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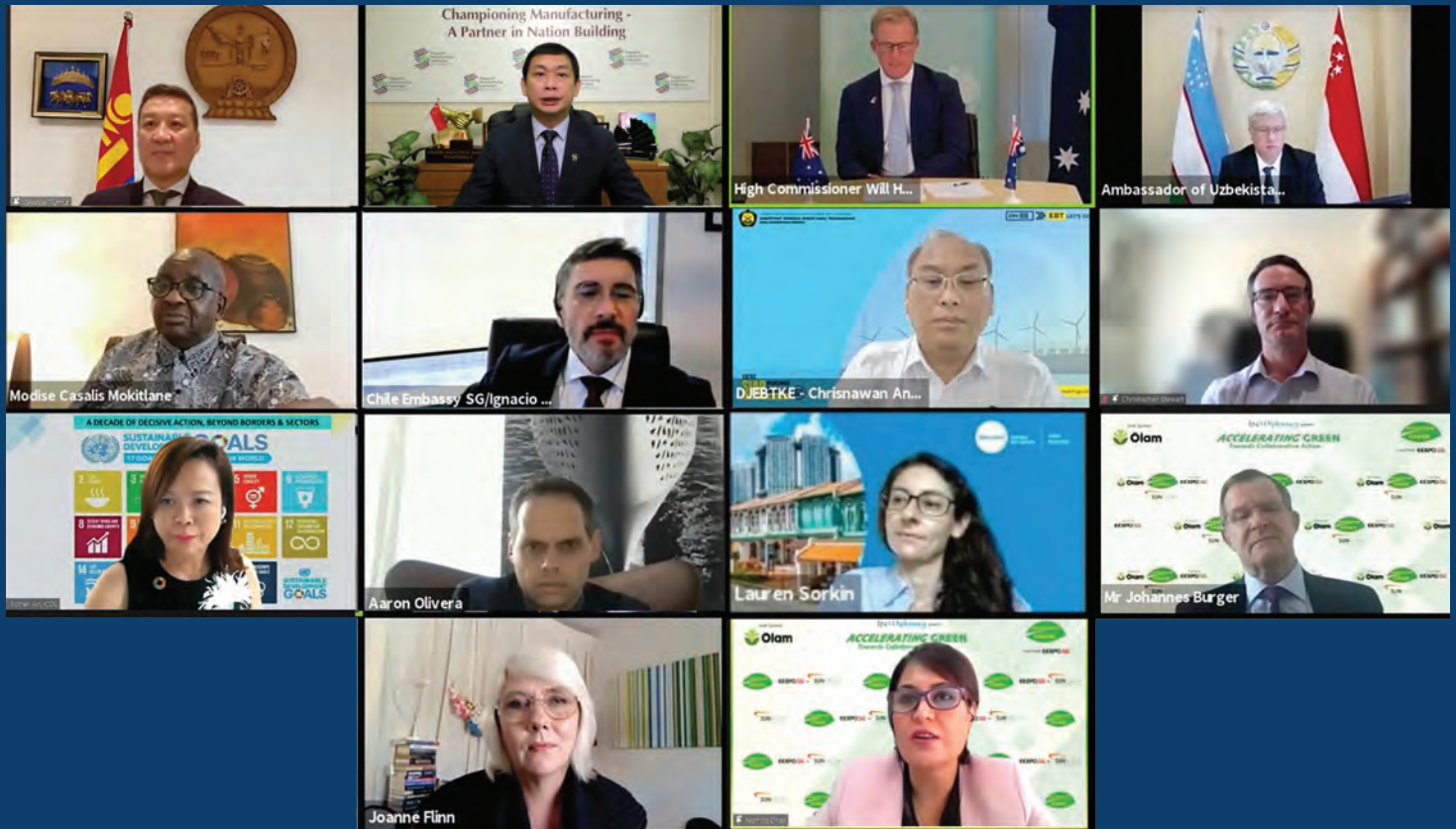


DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS SINGAPORE

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Issue 68 2021

ACCELERATING GREEN INAUGURAL SUSTAINABILITY SERIES



AMBASSADOR INTERVIEW H.E. Dato' Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar

Also inside

President Kaljulaid of Estonia Visit

Presentation of Credentials:

- Afghanistan ■ Azerbaijan ■ Belgium
- Bulgaria ■ Croatia ■ Estonia
- European Union ■ Guatemala ■ Laos
- Malaysia ■ Mauritius ■ Mozambique
- Nepal ■ Saudi Arabia ■ South Korea
- Tunisia ■ Vietnam





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PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

- 3 ■ Vietnam ■ Republic of Korea
- 4 ■ Islamic Republic of Afghanistan ■ Nepal ■ Azerbaijan
- 5 ■ Estonia ■ Malaysia ■ European Union
- 6 ■ Bulgaria ■ Mozambique ■ Guatemala
- 7 ■ Laos ■ Belgium ■ Saudi Arabia
- 9 ■ Croatia ■ Tunisia ■ Mauritius

APPOINTMENTS

- 10 ■ Ambassador to France: Ms Foo Teow Lee
- Non-Resident Ambassador to Peru: Mr T Jasudasen
- Non-Resident Ambassador to African Union and Eithiopia: Mr A Selverajah
- 11 ■ High Commissioner to South Africa: Mr Zainal Arif Mantaha
- Non-Resident Ambassador to Finland: Mr Richard Magnus

HIGH COMMISSIONER INTERVIEW

- 12 ■ H.E. Dato' Dr Azfar bin Mohamad Mustafar

VISIT

- 13 ■ Estonian President Participate in Asia Tech X and Collaborate with Singapore

EVENT

- 14 ■ ACCELERATING GREEN Inaugural Sustainability Series

COMMUNIQUE

- 16 ■ Winning Hearts and Minds: Public Diplomacy in ASEAN

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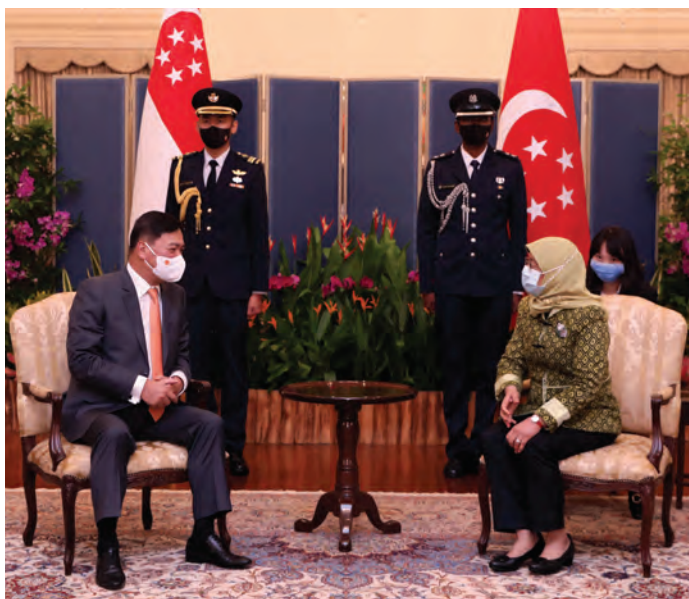


DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS SINGAPORE

Presentation of Credentials

President Halimah Yacob received the credentials of the Ambassadors of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea on 13th July 2021 at the Istana.

