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**COP26 KEEPS  
1.5C ALIVE**



**FINALISES  
PARIS  
AGREEMENT**



**WELCOME  
NEW DEAN**

**H.E. Florin-  
Marius Tacu**

**Former Dean  
George Tumur  
Recollects...**



**Also inside**

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT  
ANGOLA 46TH  
NATIONAL DAY**



**H.E. Daniel Antonio Rosa**

**Presentation of  
Credentials:**

■ **Canada** ■ **Czech  
Republic** ■ **Norway**



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## Presentation of Credentials

President Halimah Yacob received the credentials of the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Norway and Czech Republic as well as the High Commissioner of Canada on 26th October 2021 at the Istana.

### H.E. Eivind Sigvart Homme Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Singapore



as Special Advisor on Global Health for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Homme has served as Ambassador of Norway to India and Bhutan, as well as to Indonesia, Timor Leste and ASEAN. He was the Deputy Chief of the Norwegian Mission in Beijing, and was posted to Washington D.C, Rome and Manila.

**PRIOR** to Ambassador Eivind Sigvart Homme's posting to Singapore, Ambassador Homme was Head of the International Department and Secretary of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Norwegian Parliament. He was also Special Advisor and ASEM Senior Official, as well

The Ambassador is a career diplomat, who has been with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1984. Before joining the foreign service he served as a navigation and communications officer in the Royal Norwegian Navy.

Ambassador Homme is married and has two children.

### H.E. Jean-Dominique Ieraci High Commissioner of Canada to Singapore



This is also High Commissioner Ieraci's second tour in Singapore. He was previously Counsellor (Trade and Economic) and Senior Trade Commissioner at High Commission of Canada in Singapore from 2005-2008.

**PRIOR** to his current appointment, High Commissioner Jean-Dominique Ieraci served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Canadian embassy in Mexico (2016-2021); Minister-Counsellor, Economic and Commercial Affairs, at the Canadian Embassy in Paris (2008-2013); Counsellor at Embassy of Canada in Syria (Covering Cyprus and Jordan) (2000-2002); and Trade Commissioner and Vice-Counsel at Embassy of Canada in the Republic of Korea (1994-1998).

High Commissioner Ieraci is a career diplomat and his most recent headquarter assignment was Director

General, Trade Sectors at Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (now Global Affairs Canada), where he was responsible for the support to the internationalisation of Canadian firms in 22 main sectors of the economy, ranging from Information technology to Canada's International Education Strategy.

Mr. Ieraci graduated in industrial engineering from the École Polytechnique de Montréal. He is married and has three children.

## H.E. Dr Michaela Froňková Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Singapore



Ambassador Froňková has held several positions at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as adviser of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Deputy Director of the Western Europe Department. She has also served postings as Minister-Counsellor at the Czech Embassy in Canada, an exchange diplomat at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and First

Secretary at the Czech Embassy in France, amongst others.

**PRIOR** to her accreditation to Singapore, Ambassador Dr Michaela Froňková served as the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Lebanon (2016 – 2020) and previously, to Morocco (2012 – 2016).

Dr Michaela Froňková is a career diplomat with over 20 years of experience in the foreign service. She is the first resident Czech Ambassador to Singapore, following the reopening of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in August 2020.

Ambassador Froňková obtained her PhD in medical rehabilitation, and a Certificate of Studies in European Law from Charles University. She also holds a Certificate of European Studies from the International Center of European Studies (in Nice and Prague).

She was conferred the Order of Ouissam Alaouite in the grade of Grand Cross by the King of Morocco Mohammed VI.

## New Czech Ambassador Presents Credentials at ASEF



The new Ambassador of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Singapore, Ambassador Dr Michaela Froňková on 1st November 2021 presented her credentials to the Board of Governors of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and had an interesting

discussion with Mr Toru Morikawa, ASEF Executive Director, and Mr Léon Paul Faber, ASEF Deputy Executive Director. The Czech embassy said the Czech Republic is a proud member of the institution and the Embassy is looking forward to further cooperation on common projects.

