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SINGAPORE

Singapore at Installation of Malaysian King



Getting 'Future-Ready'
at the 57th ASEAN
Foreign Ministers'
Meeting in Lao PDR

**Senior Minister Lee
Hsien Loong Concludes
Successful Visit to Malaysia**

Rwanda's 30th Liberation Day

**MALAYSIA FEST 2024 – A Feast
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July - A Month of Cultural Celebrations



In the month of July, Singapore was a hub of diplomatic activities and cultural festivities, with the cover of our current edition featuring a snapshot from the 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The meeting emphasized the importance of digital and green economies, and regional cooperation. On July 16, Singapore's Minister for Defence, Dr. Ng Eng Hen, met US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, reaffirming strong bilateral ties and signing a Statement of Intent on Data, Analytics, and AI Cooperation.

The month also witnessed significant visits, such as Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry from July 7 to 9, focusing on trade, investment, and climate resilience, and the first Defence Cooperation Committee meeting between Indonesia and Singapore on July 17, strengthening defense relations through joint exercises and educational exchanges. Celebrating 55 years of diplomatic relations with the Philippines, an MOU on Defense Cooperation was signed, enhancing humanitarian and disaster relief training.

Cultural highlights included the Venezuelan Embassy's 213th Independence Day concert by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra on July 6, and the Ukraine Embassy's resilience-focused event at the Singapore Press Club on July 2. Malaysia Fest 2024, launched on July 9, promises a showcase of Malaysian culture from July 25-28 at the Singapore EXPO.

This issue brings you detailed reports on Page 6 and 7 of these vibrant events, including Malaysia Fest 2024, Rwanda's Liberation Day celebrations on 5th July, and other significant gatherings.

For those keen on staying abreast with the diplomatic endeavors in Singapore, we invite you to explore daily updates at www.indiplomacy.com

Happy reading!

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Singapore Tourism Awards 2024

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong highlights Singapore's 60 years of tourism development and future initiatives at the 2024 Singapore Tourism Awards



Singapore's new Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong delivered a speech at the Singapore Tourism Awards, marking the Singapore Tourism Board's (STB) 60th anniversary. PM Wong celebrated the significant evolution of Singapore's tourism industry, noting its humble beginnings in 1964 with only a few thousand tourists and basic attractions like the Bird Park and Zoo. Today, Singapore boasts world-class attractions and welcomes over 10 million visitors annually.

PM Wong emphasized the strategic investments and collaborative efforts that have driven this transformation. Key infrastructure developments like Changi Airport, the enhancement of attractions in Mandai, and the strengthening of art and cultural offerings through venues like the Esplanade and various museums have all contributed to Singapore's tourism success. The creation of vibrant lifestyle events and the focus on providing a seamless visitor experience have also played crucial roles in this endeavour.

Recognizing the pioneers and service professionals in the tourism sector, PM Wong honored individuals such as Mrs. Pamela Lee for her visionary work in promoting Singapore's culture and heritage. He also acknowledged other industry leaders and 24 service professionals for their dedication to enhancing the visitor experience.

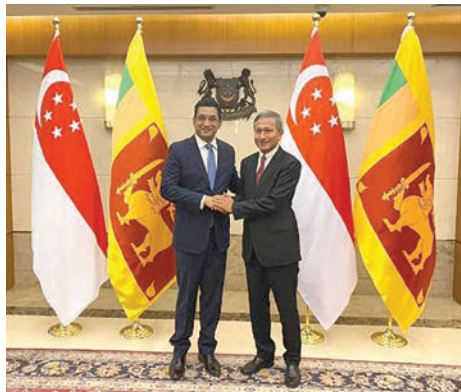
Looking ahead, PM Wong highlighted the need for Singapore to continually innovate and build on its strengths. He stressed the importance of storytelling to showcase Singapore's unique journey from a humble beginning to a thriving metropolis. Additionally, he pointed out Singapore's strategic position as a business hub and its connectivity as key assets to attract business travelers and tourists.