H.E. MAI PHUOC DUNG Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Singapore



PRIOR to H.E. Mai Phuoc Dung's appointment as Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Singapore he served as the Director-General, Directorate of State Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam. The career diplomat majored in International Relations. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990. He served as the Third Secretary at the Embassy of Vietnam in Italy from 1998 to 2002, and as Vietnam's Consul-General in Sydney, Australia from 2011 to 2014. He is married with a son and a daughter.

President Halimah Yacob expressed her delight at the comprehensive development of the ties between the two countries in all fields, especially since both sides lift up relations to a strategic partnership in September 2021. She also said that Singaporean investors are keen on expanding investment in Vietnam, especially in areas of Singapore's strength such as digital transformation, 4.0 technology, green growth and education

H.E. CHOI HOON Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Singapore



PRIOR to Ambassador Choi Hoon posting here he was the Standing Commissioner and Deputy Chairman for International Cooperation at the Republic of Korea (ROK) Financial Services Commission (FSC) from 2019 to 2021.

Ambassador Choi has held various positions in the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF) including Director for Financial Hub Cooperation and Securities System Division since he started his career in 1991. He was posted to FSC in 2008, and worked as Director-General of the Banking and Insurance Bureau, Financial Industry Bureau and Financial Policy Bureau from 2016 to 2019. He also served as Director-General of the Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat of the United Nations Development Programme China from 2011 to 2015, and Senior Assistant Secretary for Economic and Financial Affairs at the Office of the President from 2015 to 2016. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the Sungkyunkwan University, ROK, and a Master Degree in International Banking and Finance from the University of Birmingham, UK. In 2017, he completed his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China.

He is married with one daughter and one son.

President Halimah Yacob noted that the level of substantive cooperation between the two countries has increased due to high-level exchanges and the Korean government's New Southern Policy. Ambassador Choi Hoon said he will do his best to promote bilateral relations during his tenure, and expand the horizon for bilateral economic cooperation



Singapore's national flower is a hybrid orchid - the Vanda Miss Joaquim

Why Diplomacy Matters

SINGAPORE has more than 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's mission is to communicate and be a bridge between the diplomatic community and Singaporeans.

President Halimah Yacob virtually received the credentials of the Ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Nepal on 4th August 2021.



H.E. FAIZULLAH ZAKI IBRAHIMI **Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

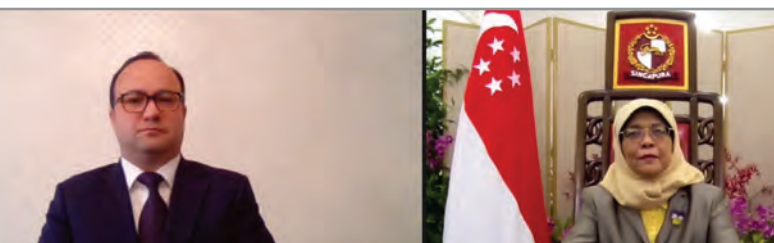


AMBASSADOR Faizullah Zaki Ibrahim was appointed Ambassador-designate of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Republic of Singapore (resident in Jakarta) in August 2019. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Ibrahim was the Afghan Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled from 2017 to 2019.

Before his ministerial appointment, he was deputy National Security Advisor in the Office of the National Security Council and had served as Senior Presidential Advisor to President Ashraf Ghani. He was also an elected representative to the Afghan Parliament from 2005 to 2010 after a stint in the private sector.

Ambassador Ibrahim holds a bachelor's degree in Geology from Kabul University. He is married with four sons and one daughter. He speaks Dari, Pashto, Uzbek, Turkish, Russian and English fluently.

H.E. JALAL SABIR OGLU MIRZAYEV **Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan**



MR Jalal Sabir Oglu Mirzayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Singapore, is a career diplomat with over 20 years of experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

Mr Mirzayev joined the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999. He served at the Azerbaijan Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 2001 to 2003, and at the Azerbaijan Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels from 2003 to 2005. He joined the First

(Western) Territorial Department of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005, before being appointed as First Secretary at the Azerbaijan Embassy in Malaysia in 2007. He returned to the First (Western) Territorial Department of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009 as Head of Division. Mr Mirzayev also served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 2011 to 2015, and later assumed the position of Deputy Head of the Americas Department of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 2015. He served as Chargé d'affaires in the Netherlands from September 2017 until his appointment as Ambassador to Indonesia in September 2019. He has also served as Ambassador to ASEAN since 2020.

Mr Mirzayev holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from Baku State University. He is married with three children, and speaks English, French and Russian.

H.E. GANESH PRASAD DHAKAL **Ambassador of Nepal**



H.E. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal has been Nepal's Ambassador to Thailand since June 2019, with residence in Bangkok. Ambassador Dhakal is concurrently accredited to Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. He also serves as Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Asian Institute of Technology.

Ambassador Dhakal is a career diplomat, having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal in 1996. Prior to his current appointments, Ambassador Dhakal was the Joint Secretary and Head of the Northeast Asia Division at the Ministry's headquarters from 2016 to 2019. His other appointments at headquarters include Director-General of the Consular Services Department (2015 – 2016); and Joint Secretary and Head of the Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division (2015).

Ambassador Dhakal's previous overseas postings were in the Nepalese Embassies to Qatar (2013 – 2015), Berlin (2007 – 2012), and Russia (1999 – 2003).

Ambassador Dhakal holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He is married and has two children.

President Halimah Yacob received the credentials of the Ambassadors of Estonia, Malaysia and European Union on 31st August 2021.

