



**STEFANUS
WIDJAJA**

Kasih Tuhan
yang Nyata

> 08



**MARI ELKA
PANGESTU**

Tourism in
Indonesia

> 21

**GERRY
ANGGACIPTA**

From Singapore
with Love

> 68



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The diamonds upon white gold looks as pure as snow and these sparklers from Goldheart Jewelry will no doubt bestow a touch of majestic yet modern sophistication to her ensemble. Nothing quite captures the spark of Christmas except this stunning regal collection. They are available for viewing at Goldheart Jewel Galleria, ION Orchard (B2-65).

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The overarching objective of the **EXCELERATE V2** Program is the integration or re-integration of each child into a typical preschool environment with as much independence as possible.



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MESSAGES

- 06 Editor's Note
- 08 Kasih Tuhan yang Nyata

COVER STORY

- I0 Christmas Celebrations in Singapore
- I2 Christmas by the River
- I6 Gifts for the Family

FEATURE

- I8 ISAC 2013: Generasi Muda Indonesia Harus Siap Ubah Dunia
- I9 Eksotisme Indonesia Dipamerkan di Singapura

INTERVIEW

- 20 Rusmin Widjaja: Entrepreneur with a Cause

OPINION

- 21 Why Tourism in Indonesia Will Increase
- 22 Bringing out the Spirit in the Community

LIFE

- 24 Building Homes, Building Lives

ARTS & CULTURE

- 25 Bandung Artists at Equator Art Projects

EVENTS

- 26 Indonesian Events in Singapore
 - Panggung Gembira 2013

- Mid Autumn Angklung
- Habibie dan Ainun Tayang di Universitas Nasional Singapura
- 5 cm Movie Receives Enthusiastic Reception
- Perayaan Idul Adha di Masjid Istiqamah
- HUT Ke-68 Tentara Nasional Indonesia
- Charity Painting at Paragon Shopping Centre
- Safety & Security Awareness Workshop
- ASEAN Gala Night 2013
- Discovering A Treasure from the East

OPENING DOORS

- 32 Mundhi Hastuti: Upgrading for a Better Future

HOROSCOPE

- 34 Menyambut 2014

FASHION

- 36 Farah Quinn Opens Celine Boutique at DFS
- 37 Mother en Vogue
- 38 Swarovski's Crystal Clear Choices

BEAUTY

- 39 Benefits of Coconut Oil on Skin
- 40 Must Have Make Up: Face Cream Moisturisers
- 41 Laneige Launches Trouble Relief Line
- 42 Sweet Christmas

HEALTH

- 43 Egg Nutrition
- 44 Examining Eastern Healing Techniques

EDUCATION

- 45 Accelerated Learning for Special Needs Pre-school Children
- 46 Thinking Out of the Box

ELECTRONICS

- 47 Where to Buy Consumer Electronics?

TRAVEL

- 48 Short Breaks Ombak Villa Langkawi
- 50 Langkawi Top Inland Attractions
- 51 Where the Kampong Life Lives On in Singapore
- 55 World Travel Awards 2013: The Best of Indonesia
- 55 A Chance to Win a \$1 Million

EXPAT TIPS

- 56 New Hotels to Try Out

DIRECTORY

- 60 Essential Phone Numbers

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- 62 Sahara Riverside: Oasis for Persian & Mediterranean Fare
- 64 Food Recipe: Nasi Tumpeng, Serabi Bandung, Galantin, Gingerbread Cookies, Malai Kabab, Dum Truffle Briyani

FEEDBACK

- 67 From Singapore with Love



December – Time to Care, Share and Celebrate!

Celebrations and milestones are just some of the little things that make life special. During this issue, Pastor Stefanus Widjaja spoke of Christmas as the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus and reaffirm what is important to us. Celebrated worldwide as the “Season of Giving”, Christmas has a universal appeal because of its heart-warming message of peace for all mankind.



