

IN Diplomacy

MISSION TO COMMUNICATE

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Featuring

**Singapore-Indonesia
Leaders' Retreat**

**EU-Singapore Free
Trade Agreement**

**Interview with
EU Ambassador
to Singapore
Barbara Plinkert**





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Photo: Singapore MCI

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DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS SINGAPORE

Welcome New Ambassadors

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

Presentation of Credentials 27 September 2018



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Peru
His Excellency Carlos Raul Vásquez Corrales*



*The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden
His Excellency Eric Niclas Kvarnström*



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia
His Excellency Normans Penke*

Why Diplomacy Matters
Singapore is home to 70 resident foreign High Commissions and Embassies, 43 Consular Posts and 11 International Organisations. They act as a conduit between Singapore and their respective countries. Diplomatic missions are headed by influential newsmakers who open doors for business, trade, investment, education, the arts and culture. IN Diplomacy has a mission to communicate and be a bridge between the diplomatic community and Singaporeans.

Photos courtesy of Singapore Ministry of Culture and Information

About the Presentation of the Letter of Credence

It is a formal diplomatic letter that appoints a diplomat as ambassador or high commissioner to another sovereign state. Commonly known as diplomatic credentials, the letter is addressed from one head of state to another, asking him to give credence to whatever the ambassador / high commissioner may say on his country's behalf. The letter is presented personally by the ambassador to the receiving head of state in a formal ceremony, marking the beginning of the ambassadorship.



Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat



President Jokowi co-chairs with Singapore for the ASEAN Leaders' Gathering (Photo: PresidentRI.go.id)

PRIME Minister Lee Hsien Loong met Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Bali, Indonesia, on 11 October 2018 for the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat. This was Prime Minister Lee's third Leaders' Retreat with President Joko Widodo. During the Retreat, the Leaders reaffirmed the excellent state of relations between Singapore and Indonesia, and agreed to continue building on this strong foundation of trust and mutually-beneficial cooperation.

The Leaders welcomed the robust and expanding economic ties between the two countries. Singapore has been Indonesia's largest foreign investor since 2014, with US\$8.4 billion in realised investments in 2017. The Leaders witnessed the signing of the Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments (Bilateral Investment Treaty) between Singapore and Indonesia and agreed on the importance of expediting discussions to update the bilateral Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement. Taken together, these Agreements will boost investor confidence and potentially increase two-way trade and investment flows.

The Leaders discussed progress on key bilateral investment projects including the Kendal Industrial Park (KIP) in Central Java. They welcomed the opening of a polytechnic in the KIP to up-skill the local workforce, and agreed to continue collaboration to enhance the KIP as an investment destination. In addition, the Leaders noted that the development of the Nongsa Digital Park (NDP) will help strengthen Batam's role as a "digital bridge" between Singapore and other Indonesian cities. The NDP, which was launched in March 2018, now houses 35 tech companies operating in the digital sector.

Prime Minister Lee and President Joko Widodo also discussed strengthening financial cooperation and agreed that the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Bank Indonesia would work on a bilateral financial arrangement that supports monetary and financial stability. This will be a USD 10 billion package, comprising bilateral local currency swap and USD repurchase agreements. The two central banks will finalise and announce the details soon.

Minister Sam Tan Visits Iceland

MINISTER of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development Sam Tan visited Reykjavik, Iceland, from 18th to 21 October and delivered a statement at the opening session of the 6th Arctic Circle Assembly (ACA). Over 2000 participants from around 60 countries attended the ACA this year. MOS Tan updated the audience on how Singapore has contributed to the work of the Arctic Council in the areas of oceans and sustainability. Singapore has also raised awareness about the importance of the Arctic and the impact of developments there to Southeast Asia.

On the sidelines of the ACA, MOS Tan met several key Arctic interlocutors including Chairman of the ACA and former President of Iceland Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, and representatives from the Arctic Council Working Groups and indigenous people. Minister Sam Tan also was invited to deliver an opening statement at the 6th Arctic Circle Assembly.



Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development Sam Tan with Icelandic President Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson. (Photo: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

PM Lee's Visit to Brussels for 12th ASEM & EUSFTA Signing



Photo: Singapore MCI

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited Brussels, Belgium for the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit from 18-19 October 2018 where he spoke on "Reinforcing the Multilateral System: Advancing the ASEM Partnership on Global Issues". He also signed the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement with President of the European Council Donald Tusk, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Presidency of the Council of the European Union Sebastian Kurz and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker; witnessed the signing of the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and co-chaired an ASEAN-EU Leaders Meeting (AELM). (Full report on page 6).

Visit at the 13th CPAR in Finland

MOS Sam Tan's visit to the Arctic Circle Conference was preceded by an earlier one to Inari, Finland to attend the 13th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR) from 16 to 19 September.

MOS Tan briefed the Conference on Singapore's work in support of the Arctic Council, including the continued engagement of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, the Arctic indigenous peoples, and efforts to promote awareness about the Arctic in Singapore and the region. With climate change affecting the Arctic more rapidly and severely, MOS Tan reiterated Singapore's commitment to achieving its goals under the Paris Agreement, including through the 2018 Year of Climate Action programme. The intervention points are appended. MOS Tan met fellow Parliamentarians, as well as the Presidents of the Saami Parliaments of Norway, Sweden and Finland on the sidelines of the Conference.



MOS Sam Tan with Under Sec. of State for External Economic Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Markku Keinänen (Photo source: MFA)



(Photo: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Dr Balakrishnan at 73rd UNGA

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan attended the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from 23 to 29 September 2018.

Minister Balakrishnan delivered Singapore's statement at the General Debate of the UNGA. Amongst the events he attended was the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit as well as the 2nd One Planet Summit and a United States High Level event on a Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem.

Minister Balakrishnan also hosted the 11th Global Governance Group (3G) Ministerial Meeting, chaired the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the UN Secretary General and President of the 73rd UNGA; he also attended other ASEAN-related meetings. Minister Balakrishnan also had a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts.

Full report online @ www.indiplomacy.com

Russia-Singapore Inter-Governmental Commission

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, and Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Maxim Akimov, (pictured right) co-chaired the Ninth Session of the High-Level Russia-Singapore Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC9) in Singapore on 19 September 2018.

DPM Tharman and DPM Akimov noted that 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and Singapore. They reaffirmed the good and growing ties between the two countries, and the importance of the

IGC in serving as a platform to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly trade, investment and business ties. The DPMs agreed that both sides should keep up the momentum of cooperation achieved in recent years, and identified new areas of cooperation to broaden and deepen the relationship. In this regard, they welcomed expanding new collaborations in innovation, transport and logistics and education and skills training.

The first thing the DPMs did was to reaffirm Singapore and Russia's strong support for the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and welcomed



the progress made since the launch of FTA negotiations in 2017. Both sides are committed to working together on a bilateral Services & Investment Agreement, as part of the EAEU-Singapore FTA.

Full report online @ www.indiplomacy.com

DPM Teo Chee Hean's Visit to Malaysia



Photo: Singapore MCI

Signing and exchange of legal documents to vary the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail Bilateral Agreement by Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Khaw Boon Wan and Minister of Economic Affairs of Malaysia Dato' Seri Azmin Ali

DEPUTY Prime Minister (DPM) and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean was on a working visit to Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, and Kota Kinabalu from 4 to 9 September 2018. DPM Teo was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Sim Ann, and Chairperson of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Home Affairs and Law, Christopher De Souza.

DPM Teo called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail in Putrajaya during his visit. They reaffirmed the warm and mutually beneficial relations between Singapore and Malaysia. Both Deputy Prime Ministers also agreed that both countries should continue to work closely together across a wide range of areas, including that of strengthening social cohesion, enhancing people-to-people ties, and promoting security cooperation.

Following the call, Prime Minister

Mahathir, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and DPM Teo jointly witnessed the signing and exchange of legal documents to vary the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR) Bilateral Agreement by Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Khaw Boon Wan and Minister of Economic Affairs of Malaysia Dato' Seri Azmin Ali. Both countries agreed to suspend the construction of the HSR Project for a period up to 31 May 2020, and for Malaysia to bear the agreed costs in suspending the project. Malaysia will also bear the agreed costs incurred by Singapore in fulfilling the HSR Bilateral Agreement if Malaysia does not proceed with the HSR Project by 31 May 2020. During the suspension period, Singapore and Malaysia will continue to have discussions on the best way forward for the HSR Project with the aim of reducing costs.