H.E. PRIIT TURK Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia



Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Turk has held several positions at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence, including Deputy Director of International Cooperation and Counsellor for Policy Planning at the Ministry of Defence, as well as Ambassador to Georgia with concurrent accreditation to Armenia, Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Director of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Turk obtained his Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and International Relations) from the University of Tartu, Estonia. He has a Master of Science (International Development and Governance) from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, where he was also a Chevening scholar.

Ambassador Turk is married with two sons.

Ambassador Priit Turk is the first resident Estonian Ambassador to Singapore, following the opening of the Estonian Embassy in February 2021

PRIOR to his accreditation to Singapore, Ambassador Turk served as Counsellor in the External Economic and Development Cooperation Department of the Estonian

H.E. DATO' DR. AZFAR MOHAMAD MUSTAFAR High Commissioner of Malaysia

PRIOR to his appointment as High Commissioner of Malaysia to the Republic of Singapore Dato' Dr. Azfar Mohamad Mustafar served as the Ambassador of Malaysia to France. While serving in the Malaysian civil service, Dato' Dr. Azfar obtained his Ph.D. in Maritime Law from the University of Wales Swansea, United Kingdom, and Master of Science in Maritime Affairs from the World Maritime University, Sweden. Dato' Dr. Azfar also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from Universiti Malaya, Malaysia, and a Diploma in Public Administration from the National Institute for Public Administration, Malaysia.

Dato' Dr. Azfar started his civil service career in 1996. He served in the Prime Minister's Department and Public Service Department before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. Dato' Dr. Azfar last served as Director General (Maritime Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2015 to 2018, prior to his appointment as the Ambassador of Malaysia to France from 2018 to 2021. Dato' Dr. Azfar was conferred the Darjah Indera Mahkota Pahang (DIMP) award by the Sultan of Pahang in 2018. He is married to Datin Che Norhayati Soib and blessed with five children.



H.E. Dato' Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar is also featured in this issue (see page 12)

H.E. IWONA PIÓRKO BERMIG Ambassador of the European Union



PRIOR to her accreditation to Singapore, Ambassador Iwona Piórko Bermig was a Member of the Cabinet of European Commission Executive Vice-President for 'Europe fit for the Digital Age' Margrethe Vestager.

Ambassador Piórko Bermig has held numerous positions in the European Commission since 2005, including Head of International Affairs at the European Commission's Directorate-

General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs; Member of the Cabinet of then-Vice-President/ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini; and Member of the Cabinet of then-Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle. She holds a Doctorate in Contemporary European Studies from Sussex European Institute, University

of Sussex, Brighton; and a Master of Arts degree in Advanced European Studies from College of Europe, Bruges.

Ambassador Piórko Bermig is married with one daughter.



President Halimah Yacob virtually received the credentials of the Head of Missions of the Republics of Bulgaria, Mozambique and Guatemala on 16th September 2021.



H.E. PETAR ANDONOV
Ambassador of Republic of Bulgaria



PRIOR to Ambassador Petar Andonov's posting to Singapore he represented Bulgaria as Ambassador of Indonesia since 2019. He is a diplomat with over 20 years of experience in the Bulgarian civil service.

Mr Andonov began his career as a freelance reporter in 1986, before taking on the role of Editor and subsequently Editor-in-Chief with Bulgarian National TV. He also served as the Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria from 1991 to 1992, before being appointed as Deputy Director at U.S. Radio Free Europe in 1993.

In 1997, he took on the role of Chief Coordinator of the Council for Economic Development to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria. Mr Andonov held this position until 1998, when he was appointed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Japan and the Philippines (resident in Tokyo).

Mr Andonov was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, First Degree, H.M. the Emperor of Japan for Mr Andonov's contribution to the development of bilateral relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and Japan. Thereafter, Mr Andonov took on the role of Moderator of current affairs programs and Foreign Policy and Economy Analyst at U.S. Radio Free Europe in 2003. In 2006, he was appointed to a similar role with TV Europe (News and Current Affairs Bulgarian TV Network). Mr Andonov also served as the Program Director with the Confederation of the Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria from 2010 to 2012, before being appointed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Korea.

He held this role from 2012 to 2019 and was awarded the Order for Diplomatic Service Merit 1st Degree of the President of

the Republic of Korea in June 2019, for his contribution to the development of bilateral relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Korea. Mr Andonov has also served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Indonesia since 2019.

Mr Andonov holds a Master of Economics and Organization of Labor, University for National and World Economy, Bulgaria, and a Master of Business Administration from Swinburne University of Technology, Australia.

H.E. BELMIRO JOSÉ MALATE
High Commissioner of Mozambique



PRIOR H.E. Belmiro José Malate posting here he has been the Republic of Mozambique's Ambassador to Indonesia since August 2019, with residence in Jakarta. High Commissioner Malate is concurrently accredited to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and East Timor.

High Commissioner Malate is a career diplomat, having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique in 1980. Prior to his current appointment, High Commissioner Malate served as Director for Asia and Oceania at the Ministry's headquarters from 2015 to 2019. His other appointments at headquarters include Director for Multilateral Economic Relations (1999 – 2001) and Head of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Desk (1997 – 1999). High Commissioner Malate's previous overseas postings were to Japan (2009 – 2015), Botswana (2004 – 2009), Dubai (2001 – 2004), and Malawi (1984 – 1987).

High Commissioner Malate holds a master's degree in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick, UK. He is married and has two children.

H.E. MAYNOR JACOBO CUYÚN SALGUERO Ambassador of Guatemala



Guatemala to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) since March 2021. He is a career diplomat. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala in 1980 and has served as the Consul-General of Guatemala in Los Angeles, California, USA, and also as Ambassador of Guatemala to the Republic of Korea, Norway (concurrently accredited to Denmark), and Morocco. He was also the Director-General of Protocol and Diplomatic Ceremony from 2012 to 2014.

He has received many decorations for his diplomatic service including: The Order of "WISSAM AL ALAOUI" with the rank of commander issued by the Kingdom of Morocco (2020); and the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit "GWANGHWA" medal issued by the government of the Republic of Korea (1996).

He is married and has two children.

PRIOR to Ambassador Jacobo Cuyún's posting to Singapore, he has been the Ambassador of Guatemala to the Republic of Indonesia since November 2019 and the Ambassador of

President Halimah Yacob received in separate ceremonies the credentials of the following Ambassadors of the Republic of Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Ambassadors of the Kingdoms of Belgium and Saudi Arabia on 28th September 2021.

