

ASEAN-EU SUMMIT COMMEMORATED 45 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES



State Visit:

H.E. José Ramos-Horta
President of Democratic
Republic of Timor-Leste

FEATURING

- Launch of Singapore-Oman Strategic Dialogue
- 3G on the G20 Summit Outcome
 - **Interview:**
Ambassador Zulkifli Baharudin
- **Presentation of Credentials:**
Algeria & Malawi



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PRESENTATION of CREDENTIALS

President Halimah Yacob received the credentials of the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malawi and Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on 13th December 2022 at the Istana.

H.E. Allan Joseph Chintedza High Commissioner of the Republic of Malawi



PRIOR to High Commissioner Allan Joseph Chintedza's appointment here, he is also concurrently Malawi's Ambassador to China, as well as accredited to Bhutan, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. The Ambassador joined the diplomatic service in July 2021. High Commissioner Chintedza was formerly involved in development work, particularly in poverty eradication programmes both in Malawi and abroad. He began his career as a Programme Officer for the United Nations Development Programme in Malawi, and later as the Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Capital Development Fund. He has served in various capacities including Deputy Executive Secretary for PRIDE Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

High Commissioner Chintedza holds a Masters of Arts in Economics and Social Studies from the University of Manchester, UK, and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Malawi.

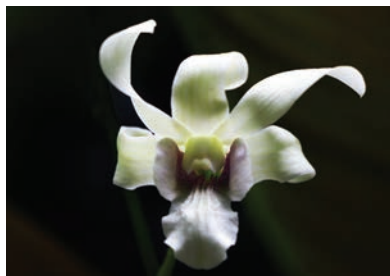
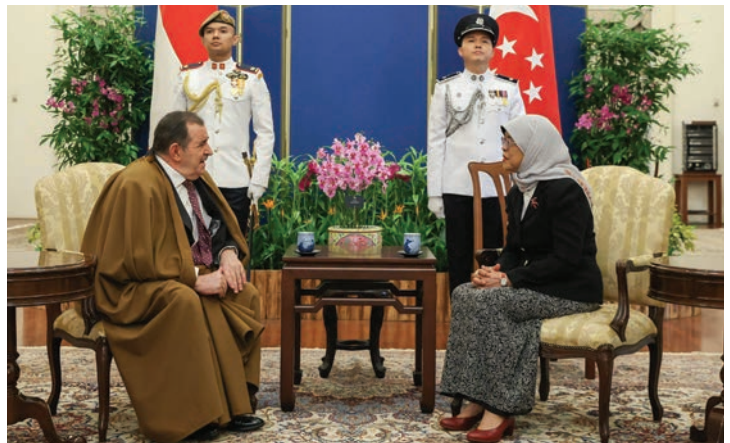


H.E. Lahcene Kaid Slimane Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

PRIOR to Ambassador Lahcene Kaid Slimane's assignment to Singapore He was appointed Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of Indonesia in 2021, and is concurrently accredited to the Republic of Singapore, Negara Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN.

The Ambassador is a career diplomat. He has been the Ambassador Counsellor in the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director General of Resources, Ambassador to Namibia and General Consul at Strasbourg. Earlier in his career, Ambassador Kaid Slimane has also worked at the Republic's Presidency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director in several departments, including Human Resources, Protocol Affairs, Bilateral relations with Africa and with Southeast Asia-Oceania.

Ambassador Kaid Slimane graduated from the National School of Administration in Algiers in 1979. Ambassador Kaid Slimane is married and has four children.



Why Diplomacy Matters

SINGAPORE has about 73 resident foreign missions, 44 Consular Posts and 14 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.

