

# IN Diplomacy

MISSION TO COMMUNICATE

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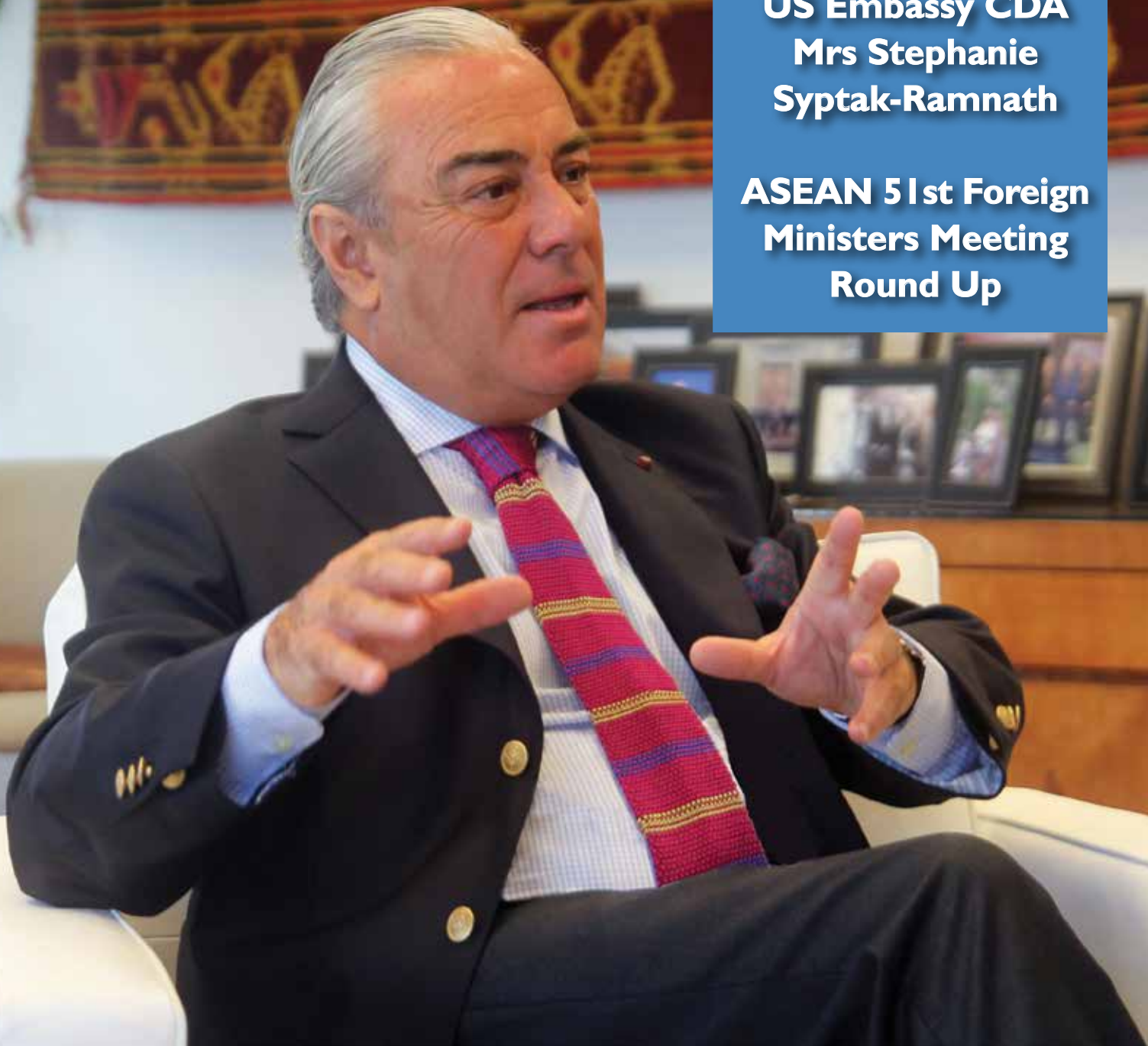
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## Featuring

**NEW DEAN**  
**James Sinclair**

**US Embassy CDA**  
**Mrs Stephanie**  
**Syptak-Ramnath**

**ASEAN 51st Foreign**  
**Ministers Meeting**  
**Round Up**



## USA Travel Special

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**PUBLISHER** Sun Media Pte Ltd

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Nomita Dhar

**EDITORIAL** Ranee Sahaney  
Arjun Dhar, Jenny Tan,  
Syed Jaafar Alkaff

**ADVERTISING** Swati Singh

**PRINTING** Stamford Press Pte Ltd

### Contact

Sun Media Pte Ltd  
20 Kramat Lane #01-02 United House,  
Singapore 228773.  
Tel: (65) 6735 2972 / 1907 / 2986  
Fax: (65) 6735 3114  
Email: admin@sunmediaonline.com

**Website** www.indiplomacy.com



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# New Ambassadors

IN Diplomacy welcomes the following heads of missions who presented their credentials to HE President Halimah Yacob.

## Presentation of Credentials 28 June 2018



*High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania  
HE Baraka Haran Luvanda*



*Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador HE Fabián Valdivieso*

## Presentation of Credentials 26 Jul 2018



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
HE Kakhramon Shakirov*



*High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji HE Seleima D. Veisamasama*

## Presentation of Credentials 24 Aug 2018



*The Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See HE Archbishop Marek  
Zaleski*



*Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, HE Magdalena Bogdziewicz*



*The Ambassador of Georgia HE Irakli Asashvili*



*Ambassador of Ireland, HE Patrick Bourne*





## Pres Moon Jae-in Puts New Southern Policy into High Gear

**P**resident Moon's state visit here from 11th to 13th July 2018 followed closely on his historic meeting with the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (in April and May) and in the wake of the US-North Korea Summit in Singapore in June. He was here to explain the country's vision and policy for the

denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula as well as its **New Southern Policy** that seeks to upgrade the country's cooperation with the ASEAN. A South Korean spokesperson before the trip had said the state visit was to highlight, "the President's plans to shift Korea's vision for the New Southern Policy into high

gear. We hope that these visits will widen Korea's diplomatic horizons."