H.E. SENGKEO POUANGPADITH Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic



in his diplomatic career in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy over the last 28 years. Throughout the course of his career, he was affiliated with Europe and Americas Department, Economy Affairs Department, International Organisations Department and Protocol Department. He had served as the Attaché and Third Secretary at the Embassy of the Lao

People's Democratic Republic in Warsaw, Republic of Poland, from 1998 to 2004, and as the Counsellor at the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines, from 2009 to 2010.

Ambassador Sengkeo Pouangpadith holds a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in International Law from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, class of 1992. He speaks English and Russian, and is married with two sons and one daughter.



PRIOR to his appointment as the Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Republic of Singapore H.E. Sengkeo Pouangpadith, had served as the Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Ambassador Sengkeo Pouangpadith joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993. He has accumulated experiences

"I welcomed Ambassador Sengkeo Pouangpadith of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ambassador Colette Taquet of Kingdom of Belgium, and Ambassador Abdullah Mohammed AlMadhi of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Istana today, where they presented their credentials to me.

They have all had illustrious careers as diplomats of their respective countries. I am confident that they will execute their duties to the best of their abilities and strengthen Singapore's ties with our longstanding partners."

- President of Singapore H.E. Halimah Yacob

H.E. COLETTE TAQUET
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium



matters related to the security and free movement of people in the European Union, as well as legislation on the fight against online terrorist content, the protection of whistle blowers and recognition of e-evidence.

Ambassador Taquet has held several positions at the Belgian FPSFA, including that as Belgium's Ambassador to Cyprus, Lebanon, as well as Poland and Lithuania.

Ambassador Taquet has a degree in Political Science and a specialisation in International Law from Université Libre de Bruxelles (Free University of Brussels).

She holds the Medal of the Commander of Leopold's Order (Kingdom of Belgium) and the Medal of Commander of the Order of Merit (Republic of Poland).

PRIOR to her accreditation to Singapore, Ambassador Colette Taquet was Director in the General Directorate of European Affairs in the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs (FPSFA). She had worked on issues such as the reform of legislation on migration and asylum legislation, COVID-19 crisis management,

H.E. ABDULLAH MOHAMMED ALMADHI
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



and concurrently, Ambassador and General Supervisor of the Internal Audit Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Riyadh from 2017 to March 2021.

Ambassador Abdullah AlMadhi, 57, is a career diplomat. Ambassador

Abdullah AlMadhi joined the Saudi Foreign Service in 1987 as an Attaché and was posted to several countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe in positions such as Second Secretary and Deputy Head of Consular at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Manila from 1993 to 1997, and Second Secretary and Head of Consular Affairs Department at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Doha. He was appointed as First Secretary at the General Directorate of Bilateral Economic Affairs and First Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Representative to General Investment Authority from 1999 to 2002. He held the post of First Secretary and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Prague from 2002 to 2004 and First Secretary and Head of Consular at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Damascus from 2004 to 2008. He held the post of Counsellor at the General Directorate of Bilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry and concurrently held the post of Counsellor at the HRH Foreign Minister's Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2008 to 2013. He was the Saudi Ambassador in Pretoria from 2013 to 2017.

Born on 18 November 1963 in Abha, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Abdullah AlMadhi graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography in 1986 from King Saud University in Riyadh. In 1992, he obtained a Diploma in Diplomatic Studies from Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies in Riyadh.



PRIOR to his accreditation to Singapore, he was Assistant General Director and later General Director at the General Directorate of African Affairs, and Ambassador, General Director at the General Directorate of Inspection and Follow-up

President Halimah Yacob received in separate ceremonies via video conference the credentials of the following Head of Missions of the Republics of Croatia, Tunisia and Mauritius on 12th October 2021.



(From l to r): Excellencies Nebojša Koharović, Riadh Dridi and Santi Bai Hanoomanjee

H.E. NEBOJŠA KOHAROVIĆ **Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia**

PRIOR to being the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Singapore, Mr Nebojša Koharović served as the Ambassador of Croatia to China from 2013 to 2019, after which he took up post as Ambassador to Jakarta in 2019. He is concurrently accredited to ASEAN, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. The ambassador has over 20 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MVEP) of the Republic of Croatia.

He was appointed Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs for Non-European Bilateral Affairs in 2000. He was subsequently appointed Ambassador to Poland from 2003 to 2008, and Ambassador to Russia from 2008 to 2012, before returning to the MVEP as Assistant Minister for Foreign and European Affairs for Bilateral Relations from 2012 to 2013.

Prior to joining the MVEP, Ambassador Koharović worked in the Foreign Trade Department of the Mladost Publishing company from 1988 to 1990, and thereafter as a Scientific Assistant in the Department for Standard Croatian Language at the University of Zagreb (UniZG) from 1990 to 2000. He has an extensive academic career, having authored several dozen scientific and professional papers in Croatian language studies, sociolinguistics, and culturology. He regularly taught at UniZG, and was a visiting lecturer to the MVEP Diplomatic Academy, as well as foreign universities, including Paris-Sorbonne University in Paris, Columbia University in New York City, and Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

He was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in 2008, at the end of his term as Ambassador to Poland, and the Medal of Pushkin from the Russian Federation in 2012, similarly at the end of his term in Russia.

Ambassador Koharović holds a Master's in Philosophy from UniZG, from where he also previously graduated in South Slavic languages. He speaks English, Russian, Italian, Polish, and Bulgarian, with knowledge of French and Czech. He is married with two children.

H.E. RIADH DRIDI **Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia**

PRIOR to his appointment here, Mr Riadh Dridi was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to the Republic of Indonesia in December 2018, and is concurrently accredited to the Republic of Singapore (resident in Jakarta) and ASEAN. Mr Riadh Dridi is a career diplomat with over 25 years of experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

Ambassador Dridi started his career in the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. He served as Secretary in the USA Division of the Directorate General for the Americas and Asia

from 1997 to 2001, before being appointed as First Secretary, then Economic Counsellor and Cultural Attaché at the Tunisian Embassy in Washington DC, USA from 2001 to 2006. He returned to the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Head of the Canada Division from 2006 to 2008, after which he was appointed Attaché at the Minister's Office in charge of American and Asian Affairs from 2008 to 2010. He was appointed Deputy Director at the Directorate General for Europe in 2010, and subsequently Deputy Head of Mission at the Tunisian Embassy in London from 2010 to 2015. Upon his return to Tunis, Ambassador Dridi was appointed Chargé de Mission of the Foreign Minister's Office and thereafter served as Chief of Staff of the Foreign Minister from 2016 to 2018.

Ambassador Dridi holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Law, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis. He is married with two children. He speaks Arabic, French and English fluently.