**ASEF Note:** The Foundation is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organization located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Its purpose is to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges.

Every year, ASEF runs about 20 projects in Asia and Europe together with over 100 partner organisations, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. More than 1,000 Asians and Europeans actively participate in its activities annually and it reaches much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, lectures and exhibitions.



*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.



## Interview

# Welcome New Dean: H.E. Florin-Marius Tacu

Interviews by Ms Nomita Dhar

This is the second time Romanian Ambassador Tacu has become the Dean during his postings abroad. He brings experience and a promise to continue with the candid dialogue his predecessors had practiced in presenting the common interests and concerns of the diplomatic community in Singapore

**YOUR Excellency, first of all let me congratulate you on behalf of IN Diplomacy for becoming the new Dean of the Diplomatic Corps (DCC) in Singapore. Please share with us your plans in this new role?**

Nomita, allow me to start by thanking you and your entire team from IN Diplomacy for being a long-lasting friend of the DCC here. IN Diplomacy provides a much-needed platform to share data and information about our countries with your readers, and during my tenure in Singapore I've heard many colleagues praising your involvement and support which are meant to promote fruitful relations between our respective countries and the Lion City.

Regarding the new hat I'm now wearing, I can only hope and try to fill the shoes of my predecessors. I enjoyed very good relations with the last two Deans, H.E. James Sinclair, former Ambassador of Chile, and H.E. Lkhagvadorj (George) Tumur, former Ambassador of Mongolia, and with the eye of someone who was Dean in a previous incarnation, I can attest to their success in strengthening the bonds within the Diplomatic Corps, and in supporting our common interests and concerns.

**How would you present the voice of the diplomats to MFA?**

We are all - Singaporean diplomats and foreign diplomats accredited in Singapore - part of the same family. We understand each other's challenges to properly operate in the current context of the COVID pandemic and we are cooperating to overcome them. The impression I have during my entire tenure in Singapore, as well as after becoming Dean, is that a candid dialogue is always appreciated and I intend to continue along this way.

**Because of COVID, diplomats now cannot avoid engaging more with technology especially in digital communication. As digitalisation gains importance and becomes more lucrative there are many attractive career options in technology-related fields available to the best and brightest in academia. Do you think diplomacy is still a good career choice for students today?**

The short answer is "YES"! Taking a



longer route towards that answer, your very relevant question allows me to highlight a few aspects.

Firstly, a career in diplomacy means a choice between a public career or a private one; it is a personal choice, and not necessarily an irreversible one. Regardless of the choice made, I am convinced that a good professional will find satisfaction in both worlds. What is important is to be as competent as possible.

*"Firstly, a career in diplomacy means a choice between a public career or a private one; it is a personal choice, and not necessarily an irreversible one. Regardless of the choice made, I am convinced that a good professional will find satisfaction in both worlds. What is important is to be as competent as possible"*

Secondly, if one chooses the diplomatic career, I am confident that, regardless of the nationality, that person will find such a career of paramount relevance in order to promote the national interests of their respective countries, to protect the rights of their compatriots around the world, to understand the evolution of humanity; what's not to like about it! For an outsider, usually, diplomacy is associated with a lot of glitter; there is glitter, but there is also a lot of sweat, hardwork meant to promote your country and to protect your compatriots.

Thirdly, you refer to technology, and how it has become common to consider it somewhat as a 'disruptor'. Indeed, technology can be a disruptor but it is also...

For the full interview visit  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

### Background

Ambassador Tacu has a career of more than 20 years in Romania's public service. The last position held before being accredited as Romania's Ambassador in the Republic of Singapore (on 1st June 2017) was that of State Secretary with the Prime Minister's Office in December 2015 and he was also the Acting Secretary General of the Government of Romania between September 2016 and January 2017. From April 2010 to July 2015, he was Romania's Consul General in Shanghai, PR China, and from May 2014 until the end of his posting, he was also the Dean of the Consular Corps in Shanghai.