Singapore has been honouring distinguished visiting guests and naming selected orchid hybrids after them since 1956. (Above from left) named in honour of:

- Mdm Iriana Jokowi (2015)
- Mr Islam A Karimov (2007)
- The last is Papilionanthe Miss Joaquim aka Vanda Miss Joaquim Singapore's national flower (1981)

Summit Commemorates 45 Years of ASEAN-EU Ties

Leaders meet for historic milestone meeting to deepen cooperation and ties between ASEAN and EU



PRIME Minister Lee attended the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit on 14th December 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. This is the first ASEAN-EU Summit involving the Leaders of the Member States of ASEAN and of the EU. The Commemorative Summit marks 45 years of ASEAN-EU dialogue relations and was an opportunity for both sides to discuss ways to further deepen ASEAN-EU relations. In Brussels, PM Lee was accompanied by Mrs Lee, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, as well as officials from the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PM Lee and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen (pictured above) met on the sidelines of the Summit, where they announced the substantial conclusion of a new Digital Partnership between the EU and Singapore. PM Lee also met



and held bilateral meetings with other European Leaders on the sidelines of the Summit.

The historic summit was co-chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the 2022 ASEAN Chair, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. In his welcome remarks, President Charles Michel said the event was the first ever EU-ASEAN Summit, to be held in Brussels, in the European Council and the home

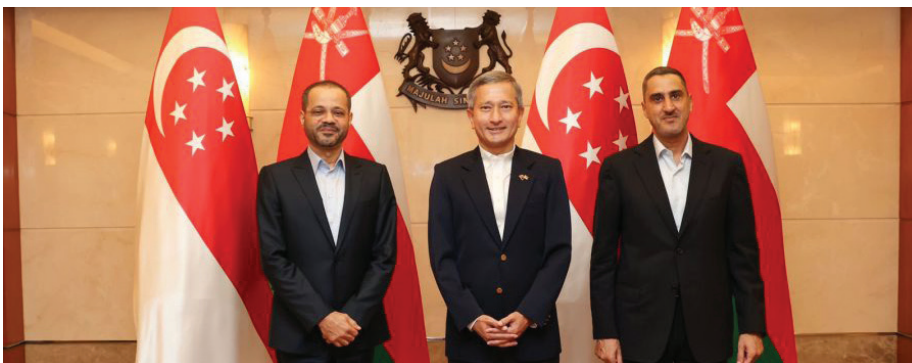
and meeting point for its 27 EU Member States. He also added, "The EU and ASEAN are the world's two most advanced regional integration organisations. We understand each other very well, we share the same values and the same spirit of cooperation, we both know the challenges of transforming the vision of a political community anchored in common interests and common rules into concrete reality for our citizens."

Key Areas of Cooperation

President Charles Michel stated that the EU and ASEAN have much in common and laid out five key areas to "deepen our cooperation": They included working closer together to achieve greater prosperity through multilateralism to build..For the full story visit:

www.indiplomacy.com

Launch of Singapore-Oman Strategic Dialogue



Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi with Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan

FOREIGN Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Sayyid Badr Bin Hamid Bin Hamood Al Busaidi, and National Security Council Secretary-General of the Sultanate of Oman, Major General (MG) Idris Bin Abdulrahman Bin Hamoud Al Kindi, co-chaired the inaugural Singapore-Oman Strategic Dialogue (SOSD) with Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Second Minister for Education, Dr. Mohamad Maliki Osman. Both sides reaffirmed the warm and longstanding relations between Singapore and Oman.

The co-chairs had a wide-ranging discussion to strengthen cooperation in various sectors

including trade and investment, renewable energy, aquaculture, transport and logistics, and communications and information technology in support of Oman's Vision 2040. They also discussed opportunities to deepen cooperation in areas such as capacity-building, counterterrorism, and maritime security; as well as exchanged views on developments in the Middle East and Asia.

To bring ties to a new level, Singapore and Oman have agreed to concurrently upgrade our respective Consulates-General to Embassies headed by a Chargé d'Affaires. Singapore and Oman will implement the upgrade on a mutually agreed date to be announced.



Singapore Foreign Minister, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan in a live interview spoke with Martin Soong and Sri Jegarajah on CNBC Asia Squawk Box Asia on the 6th of December 2022.

