

# IN DIPLOMACY

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SINGAPORE



**FOCUS**  
ASEAN  
Foreign  
Ministers  
Meeting

**SUPPLEMENT**  
59th Maldives  
Independence  
Day

**INTERVIEW**  
H.E. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali  
High Commissioner  
of Maldives



Supported by  
**Diplomatic  
and Consular Corps  
Singapore**

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# 56TH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN JAKARTA



Group photo of ASEAN foreign ministers at the AMM Plenary Session

Source: ASEAN.org

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan visited Jakarta for the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM), Post Ministerial Conferences (PMCs), 24th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) FMM, and 30th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) from 11th to 14th July 2023.

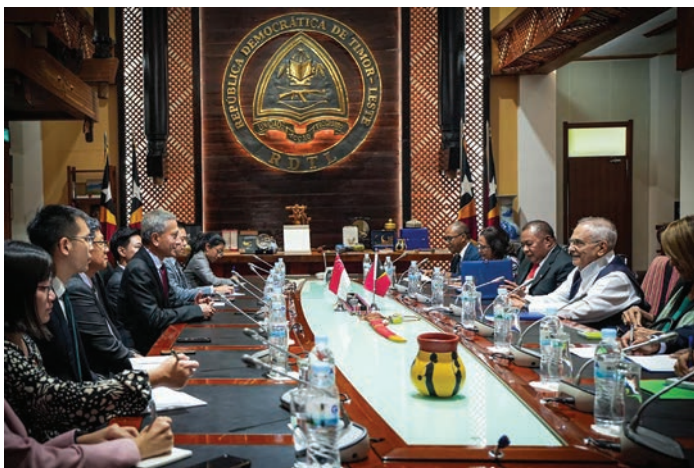
The 56th AMM reviewed ASEAN's Community Building efforts and reaffirm ASEAN Centrality and unity amidst the evolving regional architecture. The Ministers also discussed ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery and economic integration, as well as progress in building the foundation for long-term growth and development

under Indonesia's Chairmanship theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth". This was the first AMM attended by Timor-Leste as an Observer.

ASEAN also engaged its Dialogue Partners at the PMCs, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States. At the 24th APT FMM, 13th EAS FMM, and 30th ARF, Minister Balakrishnan also exchanged views with his counterparts on regional and international developments and discuss ways to enhance regional peace and stability.

## VISITS

### DR BALAKRISHNAN ANNOUNCES NEW RESIDENT EMBASSY IN DILI



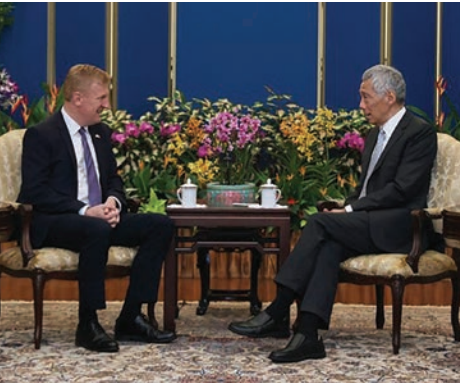
Minister Balakrishnan called on President Ramos-Horta to discuss bilateral relations

Source: Dr Vivian Balakrishnan FB

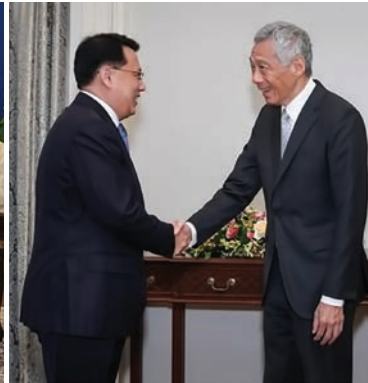
SINGAPORE'S Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan was on an Official Visit to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste from 23rd to 27th July 2023. He called on President José Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, and met Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Bendito dos Santos Freitas on 24th July 2023.

Minister Balakrishnan also conveyed Singapore's decision to establish a resident Embassy in Dili. The Timorese leaders warmly welcomed this announcement, recognizing the Embassy's potential to serve as a pivotal point for expanding bilateral cooperation in various areas, including trade and investment, tourism, defense, energy, and human resources. During the visit he also launched the Singapore Community Association in Dili.