The visit also focussed on business ties as both countries exchanged several MOUs and agreed to review implementation of the Korea-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (within six months) and look into further liberalising tariffs for several products.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the South Korean leader witnessed the signing of six agreements on trade, investment, industry, energy, environmental cooperation, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups. Trade between Singapore and South Korea totalled \$45.4 billion in 2017. South Korea is Singapore's ninth largest trading partner. Singapore is South Korea's 10th largest trading partner.

Both countries also reaffirmed their commitment towards the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership**, an ASEAN-led trade pact which also involves six of the grouping's trading partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.



## PM Lee: Guest of Honour at Bastille Day

**S**INGAPORE'S Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was the Guest of Honour at the French National Day celebrations aka Bastille Day on 14th July 2018. The island republic's participation was also marked by a Singapore Flag march past down the famous Champs Elysees as well as a combined France-Singapore flypast that included pilots of the Republic of Singapore Air Force. Every year France invites a country to join the celebrations (last year was the USA) and this time PM Lee was hosted by President Emmanuel Macron to witness the parade which featured 4,000 soldiers, 220 vehicles, 250 horses, 64 aircraft and 30 helicopters.

During his three-day visit the Singapore leader also met Prime Minister Édouard Philippe and had meetings to review Singapore's partnership with France in defence, security, trade, culture, research, and education. Both countries also reaffirmed their commitment "to the open trading system, multilateralism, and rule of law," according to PM Lee. He also attended a lunch with French industry leaders, and attended a reception with overseas Singaporeans.

According to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office, the visit also comes as, "both countries commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF)'s Advanced Jet Training in Cazaux Air Base, and



Prime Minister Lee with (top) President Macron and (above) Prime Minister Édouard Philippe



(Photos source: Singapore PMO and MCI / Fyrol)

are expanding innovation partnerships during the 2018 France-Singapore Year of Innovation. Prime Minister Lee and President Macron will issue a France-Singapore Road Map for Deepening Cooperation in Digital Innovation, Internet Governance, and Cybersecurity. Several bilateral agreements in the areas of innovation, artificial intelligence, research and development, student exchanges, and energy will also be signed in conjunction with the visit." PM Lee has also extended an invitation to President Macron to visit Singapore to deliver the Keynote Speech at the next Shangri-La Dialogue.

# ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting

Round up of highlights of the meeting in August held in Singapore by Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan



Photo: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan in his round-up speech to journalists at the end of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting was happy to report, "This is my third ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and I can honestly say this has been the smoothest, the least contentious, and the most constructive and positive meeting so far. So it has been on a good trajectory."

Delving into the details of this year's gathering he first highlighted how it marked a handing over period of the coordinatorship. For example, Singapore has been the coordinator of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Partnership for the past three years and said he had briefed the ministers of the positive developments there and, "We're now the new coordinator for the ASEAN-EU relationship. And I've had some preliminary discussion with Federica Mogherini who is in-charge of the Foreign Affairs and Security for the EU. For a start, the EU has indicated their support for our ASEAN Smart Cities Network and we will explore various avenues to do more together with them. We've also agreed to conclude the negotiations on an ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement which we hope to do by the end of this year. And we will resume negotiations for an ASEAN-EU FTA."

He stressed these were just some of the ideas discussed and will be looked into by the EU and ASEAN members. "The point is that there is a substantive agenda that ASEAN and EU can work on in the years to come. And we will play an active role in this."

He also drew attention to the demonstration projects of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) that included e-commerce, remittance of money, as well as the introduction of an action plan for 26 pilot cities in ASEAN be connected together on a single platform, in order to catalyse and attract both foreign as well as private sector engagement with these projects.

On regional and international issues that dominated their discussions he first touched on trade recalling Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's speech earlier in the Summit of an emerging "multipolar world" that will replace the world that we have known for the past 70 years; second, that there is a push back against free trade, and yet free trade has been a formula for peace and prosperity in our region for 70 years. Third, the ongoing digital revolution.

All 10 ASEAN countries, and external partners, acknowledge that the multilateral, rules-based trading system is under pressure with trade tension between the US and China, EU, even Canada. He said, "For ASEAN, our response must be to double-down on the multilateral

trade system and to work with other like-minded partners in order to strengthen this web of interconnections and interdependence for trade and the economies. And I am glad therefore, that everyone whom I heard, agreed to redouble our efforts to settle the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership** or RCEP (see accompanying story) by the end of the year. It does not mean that the negotiations are over, or that there are no sticky issues - there are. But at least, the political will and the acknowledgement that this is something which we need to settle. And all the more so, given the state of the world and the anxiety over trade wars."

Also discussed were issues related to the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea. He said that China and ASEAN had arrived at a single draft of the Code of Conduct (COC) Negotiating Text and that even though it is a significant milestone which builds confidence, it is not yet a complete solution. However, it will, he feels give everyone a sense that this continuing engagement will lower tension and encourage all the claimant states to seek a solution which has two components to it. The short-term solution, the main objective of the COC is to avoid conflict, avoid accidents and to promote peace and stability on the sea.