DPM Teo had tea with Minister of Works of Malaysia Baru Bian and Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change of Malaysia Yeo Bee Yin. DPM Teo and the Ministers exchanged ideas on how both countries could work with and learn from each other to address common challenges. DPM Teo also met senior Malaysian business leaders and media personalities.

Full report online @ www.indiplomacy.com

EU-Singapore FTA Will Open More Doors...



After eight years, Singapore and the EU finalise the EUSFTA. Longstanding economic partners, ASEAN and the EU, agreed to step up regional and international cooperation, not just on trade and economic issues, but on security matters as well. PM Lee also stated, “We are also exploring resuming negotiations for an ASEAN-EU FTA. The EUSFTA signed can be a pathfinder to this”

PM Lee and other EU leaders look on as Dr Vivian Balakrishnan sign the European Union-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA) together with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini. The Agreement will complement the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and strengthen cooperation between both sides in many other areas like environment, science and R&D and transport. (Photo: MCI)

On Friday 19 October 2018, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong signed, together with his counterparts from the European Union (EU), President of the European Council Donald Tusk and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), the Investment Protection Agreement (IPA), as well as the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The ceremony took place in Brussels in the margins of the Asia Europe Meeting.

The signing was one of the highlight of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's visit to Brussels, Belgium for the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit from 18 to 19 October 2018.

According to a release by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PM Lee spoke first at the second Plenary Session on “Reinforcing the Multilateral System: Advancing the ASEM Partnership on Global Issues”. PM Lee highlighted the importance of sustaining a strong multilateral framework which all countries, big or small, would benefit from. PM Lee also spoke at the Retreat session on cybersecurity where he emphasized the importance of rules and norms in cyberspace which is a global commons.

On the sidelines of the ASEM Summit, PM Lee signed the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement with President of the European Council Donald Tusk, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Presidency of the Council of the European Union Sebastian Kurz and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker. PM Lee also witnessed the signing of the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and High Representative for Foreign and



ASEM group photo - its 53 Asian and European partners represent 65% of the world's GDP. (Photo: MCI / Chwee)

Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement between Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations and Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Austria, Presidency of the Council of the European Union Nikolaus Marschik and EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström. Once ratified, the agreements will enhance Singapore and the EU's bilateral relations, including trade and investment links.

PM Lee also co-chaired an ASEAN-EU Leaders Meeting (AELM). Singapore is the current ASEAN Chair as well as coordinator for ASEAN-EU dialogue relations. The AELM reaffirmed the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between ASEAN and the EU, discussed regional and international developments of mutual concern, and reiterated a shared interest in upholding multilateralism and the international

trading system. Both sides agreed to further strengthen ASEAN-EU cooperation across all areas and on shared global challenges, in order to contribute to efforts to maintain regional peace and prosperity.

PM Lee also met on the sidelines with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, United Kingdom PM Theresa May, Portuguese PM Antonio Costa, Finnish PM Juha Sipilä, Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki, Croatian PM Andrej Plenković and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe.

ABOUT ASEM

ASEM was established in 1996 and was conceived by then-PM Goh Chok Tong as a platform to strengthen links between Asia and Europe. Today, it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries who together make up 65% of the world's GDP.



INTERVIEW **HE BARBARA PLINKERT**

As all eyes were on the recently signed, European Union - Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), we spoke to Ambassador Barbara Plinkert, the EU Ambassador to Singapore about her views on how this agreement would impact, cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN and EU

MANY eyes are on the just concluded FTA between the European Union and Singapore, your views?

