

IN DIPLOMACY

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SINGAPORE

Indonesia-Singapore 7th Leaders' Retreat in Bogor



**New Zealand PM
Christopher Luxon's First
Official Visit to Singapore
Discovering Richness
of Khmer Culture**

**DCC Welcomes World
Opportunities Forum
and 100th IN Diplomacy
Anniversary Diplomatic Ball**



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**Diplomatic
and Consular Corps
Singapore**

Celebrating 25 Years & 100th Issue of IN Diplomacy with Investment Forum & Diplomatic Ball



We are thrilled to share that Sun Media Pte Ltd is celebrating 25 remarkable years in Singapore, and we are proud to publish the 100th edition of INdiplomacy in August! To commemorate these milestones, we are delighted to have the support of H.E. Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza ([video link](#)) for our celebration activities, including the World Opportunities Forum, an investment conference, and the Diplomatic Ball. We look forward to

the participation of all diplomatic missions and will share communication regarding this in due course.

In this edition, we warmly welcome H.E. Alisher Kayumov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Cao Zhongming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, and H.E. Anyin Choo, High Commissioner of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

Our report on the Indonesia-Singapore 7th Leaders' Retreat in Bogor provides valuable insights into the strengthening ties between the two nations. Don't miss the highlights on national days and cultural events by Bangladesh, Netherlands, and Poland, as well as Eid celebrations and sustainable trade events by the Embassies of Malaysia and Indonesia on pages 5 and 6.

Finally, as Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who has held office since 2004, prepares to pass the baton to Lawrence Wong, the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Minister of Finance, and Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), on May 15, 2024, our next issue will feature a special edition of IN Diplomacy, and we invite your contributions to make it a memorable one! Lawrence Wong will take over the leadership reins and become Singapore's fourth Prime Minister.

Happy reading! May Singapore's ties with the global community thrive in all spheres.

Nomita Dhar

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Presentation of Credentials

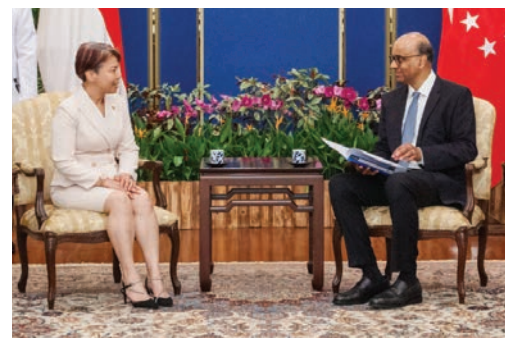
The following diplomats presented their letters of credentials to President Tharman Shanmugaratnam on 30th April 2024 at the Istana



H.E. Alisher Kayumov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan



H.E. Cao Zhongming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China



H.E. Anyin Choo, High Commissioner of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Brief introductory bios available online at www.indiplomacy.com

FACETIME in April 2024



On April 15, 2024, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivered a heartfelt toast speech at an official lunch in Singapore, welcoming The Right Honourable Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, on his first official visit to the city-state. The event, marked by warm greetings and historical reflections, emphasized the deep-rooted friendship and cooperation between Singapore and New Zealand. Prime Minister Lee highlighted the significant history between the two nations, noting the valiant efforts of New Zealand soldiers during World War II and their role in Singapore's early years post-independence.



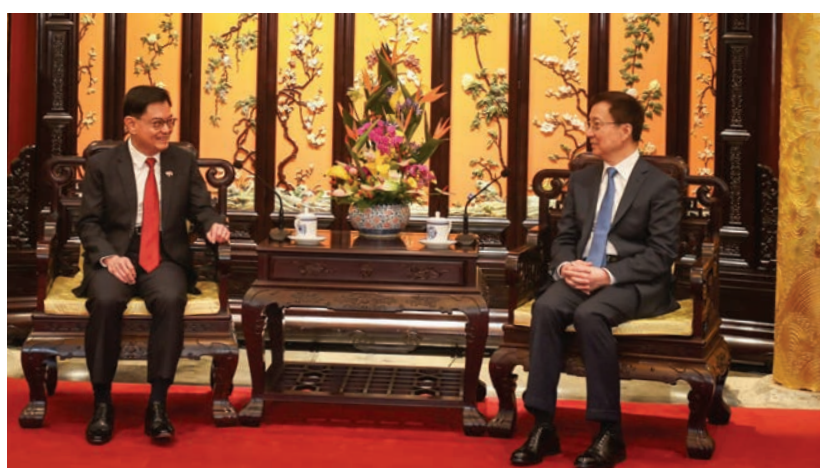
Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, embarked on a working visit to the Republic of the Philippines from 15 to 18 April 2024. His visit included high-level meetings aimed at bolstering the longstanding relationship between Singapore and the Philippines. On 15 April, Dr. Balakrishnan met with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., where they reaffirmed the strong and enduring ties between the two nations. They discussed potential areas for bilateral cooperation and shared views on regional developments.