He touched on topics about:

- US-China relations
- China and Singapore's reopening from COVID-19
- Russia-Ukraine situation, and
- General Elections in Malaysia

Transcript and links at www.indiplomacy.com

State Visit: José Ramos-Horta, President of Timor-Leste



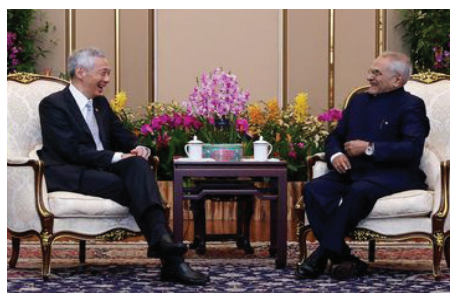
Presidents of Singapore and Timor Leste

H.E. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, made a State Visit to Singapore from 6 to 11 December 2022 at the invitation of President Halimah Yacob. This was the first State Visit from Timor-Leste and marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Timor-Leste.

President Ramos-Horta attended an official Welcome Ceremony held in his honour at the Istana on 8 December 2022. He met President Halimah Yacob and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who hosted a State Banquet and an official lunch respectively. President Ramos-Horta had an orchid named in his honour, delivered the 45th Singapore Lecture organized by the ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute and visited the NEWater Visitor Centre.

President Ramos-Horta was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Adaljiza Magno, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Joaquim Amaral, members of parliament, and senior officials.

During the visit, PM Lee hosted President Ramos-Horta to an official lunch. The leaders, affirmed the warm and longstanding relations between Singapore and Timor-Leste. Prime Minister Lee also reaffirmed Singapore's in-principle support for Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership and Singapore's commitment to work constructively with other ASEAN Member States on an objective criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership.



President José Ramos-Horta share a light moment with PM Lee Hsien Loong

Brazil's Luiz da Silva Inauguration



The third time President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva inaugurated as President (Photo: Agência Brasil / Tânia Rego)

MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Second Minister for Education Dr. Maliki Osman visited the Federative Republic of Brazil from 1 to 3 January 2023 to attend the inauguration ceremony of President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Minister Maliki met with newly-appointed Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Singapore and Brazil.

Singapore looked forward to the signing of the MERCOSUR-Singapore FTA this year, which will boost trade and investment flows between the two countries. Singapore welcomed further cooperation in agri-trade and environment sustainability, including carbon credits, as well as people-to-people exchanges among our youth.

Singapore welcomed Brazil's goal to strengthen dialogue and cooperation at multilateral fora,



Minister Maliki with Brazilian Foreign Minister, Mauro Vieira

including through its upcoming G20 Presidency in 2024. Minister Maliki shared that as convener of the Global Governance Group, Singapore stands ready to support Brazil's G20 presidency. Minister Maliki also encouraged Minister Vieira to tap into Brazil's new status as an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner to strengthen engagement with Southeast Asia.

3G on the G20 Summit Outcome

THE Global Governance Group (3G) welcomed the successful and substantive outcome of the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, from 15 to 16 November 2022. The 3G noted that the G20 Summit took place at a time of unparalleled multidimensional crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and that the G20 has witnessed that the war in Ukraine further adversely impacted the global economy. The 3G appreciates the G20's commitment to uphold international law and the multilateral system, which includes defending all principles enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter.

In the context of the prevailing food crisis, the 3G welcomed the commitment of the G20 to take urgent actions to save lives, prevent hunger and malnutrition, particularly to address the vulnerabilities of developing countries, and call for an



At the closing of the Summit in Bali President Joko Widodo passing on the symbolic gavel to PM Narendra Modi for India to be President of the G20 in 2023

accelerated transformation towards sustainable and resilient agriculture, food systems and supply chains. The 3G thus appreciated the G20's support for open, transparent, inclusive, predictable and non-discriminatory, rules-based agricultural trade based on World Trade Organisation rules.

The 3G noted the G20's assessment that they were experiencing volatility in energy prices and markets, as well as shortages and disruptions to energy supply, which have been

compounded by geopolitical challenges. In this context, the 3G appreciated the G20's commitment to transform and diversify energy systems, and advance energy security and resilience by accelerating clean, sustainable, just, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions.