BP: The FTA, together with the IPA, constitutes an important milestone in our already strong and established trade and economic relations. It is the first trade agreement signed between the EU and an ASEAN country and will serve as a reference point for future trade agreements negotiated by the EU in the region. Singapore is the first trading partner of the EU in the ASEAN with trade in goods and services expanding on a yearly basis.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) renews our commitment to reinforce EU-Singapore ties. The PCA reflects our commitment to reinforce ties between the EU and Singapore and will give the relationship a stronger foundation, which is wider, up to date and more comprehensive. Based on shared principles and values supporting multilateralism, it helps to develop broad-based and mutually-beneficial cooperation in fields such as transport, security, environment and climate change, science and technology. It will improve people-to-people links by facilitating mobility of students and scholars and opens wider avenues to promote cultural exchanges and diversity.

How do you think the FTA will open new opportunities for EU and ASEAN in the future?

BP: It will indeed provide new opportunities for closer EU-ASEAN cooperation. The FTA will reinforce Singapore's position as a gateway for European business to the ASEAN market while at the same time creating new opportunities for Singaporean companies in Europe. The EUSFTA is also a testament of the commitment of the EU and Singapore to free trade and a rules based order. As the first FTA with an ASEAN country, it will provide building blocks for a future EU-ASEAN Trade Agreement. As our economic interconnectivity is growing, the EU and Singapore are standing up for open and fair trade to shape the global trading system.

Recently a 'Study in Europe 2018' higher education fair was held in Singapore and it received excellent visibility, could you share some statistics on Singapore students studying in Europe and why Singapore students should consider EU?

BP: With 7,500 Singaporeans enrolled in European universities, Europe is on the radar for Singaporeans seeking higher education options. *Study in Europe* is one of our key public diplomacy programmes in Singapore – an expression of growing people-to-people links between the EU and Singapore. This year we closed the fair with an all-time high of 2,000 visitors and we had the strongest participation by 14 European countries. Significantly, with Singapore just having assumed the task of coordinating ASEAN-EU relations on behalf of ASEAN for the next three years, we had also an ASEAN element for the first time in the fair. 2018 marks the fourth year of the ASEAN-EU project Supporting Higher Education in the ASEAN Region or SHARE. Funded by the EU with EUR 10 million, SHARE has already provided 400 scholarships for ASEAN students to study in other ASEAN countries, replicating the Erasmus+ intra-EU scholarship scheme.



"As the first FTA with an ASEAN country, it will provide building blocks for a future EU-ASEAN Trade Agreement. As our economic interconnectivity is growing, the EU and Singapore are standing up for open and fair trade to shape the global trading system"

What are your views on preserving the multilateral world order?

How can EU and Singapore work together for further engagements in business, trade and people to people?

BP: With rising protectionism, the world order and the multilateral system as we know it is being challenged. It is therefore even more important for likeminded partners to work together in support of a global rules based order and free and fair trade. The three significant Agreements just signed between Singapore and the EU reflect our commitment and openness to these principles. The FTA and IPA will open our markets for goods, services, procurement and investment. The PCA will provide a legal structure and framework for deeper cooperation, fostering people-to-people links and stronger connectivity between the EU and Singapore.

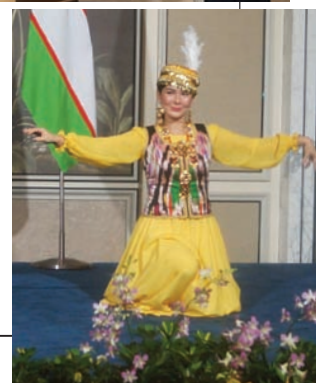
What are the major areas of cooperation between EU and Singapore and what are the potential growth areas?

BP: Beyond trade and investment, which constitute the backbone of our relations, we are engaging in very fruitful cooperation in a range of areas that are all covered by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. **But let me mention particularly two areas where we see the potential of further deepening our ties: security and environment.** On security, the EU has advanced its internal capacity as a security actor in recent years which has also translated into strengthening collaboration with external partners. Non-traditional security issues, such as counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and hybrid threats, as well as environmental challenges and climate change are all issues that we face on a global scale and that require joint solutions. As likeminded partners, we are expanding our cooperation with Singapore on these topics.