## FACETIME IN JUNE AND JULY 2023



UK Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden was on a working visit to Singapore from 27th to 29th June 2023. Discussions focused on trade, digital cooperation, and emerging technologies, with both countries acknowledging the importance of recent agreements such as the UK-Singapore FTA and the Digital Economy Agreement.



Mr Yuan Jiajun, a Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee visited Singapore from 16th to 19th July 2023. He spoke at the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity Forum.



H.R.H. Tunku Ismail Ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Mahkota (Crown Prince) Johor, concluded a successful three-day Official Visit to Singapore on 12th July 2023. The visit aimed to strengthen ties between the two nations and was marked by warm hospitality and high-level engagements. The Crown Prince was accompanied by H.H. Che' Puan Besar Khaleeda Binti Bustamam.



Asst. Minister to the Prime Minister and Asst. Minister for the Public Service of Australia, Mr. Patrick Gorman, visited Singapore from 2nd to 5th July 2023 through the S R Nathan Fellowship. He met with prominent Singaporean ministers and government agencies to discuss various topics.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Bui Thanh Son, made an official visit to Singapore from 17th to 18th July 2023. Both nations celebrated the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations and the 10th anniversary of the Singapore-Vietnam Strategic Partnership. Foreign Minister Son and Dr. Balakrishnan were joint guests-of-honour at a Dinner Reception hosted by the Vietnamese Embassy in Singapore on 17th July 2023.



Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Second Minister for Education Dr Maliki Bin Osman made a working visit to North Sumatra and Aceh, Indonesia, from 10th to 14th July 2023. He met with regional leaders as well as leaders of local religious organisations.



Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr. Teo Chee Hean, called on Israeli President Isaac Herzog on 10th July 2023 during his working visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Singapore has committed to supporting the Palestinian Authority through the Singapore Cooperation Programme and donated US\$50,000 to UN Relief and Works Agency for Jenin.



Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung visited Brunei from 14th to 17th July 2023 to attend the 77th birthday celebrations of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah. They discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation, including the 9th Singapore-Brunei Young Leaders' Programme. Minister Ong also met other Bruneian officials to explore collaboration in digital economy, food and medical supplies, and sustainability.



Senior Minister of State (SMS) for Foreign Affairs and National Development, Ms. Sim Ann, visited Salzburg, Austria, from 26th to 28th July 2023 to attend the Salzburg Summit and took part in the 'Global Policy' panel, where she shared Singapore's insights on geopolitical developments and opportunities for collaboration between Europe and Asia.

# DCCS HOLDS FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR FINLAND, INDIA AND SRI LANKA

*The Diplomatic and Consular Corps of Singapore (DCCS) hosted a farewell reception for the three departing heads of missions of Finland, India and Sri Lanka. The Dean of the DCCS H.E. Agustin Loaez paid tribute to the impact they have made among members of the Corps as well as the work they have done in the City-state*



(Second from right): Dean and ambassador of Mexico H.E. Agustin Loaez read the citations and presented mementos to (from left) H.E. Periasamy Kumaran (India) and H.E. Sumadhurika Sashikala Premawardhane (Sri Lanka) and (far right) H.E. Antti Tapani Vanska (Finland)



(From left): H.E. Antti Tapani Vanska (Finland), H.E. Periasamy Kumaran (India) and H.E. Sumadhurika Sashikala Premawardhane (Sri Lanka)

SINGAPORE, 18th July 2023 – The Diplomatic and Consular Corps of Singapore (DCCS) bid a heartwarming farewell to three esteemed members, the Ambassador from Finland, H.E. Antti Tapani Vanska, and the High Commissioners of India, H.E. Periasamy Kumaran, and Sri Lanka, H.E. Sumadhurika Sashikala Premawardhane. Their distinguished service to their respective nations has left an indelible mark on Singapore, and their contributions were celebrated with warmth and admiration.

As the Dean of the DCCS, H.E. Agustin Loaez, who is also the Ambassador of Mexico, lauded the departing diplomats; he emphasized their significant impact on bilateral and multilateral relationships:

“They carried their duty with wisdom, great leadership, and expertise, enhancing their bilateral relationships with the host country, plus strengthening the multilateral relationships with our countries,” he said.

To commemorate their outstanding contributions, each diplomat was awarded a special DCCS commemorative plaque during the farewell ceremony.