The issue of Myanmar's Rakhine state was also brought up with great concern for the humanitarian crisis it represented. While Bangladesh and Myanmar continue to negotiate Singapore's Foreign Minister said that ASEAN has been, and will continue to provide humanitarian support for the refugees, both those who are in Bangladesh as well as those who are remaining in Myanmar.

## Why RCEP is Important

In his answer to a question of what are the problems that are holding up the agreement on RCEP, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan said he would not go through the specifics of the negotiating points, "...because frankly we don't believe in megaphone diplomacy, and negotiations are best conducted behind closed doors," but he gave instead a strategic overview of why RCEP matters. He said:

■ "RCEP is important because if we get this done, it encompasses about 45% of the world's population, and it amounts to about 30% of global GDP. So it is a really big FTA."

■ This is a FTA which is actually centred and led by ASEAN and the six external partners whom we, as ASEAN, already have FTAs with. So ASEAN is at the heart of the RCEP.

■ RCEP includes Northeast Asia, and clearly the big giant there is China. But it also includes Japan, which is a very big - world's second or third largest economy

- and obviously, the Republic of Korea. And then it includes India, which within the decade is set to have a population that is larger than China, but whose GDP currently is only about one-fifth or one-quarter of China, but it has significant growth potential. And it also includes Australia and New Zealand. Now, if you think about it, the one missing element is that actually today, China and India do not have a bilateral free-trade agreement.

But if they agree to the RCEP, in effect, they are setting the stage to liberalise the trade of goods and services between India and China."

Because of the size of these two economies and major impact an agreement will have on the world's economy, Dr Vivian said there is understandably a good reason for them to be very careful and calculate what they are agreeing with, what the implications are and that is why the negotiations will take time.



## IN Diplomacy PHOTO ALBUM

### Russia's National Day\* Reception

6th June 2018



*\*The reception also included commemoration of 50 years of bilateral ties between Russia and Singapore*



### Egypt National Day Reception

30th July 2018





## India's 72nd Anniversary of Independence Reception 15th August 2018



Photo: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## Diplomatic Reception for Indonesia's 73rd Anniversary of Independence

20th August 2018





# 3rd Singapore-Sub-Saharan Africa High-Level Ministerial Exchange Visit



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong with participants of the Third Singapore-Sub-Saharan Africa High-Level Ministerial Exchange Visit, 28 August 2018. (Photo: Ministry of Communication and Information)

Ministers from 12 African nations **Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda** visited Singapore as part of the Third Exchange Visit (27th - 28th August 2018) with the theme on 'Singapore and Africa: Partner for Smart Cities'. They were welcomed by Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at the Ministry where he noted, "We have seen Africa develop at an impressive pace, and demonstrate incredible potential. Within the next two decades, Africa will possess the world's youngest population. By 2030, Africa's GDP is expected to reach US\$3 trillion, buoyed by a rising middle class with strong consumption and of course, a very young, productive population."

However, there are also challenges confronting the continent. He felt it was apt that the visit centered on the Smart City theme and explained, "This is why we have structured your visit around three of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These three goals are: first, decent work and economic growth; second, industry, innovation, and infrastructure; and third, sustainable cities and communities."

He expressed Singapore's belief that no single country, let alone a tiny city-state has a monopoly on the answers to challenges that face Africa but the island state is happy to share its development journey through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP). "In fact, since 1992, over 120,000 officials from 170 countries, including 9,000 from Africa, have attended our SCP courses. We continue to welcome your officials to participate – our doors remain open. Singapore is also working with UN-Habitat to organise

the International Leaders in Urban Governance Programme (iLUGP). This programme brings together federal- to municipal-level leaders from various African countries, including experts from UN-Habitat, and experienced practitioners from the Singapore Government for a vibrant exchange of ideas on key urban issues including sustainable environment and dynamic urban governance. In fact, Singapore is hosting the second run of the programme this week and this is an opportunity for me to acknowledge and welcome all the iLUGP participants to Singapore," said Dr Balakrishnan.

The foreign minister also noted in his welcome speech that since the last Exchange Visit in 2016, economic ties have deepened between Singapore and Africa, "Singapore's trade with Africa has grown exponentially: it is now US\$8 billion in 2017, a 13 percent increase from the year before. But frankly, these trade figures are nowhere near their true potential. To this end, we have put in place several economic frameworks with several of our close African partners, such as Bilateral Investment Treaties and Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements, in order to open up more business opportunities and to encourage more investments both ways. Singapore is also hosting the 5th Africa-Singapore Business

## The Visiting Dignitaries

(By country name)

- Djibouti: Minister of the Budget Bodeh Ahmed Robleh
- Ethiopia: State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Akilu Hailemichael
- Gabon: Minister of Foreign Affairs Regis Tatangani
- Ghana: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Charles Owiredo
- Kenya: Chief Administrative Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ababu Namwamba
- Mozambique: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation José Pacheco
- Namibia: Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Christine Hoebes
- Nigeria: Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment Hajiji Aisha Abubakar
- Rwanda: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community Olivier Ndukungirehe
- South Africa: Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Makgabo Reginah Mhaule
- Tanzania: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation Susan Alphonse Kolimba
- Uganda: Minister of Kampala Capital City Authority Beti Turwomwe



Forum tomorrow, which since 2010, has brought together more than 2,000 business and government leaders from over 30 countries to explore opportunities and partnerships between Singapore and Africa."

During their visit, the Ministers called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and were hosted by DPM and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister Balakrishnan, and Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Masagos Zulkifli. They also met the Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and SMS (Defence) (Foreign Affairs) Dr Maliki Osman.