For the full reports visit www.indiplomacy.com

Interview With Ambassador Zulkifli Baharudin

The Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of Uzbekistan shared with Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of IN Diplomacy, Ms Nomita Dhar, his thoughts on the visit of the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and how Singapore and Uzbekistan can benefit going forward



Q: We are meeting on the eve of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's first State Visit to Singapore. What can we expect from this visit?

A: First and foremost we have a very good and long-standing relationship with Uzbekistan since the country became independent (in 1931). Although Singapore is very far away from Uzbekistan, more people are beginning to take notice of Uzbekistan and the progress the nation has achieved, especially the recent reforms undertaken by President Shavkat.

I think the visit is a very good time for Singaporeans to find out more about what's happening in Uzbekistan and the progress they've made. And the opportunity is not just economic and political but also people-to-people. I think this is the right time for the President to be here as Singaporeans can get closer and get to know more about Uzbekistan.

Q: You have been the non-resident ambassador of Uzbekistan since 2011; what has struck you most about Uzbekistan during the many times you have travelled there?

A: I think many are not aware of the independence of Uzbekistan and some might think it is still a part of Russia. We are certainly aware of Russia but are not aware about the many other countries which broke away from it. Certainly after independence, Uzbekistan does stand out especially most recently because of (China's) One Belt One Road initiative and the reforms that the current President has started has caused many to take notice of the country. Uzbekistan is not a young country; it is an old civilisation with a great historic culture and a people who are strong, highly energetic and very ambitious in what they want to achieve for themselves. There is emphasis on tradition and religion and I think these are things that Singaporeans should look at about Uzbekistan. I believe we can learn a lot from Uzbekistan as much as Uzbekistan wants to come here to see what are the things that we can work at together and share with one another's best practices.

Q: How can Singapore contribute in the development of Uzbekistan?

A: When we talk about relationships, we cannot ignore the fact that the Singapore-Uzbekistan relationship has a tremendous amount of political goodwill. In time that political will gets translated into economic opportunities and improved people-to-people relations. In terms of economic opportunities businesses will find their own way to maximise opportunities.

But as far as country-to-country relations are concerned, as good friends, we have a lot to learn from one another. Singapore being a global city will be able to share our experiences. Uzbekistan wants to plug into an emergent Southeast Asia for which Singapore is a very important hub.

Q: How many Singaporean companies are currently operating in Uzbekistan?

A: There are not many but the few that are there have made a tremendous impression in the areas of education, agriculture, chemical and oil & gas industries.

Although small I think they have made a tremendous impact. We have certainly been recognized for what we're doing. And I hope, the success of these companies will set an example for other Singaporean companies to follow suit. The companies also owe their success to the host country government which has been very fair in helping them.

Q: What are the other areas of collaboration that can be further developed?

A: There are three main areas. First, is political. In the past many years Singapore has undergone digital electronic reforms in terms of instituting e-governance. Governments the world over have been finding ways to use technology to better administer their countries. This is a potential area where the two governments might work together. Singapore is quite ahead in this area.

The second area involves people-to-people ties. Singaporeans are travelling more and to more distant destinations, looking for a bit more educational and bit more epic attractions in terms of experience. I think Uzbekistan's ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva offer a great experience for anybody, not just Singaporeans. There is a lot for us to learn. This is one way people-to-people ties can be more deeply engaged.

Lastly, in terms of business, Uzbekistan which is an emerging economy with the largest population in the region, is embarking on very strong, disciplined reforms that will lead to the opening up of a host of opportunities in many sectors of the economy.

Q: In anticipation of these new opportunities, do you think the Singapore Government should consider opening an embassy in Uzbekistan?

A: That's two different questions! Yes, certainly, I think diplomatically Singapore would want to have an embassy in all the countries with representation. There's no question about it. We might have the financial resources but we just don't have the manpower.

Singapore is unique, really. We have a system of Non-Resident Ambassadors like me who don't work full-time but I can spend my time and resources to do my own work.