H.E. Antti Tapani Vanska, the Ambassador of the Republic of Finland (above row, far left), was praised for fostering an increase in the synergy of talent between Finland and Singapore. Ambassador Loaez highlighted the exchange of Finnish companies’ activities in Singapore and Singaporean companies’ growing interest in the Finnish start-up scene and investments.

H.E. Periasamy Kumaran, the High Commissioner of the Republic of India (above row middle), was recognized for his exceptional leadership, especially during the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. His presence and dedication were particularly valued in a country with a significant number of Singaporeans of Indian descent, as well as a thriving Indian expatriate community..

H.E. Sumadhurika Sashikala Premawardhane, the High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (above row, far right), was praised for her remarkable contributions to woman empowerment and equality. She received the Career Achievement-Public Sector Award in Sri Lanka and the Maldives and has been an enthusiastic, dedicated, and multi-talented diplomat.

Full report visit: [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

# CELEBRATING WITH THE NATION THE 59TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



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# MALDIVES AND SINGAPORE VITAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

*Bilateral relations between Singapore and the Maldives have flourished over the years, with both nations actively working together to foster stronger ties and achieve shared goals in economic development, trade, education, and beyond*

MALDIVES and Singapore have enjoyed steadily growing ties since establishing diplomatic relations in 1975, with Singapore becoming a vital development partner for the Maldives.

This longstanding relationship started from people-to-people contacts between the two countries. Today it has extended to cooperation between the two nations spanning various sectors, including aviation, defense, education, employment, housing, health, justice, and trade. The opening of the High Commission in 2007 further demonstrated the significance the Maldives placed on this bilateral relationship.



High-level visits between the leaders of both countries have reinforced the bond. In July 2019, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and First Lady Fazna Ahmed were warmly welcomed to Singapore. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih met the President of Singapore Ms Halimah Yacob (pictured left), and the State Visit highlighted the importance both nations attached to their relationship. Multiple Memorandums of Understanding

(MOUs) have been signed to enhance this cooperation between the two nations since those early days. These agreements showcased the commitment of both countries to closer cooperation and mutual development in various sectors.

## IN CELEBRATION OF THE 59TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES 26TH JULY 2023



**A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT BY THE HIGH COMMISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES IN SINGAPORE**

Photo: Superyachttimes.com



## MALDIVES CELEBRATES 59TH INDEPENDENCE DAY AND WISHES SINGAPORE A HAPPY NATIONAL DAY

by Mr. Abdulla Shahid  
Foreign Minister of Maldives

ON the joyous occasion of the 59th Independence Day of the Maldives, I am pleased to convey warm greetings and sincere good wishes to all Maldivians residing in Singapore.

On this historic day, we rejoice in the strength and sovereignty of our beautiful nation. Today, we recall with pride, our journey to freedom; and, today, we celebrate the progress we have achieved since we gained independence.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish Her Excellency Halimah Jacob, President of Singapore, Prime Minister His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, the Government and people of Singapore a very happy National Day as you mark this historic occasion on 9th August 2023.

Since we established diplomatic relations with Singapore on 20 February 1975, ties between our two countries have been growing steadily. As an important development partner of

the Maldives, Singapore's contribution to our socio-economic development is noteworthy and significant.

Private sector investment by Singaporean companies, especially in our tourism industry has provided much-needed impetus to expand business opportunities between our two countries and our peoples.

Moreover, both countries being Small Island Developing States, we share common interests in global issues such as climate change and the environment and work closely on these issues at the international forums.

I have no doubt that the close relations between Singapore and Maldives will continue to grow exponentially as we begin to explore new avenues of cooperation.

Let me once again, reiterate Independence Day greetings to all Maldivians living in Singapore.

### ISLAND DIPLOMACY Interview with the High Commissioner



## SINGAPORE AND MALDIVES MULTIPLYING STRENGTH ON MANY FRONTS

IN Diplomacy sought the views of H.E. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali, the High Commissioner of Maldives to Singapore, on bilateral ties, trade initiatives, investment opportunities, and upcoming programmes that bring both island nations together

**How would you describe the current state of bilateral ties between Maldives and Singapore?**

HC: The bilateral ties between Maldives and Singapore is excellent. We've had long-standing good relations at both the Government-to-Government level and among the people. Our relationship continues to strengthen.