## ONE Africa at the 5th Africa Singapore Business Forum

The Exchange Visit dovetails with both the **5th Africa Singapore Business Forum (ASBF)** and the Singapore UN-Habitat International Leaders in Urban Governance Programme (iLUGP). The ASBF, organised by Enterprise Singapore, is the premier platform for business exchange and fostering trade between Africa and Asia.

**ONE Africa Note:** Sun Media Pte Ltd, the publisher of *IN Diplomacy* produced a guide for investors for the ASBF titled *ONE Africa* featuring the six African embassies resident in Singapore. For a free hard or e-copy request, send an email to: [accounts@sunmediaonline.com](mailto:accounts@sunmediaonline.com)





# U.S.-Singapore Relations: An Ongoing Commitment for Regional Peace and Prosperity



U.S. Embassy Singapore Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath in a wide ranging conversation with Editor-in-Chief Ms Nomita Dhar, offer readers of IN Diplomacy an insight into the multiple layers which comprise this highly important, deeply committed and incredibly vibrant relationship between the two countries which dates back to half a century

**Good afternoon your Excellency. It's an honour to talk to you for our first print edition of IN Diplomacy.**

Congratulations on the new venture, which is very exciting. Thank you very much for allowing me to be part of your new endeavor.

**You have been in Singapore for two years now. How has your journey been so far?**

It's been a very exciting time being here, not only with the change in administration, but also because of the great work we are continuing to do with Singapore. The world events that have happened here have allowed us to work very closely with the Singaporeans to advance the cause of peace and prosperity in the region.

**President Trump's visit to Singapore was the highpoint of things that have happened in 2018. The whole world was watching and your office was doing the bulk of the work. We saw on camera what took place but please share what was happening behind the scenes and what it took to make it happen?**

If you remember, we didn't have much time to plan the Summit. I think between the announcement and the actual June 12 date we had just about four weeks. You'll also remember that in the middle of that we had the Shangri-La Dialogue, which in itself is a very important and busy moment for Singapore, for the region, and for the United States. My incredible staff was working very closely with the White House advance team and the Singaporean government to take care of the logistical requirements of welcoming two heads of state to Singapore and ensuring that we had the setting right for an important conversation to take place.

**What went into choosing Singapore as the venue?**

A number of things I would say. First and foremost, the long-standing partnership between Singapore and the United States that we have built over 50 years and the great trust



and confidence we have as partners to work very well and in full transparency together towards a common goal. So that was part of it. The other was security, which was of prime importance in ensuring that both leaders had a productive meeting in the country. We know that Singapore excels in terms of being able to work with its citizens to ensure they can manage all the different aspects of large events that go into providing security for leaders coming here. There is also the efficiency that is needed to get everything ready - to make sure that hotels are arranged, that the venue site is taken care of and all the tiny details that go into it, whether it was welcoming President Trump or Chairman Kim, from the very moment they landed to the time they left— and everything in between.

There were a lot of security details to be arranged and Singapore with its well-known efficiency, and practicality, have a knack for seeing what needs to be done and just getting it done. They were the perfect partner for us for this meeting, as we took on something that had never happened before. I think the other big part was the number

of journalists who were here. Singapore's International Media Centre had 2,000 international journalists. The White House had over 350 travelling press, and the South Koreans brought around 500. So you can imagine that managing all the logistics for that number of journalists required good partnership between our embassy and the Ministry of Communication. These are some of the details of which people were probably not aware when the handshake was going on, because it was all behind the scenes.

**Regarding the bilateral ties, you have engagements with the United States in Singapore on multiple levels, please brief us on what's happening and what to expect.**

As you may know, with over 50 years of partnership we collaborate across almost every sector you can imagine. Of course, we have very deep commercial and economic relations that actually pre-date even our government-to-government relationship. American businesses have been working in this region since the 19th century. Even our first Consul Joseph Balestier was here working on business issues. We have 4,200 U.S. companies in Singapore, many of them are using it as a base for the region as well. That number has increased by 10 percent in the two years I have been here. So you can see Singapore and ASEAN will continue to draw American businesses here to see what we can achieve in a fairly dynamic region. So that's an important part of the work that we do. There's also the security aspect.

*For the full transcript of the interview which also touched on a wide range of other topics visit*

[www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)





## Amazing Asiana Airlines

As Asiana Airlines turned 30 this year on February 17, it can confidently revel in its long held position as one of the world's leading premium air carriers



*Asiana First Suite*



**F**ounded by South Korea's Kumho group in 1988, Star Alliance member Asiana Airlines is an accomplished airline with outstanding service and extensive international flight network of 22 countries, 64 cities and 77 routes.

Gliding through domestic routes in 1988, Asiana Airlines ascended rapidly, and has been flying international skies since 1990 from Seoul to USA, Europe, Russia and Central Asia, Oceania, Japan, China and South East Asia. The Singapore to Seoul flight started in 1992 with great success.

In 2003, Asiana Airlines became the 15th member of Star Alliance, the world's largest airlines network, enabling Star Alliance airline partners to experience the amazing Asiana Airlines



hospitality and extensive worldwide service routes.

Continuing to conquer international skies, Asiana Airlines celebrates with two new Seoul to Europe route destination - Venice and Barcelona, from May 1 and August 30 respectively, as part of its 30th anniversary celebration and long haul route expansion plans.

### Asiana Airlines First Suite

Impeccably designed, the First Suite cabin embodies the best of unparalleled luxury and comfort with exceptional experiences for a relaxing flight with Asiana Airlines.

Asiana First Suite with the first two-door cabin in Korea and inflight mood lighting provides both privacy and personal space during the flight.