H.E. SANTI BAI HANOOMANJEE **Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius**

PRIOR to Mrs Santi Bai Hanoomanjee accreditation here, she was the High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius to India since May 2020 with residence in New Delhi. High Commissioner Hanoomanjee is concurrently accredited to Maldives. She is also High Commissioner-designate to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, and Ambassador-designate to Nepal.

High Commissioner Hanoomanjee served for 33 years in the Mauritius Civil Service and retired in 2005 as Permanent Secretary, the highest post in the service. Soon after, she joined active politics and served as Member of the Opposition in the National Assembly for 8 years (2005 – 2010 and 2011 – 2014). She was appointed Minister of Health and Quality of Life in 2010.

Following her tenure as Minister of Health and Quality of Life (2010 – 2011), she became the first woman to be elected as Speaker of the Mauritius National Assembly in 2015; she served in that position till 2019.

In March 2015, she became the first woman to be conferred the rank of the Grand Commander of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GCSK), Mauritius' highest distinction of merit, in recognition of her contributions to the public service, political, and social fields. Her other appointments in regional and international organisations include President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region) (2015 – 2016), Chairperson, Parliamentary Association of the Indian Ocean Commission (2016 – 2019), and Member of the Standing Committee of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (2018).

She is married and has three daughters.

Appointments

The Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on 13th July 2021 that President Halimah Yacob has appointed Ms Foo Teow Lee as Singapore's next Ambassador to France, Mr T Jasudasan as Singapore's next Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, and Mr A Selverajah as Singapore's next Non-Resident Ambassador to the African Union and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.



Singapore's New Ambassador to France: Ms Foo Teow Lee



THE Government has appointed Ms Foo Teow Lee as the next Ambassador to France. She will be concurrently accredited to Portugal. Ms Foo Teow Lee was Consul-General in the Singapore Consulate-General in Hong Kong from November 2016 to June 2021.

Ms Foo joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 1995. She has served various capacities in the Ministry on issues covering International Economics, Northeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and Southeast Asia. She also served two tours at the Singapore Embassy in Beijing, as First Secretary from 1998 to 2002 and Counsellor (Political) and then Deputy Chief of Mission from 2005 to 2011. Ms Foo was Director-General in the Southeast Asia II Directorate from 2012 to 2016 and concurrently Vice Dean (Academic) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Academy from 2013 to 2015, and Dean in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Academy from 2015 to 2016.

Ms Foo graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (Honours) in 1994. She obtained a Master of Arts in Regional Studies in East Asia from Harvard University, United States of America, in 2003 under a Ministry of Foreign Affairs scholarship.

Ms Foo is married to Mr Lau Teck Sien and they have two daughters.



Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Peru: Mr T Jasudasan



MR T. Jasudasan is currently the Chairman of ZICO Holdings, a Catalyst-listed company. He also sits on the Board of the Joint-Venture rail company, RTS Operations,

that is building the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System. In addition, he serves on the Management Committee of the Singapore Turf Club.

Mr Jasudasan is an experienced diplomat, having served 37 years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his career,

he served numerous Ambassadorial positions including in France, Myanmar, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom.

Most recently, he served as Non-Resident Ambassador to the African Union and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 2015 to 2021.

Mr Jasudasan was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 1990, the Long Service Medal in 2000, and the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 2011.

Mr Jasudasan graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Singapore in 1977. He later obtained a Diploma in Public Administration from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, France in 1984. He is married to Mrs Patricia Margaret Jasudasan and they have three children.

Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to African Union and Ethiopia: Mr A Selverajah



MR A Selverajah is a veteran diplomat with 40 years of experience working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his career, he served Ambassadorial appointments in Brussels from 1999 to 2003, Berlin from 2003 to 2008 (with concurrent accreditation to Greece from 2004 to 2006), Manila from 2008 to 2012, and Ankara from 2015 to 2019. Mr Selverajah

was Dean of the MFA Diplomatic Academy and concurrently Non-Resident Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark from 2012 to 2015.

For his outstanding contribution to the Public Service, he was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2000 and the Long Service Medal in 2002. He was also conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Gregory by Pope John Paul II and Order of Sikatuna (Gold Distinction) by President Benigno Aquino.

Mr Selverajah graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Second Upper Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore in 1979. He obtained a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University, United States of America in 1985. Mr Selverajah is married to Madam S Saandhamma and they have two sons.

Appointments

The Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on 31st August 2021 that President Halimah Yacob has appointed Mr Zainal Arif Mantaha as Singapore's next High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa, and Mr Richard Rokmat Magnus as Singapore's next Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.



Singapore's High Commissioner to South Africa: Mr Zainal Arif Mantaha

THE next Singapore High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa is Mr Zainal Arif Mantaha. He will be concurrently accredited to the Republics of Botswana, Namibia as well as the Kingdoms of Eswatini, and Lesotho.



Mr Mantaha was Ambassador of Singapore to the French Republic, with concurrent accreditation to the Portuguese Republic, from July 2015 to July 2021.

Prior to that, after joining the Foreign Service from the private sector in May 1991, Mr Mantaha served in different capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs covering relations with Latin America, Africa, Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. In 2005, he was appointed Director of the Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Directorate. He was also Director-General of the Europe Directorate from 2011 to 2012, and again from 2014 to 2015.

Overseas, he served as First Secretary at the Singapore Embassy in Bonn from 1993 to 1997, Counsellor at the Singapore Permanent Mission in New York from 2000 to 2001, and Deputy High Commissioner at the Singapore High Commission in London from 2006 to 2010.

Outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mantaha was seconded to the Asia-Europe Foundation as Director for People-to-People Exchange from 2001 to 2004, and to the Singapore Civil Service College as Diplomat-in-Residence in 2013.

Mr Mantaha graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1989. He obtained an International Diploma in Public Administration (Honours) from the École Nationale d'Administration of Strasbourg, France, in 2014 (promotion Jules Verne).

Mr Mantaha is married to Madam Jennifer Cheng.



Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Finland: Mr Richard Magnus

MR Richard Magnus retired as Chief District Judge after a distinguished career in the Singapore Legal Service. He continues to contribute to public service and social causes. He was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Bar) in 2003, the Meritorious Service Medal in 2009, the Public Service Star in 2015 and the Outstanding Volunteer Award



by the Ministry of Social & Family Development. Mr Magnus is also a Justice of the Peace. This year, he was conferred the Distinguished Service Order for his continuing public service and extensive contributions to Singapore.