**Can you provide an overview of the major agreements or partnerships that exist between Maldives and Singapore?**

HC: Certainly! We have some significant agreements and partnerships between our countries. For instance, the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) has seen substantial participation from Maldivian individuals. There's also a 2-year Technical As-

sistance Programme set to start this year, signed during President Solih's State Visit to Singapore in 2019.

**In terms of trade facilitation, are there any ongoing initiatives to further strengthen trade ties?**

HC: We are actively coordinating efforts to explore new avenues for exporting food products to Singapore, with a particular focus on fresh seafood. This is possible due to the current level of air connectivity between our countries.

**How has the High Commission of Maldives in Singapore actively contributed to promoting bilateral investment and trade between the two countries?**



HC: The High Commission has been actively involved in promoting investment and trade between Maldives and Singapore. We collaborate closely with various Chambers of Commerce in Singapore, as well as with Tourism partners like NATAS, Enterprise Singapore, and Temasek Foundation. We also act as a bridge between businesses seeking to invest in or expand their operations to Maldives and relevant authorities in Maldives.

**Are there any recent success stories or notable investments made by Singaporean companies in the Maldives? How have these investments contributed to the bilateral relationship?**

HC: Certainly! Several Singaporean companies have made significant investments in the tourism sector in Maldives. Many renowned hotel franchises from Singapore have established their presence in our country, and this has greatly contributed to strengthening our bilateral relationship.

**Are there any specific sectors or industries in which Maldives is actively seeking investment from Singapore? What makes these sectors attractive for Singaporean investors?**

HC: Yes, Maldives is actively seeking investment from Singapore in sectors such as tourism diversification, renewable energy, waste management, and vocational training. These sectors offer growth potential and the opportunity to contribute to sustainable development in Maldives, making them attractive to Singaporean investors.

**How has the Maldives positioned itself as an attractive investment destination?**

HC: Maldives has enjoyed strong and sustained economic growth. The country's infrastructure, including connectivity, has seen considerable development. The annual growth was 6.4% in the five years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Maldives has pro-market policies and offers a liberal and transparent business environment. These include no restrictions on repatriation of profits and capital proceeds, no foreign exchange restrictions, and the availability of international arbitration and dispute settlement. It has an educated and tech-savvy young

workforce, with 98% literacy and 63% mobile internet usage in 2019. The regulations governing foreign investments have been streamlined, with clear and convenient procedures for investors looking to invest in Maldives.

**What are the key responsibilities of the High Commission of Maldives in Singapore in terms of facilitating bilateral ties, investment, and trade? How does the High Commission support the overall diplomatic relationship between the two countries?**

HC: The High Commission acts as the main medium through which all bilateral activities between Maldives and Singapore take place. It facilitates, coordinates, and executes all Government-to-Government activities and cooperation between the two countries.

**Are there any current or upcoming initiatives, events, or programmes involving Maldives that will take place in Singapore this year?**

HC: Yes, there are several initiatives and events involving Maldives scheduled to take place in Singapore this year. These include participation in the ITB Singapore, NATAS Fair, Singapore Red Cross charity food fair, travel agents and media briefing on investment opportunities in Maldives, and think tank discussions.

**With the upcoming 2023 Maldivian presidential election scheduled for September, what impact do you foresee on the bilateral relationship between Maldives and Singapore?**

HC: The upcoming presidential election is an important event for Maldives, and the result will play a crucial role in shaping the country's future policies and direction. However, historically, our bilateral relationship has remained strong and unaffected by political changes. We are confident that our enduring partnership will continue to flourish regardless of the election outcome.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

### Interview with Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology



## CLIMATE CHANGE: STRIVING TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE

*Ms Khadeeja Naseem, the Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, said Maldives is a frontline state in the fight against Climate Change and is preparing for a war that it does not intend to lose. She outlines the steps taken by the nation to prepare, mitigate and adapt to the new realities*

**How is the Maldives addressing the challenges posed by climate change?**

Maldives as one of the most low-lying nations, is on the very frontline of the climate crisis, and climate change is an existential threat to us. For us, the climate crisis is not looming in the distant future, it is already an everyday lived

reality. Across the archipelago we are experiencing coastal erosion, increasing severity in storm surges; and disrupted rainfall patterns, making it unpredictable to forecast. Rising sea levels have salinized and depleted the freshwater aquifers in countless islands. All of this is at the current 1.1 degrees of warming, and as the IPCC has warned us, countries like ours cannot adapt past 1.5 degrees. As H.E. President Ibrahim

Mohamed Solih stated at the UN General Assembly in 2021: "...the difference between 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees is a death sentence for the Maldives."