Minister for Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen met with a United States congressional delegation led by US House Financial Services Committee Chair Representative Patrick McHenry (R-North Carolina) in Singapore on April 24, 2024. The meeting, characterized by a friendly tea session, included discussions on the robust defence relationship between Singapore and the US. This series of high-level meetings highlights the ongoing commitment of both nations to strengthen their bilateral defence and strategic partnership, reinforcing peace and stability in the region.



During a pivotal two-day visit to Berlin on 8 and 9 April 2024, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Lawrence Wong, engaged in productive discussions with top German officials, aiming to deepen the ties between Singapore and Germany. The visit included meetings with Federal President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Robert Habeck, highlighting the commitment of both nations to strengthen their partnership in various domains. This visit symbolizes a significant milestone in Singapore-Germany relations, with both nations looking forward to a future of enhanced cooperation and mutual understanding on a wide array of issues.



Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies, Heng Swee Keat, embarked on an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 7 to 12 April 2024, underscoring the enduring and deep-seated ties between Singapore and China. This visit highlights a significant chapter in the bilateral relations of the two nations, as they celebrate notable milestones and engage in discussions on furthering their partnership. Deputy Prime Minister Heng and Vice President Han also delved into recent regional and international developments, exchanging views on a range of issues. This dialogue reflects the mutual interest of both nations in maintaining a strong, cooperative stance on various global and regional matters.

Indonesia-Singapore 7th Leaders' Retreat in Bogor

The seventh and final Leaders' Meeting between Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President Joko Widodo saw historical bilateral agreements ratified and groundwork for future cooperation in areas such as the green economy and digital transformation



President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in discussions at the Bogor Presidential Palace on 29th April 2024 together with Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Indonesia's President-elect Prabowo Subianto (Photo: BPMI Setpres/Rusman)

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Bogor, Indonesia on 29th April 2024 for the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat. This is the seventh held annually since 2016 (except 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic).

Highlights of the meeting included:

- A historic milestone in bilateral relations - the entry into force of the agreements under the Expanded Framework on 21 March 2024. The Agreement on the Realignment of the Boundary between the Jakarta Flight Information Region (FIR) and the Singapore FIR
- The Treaty for the Extradition of Fugitives, and
- The Defence Cooperation Agreement have resolved three long-standing issues.

The Leaders agreed that the successful conclusion and entry into force of these agreements demonstrated that Singapore and Indonesia could address complicated issues in a pragmatic and mutually-beneficial manner in a spirit of friendship and openness. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the smooth implementation of all three agreements.

Key Interactions

Both leaders welcomed the significant progress in bilateral cooperation over the past decade. The economic relationship is robust, with investments from Singapore to Indonesia amounting to more than S\$74 billion cumulatively.

The Leaders welcomed the 5th extension of the Bilateral Financing Agreement between the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Bank Indonesia, which reinforces the ongoing financial cooperation in preserving monetary and financial stability in both countries amid global macroeconomic uncertainties.

Prime Minister Lee and President Joko Widodo also witnessed the signing of the Joint Update on Defence Cooperation (JUDC) between Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen and Indonesian President-elect and Minister of Defence Prabowo Subianto, which looks back on key interactions in the past year and highlights new and enhanced areas of collaboration for the year ahead.

Growth Areas

The leaders also agreed that the bilateral relationship is on firm footing to embark on pathfinding cooperation in new growth

areas. They include the enormous potential of the green economy. They also witnessed the signing of the MOU on Community Empowerment in Mangrove Ecosystems by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean and Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investments Luhut Pandjaitan. They agreed to sustain the positive momentum in facilitating cross-border electricity trading, including accelerating the development of power interconnectors between Indonesia and Singapore. They also welcomed the good progress in exploring collaboration in carbon capture and storage.