Full article visit www.indiplomacy.com

FACETIME in July 2024



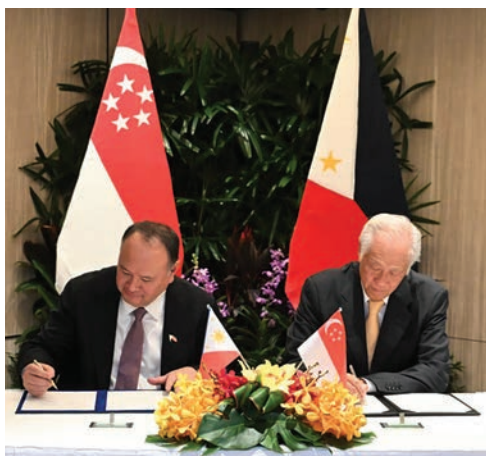
Singapore's Minister for Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen met with US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III at the Pentagon on July 16, 2024. They reaffirmed strong bilateral defence ties, discussed enhanced cooperation in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, and highlighted the US's strategic presence in the Asia-Pacific region. A key outcome was the signing of a Statement of Intent on Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Cooperation by Singapore's Deputy Secretary (Technology) BG Yew Chee Leung and US Chief Digital and AI Officer Dr. Radha Iyengar Plumb.



Foreign Minister Ali Sabry visited Singapore from 07 to 09 July 2024, strengthening bilateral relations through discussions with Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, on shared opportunities and challenges. Minister Sabry also met Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong, focusing on trade, investment, climate resilience, and food security. Additionally, Minister Sabry met with the Minister of Home Affairs and Law, K. Shanmugam, to discuss security and defense cooperation to combat transnational crimes.



On July 17, 2024, Indonesia and Singapore held their first Defence Cooperation Committee meeting in Jakarta, led by Plt. Secgen Kemhan Donny Ermawan Taufant for Indonesia and Mr. Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary (Defence) for Singapore. This meeting marked a key milestone in bilateral defense relations, aligning with the 2007 Defense Cooperation Agreement. The discussions emphasized joint exercises, multilateral cooperation, and educational exchanges aimed at enhancing mutual trust and capability development; it concluded with the signing of the Minutes of Meeting.



Singapore's Minister for Defence, Dr. Ng Eng Hen, and the Philippines Secretary of National Defense, Gilberto Teodoro Jr., signed an MOU on Defense Cooperation, marking the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. The MOU enhances existing arrangements on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training and promotes cooperation in military education and anti-terrorism. Both leaders reaffirmed the warm bilateral defence ties and committed to continued cooperation within the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus fora.



On 1st July 2024, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Singapore Senarath Dissanayake met with Singapore's Minister for Communications and Information, Josephine Teo, to discuss digital innovation, including advancements in AI and cybersecurity. The meeting highlighted potential collaborations in digital public infrastructure and cybersecurity, with High Commissioner Dissanayake requesting technical assistance from the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE).



Minister Bendito dos Santos Freitas of Timor-Leste visited Singapore from 26 to 28 June 2024, marking his first official trip to Singapore. He met with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, discussing Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership efforts and enhancing cooperation in human resource development, trade, investment, energy, and education. Minister Freitas also signed a mutual visa waiver agreement with Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, allowing visa-free stays for up to 30 days, supporting Timor-Leste's roadmap to ASEAN membership and strengthening people-to-people connections.

Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong Concludes Successful Visit to Malaysia

Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited Malaysia from 19 to 22 July 2024, attending key ceremonies and meetings with top officials to strengthen bilateral relations



Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee attended the installation ceremony and royal banquet of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia on 20 July 2024

During his time in Kuala Lumpur, Senior Minister Lee attended the installation ceremony and royal banquet of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, the King of Malaysia, held at the Istana Negara. In addition to these ceremonial duties, Senior Minister Lee held a productive meeting with Malaysia's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. Both leaders acknowledged the excellent state of bilateral relations and the fruitful cooperation between their countries. They expressed satisfaction with the progress of joint projects and anticipated the upcoming Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat, which will be hosted by Malaysia later this year and attended by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Prime Minister Anwar.

