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Saudi Arabia G20 Presidency Webinar on Digitalisation Impact on Labour



Featured Commentary

It's Time for Kazakhstan

H.E. Arken

Arystanov:

Why the
World is
Paying Greater
Attention
to Central
Asia's Leading
Economy



Special G20 Edition
Saudi Arabia Gateway
to the Middle East
feature Exclusive
Interview with
President Halimah
Yacob



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Presentation of Credentials

He High Commissioner of the Republic of India, HE Periasamy Kumaran and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Her Excellency Sandra Jensen Landi, presented their credentials to Singaporean President Halimah Yacob in separate ceremonies at the Istana on 25th August 2020. The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Dr Suriya Chindawongse and the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, His Excellency Peter Guschelbauer also presented their credentials to President Halimah Yacob in separate ceremonies at the Istana on 27 October 2020.



*His Excellency Periasamy Kumaran
High Commissioner of the Republic of India*

Ambassador Kumaran's journey as a career diplomat began in the year 1992 when he joined the Indian Foreign Service. From January 1994 to June 1997 HE Kumaran was posted in Cairo, as the Third Secretary in the Indian Embassy. This was followed by stints at the Indian Embassy in Tripoli, as Second Secretary and First Secretary from July 1997 to December 2000. In the Indian Embassy at Brussels he served as First Secretary from December 2000 to September 2003, before taking up his assignment as Deputy Secretary (EWC/Europe-I) in the Ministry of External Affairs from September 2003 to March 2005.

HE Kumaran was then deputed as a Director to the Regional Passport Office in Bengaluru (Bangalore), where he had a posting from April 2005 to June 2007. He was back on the international circuit with a posting as Counselor in the High Commission of India, Islamabad, from June 2007 to October 2009. Washington DC was his next assignment working there as Counselor from October 2009 to August 2011. From September 2011 to June 2014 he served as Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In July 2014 he was back in India to take up his post as Joint Secretary of the Consular, Passport & Visa Division at the Ministry of External Affairs; he held the post here till September 2016. He then moved on to Doha where he served as the Indian ambassador from October 2016 to July 2020. He is married to Mrs Ritu Kumaran and have two sons.



*Her Excellency Sandra Jensen Landi
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark*

Armed with two Master's Degrees in Human Rights & Democratisation (2003) and Political Science (2004) Ambassador Landi has been charged with numerous assignments in Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; this included a four year stint as Private Secretary to the Foreign Minister.

She has served at the Danish embassies in Kathmandu, Kabul, Washington D.C; she was Deputy Head of Mission in Bangkok. Ambassador Landi's assignments outside of Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been with the United Nations and the World Bank.

In a run-up to her accreditation to Singapore, Ambassador Sandra Jensen Landi served as Deputy Director of Humanitarian Affairs, Civil Society and Public Engagement at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. Ambassador Landi is married and has two daughters

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.



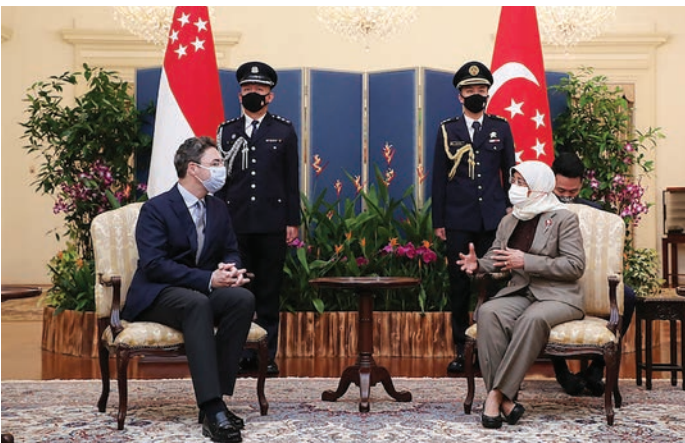


*His Excellency Dr Suriya Chindawongse
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand*