IN Diplomacy PHOTO ALBUM

27th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan 4th September 2018

Shangri-la Hotel, Singapore



196th Year of the Independence of Brazil Reception 8th September 2018

The Clifford Pier, The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore



208th Anniversary of Mexico's Independence

13th September 2018

Kidzania Singapore



88th Anniversary of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Reception

24th September 2018

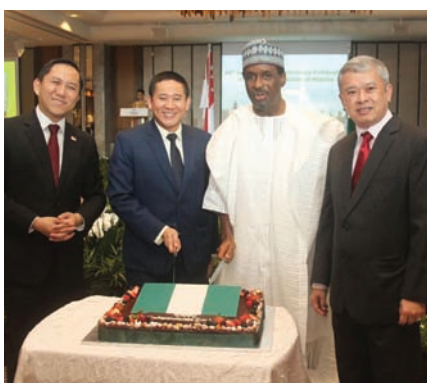
The Grand Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel



58th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Nigeria

12th October 2018

Grand Ballroom, Hilton Hotel and Resorts



39th Independence Day of St Vincent and the Grenadines

22nd October 2018

Mezza9, Grand Hyatt Hotel



62nd Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution 24th October 2018

Tanglin Club



Drop us a line....

...IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT you think might interest the readers of IN Diplomacy contact us with the details for inclusion in the next issue!

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Celebrating Gandhi's 150th Anniversary

On 2nd October, the High Commission of India held special celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi in Singapore

As India's High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf pointed out that Mahatma Gandhi belongs to all of humanity and not just to India. His message, his mission, and his life are both timeless and universal. He said this at a special ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Suntec Convention Centre on the evening of 2 October 2018.

150 years after his birth, the great Mahatma Gandhi's influence still inspires many individuals and leaders. As the champion of a peaceful struggle for freedom and for humanity, equality, justice and non-violence he is recognised across the world.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi spent a total of five years in prison and was thrown in jail six times in South Africa and seven times in India. His most enduring legacy was, of course, the fight for and attainment of freedom and independence of India. His philosophy strongly inspired the human rights movement of the 20th century.

Despite his noble aspirations, he led a life of



(Top): Gandhi's story on the world's largest HD digital video wall at Suntec City. (Above, standing left): HE Jawed Ashraf officiated at the launch. (Below): Stills from the music video of Gandhi's favourite bhajan Vaishnav Jan To by singers from 124 countries was also screened

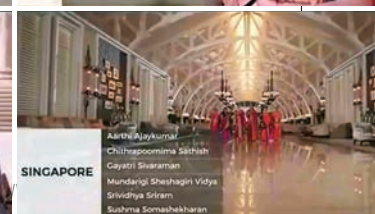
austerity, tolerance, courage and struggle. A person who stood up for what he believed in and who lived as he preached. Gandhi taught us: "In a gentle way, you can shake the world". Many leaders believe his message of peaceful activism is still sorely needed today.

India has launched a two-year long global celebration on his birthday this year that saw Indian missions and embassies in 124 countries organise activities to commemorate

the event. In Singapore, Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations were held with full enthusiasm where a short video on Mahatma Gandhi "Relevance of Bapu's Message in the Contemporary World" was projected on the mega LCD digital wall at the Suntec Convention Centre. Another highlight was the music video presentation of Gandhi's favourite bhajan (devotional song) titled *Vaishnav Jan To* by singers from 124 countries! A commemorative stamp was also launched to mark the celebrations.

The High Commissioner continued: "He not only led an ancient civilisation to freedom from colonisation, he also perfected the tool of non-violence and peaceful resistance. Significantly, he inspired so many nations across Asia and Africa who began to believe that they could also fight for freedom." He also added that, "It is important to take Gandhiji's message to the youth. His relevance will come when the youth begin to see him as their icon, their inspiration."

In 2007, on his birthday on 2nd October, the United Nations declared it the International Day of Non-Violence that is now celebrated around the world.