Throughout his visit, Senior Minister Lee also engaged with a variety of Malaysian personalities. These interactions provided opportunities to exchange views on regional and global developments and explore ways to further enhance cooperation between Singapore and Malaysia. Emphasis was placed on the importance of fostering strong

people-to-people ties between the next generation of Singaporeans and Malaysians.

Senior Minister Lee is set to return to Singapore this evening, concluding a visit that underscored the close and cooperative relationship between the two nations.



57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from July 23 to 27, 2024, highlights importance of digital and green economies, regional and global challenges



ASEAN 'family' photo at the plenary session of the 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos

The 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) took place in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from July 23 to 27, 2024. Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan attended the meeting, where ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed advancing ASEAN's community building and regional integration efforts.

During the meeting, the Ministers emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation in emerging areas such as the digital and green economies. They also focused on strengthening ASEAN's collective response to regional and global challenges, aligning with Laos' ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience."

Minister Balakrishnan highlighted the need for ASEAN to be future-ready by strengthening ASEAN institutions and processes. He also stressed leveraging the Initiative for ASEAN Integration to ensure Member States benefit from ASEAN's ongoing integration efforts.

On the sidelines of the 57th AMM, Minister Balakrishnan will engage with his counterparts to discuss regional and international developments and explore ways to advance regional peace and stability.



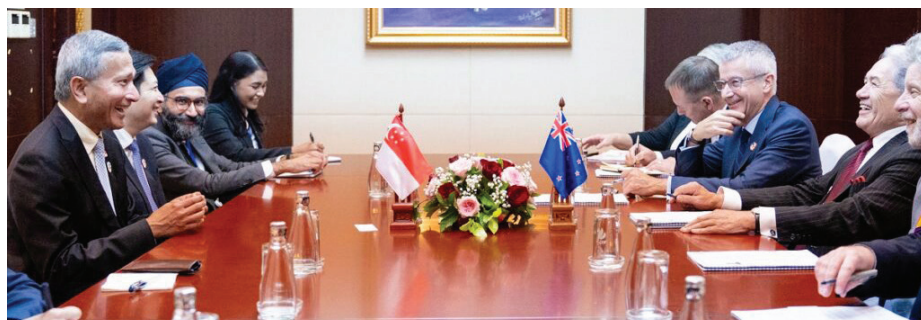
Lao DPM and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith welcoming Dr Balakrishnan



Foreign Minister Balakrishnan also met with Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Kao Kim Hourn



(Above left): Meeting with New Zealand DPM and Minister of Foreign Affairs Winston Peters. (Above right): Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide





Venezuelan Embassy Commemorates Independence Day

The Venezuelan Embassy celebrated the 213th anniversary of Venezuelan Independence on July 6, 2024, with a concert by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra at the Esplanade Concert Hall, featuring renowned trumpeter Pacho Flores. Ambassador Jessica María López Piña and Venezuelan diplomatic staff marked the occasion with an unforgettable performance, including the symphonic piece “Margariteña” by Inocente Carreño, performed for the first time in Singapore. The event, part of the Embassy’s “July of Independence” cultural program, was attended by dignitaries from various embassies, prominent figures from culture, art, journalism, business, and the Venezuelan community in Singapore, highlighting the cultural ties between Venezuela and Singapore.

Ukraine’s Resilience Highlighted at Singapore Press Club Embassy Night

The Ukraine Embassy in Singapore hosted an insightful evening organized by the Singapore Press Club, focusing on Ukraine’s resilience, global support, and the ongoing conflict with Russia. On July 2, 2024, the Singapore Press Club collaborated with the Ukraine Embassy to present an Embassy Night, featuring Ukraine’s Ambassador to Singapore, Kateryna Zelenko. Addressing a full house of press members, diplomats, and guests, Ambassador Zelenko emphasized Ukraine’s resilience amidst ongoing conflicts and the importance of global support to bring every Ukrainian child home. She expressed gratitude for the audience’s thoughtful questions and praised Derek Nigel Wallbank’s moderation.