Other prior positions held by Ambassador Tacu include being a judge at various local, county and appeal courts in Romania, and Deputy Director of Litigation Department of the Ministry of Justice. Ambassador Tacu has a LL.M degree in Chinese Law from Shanghai Jiaotong University, a LL.B with Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi, Romania and graduated different other post-university courses in International Law and International Affairs.

Ambassador Tacu is 45, married, and has one son. He is fluent in English and French and has basic knowledge of Chinese language.

## Interview

# Fond Farewell to Former Dean H.E. Lkhagvadorj (George) Tumur

As H.E. George Tumur Ambassador of Mongolia gives up the stewardship as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Singapore he shares thoughts on the challenges and bright spots of his six-year tenure in Singapore that coincided with the COVID pandemic!

**CONGRATULATIONS on the successful completion of your term as the Dean and call of duty. Are there any highlights that you would like to share?**

Thank you. When I was proposed by my predecessor to take over the Dean's role, I was a bit hesitant. Two persons were instrumental in convincing me to agree. One was Ambassador Andrey Tatarinov of the Russian Federation, who has an extensive experience in his diplomatic career, and actually served in Singapore a few months longer than me. He repeatedly told me that there are more positives than negatives in fulfilling this job. He himself couldn't take the position as he was leaving soon. The other was Ambassador Tommy Koh of the Singapore MFA, who invited me to his office to introduce me to his retired colleague, who had acted as a Dean during his ambassadorship in another country. During the meeting, they both shared their invaluable views on Deanship, especially from the perspective of being an Ambassador from a smaller state. So, I am very grateful to them for their warm support and confidence in me.

My term as a Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Consular (DCC) offices in Singapore coincided with the period of intensive challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic around the world, and how it affected absolutely everyone in the worst possible ways.

Every diplomatic mission has been dealing with unprecedented pressures of issues – from inter-governmental relations to the health and mental well-being of citizens. We started facing so many uncertainties, all of which required much closer communication between the Singapore



*Ambassador Tumur and spouse  
Mdm Zoljargal Molomjants*

**My term as a Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Consular (DCC) offices in Singapore coincided with the period of intensive challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic around the world, and how it affected absolutely everyone..."**

MFA and diplomatic missions. I had to set up a regular channel for direct communication between the heads of missions, which helped a lot in assisting each other with relevant information and clarifications around the clock.

Since the beginning of 2020, more than half of the heads of missions have completed their diplomatic tenures here; the new heads of missions taking their place were facing a lot

of difficulties integrating into the diplomatic community as we didn't have any chance to gather together. All National Day receptions and business meetings have been cancelled, and in line with the government regulations, I could organize only small events for farewells and occasionally, welcome lunches. It is sad to think that I was not able to do any diplomatic event during my tenure as a Dean, but with the support of my colleagues, we stayed close through virtual conference calls and digital correspondences. I wish we had a bit more support.

My wife Zola is a very strong support for my successful work; without her, I wouldn't have been able to achieve much. She not only helped me to do things better but also effectively coordinated the spouses of the heads of missions to interact with the Singapore community continuously. In collaboration with various Singapore business organizations, she organized numerous events for the spouses to learn about Singapore lifestyle, heritage and cuisine etc.

**COVID added new challenges for the whole world and especially diplomatic missions which are the gateways to the movement of people, goods and services; Would you like to share how you were able to work around this challenge?**

As I received the duty from my predecessor in February 2020, I planned to continue the regular activities of the Dean to...

For the full interview visit  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

*One of the rare instances when a hybrid DCC e-conference was allowed (maximum 5 persons) early during the pandemic in August 2020*

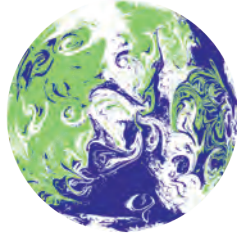




# COP26 KEEPS 1.5C ALIVE AND FINALISES PARIS AGREEMENT

COP26 ended with global agreement to accelerate action on climate this decade after two weeks of intense negotiations that finally complete the agenda of the Paris Rulebook

**FOR** the first time COP agreed on a position to phase down unabated coal power. The Glasgow Climate Pact caps two years of diplomacy and rising ambitions for action on climate change. Nearly 200 countries agreed to keep the 1.5C alive and finalise the outstanding elements of the Paris Agreement.