Slide the doors to create your very own Asiana room on board with a buddy seat, perfectly designed for two people to sit in complete comfort. Offering premium seats with a pitch space of 211cm, which convert to a fully flat spacious bed with duck down bedding for ultimate comfort to ensure a perfect sleep. Store your coat and bag in your own personal closet, slip into an Asiana sleeper suit and slippers and enjoy the pampering of a luxurious amenity kit for a pleasant flight.

Indulge in a healthy and nutritious Royal Palace Meal or warm oven-cooked La Cucina gourmet Italian cuisine with champagne, cocktails and wine pairing from the world's top international sommeliers for long haul flights to USA and Europe, with pre-book meal selections. Desserts or petite fours with rain forest alliance certified eco coffee, luxurious tea selection and beverages are served after meals.

Enjoy Inflight entertainment with the latest movies, music and games on your personal 32-inch large screen and free AVOD system while you reach for your preferred drinks and snacks from your personal mini bar.

Ground services include full concierge service from check in to immigration assistance and boarding, advance seat assignment, chauffeur service and premium service reservation center in Korea, USA, Japan and China.

### Asiana Business Smartium

Business Smartium seats in Asiana Airlines flights features the first staggered layout in Korea to provide direct aisle access and expandable personal spaces for fully flat bed seat with luxury brand amenity kit, ensuring a pleasant flight experience. Enjoy inflight entertainment on your personal 18.5" wide HD Screen as you relax or snuggle in bed.



Asiana Business Smartium

Business class travellers will enjoy gourmet Korean, Western, Japanese and Chinese meal service with premium seasonal ingredients and wine paired by Asiana Airlines panelists for long haul flights.

Mingle on board at Asiana Bar & Lounge with your companions with complimentary drinks and snacks.

### Asiana Economy Smartium

Passengers seated at Asiana Airlines A350-900 Economy Smartium cabin enjoys seat pitch of 36 inch, with extra legroom space between 7-10cm while all economy cabin passengers will have more storage space with larger overhead bin, power outlet and USB port.

Asiana Airlines is the first airline in Korea to offer inflight WIFI and roaming phone call services, available on A350-900 flights across all cabin class at affordable rates.



Asiana Economy Smartium

### Award Winning Service

Powered by its management ideology of offering maximum safety and highest level of customer satisfaction through dedicated services, Asiana Airlines award winning achievements include Best Airline, Airline of the year and proven Skytrax 5 stars rating for a decade.

### Asiana Airlines Club

Asiana Club - Asiana Airline Frequent Flyer programme is designed to reward its passengers who flies with Asiana airlines and Star Alliance partners. Besides the *de rigueur* airport business lounge access, enjoy complimentary award flights, seat upgrades, priority check in and boarding, extra baggage and hotel accommodation.

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## INTERVIEW **HE JAMES SINCLAIR MANLEY**

### New DEAN: What to Expect...



The Ambassador of Chile to the Republic of Singapore is the new Dean of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps (DCC) here and intends to carry on the good work started by his predecessors and one might also expect some new initiatives in the area of education

**GOOD morning your Excellency. Congratulations on becoming the new Dean in Singapore. Please share with us your views on becoming Dean and your plans for this new role.**

It's a great honour which gives me a great opportunity to work with the diplomats of the DCC and also with the government of Singapore. And it is not just interacting with Singapore's senior government officials, but also Singaporean society and communities, whether it's the business or education communities or hi-tech field. I look forward to nourishing these relationships and to get the best out of it, for them and for us, the diplomatic community.

**During your term as Dean what should we expect?**

I'm going to continue with the very good work which my predecessors have been doing. I arrived here when the Dean was the Spanish ambassador. He and his wife were both very active and very popular in the diplomatic and the Singaporean communities. Ambassadors of Brazil, Costa Rica and Poland were also extremely active and lots of activities were accomplished during his tenure. Then, followed by the ambassador of Poland who though he was Dean for a short time, he too, along with his wife, did a lot especially like getting more deeply involved with the local community. I would like to, with renewed spirit and on a bigger scale, continue with events such as the Gala Ball, some sports events as the soccer championship between Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the diplomats; also bowl-

***"I would also like to touch upon matters related to maybe the universities, academia and the media. ...but also not neglect what activities that have already proven to be quite successful in bringing people together."***

ing...as well as some trips abroad organized by the Ministry of Environment. I would also like to touch upon matters related to maybe the universities, academia and the media.

**I think those areas are a little untouched...**

Yes I would like to further look into that but also not neglect some activities that have already proven to be quite successful in bringing people together.

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

I think of the MFA as our partner. Indeed we (the diplomatic community) are partners on many issues with the ministry. We'll be working

on the bilateral aspects directly with Director Generals, foreign secretaries and even with the Minister of Foreign Affairs...like we have done with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Mr Shanmugam in the past was very proactive. We have always received the best support from them. But we need to further strengthen this relationship and involve and incorporate MFA more into our activities and try to bring the voice of the diplomatic community into this interaction.

My experiences in over 35 years as a career diplomat have given me deep insights into these things. I have served a few times as the Chief of Protocol of the Presidents of Chile (including the one today) and that gives me the inspiration to commit in many tasks. The Chief of Protocol of Singapore is also a good friend. He is professional and a man of immense self-determination and wants to accomplish things. So I'm hoping to commit him in doing things with us and to understand our role here in Singapore as diplomats and as heads of mission in this country. In the case of Chile, Singapore is a major partner and a key player in ASEAN.