30th Anniversary Celebrations of Rwanda’s Liberation Day in Singapore



The diplomatic and business leaders, along with Rwandans and friends of Rwanda, gathered in Singapore to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Rwanda’s Liberation Day. On July 5, 2024, around 300 people, including members of the diplomatic community, business leaders, Rwandans, and friends of Rwanda, gathered in Singapore to mark the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day. The event celebrated Rwanda’s rebirth and highlighted its development trajectory since the Rwandan Patriotic Army’s victory over the genocidal government three decades ago.

Media Conference Held for Malaysia Fest 2024



The High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore hosted a media conference on 9 July 2024 to discuss Malaysia Fest 2024, set to take place from 25-28 July at Singapore EXPO Halls 5A and 5B. Organized by MegaXpress International and supported by FAMA, the festival aims to promote Malaysian culture through 302 booths showcasing food, fashion, beauty, and travel. Highlights include a focus on various Malaysian states, cooking demonstrations, interactive talks, and performances by top Malaysian icons. The event will feature a cashless payment initiative, “Cashless Lah Boss,” and a charity component benefiting Al-Amin Mosque, with Yang Berhormat Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup as the Guest-of-Honour.

National Day Celebrations at the National Museum



As Singapore approaches its National Day, the National Museum of Singapore is set to become the epicenter of celebrations, offering a series of nostalgic and engaging activities from August 1 to 9. This year's festivities promise to rekindle cherished memories while forging new ones through an array of interactive and intergenerational programs. Here's a look at what you can expect at this year's National Day celebrations at the National Museum

The National Museum of Singapore will host a series of events from August 1 to 9, celebrating National Day with nostalgic and engaging activities.

The Good Old Games Light-Up Installation, open from 7:30 pm to midnight, features life-sized versions of traditional games like Chaptah, Five Stones, and Gasing, offering both nostalgia and photo opportunities.

The National Day Scavenger Hunt, running daily from 10 am to 5:30 pm (with a break from 12 pm to 1 pm), invites participants to explore the museum and learn about Singapore's history. Successful hunters can redeem a special token. The Singapura Life exhibit by students from Sengkang Green Primary School, open from 9:30 am to 4 pm, features activities such as dressing paper dolls in ethnic costumes and postcard giveaways. A priority slot for persons with disabilities is available from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

The Design A Keychain workshop, from 10 am to 5:30 pm (last entry at 4:45 pm), allows visitors to create personalized keychains using the pouring paint technique. This activity is located outside the Explore Room on Level 3. The My Dearest Friend letter-writing activity, held in the Get Curious Studio on Level 3 from 10 am to 5:30 pm, invites visitors to craft messages, seal them with wax, and have them delivered in six months.

Craft activities by STAEDTLER, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, let visitors design unique fans inspired by traditional motifs, available at various locations throughout the museum. Children aged 6 to 13 can join the National Day Colouring Competition in the Gallery Theatre on the basement level. Registration starts at 9:30 am, and the competition runs from 10 am to 1 pm, featuring local images to color. The Outdoor Sustainable Play sessions on the Front Lawn, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, encourage imaginative play with everyday items, suitable for children



aged four and above. The Inflatable Playgrounds at the Bus Bay on Level 2, open from 10 am to 5 pm, offer colorful inflatable castles for children to enjoy.

The Intergenerational Special: Wear (We're) As One program at Reunion on Level 1 includes dressing up together and runs twice daily from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm and 4 pm to 5 pm. End the day with a drum performance on the Front Lawn at 5 pm, followed by a live telecast of the National Day Parade from 5:30 pm to 8 pm. Enjoy watching the parade under the stars with family and friends.



Join the National Museum of Singapore from August 1 to 9 for National Day celebrations filled with nostalgia, creativity, and community spirit. These activities offer something special for everyone, whether reliving fond memories or making new ones.





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Malaysia: H.E. Dato' Dr Azfar bin M. Mustafar

Peru: H.E. Francisco Tenya–Hasegawa

Rwanda: H.E. Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye

Saudi Arabia: H.E. Ahmed Mostafa Abdelaal Mohd.

South Africa: H.E. Madiepetsane Charlotte Lobe

Thailand: Dr. Chula Sukmanop

Date/Time: 21st August 2024 / 8.30am to 5pm

Venue: The Fullerton Hotel Ballroom

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