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Climate negotiators ended two weeks of intense talks with a consensus on urgently accelerating climate action. The Glasgow Climate Pact, combined with increased ambition and action from countries, means that 1.5C remains in sight, but it will only be delivered with concerted and immediate global efforts.

The Glasgow Climate Pact will speed up the pace of climate action. All countries agreed to revisit and strengthen their current emissions targets to 2030, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in 2022. This will be combined with a yearly political roundtable to consider a global progress report and a Leaders summit in 2023.

The Paris Rulebook, the guidelines for how the Paris Agreement is delivered, was also completed after six years of discussions. This will allow for the full delivery of the

landmark accord, after agreement on a transparency process which will hold countries to account as they deliver on their targets. This includes Article 6, which establishes a robust framework for countries to exchange carbon credits through the UNFCCC.

And for the first time, heeding calls from civil society and countries most vulnerable to climate impacts, the COP agreed action on phasing down fossil fuels. COP decisions went further than ever before in recognising and addressing loss and damage from the existing impacts of climate change.

There were also commitments to significantly increase financial support through the Adaptation Fund as developed countries were urged to double their support to developing countries by 2025.

The final COP26 text follows two years of intense diplomacy and campaigning undertaken by the UK Presidency to raise ambition and secure action from almost 200 countries.

For the full report visit  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

## Business

### US-S'pore's First Bilateral Business Initiative under New US Administration

IN a joint statement published in the Singapore press on 17th November 2021, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Gan



Kim Yong said the countries have launched a "strategic pathfinder" for new ways to deepen economic integration; called the **Partnership for Growth and Innovation (PGI)**, it is the first new economic initiative between the United States and a country in Asia under the Biden-Harris Administration. It further went on to say that the initiative underscores the strong interest of U.S. companies in Singapore and Southeast Asia as key nodes in global supply chains and in growing markets with significant business opportunities.

Secretary Gina Raimondo was on her first visit to Singapore co-chairing an industry roundtable with Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong. Co-organized by The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore and the Singapore Business Federation, the event was an opportunity for U.S. and Singapore business leaders to contribute to the work plan of the U.S-Singapore Partnership for the PGI.

More business snippets online at  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

### Brazil Co-Chair Last SBF LABG Meeting

17th Nov 2021

BRAZIL'S Ambassador to Singapore H.E. Eugênia Barthelmeß had the honour to co-chair the last meeting this year of the Singapore Business Federation's Latin American Business Group (LABG). Brazil considers the LABG to be...

### Wärtsilä Voyage - MPA Collaborate on Smart Port Innovation & Digitalisation

23rd Nov 2021

WÄRTSILÄ Voyage has signed a landmark MoU with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) to further strengthen their collaboration in smart port innovation and digitalisation. On hand to...

### New Czech-Singapore Committee

19th Nov & 7th Oct 2021

ON 7th October 2021 the Czech-Singapore Committee was formed at the Czech Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Vladimír Dlouhý, President of the Czech Chamber delivered the opening speech where he highlighted Singapore as a business and financial centre of global importance and praised the...



# United, Let us Build a Prosperous Angola

H.E. Daniel Antonio Rosa presided over his first National Day reception since presenting his credentials for the Republic of Angola's 46th Anniversary of Independence on 17th November 2021

**H.E.** Ambassador Daniel Antonio Rosa held an online reception with the Guest of Honour representing Singapore, Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Announcing the theme of this year, "United, Let us Build a Prosperous Angola", he said this was based on, "Prosperity founded on the goals and objectives that the country defined within the framework of the National Development Plan (PDN 2018-2022) and of the Long Term Development Strategy, 'Angola 2050', complemented with the Agenda 2030 related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union that declared 'The Africa that We Want', which is related to the 'Common Strategic Framework for the Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development'.