Dr Suriya Chindawongse posting to Singapore as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand follows fast on the heels of his previous assignment as Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2017 to 2020), including a stint during Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019. Prior to joining the diplomatic service in 1993 Dr Chindawongse worked in the private sector as an institutional banker. His diplomatic journey has had him serve in various capacities within the Thai Foreign Ministry; his assignments have included work at the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations in New York, and various Departments such as European Affairs, East Asian Affairs, International Organisations, and ASEAN Affairs, as well as the Office of the Foreign Minister and Office of the Permanent Secretary. He has also served as simultaneous interpreter for several Thai Prime Ministers.

Having graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts from Lafayette College in 1987, majoring in International Affairs, and Economics and Business and minoring in Mathematics, Dr Chindawongse went on to attain both a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in 1990 and 1993 respectively.

Dr Chindawongse and his wife to Mrs Chatvadee Chindawongse have two sons.



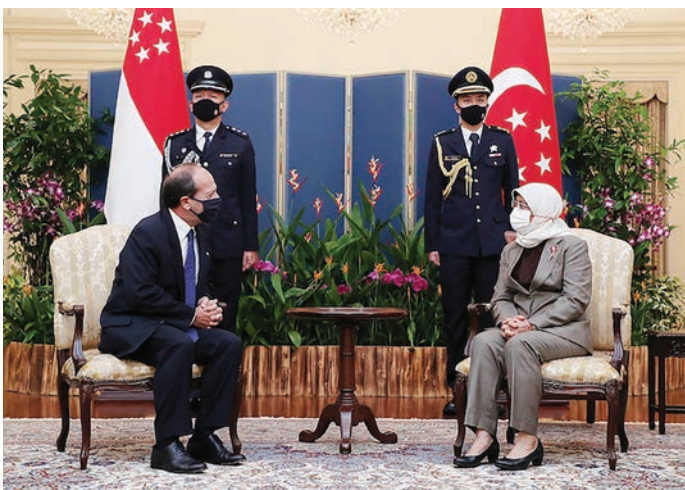
*His Excellency Peter Guschelbauer
Ambassador of the Republic of Austria*

Ambassador Guschelbauer started his journey as a career diplomat when he joined the Austrian diplomatic service in 2004. In 2006 he was posted in the Austrian Embassy in New Delhi, covering India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The year 2009 found HE Guschelbauer posted at Austria's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and as a delegate to the UN Human Rights Council.

Returning to Vienna in 2014 Ambassador Guschelbauer worked in the Press and Information Department of the Austrian Foreign Ministry. He then served as the Spokesman of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and Director of the Press and Information Department from 2018 before being posted to Singapore as Ambassador of the Republic of Austria.

Having studied Law at the University of Vienna, HE Guschelbauer went on to obtain his Master in International Economic Law at the University of Warwick, UK.

Ambassador Guschelbauer is married and has three children.



*His Excellency Georgios Dogoritis
Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic*

Before he took up his new assignment as Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Singapore, HE Georgios Dogoritis served as Director of the Consular Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. From 2015 to 2019 he had a longish stint as the Greek Ambassador to Indonesia and ASEAN, with concurrent accreditation to Malaysia, Brunei and Timor Leste.

Ambassador Dogoritis's diplomatic narrative opened up in 1990 on his joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. This narrative has been enriched by numerous assignments including that as Director of the IT and Communications Department. He also served at the Political Affairs Departments overseeing Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia, and Middle East & Arab Countries.

A student of Political Science and Public Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, he went on to do his Masters in Political Science (International Relations) and Economics from the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Ambassador Dogoritis and his wife have three children.

Singapore's High Commissioners & Ambassadors Overseas

The Singaporean Government has appointed Mr Lim Thuan Kuan as Singapore's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Dr Leong Horn Kee as Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Argentine Republic

Mr Lim Thuan Kuan who has been appointed as the new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, will be concurrently accredited to Ireland and Iceland.