Travel in 2018: New Impetus and Places

Singapore has played host to one of the most important travel industry shows in the world. - ITB Asia 2018. This year was a record-breaking one with new countries participating boasting exciting fresh travel destinations



Tiina Törmänen, Visit Finland

Thomas Kast, Visit Finland

Vastavalo / Marko Junttila, Visit Finland

(Above and insets): Winter in Finland - one of the new and growing sectors attracting travellers from around the world. International travel to Finland broke all records last year - a total of 6.6 million nights

THIS year's ITB Asia 2018 finished on a high note with a record-breaking numbers of exhibitors (over 1,000) and buyers (again over 1,000). According to the organisers a staggering 25,000 business appointments were booked with total visitorship figures increasing by almost 10% coming from 127 countries.

It was also a wonderful showcase of the most active and attractive destinations being promoted and waiting in store for travellers in the coming year. Of special note is the roster of new exhibitors. The list included **Abu Dhabi, Botswana, Canton Sarajevo, Croatia, Fukuoka, Kansai, Mauritius, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Rovaniemi, Slovakia and Ukraine** among many others.

This year's 3-day conference and exhibition was under the overarching theme of 'Travel Reimagined'. Katrina Leung, Managing Director of Messe Berlin (Singapore), the organiser of ITB Asia, also said, "As we look forward to next year's ITB Asia, we continue to build and strengthen our efforts in maintaining ITB Asia as the premier event of the year and the go-to hub for remarkable travel content and inspiring experiences." ITB Asia sees continued strong support from destinations in the ASEAN region as well as Abu Dhabi, Turkey and Jordan in the Middle East and exhibitors such as Austria and Lufthansa City Center amongst others. Eastern European exhibitors such as Hungary and Poland have also confirmed their stand bookings for the 2019 show.



(Above): The majestic Abu Dhabi's Emirates Palace Hotel.
(Source: Wikimedia Commons / Валерий Дед)

About ITB Asia 2018

Now in its eleventh year, ITB Asia 2018 took place at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, from 17 - 19 October 2018. It is organised by Messe Berlin (Singapore) Pte Ltd and supported by the Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau. The annual three-day B2B trade show and convention featured hundreds of exhibiting companies from the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, covering not only the leisure market, but also corporate and MICE travel. Exhibitors come from every sector of the industry, including destinations, airlines and airports, hotels and resorts, theme parks and attractions, inbound tour operators, inbound destination management companies, cruise lines, spas, venues, other meeting facilities and travel technology companies.



Abu Dhabi booth



Turkey booth

Of special note is the roster of new exhibitors... the list included Abu Dhabi, Botswana, Canton Sarajevo, Croatia, Fukuoka, Kansai, Mauritius, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Rovaniemi, Slovakia and Ukraine among many others.

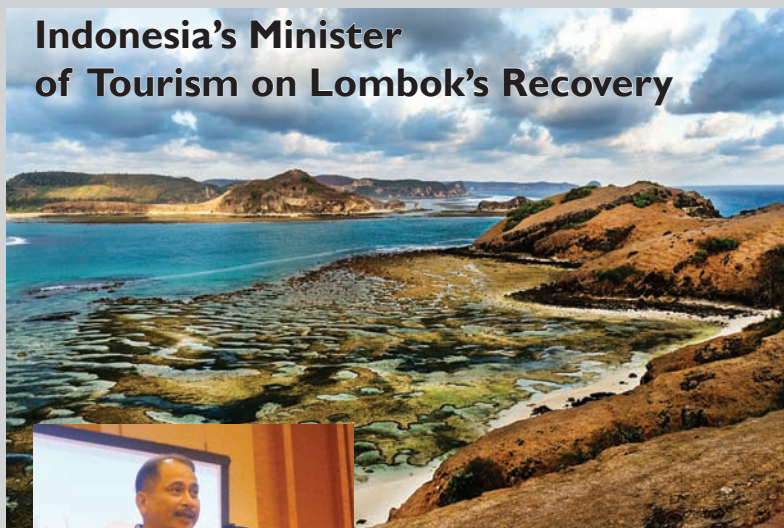


(Above): Stunning complex of the Teotihuacan's Pyramid of the Sun in Mexico



(Above): Sarawak's Niah Caves and the State's new tourism board logo launched at Singapore's ITB Asia 2018.