**You mentioned you have had a very long and illustrious career in diplomacy. Not everyone has a very clear picture what is the job of a diplomat. Could you sum it up for us?**

Diplomats are trained in international relations. In the case of Chile you study two years in the diplomats' academy and then serve in the ministry from the lowest position - where you do *everything*. The best to my knowledge and experience is to start in a big embassy. I had a chance to work in a big and important embassy, Argentina, where I rose from the basic position to become Consul of the embassy. The main reason I was able to achieve this was



***“We need Singapore to establish more embassies in our countries. In Chile, we have a non-resident ambassador who is great - the CEO of the National Gallery, Ms Chong Siak Ching. She is doing a tremendous job. But I feel it would be better if we have more Singapore embassies established overseas, perhaps at the beginning someone who can represent 3 to 4 countries together.”***



because I learnt much from the ambassador, from my superiors, the counselors etc. You have to work a lot but you also have a lot to gain, because you can incorporate their experience into your experience.

The most important task is to represent your country in the country that you have been posted to, which for me now is Singapore. We are here to serve the interests of the governments, facilitate in some cases agreements benefiting both governments and look after the interests of the nationals here. In the case of Chile, our community in Singapore is small, about 150 people and most are busy with their own work, duties, or students at the universities; many are also young couples with children. We see them mostly in a very social way.

In some other countries, say like Brazil or Argentina who have large communities here there are a higher number of people who might encounter problems in the host country; so of course the mission needs to help them out otherwise they would be on their own.

**You mentioned greater engagement with academia. These days high technology is very prevalent and important in every life and there are many technology-related career options available to students. Do you think diplomacy is still a good career choice for students today?**

Absolutely! I would encourage them to choose a diplomatic career because I think we need more diplomats, we need more experienced and seasoned diplomats in this profession. We need young people to go to universities for their education and then go on to participate in seminars and conference in areas related to international relations. In the case of Chile we have many students willing to join the services and interact with other countries. In today's world, the connectivity is very easy. It's no longer a big challenge to go and stay, for example in far away countries like China for a couple of years. On the contrary it is a big opportunity, a major demand on your career...and young Chileans are willing to take that option.

I'm sure here in Singapore it's the same. You have the diplomatic academy, which I think is fantastic. We need Singapore to establish more

embassies in our countries. In Chile, we have a non-resident ambassador who is great - the CEO of the National Gallery, Ms Chong Siak Ching. She is doing a tremendous job. But I feel it would be better if we have more Singapore embassies established overseas, perhaps at the beginning someone who can represent 3 to 4 countries together.

**Singapore is ASEAN Chair this year and there was the recently concluded Trump-Kim summit, so the island is a big hub of diplomatic activities. In your opinion how can all the ambassadors here leverage on their position in Singapore and use it to facilitate greater co-operation between countries that are so far away... countries such as yours?**

Singapore in the world is perceived as an efficient city state which has the highest standards of technological advancement—and it's safe. Security and safety are very important factors. And the rule of law function is very efficient here as well. That's one of the main reasons why Singapore has been a preferred venue for important meetings such as that between President Trump and Supreme Leader Kim. Also every year it holds the Shangri-La Dialogue which is attended by the world's top leaders who consider it very important to be present there.

Regarding ASEAN, there are several meets held here but the most important one is the Summit being held this November. My President has accepted an invitation to participate before moving to attend the APEC Summit in PNG.

As the Chilean ambassador here I would say that ASEAN continues to represent our future as it is a very large market with enormous opportunities. Our economic strategy is planned with this in mind. The 10 ASEAN countries are developing as a market and for the countries located along the coast of the South Pacific there is a great potential for Singapore as well. Singapore is considered the gateway to ASEAN and will continue to be very important for us.

**Which are your favourite places in Singapore?**

I love Singapore. Earlier I was based in Indonesia and used to visit here often. When I came here in 2013 it had transformed completely. Everything was blooming. My children are all grown up now but my wife and I love to go for walks in the Botanic Garden, eat in Chinatown... This place is full of energy and I just love the spirit of this country.



Succession: (from right to left): New Dean HE James S Manley and wife, Maria Eugenia Lecaros Mackenna, at the DCC's July Farewell lunch for HE Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz and wife Mrs Katarzyna Aniela Kosiniak-Kamysz



EVENT

US INDEPENDENCE DAY

# U.S. Embassy Pays Tribute to Great Cities

**T**HE U.S. Embassy in Singapore celebrated the country's 242nd Independence Day amidst a sea of flowers at Gardens By The Bay, with about 1,000 guests who included representatives from the Singapore government, members of the Diplomatic Corps, American citizens and friends of the U.S. The guest list was as diverse as the beautiful gardens surrounding Flower Field Hall with this year's theme "Great American Cities."

One of the highlights included uplifting performances of the American and Singapore national anthems by the world-renowned Philadelphia Boys Choir. To reflect the "Great American Cities" theme, guests enjoyed cuisine from all corners of the U.S., which included bagels and lox, gumbo, pulled pork, tacos, hot dogs, fried Oreos, and much more.

Mdm Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, the Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires welcomed Guest of Honour Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs who was accompanied by two of his parliamentary colleagues: Members of Parliament Ms. Jessica Tan and Mr. Teo Ser Luck (all pictured top right).

In her welcome speech, Mdm Syptak-Ramnath paid tribute to Singapore, saying the occasion was not only to celebrate U.S. history but to also acknowledge the country is stronger as a nation with the island-nation as a partner and friend. She cited the recent U.S.-North Korea summit held here as an example and said, "We all know



*In her welcome speech Mdm Syptak-Ramnath paid tribute to Singapore, saying the occasion was not only to celebrate U.S. history but to also acknowledge the country is stronger as a nation with the island-nation as a partner and friend*

that the choice of a setting, whether for a wedding, an Independence Day celebration, or a historic Summit, is key.