From August 2013 to July 2020 HE Lim Thuan Kuan was High Commissioner to the Republic of India, while concurrently serving as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bhutan and Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, resident in India.

HE Lim Thuan Kuan's career as a diplomat was launched with his joining the Singapore Foreign Service in 1984. As a career diplomat his journey has taken him Southeast Asia, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, Americas and ASEAN in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2009 to 2013 he served as the Permanent Representative of Singapore to ASEAN, as Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 2005 to 2008, as Counselor at the Singapore Embassy in Washington from 1992 to 1996, and First Secretary at the Singapore Embassy in Jakarta from 1987 to 1990.

A graduate of the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Laws HE Lim Thuan Kuan obtained a Master of Arts in Area Studies on South East Asia from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, United Kingdom, under the Raffles Scholarship. In 2007 he was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Silver) and the Long Service Medal. His wife Madam Patricia Teh and he have a daughter.



Mr Lim Thuan Kuan
High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

Dr Leong Horn Kee was formerly Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to the United Mexican States from 2006 to 2013, he will serve as Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Argentine Republic. Dr Leong has also served as Singapore's Non-Resident High Commissioner to Cyprus since 2014. He is presently Chairman of CapitalCorp Partners Private Limited and also serves as Chairman and holds directorships in several private organisations.

Dr Leong's diplomatic journey has been moulded by his experiences also as a former Member of Parliament from 1984 to 2006. Prior to this, he was in Singapore's Administrative Service from 1977 to 1983, with assignments in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Dr Leong was Vice President of Transtech Ventures Ltd from 1987 to 1989, Director of N.M. Rothschild & Sons (S) Pte Ltd from 1989 to 1992, and Executive Director/COO of Far East Organisation (FEO) from 1993 to 2008. At FEO, he served as CEO/MD of Orchard Parade Holdings from 1993 to 1999 and CEO/MD of Yeo Hiap Seng from 1999 to 2002. A graduate with a Bachelor of Technology from Loughborough University of Technology, United Kingdom, Dr Leong also holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from London University. In addition to this he has a Bachelor of Arts (Chinese Language and Literature) from Beijing Normal University, China, a Master of Business Research and a Doctorate of Business Administration from University of Western Australia, Australia. He is married to Mdm Chuang Lee Eng and have four children.



Dr Leong Horn Kee
Non-Resident Ambassador to the Argentine Republic

Letter of Credence



Mr Heng Aik Yeow, High Commissioner-Designate to Brunei Darussalam

On 27th October, Mr Heng Aik Yeow, Singapore's High Commissioner-Designate to Brunei Darussalam and Ms Jennie Chua, Non-Resident Ambassador-Designate to the Kingdom of Spain received their Letters of Credence from President Halimah Yacob.

Mr Heng Aik Yeow joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 2002. His assignments as Director-General in the Ministry included the South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate, the Technical Cooperation Directorate overseeing the Singapore Cooperation Programme, and the Americas Directorate. Over the course of this period he also served concurrently as Press Secretary to Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, and Director (Special Duties) in the Ministry of Communications and Information from 2014 to 2019. From 2009 to 2010 Mr Heng also served as Principal Private Secretary to Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Professor S Jayakumar in the PMO. A graduate from the Nanyang Technological University Mr Heng holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School. He and his wife Mdm Lee Li-Shyen have three children.



Ms Chua Kheng Yeng Jennie, Non-Resident Ambassador-Designate to the Kingdom of Spain

Ms Chua Kheng Yeng Jennie was assigned as Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to the United Mexican States between the years 2013 and 2020. Prior to that she was Non-Resident Ambassador to the Slovak Republic from 2006 to 2014.

Presently she is Chairman of Vanguard Healthcare Pte Ltd, the Singapore Film Commission, and the Woodlands Health Campus Ms Chua is also Chairman of The RICE Company Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation, and Deputy Chairman of Temasek Foundation International. Ms Chua holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University, New York. She has two sons and six grandchildren.