Of course, if down the line, we can have the manpower resources with people familiar with the place, speak the language and are prepared to stay there, we will consider it. Sometimes the fact that I'm in Singapore instead of being in Uzbekistan allows me to work more closely with the Uzbekistan Ambassador here. I will not be able to coordinate things as well as I might have if I'm in Uzbekistan!

Q: Ambassador, while Singapore companies are being encouraged by Enterprise Singapore to set up shop there would you like to encourage more Uzbek established companies to look at Singapore market as well?

A: Yes, but ultimately businesspeople make their own decisions. We have to be aware that distance is still a bit of an issue. Singapore and Uzbekistan businesses naturally prefer to work in their own respective neighbouring regions. Down the line when connectivity improves certainly we can do that. Meantime, Uzbek businesses which are looking towards venturing into the emerging and growing ASEAN market of 600 million people will find Singapore more than happy to encourage, assist, and cooperate with Uzbekistan to find ways to explore markets in this region. Singapore is a small market but the region offers tremendous opportunities.

Uttar Pradesh-Singapore Ink Agreements



Uttar Pradesh Global Investor Summit

UTTAR Pradesh is the largest state in the union, with over 220 million people. It is aiming to become a USD 1 trillion economy in sync with the central government's target to build a USD 5 trillion national economy in the coming years.

Uttar Pradesh Minister for Jal Shakti and Flood Control Swatantra Dev Singh while on a promotional tour for foreign investments said: "To achieve such targets, the UP government needs to have around USD 50 billion grounded as early as possible." Singh, who led one of the eight delegations sent to over 16 countries by the UP government to promote the UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS), shared that there was a very encouraging response from his roadshows in Singapore and Sydney.

Representatives of the UP Government also met the representatives of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SICCI) during the roadshow in Singapore. The investors from Singapore were assured of providing land and other facilities.

In his welcome note SICCI Chairman, Mr Neil Parekh, said companies are rushing to re-capture global markets after a two-year lull. He discussed the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Global Investor Summit 2023 as an opportune moment to capitalize on the opportunities in the Indian state for Singapore businesses to explore and sign deals with the UP counterparts. Several SICCI members have registered to take part in the global summit.

High Commissioner P Kumaran spoke about the State of Uttar Pradesh and how it has progressed over the years and continues to grow. HE highlighted that with a little over 200 million residents and one of the largest GDPs of the country in recent years the state had established many IT parks for Singaporean IT firms to consider investing in. Other investment sectors include Defence, Aerospace, and Agriculture, he shared.



World Arabic Language Day Celebration

EVERY year since 2012, the 18th of December has been designated as "World Arabic Language Day." The date falls on the same day that the United Nations General Assembly designated Arabic as the sixth official language of the organization in 1973. The celebration featured a wide range of events and activities in addition to visual content that focused on important and fascinating subjects that highlighted the Kingdom's contribution to the Arabic language. A poem titled "How Beautiful Is My Arabic Language" was also recited in front of the audience. The celebration was attended by a number of government representatives, ambassadors, and heads of diplomatic missions.



Indonesia-Singapore Agreement on QR Code Payment

PAYMENT connectivity between Indonesia and Singapore will enable individuals and businesses, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to conduct efficient cross-border trade, e-commerce, and other financial transactions.

BI and MAS also agreed to use local currency in bilateral transactions between the two countries, such as trade and direct investment. Business actors can also benefit from this initiative to reduce their exposure to exchange rate risk and costs when conducting bilateral transactions between countries.

The Governor of BI, Perry Warjiyo, on the occasion said, "This initiative is seen as providing more choices for users of cross-border payment transactions and playing an important role in increasing transaction efficiency, promoting the digital economy and financial inclusion, and strengthening macroeconomic stability through



wider use of local currency. Bank Indonesia believes that this initiative marks an important milestone in strengthening bilateral financial cooperation between Singapore and Indonesia."