He added that Angola has been recording growth and success across the political, economic, and financial domains, as well as in the social and cultural aspects. This covered democracy, a free and participative society; national cohesion; human development, increasing education and sustainable development. The country's economic growth has also helped to attract foreign private investment.

Under the leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, Angola is moving sustainably in the direction outlined for its development. The state is working hard towards attaining development and meeting the needs of the people of jobs and housing. The Ambassador shared that despite the COVID-19 pandemic the country was forging ahead. Anchoring in the theme of the governance "To improve what is well and to fix what is bad", the Angolan Executive is focused on perfecting mechanisms.

## Warm Exchange of Messages Between Leaders



**H.E. João Manuel  
Gonçalves Lourenço**



**H.E. Halimah Yacob**

Ambassador Antonio in his speech highlighted the finalisation of several important bilateral agreements involving legal instruments in several domains and these he said "will strengthen even further our bilateral cooperation, recently reinforced through the messages of congratulation by H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, on the last 9th of August, and H.E. Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, regarding the celebration of the 46th anniversary of Independence of Angola, on the past 11th November. In the messages, the two Heads of the States manifested the desire to see being developed further the friendship ties and cooperation that unite both Countries and Peoples."

## Forecasts & Elections

Angola's macroeconomic forecasts point to an economic growth of 2.4% for the year 2022. This growth recovery track is expected to reduce unemployment levels, improve the well-being of citizens and the businesses environment.

Next year, the General Elections will take place in order to choose leaders for the following five years. For the first time, since the implementation of the multi-party system in Angola, citizens residing overseas will also be able to vote. Ambassador Rosa announced that for Angolan citizens residing in Singapore, the Philippines, and other countries under the jurisdiction of this Embassy, the process to update the official electoral registry is expected to

begin in January 2022 and end in March of the same year. New electoral cards for the voters will not be issued; the utilisation of their Identity Card will be enough to update the referred registry. Technical teams from the Ministries of the Territory Administration, External Relations, and from the Embassy in Singapore are expected to be engaged to work in the process from next January.

## Foreign Policy

In the context of foreign policy, the Republic of Angola maintains its position as an international strategic partner; promoting peace, stability, and the sustainable and harmonious development of the peoples, mainly, in Africa. For instance, His Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço presides over the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (CIRGL); in the same way that the Commission of the

Economic Community of

the Central Africa States (CEAAC) is led by the Angolan Ambassador, Gilberto da Piedade Veríssimo.

Angola will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the Republic of Singapore and the other countries that participates in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which are part of the Embassy diplomatic cover.

The Ambassador pointed out that Singapore has a competitive advantage with its a financial and technological resource and Angola has minerals.

Financial flows can help in socio-economic development, especially in building infrastructure and help in transforming the industry.



# Day Commemoration



(Above l to r): Ambassador Daniel Antonio Rosa and Mr Alvin Tan Singapore's Minister of State for the Ministry of Trade & Industry and the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth

## Investments

Investment from Singapore companies in resource-rich Angola will help in generating jobs, improving infrastructure and training more Angolan human resources. The collaboration can be mutually beneficial.

The Republic of Angola is strongly committed to the cause of climate change. This is evident with the participation of the Head of the Angolan State, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, in the 26th United Nations Climate Summit (COP26), in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. In his speech, President Lourenço committed to the fact that the Executive branch will be using 70% of renewable energy resources until 2025. In the words of the President, "climate changes constitute one of the greatest challenges faced by humanity, considering the ranges of direct and indirect effects which affect both the economic and social areas of the nations, a fact that represents a true challenge to development".

## Bilateral Agreements

The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding last 17th of August between AIPEX (Agency for the Private Investment and Export Promotion) and the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, contributed inexorably to strengthening the existing friendship and cooperation ties between our two countries. Angola is looking forward to seeing concluded the legal cooperation tools that are under negotiation, namely:

- The Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic Passports, Official/Service and Ordinary Officials
- Reciprocal Investment Protection Agreement between the Republic of

Angola and the Republic of Singapore

- Double Taxation and Tax Evasion Agreement between the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore
- The Agreement related to the Bilateral Political Consultations between the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.