The Maldives is working to address climate crisis on many fronts. We are spending lots of resources to build resilience of our communities and islands, as such programmes and projects are ongoing to climate-proof our vital infrastructure by better planning and developing necessary standards and regulation, and relocating this infrastructure to more inland areas. In addition, we are investing on addressing water insecurity, increasing food security, strengthening early warning capacity, providing coastal defences to protect the islands against erosion and storm surges, and protecting the fragile ecosystems of our islands and coral reefs. As such, we have introduced policies to reduce and phase-out single-use plastics; we have also initiated programmes to increase conservation of significant species and natural habitats and contribute to the livelihoods and well-being of local communities by protection of at least one island, one reef, and one wetland from each atoll. We have been able to establish 79 protected areas, which legally protect all biodiversity hotspots across Maldives. The three atolls, Baa Atoll, Addu and Fuvahmulah have been designated as UNESCO MAN and Biosphere Reserves.

The energy sector accounts for nearly half of our fuel imports, so efforts made to reduce fuel consumption are essential steps in our green recovery. We are also working on facilitating private investment in renewable energy. We have a near-negligible contribution to climate change at a mere 0.0035% of global emissions, and yet, we want to do our part to limit global emissions to achieve the 1.5-degree temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

We are also investing a lot on increasing renewables in our energy mix; as such, various programmes are underway to install solar PVs, home solar programmes, energy labelling programmes and also net metering initiatives are well in place. This is to reduce our emissions and increase energy security by reducing the dependency on fossil fuels.

That is why we have made a very ambitious pledge to achieve Net Zero by 2030, if we get the necessary support and finance from donors. That's because we strive to lead by example even in the climate change mitigation space.

**2. It would be great to hear about some successful initiatives in the Maldives that promote climate action. Could you provide an overview of those?**

It's difficult to make a specific example with one particular case, but the programmes that we implement to increase the resilience of our islands such as coastal protection, conservation of our marine ecosystems and provision of safe water and climate-proofing of our vital infrastructure, are important initiatives from which we could draw lessons. While implementing these projects, we try our best to protect our fragile ecosystems and maintain the aesthetic and uniqueness of our islands.

**3. In terms of global efforts to combat climate change, how do you envision the role of the Maldives? Are there collaborations or partnerships you are currently pursuing with Singapore?**

Maldives actively participates in international climate change negotiations to strongly advocate for countries like ours. Last year at COP27, Maldives was among the countries that most strongly advocated for the establishment of a Loss and Damage fund.

Full interview at [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

## OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION Investment



# INVESTING IN CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATION IN PARADISE

*The Maldives, a beautiful island nation, is not only a popular tourist destination but also an emerging hub for education. To cater to the growing demand for higher education especially technical and vocational training, the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) of Maldives is inviting investments*

A beautiful island nation, the Maldives, is not only a popular tourist destination, it has in recent years also become an emerging hub for education. To cater to the growing demand for higher education and technical and vocational training, the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) of Maldives is in the process of inviting interested parties and potential investors, both local and foreign, to invest in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) particularly in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This initiative aims to supplement the limited public sector investment capacities and develop a sustainable educational ecosystem through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

### Potential of Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

The PPP model in higher education will play a vital role in financing the development, operation, and day-to-day running of these institutes in a profitable manner. Under this arrangement, private partners or investors will have the opportunity to derive various social and economic benefits. The government will provide plots of land or sites for the institutes free of charge on a long-term basis, allowing investors to capitalize on the partnership and financially benefit from the venture.

Full story at [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

IN DIPLOMACY | SPECIAL  
Maldives Supplement

## COME EXPERIENCE LIFE IN THE MALDIVES

*This is a personal invitation from Maldives to Singaporeans. Come experience the life and lifestyle of Maldivians*

THE Maldives is famous for its 'One Island One Resort' uniqueness that attracts visitors from far and near. The Maldives also offers options galore. For example, a traveller can sample community-based tourism by staying in the local islands. You can stay in guest houses and hotels. While you stay at an island you don't only see the breathtaking views but you can also experience local living!