We needed a place which was accessible and secure. We needed a place which showed the prosperity that exists when leaders make the right choices for their people. We needed a place where people from around the world can feel welcomed and respected. And we needed a partner that is committed, not just with words but with actions, to leading the region and the world in the right direction. That's why there was simply no better choice for a venue, for a partner, for success than Singapore."

That's what great cities do around the world. And that's why, long before the Summit was announced, my colleagues and I chose the theme of "Great American Cities" for tonight's celebration. While we live and work in one of the world's smartest cities, we wanted to invite each of you to experience the United States through our own smart cities. Cities that are defined not only by their history, their architecture, and their cuisine, but also by their universities, their innovation, and their entrepreneurship." Her address also paid tribute to American businesses and how they have contributed here and to the world.





## Dr Maliki: Singapore - U.S. Strong Partners with Deep Economic Ties

IN his speech, Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman commented on the strong growth of friendship between both nations over the last 52 years. Apart from politics, the relationship is also reflected in “deep economic linkages and robust security and defence cooperation.” Dr Maliki also cited the recent U.S.-North Korea Summit as an example of the strong and enduring U.S.-Singapore ties. He said Singapore looked forward to welcoming back President Donald Trump this November for the U.S.-ASEAN Summit and the East Asian Summit. Dr Maliki also said ASEAN currently creates more than 500,000 jobs for Americans through trade in goods and services. With ASEAN set on becoming the fourth largest single market in the world after the EU, U.S. and China by 2030, the opportunities for the U.S. in this region will also increase. He added, “As ASEAN Chair this year, Singapore will work to further deepen ASEAN-U.S. relations particularly in our Chairmanship initiatives in the Smart Cities Network and Cyber Security.”

Meanwhile, he described bilateral trade, economic and investments links as good and a strong pillar in their bilateral relations. The U.S. remains Singapore's largest foreign direct investor with \$280 billion. As at end 2015, there were over 4,200 American companies based here contributing to finance, manufacturing and retail trade sectors. The U.S. is also Singapore's top trading partner in services and third largest trading partner in goods. “Notwithstanding our small size, we too have sizeable investment and trades with the U.S. and this continues to grow.” Last October Singapore Airlines signed a U.S.\$13.8 billion deal for Boeing aircraft, and he said, “Not many know that we are the second largest Asian investor in the U.S. with U.S.\$73.6 billion in stock investments in 2016.” The U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement now in its 14th year was America's first with an Asian country. Since then bilateral trade has more than doubled to reach U.S.\$74 billion in 2017. The U.S. currently enjoys a healthy trade surplus with Singapore amounting to U.S.\$20 billion last year. Investments by Singaporean companies in the U.S. together with U.S. exports to Singapore support over 250,000 jobs for Americans.





## USA TRAVEL SPECIAL UTAH



### GO WEST to Salt Lake City *by Jenny Tan*

Go West Summit is a premier travel trade convention that connects the tourism organisations and tour suppliers from the western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming to international and U.S. based receptive tour operators, promoting inbound tourism in the USA

**G**o West Summit is organised by International Tourism Marketing Inc, the Go West Summit was held in Salt Lake City, Utah as the host city this year with an average of more than 800 attendees and 11,000 scheduled meetings.

#### Dynamic Delta

Delta Air Lines, Inc of the United States of America is one of the world's most awarded airlines, with an extensive network of international routes from Atlanta, Delta global headquarters and the world's most traveller airline hub.

One of the largest airline in the world and a founding member of Sky Team Global Alliance, Delta Airlines is a sponsor for Go West Summit, connecting travellers to more than 300 destinations in 60 countries across 6 continents, serving more than 180 million passengers annually.

Fly Delta Airlines to Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America where a kaleidoscope of magnificent national parks, mountain ski hotels and resorts, charming picturesque villages, rich heritage culture, urban landscapes, gourmets treats and greatest snow on earth awaits.

#### Sensational Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City is an urban metropolis with Ski City and Greatest Snow on Earth moniker. Just 30 minutes from downtown, live life elevated in Utah and arrive at snow powdery paradise and indulge in endless skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and bobsled run at 2002 Olympic Winter Games host city.

The Utah State Capitol Building sits majestically on Capitol Hill, offering visitors a spectacular panorama of Wasatch Range, Oquirrh mountains, Salt Lake Valley and downtown city temple street.

Featuring a neoclassical design with Corinthian columns, Utah's state emblem beehives, laurel wreaths and lions, symbolizing unity, victory, success, vitality, pride, strength, authority and protection are etched in the ionic beautiful buildings. Take a complimentary guided tour to learn about Utah's rich heritage, view original artworks, treasured artifacts and



(Top): The State Capital Building in Salt Lake City.  
(Middle): Cosy 5-star comfort at Stein Eriksen Lodge in Deer Valley. (Left): Snow mobiling near Beaver Creek Lodge

historical monuments on displays.

Temple Square in downtown is home to Salt Lake Temple with the iconic Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gothic cathedral gardens and fountains. Visit Family History Library and watch world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir perform at the Tabernacle.

The swanky City Creek Centre mixed development with residences is just adjacent to Temple Square. Take a walk down the flowing man-made creek, Bellagio inspired fire and water fountain, shop at anchor tenants like Nordstorm, Macy's and Apple Stores together with more than 100 brands and 11 restaurants for gourmet wine and dine.

#### Snowy Mountains

No visit to Utah will be complete without stopping by the powdery snowy ski resorts, majestic mountains with charming villages and magnificent national parks. Spot wild bison and roaming elk against alpine paradise, taste decadent farm to table meals and brews in the sunny chilly weather with apres ski activities for an unforgettable vacation.