MAS Managing Director, Ravi Menon, also said that "QRIS-NETS QR code payment connectivity is an important milestone in achieving ASEAN's goal of building payment integration in the region by 2025 and supporting the dynamics of cross-border trade corridors. The MOU in the context of encouraging the use of local currency for bilateral transactions is seen as being able to complement efforts to strengthen connectivity for QRIS-NETS QR code payments through the ease of settlement of bilateral transactions between Singapore and Indonesia in each country's local currency."

ECONOMY

MTI Reports 3.8% GDP Growth in 2022

SINGAPORE'S Ministry of Trade and Industry has announced that based on advanced estimates, the Singapore economy grew by 2.2 percent on a year-on-year basis in the fourth quarter of 2022, moderating from the 4.2 percent growth in the previous quarter. On a quarter-on-quarter seasonally-adjusted basis, the economy expanded by 0.2 percent, extending the 11 percent expansion in the third quarter. For the whole of 2022, the economy grew by 3.8 percent, slower than the 7.6 percent growth in 2021. For the full reports visit: www.indiplomacy.com



EVENTS



Finland 105th Independence Day

6 December 2022

In celebration of Finland's Independence Day, the Finnish Embassy in Singapore hosted a reception at Shangri-La hotel for more than 200 guests. Singapore was represented by Senior Minister of State Mr. Tan Kiat How from Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development, and the members of Parliament Mr. Seah Kian Peng and Mr. Don Wee. One highlight was the food served at the buffet that featured fare from the Finnish countryside such as Karelian pies, herring, and the blueberry martinis were everyone's instant favorites. Live music was provided by the graduates of Sibelius Academy - the highest-level music educator in Finland as well as the Manhattan School of Music.

Japanese Folk Dances Approved as UNESCO Intangible Heritage

30 November 2022

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) registered the *Furyu Odori*, folk performing arts which consists of a total of 41 events from 24 prefectures to its Intangible Cultural Heritage list. *Furyu-Odori* has been handed down generation to generation to reflect the history and climate of each region. Performed with lively songs played with flutes, drums and other instruments accompanied by prayers for the dead, a bountiful harvest and for rain.



ASEAN GALA NIGHT 2022



ASEAN Gala Night 2022

3 December 2022

Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair in 2022 led the jointly organised ASEAN Gala Night 2022 on 28th November 2022 bringing together all the other ASEAN members' missions in Singapore in a successful celebration. This year's event was held live after being held virtually for more than two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ASEAN Gala Night is an annual event organised to celebrate the achievements of ASEAN throughout the year and showcase ASEAN Member States' culture and cuisine to the diplomatic and business community in Singapore.

Chinatown Chinese New Year Celebration 2023

03 JAN - 19 FEB 2023

THE Chinatown Festival Committee, supported by Kreta Ayer - Kim Seng Citizens' Consultative Committee kicks off the long-awaited Chinatown Chinese New Year Celebration 2023. The first full scale physical celebration in two years, highlights of the festival included its iconic street light-up and festivities that usher in the Year of the Rabbit under the theme 'Leaping into the Prosperous Year of Rabbit', signifying a year of rebirth, resurrection and vitality. The Chinese New Year celebration in China Town has street lights up, a countdown party, a festive fair, food fair, a trade fair, and a stage show.



Chingay Parade Singapore 2023

3 FEB - 4 FEB 2023

THE Chingay Parade is undoubtedly one of the most important events in Singapore, and it's when street floats, clowns, dancers, acrobats, jugglers and many other performers can be seen in the celebration of the Chinese New Year. The origin of the parade is from China, where processions were made in honour of the Lunar New Year for two weeks in preparation for the arrival of spring.

Chingay Parade Singapore is back to F1 Pit! Chingay Parade 2023 completes the trilogy that began with



2021's "Light of Hope", followed by 2022's "Ignite Our Dreams" and 2023's "Embrace Tomorrow". It calls on Singaporeans to treasure the present and embrace tomorrow together as a community with hope, dream, and confidence as they commit to a brighter Singapore.



Indulge in the colourful and vibrant Chingay Parade brought to you by the diverse talents and multi-ethnic community. For more info: www.chingay.gov.sg