The Ambassador also highlighted, "Our participation in the 6th Edition of the **Africa-Singapore Business Forum** in August, represented an extremely important moment. It allowed our countries to share opportunities for businesses, strengthen and consolidate the currently existing business relations."

He also welcomed with great satisfaction that Angola's (port) Porto of Lobito was selected for the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) - Singapore Maritime Single Window Pilot Project.

The Ambassador ended his address by also noting how, "This year we celebrate 21 years of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Angola and Singapore, which is also the same period when Angola's National Society of Fuels (Sonangol.EP) started its crude oil trade operations in Asian countries. He also expressed Angola's appreciation for the international cooperation and support the country has received over the years. He also said "To Singapore and Singaporeans, we dedicate a very special recognition for the cordial welcome you have given us in this wonderful country."

For the full report visit  
[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

## Singapore Welcomes Greater Cooperation and Links Between Both Nations

The Singapore government's representative to Angola's Independence virtual reception Minister of State Mr Alvin Tan in his address said Singapore found it inspiring to see the strength, resilience and progress made by Angola since independence as well as the country's commitment to peace and stability in Africa.

While both countries had to meet many challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, the Minister of State said he was happy to note how Angola has been commended by the World Health Organisation for its exemplary approach in using an innovative registration system for the real time monitoring of the country's vaccine rollout.

He also said: "As Minister of State for Trade and Industry I'm pleased to see that bilateral trade has been increasing year on year. In 2020, Angola was Singapore's fourth largest trading partner in Sub Saharan Africa and bilateral trade student more than 700 million Singapore Dollars. Angola remains an attractive partner for trade and investment. And our companies can use Angola as a gateway to the African continent. Especially in the oil and gas (O&G) sector with a number of Singaporean companies already operating in Angola, such as Sembcorp Marine in O&G and beyond O&G in sectors such as manufacturing and urban planning and solutions. I would like also to encourage Angolan companies to set up regional bases in Singapore which has a dynamic business environment with strong support infrastructure for all foreign and domestic companies. Furthermore, Singapore is also a strategic location at the nexus of key trade flows between East Asia and Africa. Allow us to act as a gateway for Angola companies to expand into ASEAN and wider Asian region. There is a vibrant market of almost 700 million people with a combined GDP of about US\$3.2 trillion." He also called on Angola to work closely with Singapore in addressing climate change, "I believe that this can be a new bright spot for collaboration."

## EVENTS Visits



### ASEAN Summit Brunei

26th - 28th Oct 2021

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong led the Singapore delegation for the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits from 26th to 28th October 2021 which was held via video conference. Brunei's ASEAN Chairmanship theme was "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper" and ASEAN Leaders discussed how ASEAN, together with its external partners and

the international community, continue to work towards building more resilient public health systems, supply chains, and economies that can emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic and better prepared for future crises.

ASEAN Leaders also met with their counterparts during the 24th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the 16th East Asia Summit, and Summits with Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and

the United States. Brunei's ruler H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah outlined key outcomes of the Summits. They included:

- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD).
- ASEAN prioritised helping its people by securing vaccines and protecting their well-being through the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy
- His Majesty highlighted that ASEAN Member States, along with partners in ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asia Summit, are working together to better understand and care for ASEAN people's mental health in this challenging time.
- His Majesty also shared that ASEAN is investing sustainable development for the region by embracing the Circular Economy model and cooperation on the Blue Economy.
- In addition, ASEAN made progress, with agreements to establish Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships with Australia and China, and **welcomed the UK as a new Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, the first in over 25 years**, whereby Brunei Darussalam will be the ASEAN Country Coordinator.