Just 45 minutes from Salt Lake City Airport, elevate and land on the legendary ski basins at Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude with beginners, intermediate





*Delta Air Lines, Inc of the United States of America is one of the world's most awarded airlines*

and challenging terrains, amazing snow and Wasatch mountain views.

Ski-in or ski-out at Park City Mountain Village with direct ski lift access to the town's historic Main Street and popular Canyon Village, from North America's largest ski resort and Olympic Winter games site. Nestled in the Wasatch Mountains, the deep powder of Jupiter and McConkey's bowls and dramatic explorable terrains at Park City is a magnet for celebrities as it is the playground for the famous, rich and wannabe as THE place to be seen.

For VIP outlet shopping experience, visit Traverse Mountain outlets for an extensive range of American and International brands at massive discounts or Tanger outlet Park City in between ski sessions.

Stay at the ultra luxurious Stein Eriksen lodge in Deer Valley, voted as the world's best ski hotel or live the unforgettable at the renowned Walford Astoria Hotel in Park City.

Continue to Ogden for iFly Utah, dine at the historic 25th street and stop by the rail museum for history insights before skiing stopovers at Snowbasin, Powder Mountain, and Wolf Mountain.

### Unforgettable Utah

Catch glimpses of the wild bison by the icy meadows at American West Heritage Centre and experience snowmobiling at Beaver Creek Lodge in Logan. Ride on a horse carriage wagon to see roaming Elks in their morning walks at Hardware Ranch WMA in Cache Valley and taste the best cheese on earth.

Unearth the rugged natural beauty of Utah and visit the Greatest five of America West National Parks at Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reefs, Canyonlands and Arches.

### Beautiful Bryce

Beauty comes in the form of snow capped pink gradient crimson rock intricate metropolis of hoodoos, pinnacles and spires valleys amidst sandstone canyons geology in the Bryce Canyon winter wonderland. Immerse in the grandeur and breath taking splendour on Paunsaugunt Plateau, explore the remarkable Navajo loop, hike pass Silent City to Fairyland Loop and Sunset point for the most unimaginable inspiring instagramable moments.

### Zoning Zion

The Zion National Park is an idyllic location to escape to and relax the inner soul

in you. Treading pass jewelled Emerald pools with cascading waterfalls, red rock monoliths and desert oases, hike up to Observation point for mesmerizing riding views of white cliffs and Echo canyon. Breathe in the crisp mountain air before taking flight to Angels Landing by scaling high cliffs with only chain bolt rocks for the ultimate jaw-dropping birds eye view, towering sea cliffs and fascinating stellar scenery.

### Kaleidoscope Kanab

After the road trips and hiking expeditions from Kanab gateway to Grand Canyon, Buckskin Gulch and Lake Powell, gaze in the wintry night under the starry sky to see the magnificent milky way with up to 14,000 stars, constellations and planets in the magically unspoilt Kanab vast valleys as your final stop before heading for flight back home the next day.

Go West Summit 2019 will be held in Boise, Idaho, land of Spuddy Buddy from February 25 to 28. Visit [GoWestSummit.com](http://GoWestSummit.com) for updates.



*Deers seen from the Zion Lodge with the Zion National Park in the background*



*Bryce Canyon*



*Park City Snow*



*Elks at Hardware Ranch WMA in Cache Valley*

*Photography note: All photos taken using Canon 7D Mark II with 18-135mm kit lens, courtesy of Canon Singapore.*



## COMMUNIQUE

### Uzbek Dancers Charm NATAS Visitors



Singapore's premier holiday exhibition for consumers, NATAS Holidays 2018 Tourism Fair, had a treat in store for visitors - a showcase of traditional Uzbekistan dancing performances. The performances raised enormous interest and curiosity amongst the throngs of potential tourists who visited the Uzbekistan National Booth where the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Singapore, jointly with representatives of the State Tourism Committee and Tashkent City Municipality, provided information and

presentations on the country's tourism potential.

The country is famous for its historical cities of Samarqand, Bukhara and Khiva – the Pearls of the Great Silk Road as well as the carefully preserved ancient monuments of World Heritage - now under the protection of UNESCO. Other great draws for Singaporeans are its gastronomic tours and fabulous shopping at its East Bazaar's where handicraft workshops produce high quality silk and wool carpets, silk garments, suzanes, wooden and ceramic kitchen utensils.

According to Uzbekistan's Ambassador in Singapore, HE Kakhramon Shakirov (pictured here top right), for many visitors not familiar with the country's attractions visiting the Uzbekistan National booth is quite an eye opener as they discovered information about new destinations, a vast selection of travel choices in many areas for tourism explorations, including mountains, lakes, deserts and the promise of many gastronomic tourism adventures.



### Saudi Arabia Ramadhan Iftar Banquet



THE Kingdom of Saudi Arabia invited members of the diplomatic corp, representatives from the government and leading civic and business leaders to its annual Ramadhan Iftar Banquet held on 24th May 2018 at the Ritz-Carlton Millenia Grand Ballroom. The Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Singapore HE Mr Saad Saleh AlSaleh welcomed Guest of Honour HE Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs at the Grand Ballroom which was set up for a dinner buffet and prayer section. Other dignitaries included Senior Minister of State Mr Maliki Osman and former Minister for Communications and Information, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim and CEO of Mendaki, Abdul Razak Hassan Maricar.



(Above left photo): The Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Singapore HE Mr Saad Saleh Al-Saleh (centre) with Guest of Honour HE Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad (far left), Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs and CEO of Mendaki, Mr Abdul Razak Hassan Maricar. (Above right photo): The Saudi Ambassador with guests from the Middle East and Africa including Egyptian Ambassador HE Mohamed Abulkheir (2nd from right)



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