There are literally hundreds of islands to explore from this perspective. It might seem overwhelming to decide on where to go. We'll let you in on a little secret - there's no such thing as the perfect island. There is only the 'perfect island for you', depending on your unique craving in the Maldives. Some islands to choose from are: Thulusdhoo, Gulhi, Himmafushi or Maafushi which are favourites amongst surfers; an island such as Thoddo, on the other hand, might be a good option if you are seeking to spend your days winding through beautiful farmlands and lush greenery. If you're more interested in nature, such as areas like mangroves and lakes, there are multiple sites on islands all over the Maldives, which have great air and sea connectivity to make travel easy as pie.

Once you find your island, simply make a booking online, call the guesthouse or hotel, and let them know that you're in the Maldives already. The guesthouse will arrange the transport for you. Most of the speedboats heading off to local islands will leave from the jetty near the Republic Square in Malé city. However, if you're keen on taking a ferry to your local island, you can check the schedule on Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC). If you're unable to find it, call them and check when and where the ferry departs. As exciting as a speedboat is, there is a special charm to a dhoni journey. The dhoni gives you the time to slow down and tap into the Maldivian groove. Note that the MTCC ferries do not travel to all the Maldivian islands, and if you're travelling far from Malé, it's best to arrange the transport through the hotel or guesthouse.

Make sure you have booked a guesthouse before you reach your local island, this is very important as accommodation may not be available for on-arrival bookings. It will also make you very happy to know that the boutique hotels and guesthouses in the Maldives offer the same world-renowned hospitality that the luxury resorts are popular for, as well as having equally gorgeous powder-soft beaches and blue skies stretching as far as the eye can see. For more on what Maldives can offer visit: [www.visitmaldives.com](http://www.visitmaldives.com)

This *IN Diplomacy* Special Maldives Supplement has been produced in collaboration with the High Commission of Maldives, Singapore. For investment and tourism enquiries please contact the Maldives High Commission at [www.maldivesmission.sg](http://www.maldivesmission.sg)

## Providing Total Digital and Telecom Solutions in Maldives



As the leading telecommunication and digital service provider in the Maldives, Dhiraagu inspires and empowers their customers to 'take on tomorrow' and thrive in the digital future. They are the pioneers that ushered the country into the digital age and continues to lead the field by placing premium value on customer experience and, through consistent innovation.

With over 500,000 customers and employing 99% Maldivians present across 9 strategically located regional operating centres across the country, Dhiraagu remains as the largest telecommunications and digital service provider in the Maldives.

Dhiraagu extends full coverage across the country by ensuring reliable connectivity whilst maintaining network resiliency. A comprehensive range of mobile, internet, data, mobile money and fixed services are offered to their customers. Dhiraagu provides tailor-made solutions for small and medium enterprises and fully integrated enterprise solutions for corporate and government customers. Their ICT infrastructure and managed solutions are designed to enable customer to access, communicate and store information securely to better serve the community.

[dhiraagu.com.mv](http://dhiraagu.com.mv)



Congratulations  
to the Republic of Maldives  
on its 59th Independence Day  
from  
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## NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

In the month of July, several countries celebrated their respective national days, each hosting vibrant events to honour their history and cultural heritage



(Top row, from left):

- **UNITED STATES** The U.S. celebrated its 4th of July Independence Day at Universal Studios. The Guest of Honour was Mr. S. Iswaran, Singapore's Minister in Charge of Trade Relations.
- **CANADA** Canada Day's event was graced by Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Gan Kim Yong on 1st July 2023.

(Middle row, from left):