### G20 Rome Summit Meeting

30th - 31st Oct 2021



*On the sidelines in Rome: PM Lee met UK PM Boris Johnson and looked forward to the speedy conclusion of negotiations on the UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement*

SINGAPORE was invited to the G20 Rome Summit Meeting where issues related to Sustainability and the recovery of the global economy from COVID was discussed in Rome, Italy. PM Lee said Singapore commended the Italian Presidency for galvanising global cooperation to quell this pandemic and to prepare for future health crises. The proposed reforms and initiatives to strengthen healthcare financing are important first steps as the current global system for public health is significantly underfunded, and mobilising concerted action takes "far too long". Singapore's Senior Minister Tharmar Shanmugaratnam co-chaired the G20 High-Level Independent Panel and PM Lee said: "Singapore is glad to have contributed to this panel. We

look forward to concrete deliverables to improve global health coordination and financing in order to better prepare for the next pandemic." He also said that Singapore looks forward to the re-opening of borders and further resumption of international trade and cross-border activities, in a safe manner: "We urge greater efforts to work with international bodies like the ICAO, WHO and IATA in order to establish standardised safe travel protocols and mutually recognised and interoperable digital health certificates. A rules-based international system for free and open trade and global supply chains is critical to generate a sustained recovery and create new jobs."

### India's Minister of External Affairs Visits Singapore

17th - 19th Nov 2021

DR S Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs was in Singapore to speak at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum on 'Great Power Competition The Emerging World Order.'

During his visit he called on PM Lee Hsien Loong and several senior Singapore ministers including



Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharmar Shanmugaratnam, Ministers of Transport (S. Iswaran), Defence Minister (Ng Eng Hen), Home Affairs and Law (K. Shanmugam), Foreign Affairs (Dr Vivan Balakrishnan), Health

(Mr Ong Ye Kung), Finance (Lawrence Wong) and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chock Tong. According to the High Commission of India, Singapore Dr Jaishankar's visit covered useful exchanges on strategic assessments and included discussions on the international economic situation and enhancing travel arrangements between both countries. At the end of the visit the Indian External Affairs Minister tweeted that it had been "a productive 3-day visit with pleasant memories and exciting possibilities."



# EVENTS

## Swedish Embassy's 'Poinsettia Wishes' Christmas Celebrations @ Gardens By the Bay

26th Nov 2021 to 3rd Jan 2022



THE festivities will be held at Gardens By the Bay and the Swedish Embassy says that together with its Nordic colleagues at the Embassy of Denmark, Finland and Norway there will be a very Nordic Christmas touch to this year's Poinsettia Wishes exhibition in the Flower Dome.

The plan is for the well-loved seasonal floral display at Gardens by the Bay be inspired by traditional confectionery from the Nordic countries. A Try Swedish! food display will also be available at the Flower Dome!

## United Women: Dialogue with Diplomats Series British High Commissioner H.E. Kara Owen

2nd Dec 2021

THE second session of the United Women Singapore's Dialogue with Diplomats series will feature the British High Commissioner to Singapore, H.E. Kara Owen CMG CVO. H.E. Kara Owen will specially address the problem



of violence against women, in addition to touching upon the subject of women in leadership, supporting women in male-dominated fields, and more such topical issues. The session will be in the form of a fireside chat, moderated by Ms Georgette Tan, President of United Women Singapore.

## Peruvian UNESCO Sites @ Singapore's Botanic Gardens

27th Oct to 15th Nov 2021



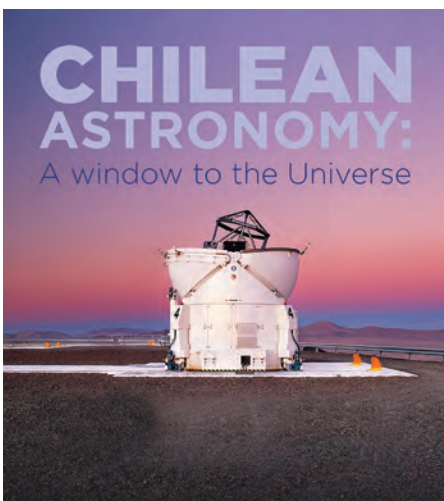
THIS year marks the bicentennial year of the Peruvian Independence and the Embassy of Peru here had organised a photographic exhibition of the Peruvian sites on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites List. The List recognises sites of cultural and natural heritage significance, and these sites must possess outstanding universal value to be on the list. The pictures were taken by renowned Peruvian photographer Heinz Plenge. The photos serve as a testimony of the exceptional value and captivating beauty of these sites.