The World Bank recognised Mr Magnus as the architect of judicial reforms in the State Courts. He became Singapore's First Representative to the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission of Human Rights and the first Singaporean to be elected as Vice Chairman of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee. He has led more than one international negotiation for Singapore. He was also the first Chairman of the Casino Regulatory Authority, the Public Guardian Board, and the Political Films Consultative Committee. He served as a Member of the Public Service Commission.

Mr Magnus also holds several public positions such as Chairman of the National Bio-ethics Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Independent Review Panel (MHA), and Board member of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore. As Chairman of the Public Transport Council, he led its re-constitution in 2016 and plays an independent advisor role to the Minister for Transport on public transport matters. He also chairs a multi-agency committee to foster a more caring commuting culture. Mr Magnus is the founding Chairman of Temasek Foundation Cares and the Deputy Chairman of Temasek Foundation. In the private sector, Mr Magnus sits or has sat either as Chairman or Board Member of more than one company.

Mr Magnus is married to Madam Eileen Siew Keok. They have two children and three grandchildren.

H.E. Dato' Dr Azfar Bin Mohamad Mustafar: Ready to Deepen Already Deep-Rooted Ties

Close cooperation between both neighbours continue and is extending to more sectors despite COVID. This involves new initiatives by Malaysia in the areas for attracting direct investment, promotion of ESG and expansion of its digital economy. The new Malaysian High Commissioner shares with Editor-in-Chief Ms Nomita Dhar *IN Diplomacy*, more insights of what is happening behind the scenes...

WHAT would be the priority areas for you during your tenure?

Relations between Singapore and Malaysia are deep-rooted, comprehensive and stable. I hope to be able to further deepen and strengthen the relations for the benefit of both countries and their people.

Most immediately and in the short term, the priority will be to work on the re-opening of the border between Johor and Singapore. This would enable Malaysian workers who used to commute between their homes in Johor and their workplaces in Singapore to once again have that option. At the same time, Singaporeans would be able to go to Johor to visit their relatives, and so on.



In the medium and long term, some of the priorities would include enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interests and mutual concerns such as cybersecurity, climate change, sustainable economy, etc.

The world is still struggling with the pandemic. As close neighbours how have Singapore and Malaysia been affected and how has this crisis brought us together?

Singapore and Malaysia, like other countries in the world, are adversely

affected by COVID-19. No country can outsmart COVID-19 on its own. Working together is imperative.

Malaysia closed the borders in March 2020, and Singapore did the same in April 2020. Border closures affect movement of goods, people and services and would have widespread ramifications to the highly integrated and intertwined economies of Singapore and Malaysia.

Both governments acted swiftly with the support of the private sector to ensure unhampered seamless movement of goods between our two countries. On our part, Malaysia does not wait for any formal agreement or MoU related to supply chain matters to continue to supply goods to Singapore.

Moving forward, and as both sides have achieved high vaccination rate, a number of activities could be done, especially in setting a precursor for the gradual reopening.

What are the prime challenges you are facing in this context and what is going on behind the scenes to keep things moving?

Malaysia and Singapore have been working closely to address any challenges following COVID-19. Malaysia has ensured uninterrupted supply of goods from Malaysia to Singapore.



Presentation of Credentials to (centre) Singapore President Halimah Yacob: Dato' Dr Azfar with spouse Mdm Che Norhayati Binti Soib on 31st August 2021

PRIOR to his posting to Singapore, Pahang-born Dr Azfar bin Mohamad Mustafar was an Administrative & Diplomatic Officer in the Malaysian Civil Service and has served in various capacities. Amongst others, his past assignments include a stint as an Assistant Director, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), and as an Assistant Director, National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department. He was the Director General, Department of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia from 2015–2018. He served as the Ambassador of Malaysia to France, with concurrent accreditation to Portugal and Monaco, from September 2018–May 2021.

He holds a BA (Hons.) in South East Asian Studies from the University of Malaya, an M.Sc in Maritime Administration from the World Maritime University (Sweden), and Ph.D in Maritime Law from University of Wales (United Kingdom).

"One good example of the behind-the-scenes activity that keep things moving is how both sides addressed the issue related to truck drivers and workers that need to come into Singapore on a daily basis and without quarantine. We are talking about more than 1,000 trucks from Malaysia to Singapore that deliver daily all sorts of good..."

One good example of the behind-the-scenes activity that keep things moving is how both sides addressed the issue related to truck drivers and workers that need to come into Singapore on a daily basis and without quarantine. We are talking about more than 1,000 trucks from Malaysia to Singapore that deliver daily all sorts of goods including intermediate goods, consumables and essential goods.

Singapore has also extended its vaccination programme to these truck drivers and workers. Both sides have been working closely to ensure stringent health protocols as well as exchanging information and best practices to ensure minimum risk from this arrangement.

Could you brief us on collaboration between Singapore and Malaysia in the subject of supply chain and what trends do you see in the area of trade for 2022?

On supply chain collaboration, given our geographic proximity, both Malaysia and Singapore have been part of the global value chain of manufacturing goods.

Annually, our merchandise trade with Singapore is around US\$50 billion, with electrical and electronics accounting for more than 40% of our bilateral trade statistics. Organically, businesses will institute collaborations to further strengthen the supply chain in the respective sectors.

In terms of investment, there is a good number of...

For the full interview visit
www.indiplomacy.com

Visit

Estonian President Participate in Asia Tech X & Collaborate with Singapore

President Kaljulaid exploring how to set up collaborations in digital and economic spheres

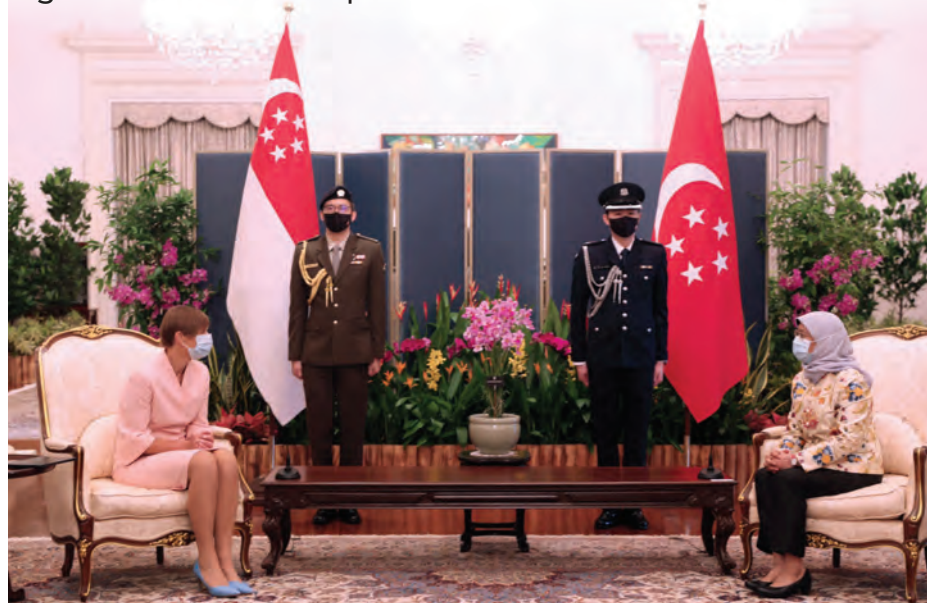


Photo: Annika Haas



(Top): The meeting of the first female presidents of Estonia and Singapore. (Above row 1 to r): President Kersti Kaljulaid file photo sans mask and meeting with Dr V Balakrishnan