Launch of Tech:X

An MOU was also signed on Cooperation on Digital Transformation between Singapore's Ministry of Communications and Information and Indonesia's Ministry for Communications and Informatics. They also announced the launch of the pilot of the Tech:X programme, a bilateral manpower arrangement which will allow young tech professionals from Indonesia and Singapore to pursue short-term working stints and gain valuable exposure in the other country.

Full report visit www.indiplomacy.com

Special Events to Mark 100th Edition of *IN Diplomacy* with World Opportunities Forum and Diplomatic Ball



"I wish to congratulate Sun Media for its 25th anniversary here in Singapore, and in particular to Nomita Dhar, founder and managing director. I wish also to congratulate them for the 100th Issue of *IN Diplomacy* that will take place, of course, in August this year. I want you to participate in the World Opportunities Forum and in the diplomatic ball that will be hosted precisely to commemorate these events. I am sure that you will organize yourselves and that you will take all the opportunities that are available to you in this forum in order to promote the investment and the bilateral relations of your countries within Singapore.

Muchas gracias. Thank you so much."

- H.E. Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza

The Mexican Ambassador and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

Sun Media Pte Ltd, the publishers of *IN Diplomacy* will be Commemorating its 25th year in business and the 100th issue of the magazine in 2024. The Editor-in-Chief of *INDiplomacy*, Ms. Nomita Dhar, called on H.E. Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Singapore and Ambassador of the Republic of Mexico on 22nd April 2024 to brief him a couple of special events to mark the occasion - the World Opportunities Forum (WOF) and a Diplomatic Ball.

The WOF is scheduled for June and is an investment conference that aims to bring global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) opportunities in sustainable development to both public and private sector players. The conference is organized in collaboration

with foreign diplomatic missions in Singapore and will feature FDI agencies, investment opportunities in global mega projects, and thrust areas like sustainability, education, health, and *halal*.

Ambassador Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza congratulated Ms. Dhar on this significant milestone and expressed full support for the planned events. He also extended an invitation to the rest of the diplomatic missions to participate and he recognized the importance of building institutional relationships through inward and outward FDI agencies and businesses. It is hoped with the support of the diplomatic corps, the investment forum will be able to make a meaningful impact on the global investment landscape.



Welcome Meetings with Sri Lanka, Cuba & Finland



H.E. Senarath Dissanayake, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Singapore



H.E. Lisbet Quesada Luna, Ambassador of Cuba to Singapore



H.E. Juha Markkanen, Ambassador of Finland to Singapore

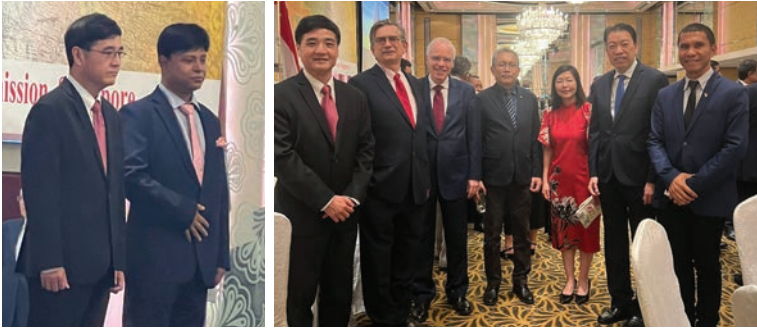
The month of April saw *INDiplomacy* meeting up with several new Heads of Mission, which included Sri Lanka, Cuba and Finland. High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Singapore, H.E. Senarath Dissanayake shared his plans on accelerating the pace of interactions between Sri Lanka and Singapore, especially in Trade, investment and Tourism, while keeping the rich cultural links between the two countries robust. The Ambassador of Cuba H.E. Lisbet Que-

sada Luna, visited Sun Media office and expressed her wish to let more Singaporeans visit Cuba and have it at on the list of their "Must Visit". She expressed her desire for the Singaporean travel trade to attend "the 42nd edition of the International Tourism Fair of Cuba, FITCuba 2024"

The meeting with H.E. Juha Pekka Markkanen, Finland's Ambassador to Singapore, was in a unique setup - an office pod,

produced by a Finnish company, which gives a unique option of creating private spaces within an office or a building, for meetings. While showing satisfaction on Singapore and Finnish bilateral ties, the Ambassador invited Singaporeans to participate in "Slush," a premier startup and tech event to be held in Helsinki from 20th to 21st November 2024. The meeting highlighted the potential for mutual growth and cooperation in areas like innovation, sustainability, and digitalization.