FEATURED COMMENTARY

HE Arken Arystanov

Kazakhstan – Singapore: New Vector of Cooperation



*H.E. Arken Arystanov, Ambassador of
Kazakhstan to Singapore*

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the continuous development of fruitful and long-term relations with the Republic of Singapore in the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation.

The friendship started in 1991 when the late Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew visited Kazakhstan and met First President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Almaty.

*Khan Shatyr - world's largest
tent almost 100m high - is just
one of the many architectural
landmarks in the country's
capital - Nur Sultan*

During these years there had been an intensive period of the sharing of the most effective experience in nation building, economy development, and social transformation. Religious and ethnic differences have torn many societies apart, but not our two countries as we see them as diversities instead of differences.

Singapore is a rare, precious example of a harmonious multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious society where people live harmoniously together - as PM Lee once wrote. Singapore has worked hard to make this happen.

In Kazakhstan its been the same - its active role in promoting a global dialogue among civilizations is based on its experience of preserving peace and harmony in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country with more than 140 ethnic groups living in the country, representing 46 confessions, each having its own cultural codes and traditions.

In the age of political turbulence, its people have stood by each other, deepening political dialogue at all levels. Both countries share common objectives and understanding that has allowed them to reach mutual agreements on support during elections to many international fora.

Kazakhstan and Singapore also share common approaches to a number of issues of a global agenda including international security and fight with terrorism and extremism. Therefore, Kazakhstan looks forward to Singapore's joining of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in the capacity as observer state. The country is also interested in taking part in the IISS Asia Security Summit "The Shangri-La Dialogue" (SLD).

The meeting of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong last year gave additional impetus to continued cooperation at all levels.

In January 2020, the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) visited Kazakhstan to study the potential of developing business related to Horgos port on the border with China.

This February, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore Dr. Koh Poh Koon visited Kazakhstan to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues including trade, finance, infrastructure and innovation development.

Both countries are looking forward to finalise the negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement in the field of investments and services next year.

We continue our cooperation with the representatives of **Surbana Jurong Group**. They are working together with the **Caspian Group** on developing Masterplan for G4 City - a unique urban project on the Northern border of Almaty, that will attract billions of dollars of investments and create one million jobs in the region.



Collaboration in the start-up industry is developing successfully. A corresponding agreement on the participation of the QazTech Ventures in the Singapore venture fund Quest Ventures Asia Fund II (QVAF II) with a total amount of 50 million USD was signed in Nur-Sultan. QazTech Ventures with a capital of US\$10 million will enter this fund as an anchor investor. According to the terms of the agreement, the joint fund will consider and finance promising start-up projects in Kazakhstan and Central Asia in the next three years.

Within the framework of this agreement, a three-year acceleration program will be held in start-up projects called "Kazakhstan Digital Accelerator" with a representative office in Nur-Sultan. This program will contribute to the development and promotion of start-up projects and digital ecosystem in Kazakhstan. Thanks to the acceleration program, start-up projects will be able to gain knowledge from leading international experts, test the product in real conditions and attract investment, which in turn will contribute to the development and scaling of the project, both in local and foreign markets.

The work in the field of scientific and technological cooperation also deserves attention. With its own unique model of economic development based on innovations, Singapore makes significant financial investments in this area. The efforts of recent years have created a powerful infrastructure of research institutions.

In this regard, the scientific potential accumulated by Kazakhstan in the field of fundamental research is of high interest for joint implementation of projects and technologies that are in demand on the world market.

Within this project the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Singapore has established contacts with 33 leading research organizations of Kazakhstan since 2019. The outcome from this exercise includes 194 promising innovations, covering a wide range of areas, including energy, production of new materials, geology, chemical and food industries, construction, agriculture, information technology, and medicine. We could combine the experience of Singapore in the field of commercialization of promising R&D products and innovations of Kazakh scientists, by creating a number of new joint projects, as well as construction of production facilities in both countries.