## EVENTS Education

## Chilean Astronomy: A Window to the Universe

8th - 11th Nov 2021



SINGAPOREANS were able to look with more knowledge and understanding at the stars thanks to a hybrid 4-day event organised by the Chilean Embassy in Singapore with the Singapore Science Centre. Speakers and documentary filmmakers from Chile participated virtually with speakers and attendees at the Science Centre. It was inaugurated by the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mrs. Carolina Valdivia Torres, Ambassador of Chile to Singapore, Mr. Ignacio Concha, and Chief Executive of Science Centre Board, Assoc. Prof. Lim Tit Meng. Topics related to astronomy were presented and many now also know why Chile because of the country's favourable conditions, is the base for 70% of the world's telescopes!





# EVENTS Film Festivals

## Philippines Film Festival

19th Nov 2021

THE 2nd Philippine Film Festival was hosted by the Philippine Embassy in Singapore, in cooperation with the Film Development Council of the Philippines. The Opening Night of the Film Festival held at The Projector in Singapore on 19th November 2021 featured the movie *Quezon's Game*. Philippine Ambassador to Singapore His Excellency Joseph Del Mar Yap opened the festival and said he was delighted to host an in-person event for the first time and the event's Guest of Honour, Ambassador Sagi Karni of Israel.



Host H.E. Ambassador Joseph Yap

anticipated cultural event for members of the local community with a passion for learning more about Argentina through cinema. The Festival premiered with *The Weasels' Tale* (2019) by Academy Award winning director Juan José Campanella. There was a wonderful treat in store for the audience as the screening was preceded of a special Tango performance by the Los Sueños Tango dance academy! Another highlight was *Heroic Losers* (2019) that star Ricardo Darin, one of the most awarded actors in contemporary Argentine cinema.

## Coming Up! Look out for these Korean movies at the SIGFF

25th Nov - 5th Dec 2021

IN the wake of the popularity of Korean hit shows like the *Squid Game* that is currently on Netflix many are anticipating greater interest in the Korean movies that will be shown as part of this year's Singapore International Film Festival (SIGFF) from 25th November to 5th December 2021. As a long term supporter of the event, the Korean Embassy was happy to announce the following movies will be screened: *In Front Of Your Face* (2021), *Double Bill: Untitled 77-A* (1977) and *All Light, Everywhere* (2021), As part of the Festival's More Than Just a Story About Women short films collection: *The Hole* (1997) For ticketing information visit the SIGFF website: [www.sgiff.com](http://www.sgiff.com)



## Argentine Film Festival 2021

17th - 19th Oct 2021

THE third edition of the Argentine Film Festival 2021 organised by the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Singapore and Our Tampines Hub and sponsored by Bagó Laboratories showcased six Argentinian movies in October. It has now become a much

## SCRAPBOOK Warm Welcomes, Fond Farewells & Working Together



● Malaysia - HC Dato' Dr Azfar bin Mohamad Mustafar



● Outgoing Dean & Mongolia - Lkhagvadorj (George) Tumur



● Saudi Arabia - Amb Abdullah Mohammed AlMadhi



● India - HC P Kumaran



● New Dean & Romania - Amb Florin-Marius Tacu



● Peru - Amb Carlos Vasquez



● Kazakhstan - Amb Arken Arystanov



● South Africa - HC Modise Mokitlane



● Hungary - Amb Judit Pach



● Maldives - HC Ibrahim Shaheeb



● Turkey - Amb Mehmet Burçin Gönenli