Bangladesh National Day Reception



The High Commission of Bangladesh in Singapore hosted its National Day reception on 26th April 2024. Held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, the Guest of

Honour representing the Singapore Government was Mr. Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State for Defence. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore, H.E. Mr. Md Tauhedul Islam, delivered a speech highlighting the country's progress and achievements over the past five decades.

From Singapore to Saudi



'From Singapore to Saudi' investment event was held on 18th April 2024 with hi-touch attention given to the 40 C-Suite guests who came to find out more about business opportunities in the Saudi Arabian and UAE markets. Singapore and Saudi Arabia have elevated their bilateral ties to a "strategic partnership". The two countries have agreed to boost ties in trade and investment, with Singapore companies showing keen interest in new growth areas under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

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Netherlands King's Day



Source: Embassy of Netherlands, Social Media

The Netherlands celebrated King's Day on 26th April, 2024 which was held at the Residence of the Dutch Ambassador Anneke Adema. The Guest of honour for the event was Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development. The event was also attended by the Dutch community and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Poland Constitution Day



Poland's Constitution Day celebrations were held on 25th April at the Conrad Centennial Singapore. It was hosted by Chargé d'affaires a.i., H.E. Ilona Korchut. The Guest of Honour was Mr Mohamed Fahmi bin Aliman, Mayor of South East District.

Source: Embassy of Poland Social Media

Eid al-Fitr Celebrations Across Singapore, Indonesia in Brunei and Malaysia

On 10th April 2024, Singapore showcased unity and cultural diversity through a series of prominent Eid al-Fitr celebrations hosted by various embassies and high commissions. These events highlighted the strong ties between Singapore and its neighbors, featuring a rich array of traditions and communal harmony.



The Indonesian Embassy (pictured above) in Singapore initiated the Eid celebrations with prayers at the Istiqomah Mosque, attended by 3,500 Indonesians. This was followed by the Halal Bi Halal event, uniting Indonesian and Singaporean communities with international ambassadors in a spirit of fellowship.



Concurrently, the High Commission of Malaysia (pictured above) hosted a traditional Rumah Terbuka, attracting ambassadors and ministers, thereby strengthening Malaysia-Singapore relations and fostering diplomatic engagement.



Meanwhile, the Royal Family of Johor, led by HRH Tunku Ismail and the Regent of Johor, (pictured above) hosted their annual Hari Raya open house at Istana Bukit Serene, welcoming Singapore Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung and Minister for Transport Chee Hong Tat and other dignitaries, and reinforcing the event's role in cross-border cultural integration.



On 13th April 2024, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman was received by H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of **Negara Brunei Darussalam**. Dr. Osman was accompanied by Minister of State (PMO) Desmond Tan, and Member of Parliament Ms Yeo Wan Ling (pictured above).

Indonesia in SG - Sustainable Fashion Makes a Splash Here



The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, in a robust collaboration with multiple organizations including PT Bank Negara Indonesia (Persero) Tbk (BNI), the Ministry of Trade, and Bank Indonesia, launched the “Indonesia in SG” retail exhibition at Takashimaya Square, Singapore. This significant event, supported also by Sarinah, KADIN (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), and Jakarta Fashion Week, aims to introduce

sustainable Indonesian fashion products to the Singapore market.

The grand opening on April 17, 2024, was attended by prominent figures such as Mr. Cecep Herawan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia; Mr. Suhanto, Secretary General of the Ministry of Trade; Mr. Didi Sumedi, Director General of National Export Development; Mr. Royke Tumilaar, President Director of BNI; Mrs. Fetty

Kwartati, President Director of Sarinah; and Mr. Dicky Kartikoyono, Head of the Payment System Policy Department of Bank Indonesia.

Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Singapore, Mr. Suryo Pratomo, emphasized the exhibition’s role in enhancing the GDP contribution of Indonesian products, noting their importance in job creation and sustainable livelihoods.