Fruitful cooperation continues within the framework of the cultural and humanitarian track.

Visits of the Kazakhstan representatives to Singapore for the purpose of experience exchange, advanced training courses and internships which cover a wide range of topics in the fields of public administration, economic development, and digital technologies, have become traditional.

Every year, about 100 Kazakhstan students receive education at universities in Singapore,



Kazakhstan - a forward looking nation: (Above): The Nur Alem Pavillion and Science Museum is a museum of 'Future Energy'

including the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, James Cook University, MDIS, Kaplan University Singapore.

Since 2012, a long-term cooperation agreement between Nazarbayev University and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy has been in force. The School of Public Policy has the status of a strategic partner of Nazarbayev University.

Singapore's advanced experience in the area of professional-technical education is being actively implemented. For example, Nanyang Polytechnic, that is of top standards in professional training for the 4.0 era industry, will train 115 Kazakhstani teachers in 2020-2021.

The Embassy is also planning to hold the Days of Culture of Kazakhstan in Singapore as soon as international travel is opened up. Meanwhile there are online exhibitions and concerts.

S.Rajanatnam School of International Studies (RSIS) has been a partner of the Embassy for several years with Kazakhstan representatives giving lectures to introduce Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region for the Singaporean public at large.

A MOU on cooperation in the construction of continuing education centers based on the Kindergarten – School – College – University model in the capital city of Nur-Sultan, was signed between "Kazakh Invest" National Company and "Kinder World International" Group in 2018.

In the age of digital revolution, our approaches to future development become even closer.

Kazakhstan commends the vision of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong that countries need to embrace changes of the global economy caused by technological advances, adapt to new technologies and market conditions and the country also steadily support the concept of free trade based on international rules.

Kazakhstan showed this stance by signing the Singapore convention on mediation. Our Minister of Justice M. Beketayev visited Singapore last August to sign this document. We

are committed to this approach by hosting the WTO Ministerial meeting in Kazakhstan which has been postponed due to the COVID pandemic.

Kazakhstan looks forward to maintaining the bridge between Central Asia and South East Asia by promoting trade and tourism. The implementation of agreements that are to be part of the Road Map of cooperation will help to establish stable communication and become a viable part of one big interconnected Eurasia.

This year COVID-19 has caused a massive upheaval in the lives of all countries. The year 2020 started with the news of a coronavirus outbreak, which still continues to date. The health toll is heavy with major consequences to the world economy. Kazakhstan rapidly took actions to keep its people safe as the first priority and was taking actions to minimize business disruption at the same time.

Certainly, these extreme conditions pose many challenges. Everyone had to adapt to this new life with daily interruptions, changing scenes and new measures to be taken based on what the current situation dictates.

Kazakhstan applauds the quick response of the Singapore government to keep the nation and its residents safe. And we highly appreciate the attention and responsiveness of Singapore towards its friends, even if they are on distant shores.

We would like to express our special gratitude to Temasek Foundation for the humanitarian aid offered to Kazakhstan in the form of tests, masks and oxygen tanks. A friend in need is a friend indeed. We deeply value our true friendship. And distance is not a hindrance to our friendship.

With the spirit of keeping calm despite a very challenging environment, several key projects are progressing in the meantime.

Today, Singapore has become one of the most important trade and economic partners of Kazakhstan in Southeast Asia. There are more than 100 joint ventures in the manufacturing industry, trade, ICT, construction and finance.

Kazakhstan also considers Singapore as one of the world's most successful models of wise and responsible management of natural resources.

We are very grateful to our Singaporean friends for sharing their experiences and expertise – whether it is technical education or energy efficiency. There is still a lot to learn from Singapore and we also believe that there is an enormous potential for Singaporean companies to trade and invest in Kazakhstan.



