anna Smirnova de Murillo (pictured right), hosted the country's National Day reception at the Tower Club Penthouse, Raffles Place on 12th September 2019.

The Guest of Honour, representing the Singapore Government for the event was Ms Sun Xueling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development who was accompanied by two Singaporean parliamentarians: Mr. Vikram Nair and Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang.

In his welcome address, the Costa Rican Charge d'Affaires presented some 'food for thought' to guests about the country which has coastlines facing both the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean; on the economic front: "We believe that Costa Rica is the ideal gateway for Singaporean investments in Central America and the Caribbean."

The country is also signatory to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and, "as expressed by our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Manuel Ventura, the Treaty is



designed to prevent the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear arms, as well as the risks posed by the continued existence of these atrocious weapons. Including its detonation by accident, miscalculation or design." Two years after leading the process that culminated in the historic adoption of this Treaty, Costa Rica appeals to the international community to advance in its signing and prompt ratification. He said: "Currently, nuclear weapons expenditures amount is to the tune of US\$2 trillion; this exorbitant amount could be better utilized to achieve sustainable development goals."

Consequently, with these challenges in mind, Costa Rica will be hosting this October, the Preparatory Meeting for the 25th Conference of the Parties of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and Mr Murillo said "We are honoured that HE Masagos Zulkifli, Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources will be attending."



Costa Rican Charge d'Affaires with (top picture) GOH Ms Sun Xueling. (Above picture, from l) MPs Mr Vikram Nair and Mr Louis Ng

EVENTS

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Mexico 209th Independence Anniversary Celebrations

13th September 2019

Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Towers Singapore

Singaporeans had the opportunity to meet the new Ambassador of Mexico in Singapore, HE Agustín García-López Loaeza, together with his spouse, Mdm Katya Anaya de la Fuente (*pictured far right*), as they hosted the diplomatic reception commemorating the 209th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico. Guest of Honour, representing the Singapore Government was the Senior Minister of State Ministry of Defence, HE Heng Chee How who remarked: "It was a joyous occasion, and both countries look forward to further strengthening our good and productive bilateral ties."



(Above, from l to r): Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Mexico Ms Jennie Chua; MP Ms Joan Pereira; GOH HE Heng Chee How; Ambassador Agustín and wife

Mexico Independence Celebration Note: The celebrations continued two days later with the launch of the **1st Mexican National Day Festival** held at the Singapore Latin American Art & Cultural Centre with a varied programme that featured Mexican music, food, kid's activities, art, pinata and concert.



Malaysia 62nd National Day

18th September 2019

Grand Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Singapore

On 18 September 2019, the High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore held a reception to celebrate the 62 National Day of Malaysia. The event, which was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Singapore was attended by HE Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore as the Guest of Honour. Also present were Mr. Charles Chong and Dr. Intan Azura Mokhtar, Members of Parliament Singapore.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 89th National Day Celebrations

25th September 2019

Grand Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore



Saudi Arabia is proud of its friendship with countries such as Singapore said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ambassador to Singapore HE Saad Saleh Al-Saleh in his welcome address to guests at the Ritz-Carlton's Grand Ballroom on 25th September 2019 to commemorate the Kingdom's 89th National Day. He cited the many bilateral visits between the two countries whose aims are to exchange views and learn from the experiences of each other's country. He also announced the State Visit by

President Halimah Yacob in November to meet Saudi leaders including HM King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The visit will enhance relations and develop strong ties between the two countries. The Saudi economy, said the Ambassador, is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and that the Kingdom's Vision 2030 programme marks the beginning of a new phase of development for the future progress of the nation. He was happy to note that in the first quarter of this year 267 new licences have been issued for foreign investors

to operate in the Kingdom; this is an increase of 70 percent compared to the same period last year. He highlighted several attractive sectors for investment and invited Singapore companies (for example in education). He invited the Singapore Government and investors to contribute to the development of the Kingdom. The Guest of Honour, representing the Singapore Government was Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, a Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.