Indonesian Embassy Hosts ASEAN Alliance on Carbon Market Executive Roundtable



In collaboration with the ASEAN Alliance on Carbon Market (AACM), the Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore hosted the AACM Executive Roundtable Discussion on **Scaling Impacts through Carbon Market in Southeast Asia** on 18 April 2024. The Roundtable brought together more than 75 business leaders, Singapore Government representatives, carbon market experts, and environmental enthusiasts. Among the topics discussed were the top challenges and opportunities for carbon market projects, AACM’s plan to advocate the development of carbon markets, the importance of policy advocacy to promote scaling of carbon markets, and key trends in 2024 and beyond regarding investor and corporate buyers’ demands on carbon offset. Ambassador Suryo Pratomo expressed Indonesia’s delight in witnessing the continuation of positive legacy projects from Indonesia’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023.

GO Malaysia Fair Enchants Visitors with Vibrant Offerings

The GO Malaysia Fair, a collaborative effort between GO Malaysia Fair and Tourism Malaysia – Singapore, launched on 26 April 2024, showcasing the best of Malaysia’s culture and attractions to local and international visitors. Held at Marina Square, Central Atrium, the fair featured exclusive travel deals, cultural performances, and interactive experiences that catered to every type of traveler, from luxury seekers to budget-conscious individuals.

The launch ceremony was graced by His Excellency, Dato’ Dr. Azfar Mohamad Mustafar, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore, and Dato’ Mohamed Kamil bin Dato’ Shafie, Chairman of Tourism Perak. Ms. Mohana Murni Shanmugam, Deputy Director of Tourism Malaysia Singapore, highlighted Singapore’s significant contribution as the top source of tourist-generating markets in 2023 and expressed optimism about enticing more Singaporean residents to visit Malaysia, aiming to achieve the 10 million mark in tourist arrivals this year.

Mr. Sebastian Yap, Unique Event & Exhibition – Organizing Chairman of GO Malaysia Fair, expressed gratitude for the support of esteemed dignitaries and partners like Tourism Malaysia, Tourism Perak, Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council, Maybank, Etiqa Insurance, and Sabah Tourism Board. He emphasized the fair’s objective to showcase the best of Malaysia’s



offerings and provide visitors with exclusive travel deals and memorable experiences.

The GO Malaysia Fair took place from 26 to 28 April 2024 at Marina Square, Central Atrium, offering visitors a glimpse into the rich and diverse culture of Malaysia while promoting the country’s tourism and hospitality sectors.



Discovering the Richness of Khmer Culture

A Special Diplomatic Tour by the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to its Siem Reap province showcased the best of its rich cultural heritage and what makes it truly a 'Kingdom of Wonder'!



Photo: Cambodia Ministry of Tourism



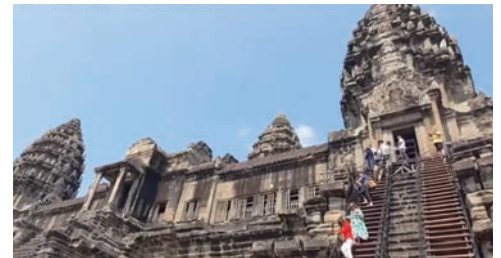
The Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Singapore recently organized a diplomatic tour to Siem Reap province, led by Lok Chumteav Mak Veasna, spouse of Ambassador Sok Khoeun, from April 20-22, 2024. The tour welcomed 13 foreign guests from nine countries, including diplomats and their families, to experience the richness of Khmer cultural heritage.

Over three days, the delegation visited iconic temples, museums, and cultural attractions, including the Sihanouk-Angkor Museum, Golden Silk Farm, Angkor Wat Temple, Bayon Temple, Ta Prohm Temple, and Banteay Srei Temple. They also enjoyed traditional Khmer cuisine, watched circus performances by Phare Ponleu Selpak, and took a sunset boat ride on Tonle Om.

The guests were impressed by the grandeur of ancient Khmer temples, the warmth of Cambodian hospitality, and the vibrant culture. They expressed their appreciation to the Embassy's staff in Singapore and the facilitation team in Siem Reap for organizing a memorable trip.

The tour aimed to promote cultural exchange and strengthen diplomatic ties between Cambodia and the participating countries. It showcased the best of Khmer culture, from its stunning temples to its delicious cuisine, and highlighted the warm welcome extended to visitors.

The delegation's visit to the Angkor region coincided with the sunrise at Angkor Wat temple, a breathtaking experience that



left a lasting impression on the guests. The trip concluded with a special evening party hosted by the Embassy, where guests enjoyed traditional Khmer music and dance.

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Singapore's diplomatic tour was a resounding success, fostering greater understanding and appreciation among nations and cultures. It demonstrated the power of cultural exchange in building bridges and strengthening relationships between countries.