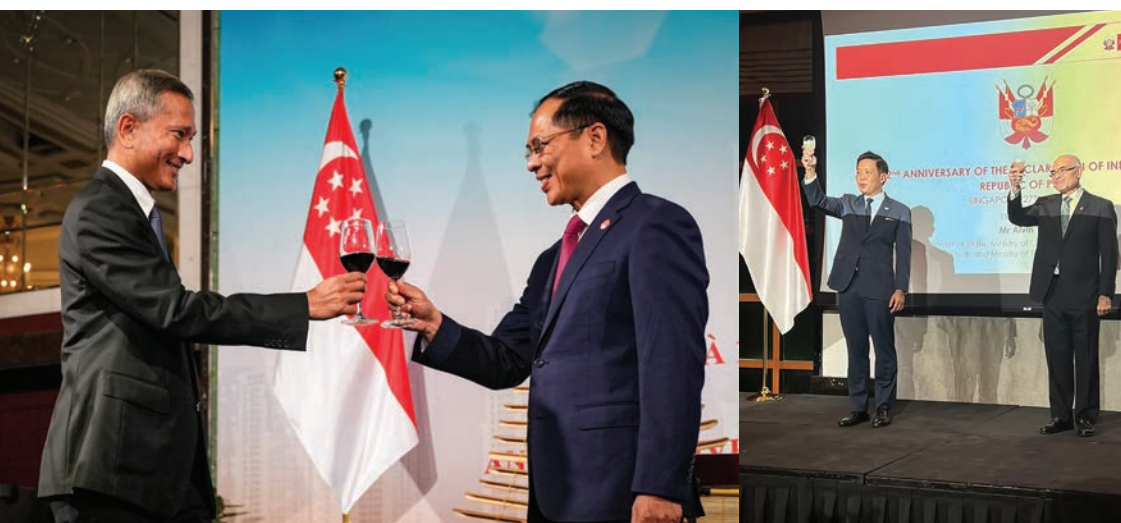
- **FRANCE** The Bastille Day reception saw Ambassador Minh-di Tang welcome Mr Tan Kiat How, Singapore's Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development to the event on 14th July 2023.

- **RWANDA** Rwandan High Commission celebrated the 29th anniversary of Rwanda's liberation with Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Yam Keng Baey as Guest of Honour at the event hosted by High Commissioner Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye.

(Last row, from left):

- **VIETNAM** Vietnamese Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son shared a toast with Singapore's Foreign Minister, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, at a dinner reception to commemorate both nations' 50 years of diplomatic relations and 10 years of strategic partnership on 18th July 2023.

- **PERU** Ambassador of Peru in Singapore Carlos Vasquez Corrales hosted the country's 202nd Independence Anniversary at Sofitel Singapore Sentosa Resort & Spa with Guest of Honour Mr Alvin Tan, Singapore's Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth on 28th July 2023



## ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA: ORCHIDS OF THE EAST TROPICS @ GARDENS BY THE BAY

*The exhibition not only showcases the beauty of orchids as exhibits it also includes traditional houses, cultural handicrafts and artefacts from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand*



Gardens by the Bay launched their latest floral display, **Orchid Extravaganza: Orchids of the East Tropics**, in collaboration with the Embassies of Indonesia and Thailand and High Commissions of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. The event not only showcased the allure of orchids but also exhibited recreations of traditional houses, cultural handicrafts, and artifacts.

The ambassadors and high commissioners of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to Singapore were also in attendance. The Guest-of-Honour was Mr. Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community, and Youth and Second Minister for Law. Special guests included Ms. Chang Hwee Nee, CEO of the National Heritage Board.

Rare opportunity to view and appreciate the floral beauty and cultural heritage of the East Tropics

## TREE-PLANTING TO MARK SINGAPORE-FINLAND 50 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES

MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman participated as the Guest-of-Honour in a tree-planting ceremony at the Singapore Botanic Gardens to commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Finland this year. Two rare tree species of the Diospyros collection were planted.

The event was jointly organised by the Embassy of Finland in Singapore, Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Parks Board (NParks) on 28th July 2023. Dr Maliki together with the Ambassador of Finland to Singapore H.E. Antti Vänskä, the CEO of the NParks, Ms Hwang Yu-Ning, and members of the Finnish community in Singapore took part in the event. A similar tree-planting ceremony will take place at Kalasatama Park in Helsinki on 28 August 2023 to celebrate



Photo: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs

the strong friendship between Singapore and Finland and underscore both countries' commitment towards environmental sustainability and conservation.

Group photo of ASEAN foreign ministers at the AMM Plenary Session

## EVENTS

# PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS: ISRAEL, INDIA AND TURKMENISTAN

President Halimah Yacob received the credentials of the heads of mission from Israel, India, and Turkmenistan at the Istana on 25th July 2023



Photos: Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore

(Top row, from left)

- H.E. Elyahu Vered Hazan, the Ambassador of Israel to Singapore, has a background in history and politics and has held various positions in the Likud Party.