Kazakhstan is attracting interest from many nations including Singapore. The inaugural edition of *Kazakhstan-Singapore Connectivity* commemorates the ties between Kazakhstan and Singapore and describes the tremendous strides the country has made as the leading economy in Central Asia. It is available to view or download on the Republic of Kazakhstan Independence Day on 16th December 2020 at www.indiplomacy.com

Saudi Arabia G20 Presidency Webinar Series: Digital Impact on Global Labour Market



Click image above for video highlights reel

In the run-up to the G20 Summit under Saudi Arabia Presidency in November, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Embassy in Singapore has organised activities to commemorate the event. One of these was its own Saudi Arabia G20 Presidency Webinar Series on the topic: 'Role of Digital Technology in Limiting Impact on Global Labour Market.'

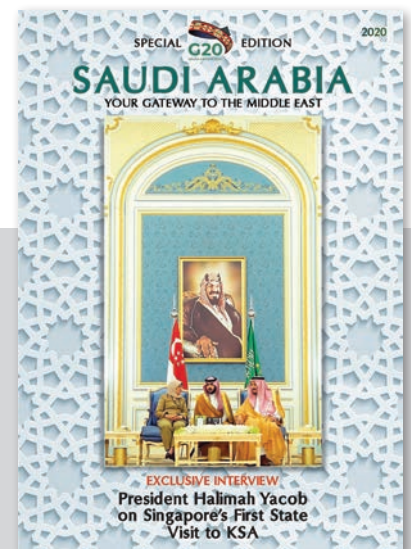
It was hosted by H.E. Saad S Al Saleh, the Saudi Ambassador to Singapore and moderated by *In Diplomacy's* publisher & Editor in Chief, Ms Nomita Dhar. A panel of speakers from Singapore and Saudi Arabia were asked to share their experiences and expertise on this subject. The panel included Dr Yaacob Ibrahim former Singapore Minister of Communications and Information; Environment and Water Resources; Community Development and Sports as well as the Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs. Dr Yaacob is now the Advisor to the President of the Singapore Institute of Technology and was joined by Mr Douglas Foo, the President of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation, Mr Abdullah AlYahya from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment and Ms Noura Al-Eisa a senior analyst who is also involved with the G20 Employment Working Group. Finally, there was Mr Wan Chee Foong, PSA International's Regional CEO of Middle East South Asia and Head of the Group Business Development. The webinar was organised by Embassy in cooperation with Sun Media Pte Ltd and EEXPO.SG

Special G20 Edition

A Special G20 Edition of *Saudi Arabia Gateway to the Middle East* was also launched at the end of the webinar which features an exclusive interview with Singapore's President Halimah Yacob on her State Visit to Saudi Arabia last year. To view or download the online edition visit

www.indiplomacy.com

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB UPBEAT ON TIES



To view online: Click [PDF](#)
Click [FlipBook](#)

Extracts from the interview:

On G20...

"Singapore is honoured by the invitation to attend the G20 Summit in Riyadh, and I conveyed our gratitude for this to King Salman. As we have done at previous G20 Summits to which we were invited, Singapore has been and will continue to work closely with Saudi Arabia to achieve a successful outcome at the G20 Summit in November 2020. This includes assisting to promote stronger engagement between the G20 and the Global Governance Group (3G), of which Singapore is the Convenor, as well as with the wider UN membership. In this regard, Singapore commends Saudi Arabia's efforts to reach out to non-G20 members to reflect a broad and inclusive range of international interests and perspectives."

Women Empowerment...

"For Singapore, empowering women and supporting them in the pursuit of their dreams and ambitions is critical to our success. I am happy to see that Saudi women are eager to work and contribute to their nation's success and have readily taken up jobs in all levels of society including in government. For example, Princess Reema Bint Bandar Al Saud is the distinguished Saudi Ambassador in Washington DC as well as the first Saudi woman to be an elected member of the International Olympic Committee. I was also pleased to note that one of the Saudi officials coordinating and facilitating my visit was a capable young lady."

**NEXT ISSUE SPECIAL REPORT
G20 2020 SUMMIT**

**Realizing Opportunities
of the 21st Century
for All**