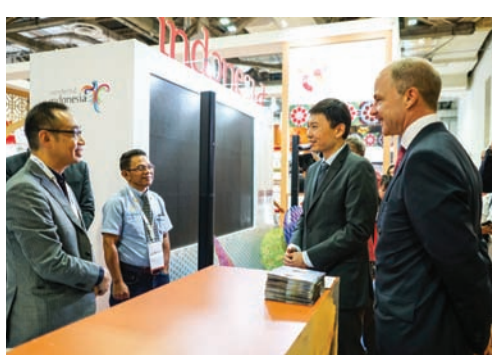
Indonesia's Minister of Tourism on Lombok's Recovery



(Left): Indonesia's Minister of Tourism HE Arief Yahya at ITB Asia 2018.
(Above): Mandalika in Lombok's southern part unaffected
(Photo courtesy of The 10 New Bali)

AN earthquake and series of aftershocks had hit the island of Lombok which is in the NTB (Nusa Tenggara Barat or West Nusa Tenggara) province in July. Indonesia's Minister of Tourism, HE Arief Yahya was at ITB 2018 Singapore to address members of the world travel trade at the NTB Business Meeting on 18th October 2018 and gave a clearer picture in the aftermath of the earthquake to mitigate the impact on tourism arrivals. Also at the Meeting was the Ambassador of Indonesia in Singapore HE Ngurah Swajaya.

The Minister first put on record his thanks to all stakeholders for the assistance extended after the disaster. He also wanted to stress that a large part of the island of Lombok was not affected by the earthquake especially in the southern part of the island, in areas such as Mandalika, Sekotong, Tete Bahu and Mataram. Similarly for development work on Mandalika - which is one of the 10 New Balis identified by the Indonesian Government with the potential to be as successful as Bali - is still ongoing. To further illustrate his point that the surrounding areas and islands are safe - the recent IMF-World Bank Group meeting in Bali had been completed without any problems. The areas affected by the earthquake are now recovering and Indonesia's participation in Singapore's ITB Asia goes to supporting the recovery of Lombok tourism. He hoped the Business Meeting will go a long way towards providing the latest updates on the areas' recovery prospects and enhance cooperation with global tourism stakeholders.



Indonesia booth



Thailand booth



Singapore booth

Polish Ship Dar Młodzieży Visits Singapore

BETWEEN October 9-12th 2018, the Polish sail ship whose name in English means 'Gift of Youth' visited Singapore as a part of a trip around the world, aiming to commemorate the 100th anniversary of regained independence by Poland.



Welcome for the New Peruvian Ambassador



THE Peruvian Embassy organised a welcome reception for its new Ambassador HE Carlos Raul Vásquez Corrales (pictured above second from right) to meet Singapore's diplomatic and consular corps, the Peruvian community, business and civic leaders at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel.



Diplomats Visit Eco-Friendly 'Our Tampines Hub'

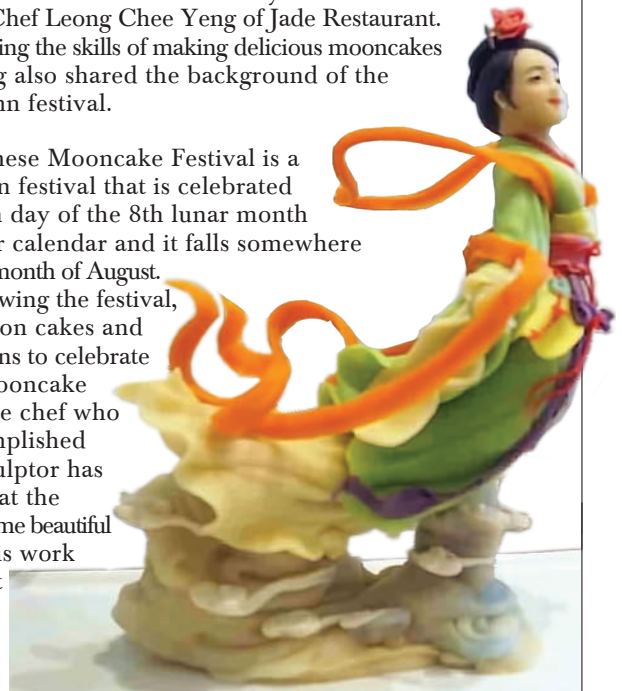
SINGAPORE'S Ministry of Environment and Water Resources with the civic-community centre Our Tampines Hub hosted members of the Diplomatic Corps to the Hub on 22nd September 2018 to learn more about the development's eco-sustainability infrastructure and green efforts.