- H.E. Dr Shilpak Ambule, the High Commissioner of India to Singapore, is a medical doctor and has extensive experience in diplomacy, particularly in East Asia.

(Second row, from left):

- H.E. Begench Durdyev, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Singapore and the Republic of Korea, is a career diplomat with experience in the Middle East and Europe

- H.E. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, High Commissioner of Uganda to Singapore, India, and other South Asian countries, has a background in agriculture and food science and has been involved in poverty eradication and nutrition projects.

## MALAYSIA FEST 2023 SHOWCASES BEST OF COUNTRY'S FOOD AND CULTURE

THE sixth edition of the popular Expo Malaysia Fest 2023 was opened on 27th July 2023 at the Singapore Expo in Changi. Thousands of visitors went to taste their favourite foods and fruits, to shop for fashion, wellness and beauty products as well as pick Malaysian travel destinations for holidays. There were also cultural and music performances by popular celebrity artistes. It was no wonder the organisers were confident of breaking last year's attendance record of over 70,000 this year.

Malaysia's Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister, Mr Chan Foong Hin, launched the 4-day event. He was together with the Chairman of the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama), Mr Aminuddin Zulkipli, and the Malaysian High Commissioner to Singapore, Dato' Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar. This year's expo theme is "Explore the Unique Taste of Malaysia". Altogether about 10 tonnes of seasonal fruits as well 2,000 stock keeping units of fresh and processed products were brought to the Changi Expo Halls.



Source: High Commission Malaysia in Singapore FB

Fama said it targetted to generate about RM10 million in direct sales. This year also stood out for the launch of Biz-Matching where Malaysian entrepreneurs were able to promote and make contacts with businesses based in Singapore. Fama was aiming for potential sales worth RM3.5 million from the biz-matching exercise.

Opening ceremony festivities - onstage (from far left): Mr Hamzah Abdulah, the Managing Director of MegaXpress International, the organisers of the event; Malaysian High Commissioner Dato' Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar; (3rd from right) Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister, Mr Chan Foong Hin and (far right): Fama Chairman Mr Aminuddin Zulkipli

# One World International School Digital Campus in Punggol



Opening in August 2023



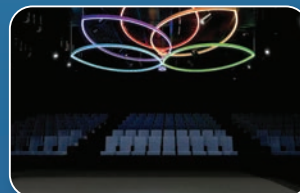
## A kindness-led learning environment, driven by technology.

One World International School (OWIS) Digital Campus\* in Punggol launches in August 2023 — a state-of-the-art premises with new-age educational features and infrastructure that will encourage collaborative learning, ignite creativity and cultivate the holistic development of students, shaping them to be compassionate and responsible global citizens.

Our purpose-built campus offers an exceptional international school environment guided by our reputed kindness-driven approach that promotes a lifelong love of learning.

### Outstanding Features

- Skill Studios
- STEM Labs
- Interactive Smart Classrooms
- Fitness Centre
- Recreational Spaces
- World-Class Sport Facilities
- Indoor Basketball Courts
- Black Box Theatre for Music & Performance Arts
- Innovative Play Gardens for Early Years
- Urban Farming, Vertical Gardens, Renewable Energy and Energy efficient Features



OWIS corporate and community partners enjoy an exclusive discount under our **Corporate Connect Programme**.

Please contact us at [corporate.connect@owis.org](mailto:corporate.connect@owis.org) to learn more.



#### OWIS DIGITAL CAMPUS\* IN PUNGGOL

EC to Grade 8  
27A Punggol Field Walk, S828649  
+65 6914 7351  
admissions.pg@owis.org

\*Proposed site for an international school that will open in August 2023 subject to regulatory approvals

#### OWIS NANYANG

EC to Grade 12 ( Accredited for the IB PYP, Cambridge IGCSE and IB DP)  
21 Jurong West Street 81,  
Singapore 649075  
+65 6914 6700  
admissions@owis.org



Cambridge Assessment  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

#### OWIS SUNTEC CAMPUS

EC to Grade 5 (Candidate School for the IB PYP)  
1 Raffles Blvd, Suntec City,  
Level 3, S039593  
+65 6914 7240  
admissions@owis.org



One World International School  
CPE Reg No: 200800495N  
Validity: 24/02/2023 to 23/02/2027