THE President of the Republic of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid, met President Halimah Yacob 11th July 2021. The Presidents reaffirmed the friendly ties between Singapore and Estonia. They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in areas such as the digital economy and cybersecurity, as both countries work towards COVID-19 recovery. **President Halimah welcomed the establishment of the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Singapore this year.**

President Kaljulaid also met Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. They took stock of the growing bilateral relationship, and discussed ways to step up collaboration, including in the

digital and economic spheres. They also exchanged views on the COVID-19 situation, and agreed on the need to enhance digital interoperability between the two countries. President Kaljulaid also participated in the inaugural Asia Tech x Singapore (ATxSG) Summit organised by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) the next day.

The Estonian President also received calls by Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Transport and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran, and Minister for Communications and Information, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Minister-in-charge of Smart Nation and Cybersecurity Josephine Teo.



ACCELERATING GREEN

Towards Collaborative Action

Event portal
EEXPO.SG



(From l to r): H.E. George Tumur; Hon. Douglas Foo and Ms Nomita Dhar

ACCELERATING GREEN, a series on Sustainability organised by IN Diplomacy, supported by the Diplomatic & Consular Corps (DCC) Singapore and sponsored by Olam International, received an enthusiastic response for its inaugural virtual conference on 29th July 2021.

Ms Nomita Dhar, founder of Sun Media Pte Ltd the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of IN Diplomacy, in her welcome highlighted the spread of speakers who are keen to share thoughts on the subject of sustainability. They included H.E. George Tumur the Dean of the DCC and Ambassador of Mongolia; Mr Douglas Foo, the President of the Singapore Manufacturers Federation; the ambassadors/high commissioners of Australia, Chile, South Africa and Uzbekistan as well as the Director of Various Renewable Energy from Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. They were complemented by experts in the private sector who shared their insights in specific areas (see accompanying section on speakers).

In her introduction Ms Nomita said: "Accelerating green is urgent. Never in history, the answer to a simple question - "How is the weather?" has been as important and critical as it is now. We all have only one Home, this Earth, of which we are all custodians and we are all responsible to preserve it and do everything possible to keep it from deteriorating any further."

She also added: " While each one of us can contribute, through collaboration we can Accelerate our Green efforts. As a media company, we wish to be a catalyst for conversations and collaborations between countries, corporations and communities in our circle of influence, and beyond.

View all the speakers's presentations
visit: www.indiplomacy.com

Programme Highlights

ACCELERATING GREEN was officially launched by H.E. George Tumur, the Dean of the DCC and Ambassador of Mongolia. He also spoke on how important the Sustainability cause is to the country: "I am happy to share that Mongolia is one of the first countries to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. Six months following the adoption of the SDGs by the global community, the Parliament of Mongolia approved its long-term development strategy (Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030).

The Hon. Douglas Foo is the President of Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and vice chairman of Singapore Business Federation and Vice president of Singapore National Employer's Federation. He is one of Singapore's three Appointed Representatives at the ASEAN Business Advisory Council.

He outlined programmes and measures for Sustainability undertaken by the SMF to meet the business challenges arising but said this was a necessity in the long term. One of the examples he highlighted: "SMF has incorporated in our operations is the establishment of our Manufacturing Alliance Transformation Office, or MATO for short. MATO is the product of collaboration between the SMF, Enterprise Singapore and other trade associations and chambers, or TACs to come together to drive transformation and innovations in many critical industries of Singapore including the food sector, the precision engineering sector and the electronics sector, to name just a few."

"In this collaboration, the SMF identifies companies that require assistance to update their technologies and processes and partner with our partnering TACs to recommend solution providers to these companies. These companies can then tap on the available support to implement these solutions, which in turn will increase their output and by extension, increase these companies' contributions to Singapore's GDP. This is a circular system but one that has proven to be effective."

Australian High Commissioner Will Hodgman who is also the former Premier of Tasmania (the state achieved Zero Emission in 2018) said: "Australia is working with Singapore to share expertise and reduce emissions with priority areas in hydrogen, carbon capture, use and storage, renewable energy trade, measurement and verification of emission reporting. The latest development was the joint launch by the Australian and Singapore Prime Ministers this year a \$30 million dollar partnership to accelerate the deployment of low emission fuels and technologies and to trial the use of clean hydrogen and ammonia in port operations."

The other heads of missions also gave highlights of their countries' progress in the area of Sustainability while experts from the private sectors weighed in with direct insights related to its application in sectors like property development (Ms Esther An of CDL); the soil's impact on climate change (Dr Christopher Stewart of Olam International); Earth 300 project - symbol and showcase of research for sustainability solutions (Mr Aaron Olivera of Earth 300) and what can be done to plan and build up safe, equitable and sustainable cities (Ms Lauren Sorkin of Resilient Cities Network).