Fullerton - IN Diplomacy Bring Joys of Mooncake Making to Diplomatic Spouses



AS a link between diplomats and Singaporeans, IN Diplomacy in collaboration with Fullerton Hotel organised a mooncake making workshop for the diplomatic spouses on 31st of August 2018. The session was led by renowned Executive Chef Leong Chee Yeng of Jade Restaurant. While teaching the skills of making delicious mooncakes Chef Leong also shared the background of the Mid-Autumn festival.

The Chinese Mooncake Festival is a mid autumn festival that is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month of the lunar calendar and it falls somewhere around the month of August. Those following the festival, will eat moon cakes and carry lanterns to celebrate Chinese mooncake festival. The chef who is an accomplished ceramic sculptor has on display at the restaurant some beautiful pieces of his work and food art figurines.



Finnish Film Festival

THE second annual edition of the Finnish Film Festival ran from 11 to 21 October 2018 and featured the theme "Kaurismäki" retrospective. Aki Kaurismäki is probably Finland's best known director today and is well loved in and outside of Europe. The Festival featured 14 feature films and was held at The Projector.

*Au Revoir!***DCC Farewell Reception**

DIPLOMATIC Consular Corps had a farewell reception for the Costa Rica and Sri Lanka heads of missions Ambassador Iris Manzanares Murillo (pictured far right) and High Commissioner Nimal Weeraratne respectively on 30th October 2018. High Commissioner Nirmal Weeraratne said of his posting here that, "It has been a rewarding experience to be in this dynamic island state. For a diplomat, Singapore gives great opportunities to work and engage in both bilateral and multilateral matters. It has been a very fulfilling term, we will miss the many friends we have made and are taking with us excellent memories."



IN Diplomacy Annual Invitation to Participate

Greetings! It's time again to submit materials for the next edition of **IN Diplomacy Annual**. Last year's annual edition was very well received and we look forward to your participation this year with your mission's Bilateral Activities report card and this year's theme: **Top Three Products from Your Country***

*Top three products of your country can also include those products already available in the Singapore market, or most favoured/popular from your country or wish to introduce here. Word limit: 350 words and 3 photos

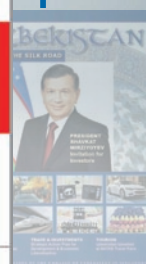
Deadline: 30th November 2018.

Should you have any questions contact us at

Tel: (65) 6735 2972

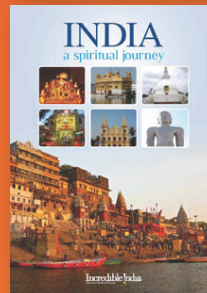
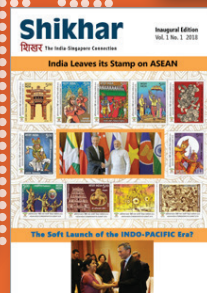
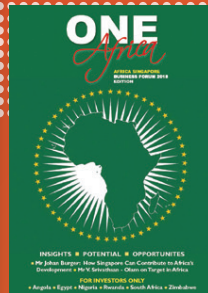
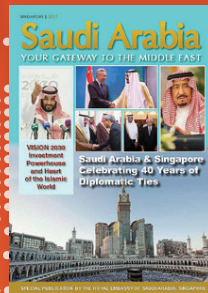
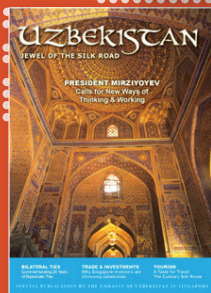
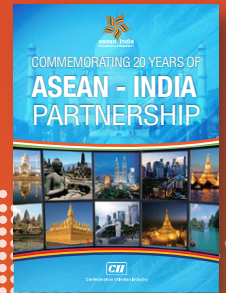
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