Speakers



**H.E. WILL
HODGMAN**

*High Commissioner
of Australia*



**H.E. IGNACIO
CONCHA**

*Ambassador
of Chile*



**H.E. MODISE CASALIS
MOKITLANE**

*High Commissioner
of South Africa*



**H.E. KAKHRAMON
SHAKIROV**

*Ambassador
of Uzbekistan*



CHRISNAWAN ANDITYA

*Director, Various Renewable
Energy, Ministry of Energy
and Mineral Resources,
Indonesia*



AARON OLIVERA

*Founder & CEO,
Earth 300*



**DR CHRISTOPHER
STEWART**

*Chief Sustainability
Officer, Olam*



ESTHER AN

*Chief Sustainability
Officer, CDL*



LAUREN SORKIN

*Executive Director,
Resilient Cities
Network*

Panel 1: Global Sustainability and Eco Wakening in Asia

- H.E. Will Hodgman
High Commissioner of Australia
Cooperation in Low-Emission Tech & Renewable Energy (Hydrogen & Solar)
- H.E. Ignacio Concha
Ambassador of Chile
Cooperation in Green Hydrogen
- Chrisnawan Anditya, S.T., M.T.,
Director for Various Renewable
Energy, Ministry of Energy and
Mineral Resources, Indonesia
Renewable Energy Resources

Panel 2: Supply Chain and Sustainable Business

- H.E. Modise Casalis Mokitlane
High Commissioner of South Africa
**The Leap Forward WITHOUT Climate
Change**

- Dr Christopher Stewart
Chief Sustainability Officer, Olam
International
Circular Systems in Food Chain
- Ms Esther An
Chief Sustainability Officer, CDL
**ESGs & Competitive Advantages
of Sustainability**

Panel 3: Circular Economy and Thinking Out-of-the-Box

- H.E. Kakhramon Shakirov
Ambassador of Uzbekistan
**Integrating Sustainable Development
Goals into National and Regional
Development Strategies and
Programmes**
- Mr Aaron Olivera
Founder & CEO of EARTH 300
**The Earth 300 Odyssey - Making
a Difference**

- Ms Lauren Sorkin
Executive Director, Resilient Cities
Network
**Clean Energy, Climate Change and
Conservation Risks and Opportunities**

Panel Moderators



JOHANNES BURGER
*Business Development
Manager UAEU / Africa
Specialist*



JOANNE FLINN
*Strategic
Sustainability
Specialist*

COMING UP NEXT
18th January 2022
8am - 11am (SGT)

ACCELERATING GREEN **POST COP26 what does it mean for Asia and the World?**

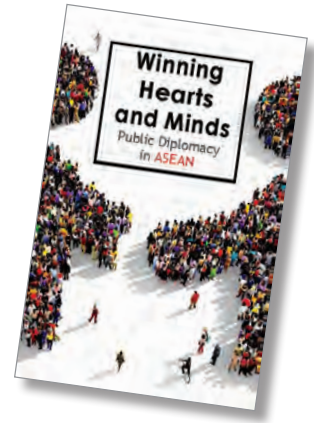
Also included: Special session on shared
Eco-Problems and Solutions of Latin America and ASEAN

To attend the e-conference visit eexpo.sg or www.indiplomacy.com
To participate as sponsor email to marketing@sunmediaonline.com

Communiqué

Winning Hearts and Minds: Public Diplomacy in ASEAN

The Singapore International Foundation (SIF) celebrated its 30-year anniversary with a publication that provides an insightful look at the ASEAN's approach to public diplomacy and the strategies employed to "bridge gaps, enrich mutual understanding, and deepen relationships with the rest of the world"



THE SIF hosted Singapore's first-ever **Public Diplomacy in Asia** e-conference which was opened by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. The virtual conference brought together public diplomacy experts from governments, businesses, academia, and civil society organisations to discuss how public diplomacy is conducted in Asia and the future of the practice in the 'new normal'.



COVID-19 has underlined the importance of public diplomacy to combat misinformation, which can sow fear, suspicion, indeed hamper our recovery and prevent us from doing the right thing. We need networks to convey timely and accurate information to people, to build public support for national efforts, as well as a sense of a global community, because pandemics are not limited by borders.

The conference also saw another first – the launch of *Winning Hearts and Minds: Public Diplomacy in ASEAN* – the first-ever compilation on public diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan in his opening remarks observed several key themes in the collection of essays in the book:

"There are three key themes that I have gleaned from this collection of essays. First: the importance of public diplomacy, all the more so in our digital age. Second: the need for clear, credible and consistent messaging. Third: the need to build coalitions and extended networks of support.

Like many aspects of politics and public life, diplomacy has also been transformed by the ongoing digital revolution.

Three reasons. First: digitalisation is breaking down the barriers and pushing us towards ever-greater flows of information and opinions. It blurs the boundaries between what is domestic or foreign. In any case, we all know that foreign policy begins at home. Governments and mainstream news companies no longer have dominant roles in the dissemination of information and opinion. Instead of a common village square, in fact what has happened is that we have fragmented into disparate echo chambers. These echo chambers, paradoxically, also traverse boundaries.

"Building such unity is central to ASEAN's raison d'être – "Unity, to forge a common purpose". A common creed, within ASEAN, is still inchoate. But we know we have to find our own version of "e pluribus unum" (out of many, one)... or the other phrase "bhinneka tunggal ika" (unity in diversity)."

Now, more than ever before, we need the tools to be able to analyse, to make sense of the cacophony of voices online, to discern trends and to respond appropriately and in a timely way to what people are consuming, thinking, saying, and feeling in their hearts. The fine line between democratisation and demagoguery, and the limits, are not always clear. Each of us, now, theoretically can be heard by many, many people. But are we actually listening to one another? So the question is – will digitalisation bring us closer or in fact divide us? The fundamental faultlines of race, ethnicity, religion, and gender still remain. They still shape how we perceive and are perceived. Even as digitalisation creates tremendous opportunities to build bridges and connections, it also has the ability to divide us, or even entrench hate, or promote disinformation. With the increasing sophistication of deep fake videos, this distrust will even deepen.

Second: The phrase coined by Marshall McLuhan back in 1964 – "The medium is the message". I think this phrase still applies, perhaps even more strongly. In today's world, we need a clear, consistent message, underpinned by principles and values, amidst a very uncertain world. But we all need to appreciate that the new media alters human perception of and reaction to the message.

Third, it is even more important now than ever before to build coalitions and networks of support for the future. We need new and meaningful ways to engage. We need partners across a wide spectrum: the private sector, research and education, the scientific community, young people. All of us need the humility and the willingness to engage directly at a people-to-people level, at a personal heart-to-heart level. By doing this together, then we can put out what is accurate, factual, scientific, and promote harmony and human welfare instead of sowing the seeds of division and doubt.

Building such unity is central to ASEAN's raison d'être – "Unity, to forge a common purpose". A common creed, within ASEAN, is still inchoate. But we know we have to find our own version of "e pluribus unum" (out of many, one), or in the Singapore Pledge "regardless of race, language, or religion", or the other phrase "bhinneka tunggal ika" (unity in diversity)."

To read online or download a pdf version of the book *Winning Hearts and Minds: Public Diplomacy in ASEAN* go to:
<https://www.sif.org.sg/-/media/Publication/PublicDiplomacy>