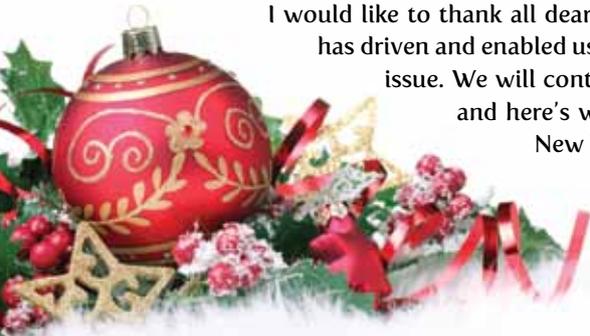
In this issue, we build on this message of love and peace as something that can be shared by all. In our gift section, we focus on the most special people in our lives – our family. Turn to our festive celebration guide and don’t pass up the chance to visit Singapore’s three famous quays: Boat Quay, Clarke Quay and Robertson Quay.

Christmas is a great time for all of us to take a break from work and holiday travel is an excellent way to broaden our minds and recharge our spiritual batteries. For the first time, in the true ASEAN spirit, we have widened our range of travel attractions to include Malaysia. This issue features the beautiful Ombak Villa, a retreat on Pulau Langkawi. Concurrently, we pay tribute to the best resorts in Indonesia with 2013’s highly coveted World Travel Awards for Indonesia. This issue features Ms. Mari Pagestu, Indonesia’s Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, who shares her optimism for Indonesia as a tourist destination growing in popularity.

Finally, Indoconnect hosted the heads of various Indonesian associations in Singapore and received their invaluable insights on how Indoconnect can help facilitate greater connectivity within the Indonesian diaspora here.

I would like to thank all dear readers for your continued support, which has driven and enabled us to bring you exciting new happenings every issue. We will continue to strive to bring you the best in 2014, and here’s wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nomita Dhar
Editor-in-chief



Contributors



FOO YONG HAN
He is a laid back editorial correspondent with Sun Media. He likes to wisecrack during breaks between work

but is driven and passionate when it comes to crafting feature articles. He has close to a decade of editorial experience with publishing firms such as HG Asia, Heritage Media and SPH Magazines. He was also web editor for Global Yellow Pages’ various web portals.



MUHAMAD ALAMSYAH
He is with the Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Singapore’s Information, Social and Culture

section and the embassy’s official photographer. He also teaches photography at the Sekolah Indonesia Singapura and is responsible for many of the photos in IndoConnect related to events and functions of the Embassy.



VALERIUS R BOENAWAN
Among the many things he does for IndoConnect, this versatile Indonesian

photographer, designer and creative project manager brings valuable insights on current Indonesian perceptions, thinking and sensibilities as well as his youthful energy. We also have him to thank for the Indonesian translations in the magazine.



PUBLISHER
Sun Media Pte Ltd

EMBASSY EDITORIAL BOARD
Simon D.I. Soekarno
Prairie Maharwati

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Yusli Hj. Yusoff Alkhatib

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS
Indonesia Embassy in Singapore
Muhamad Alamsyah
Michael Ozaki

PRINTING
Stamford Press Pte Ltd

MICA (P) 163/05/2013

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A PUBLICATION OF



20 Kramat Lane
#01-02 United House
Singapore 228773

TEL: (65) 6735 2972 / 1907, 2986
FAX: (65) 6735 3114

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Kasih Tuhan Yang Nyata Menjadi Inspirasi Bagi Hidup

Pendeta Stefanus Widjaya dari New Destiny Fellowship International SOS (Sahabat Orang Sakit) mengajak kita untuk merenungi apakah yang kita kejar dalam hidup ini

Memasuki bulan Desember menjelang perayaan Natal, ada suatu kesan sukacita dan semangat yang menggelora. Mungkin terlintas dalam benak akan serangkaian acara menyenangkan bersama keluarga maupun handai taulan apakah itu pergi liburan bersama, makan malam yang lezat, kado-kado yang bagus maupun menyaksikan dekorasi natal yang gemerlap di sepanjang jalan.

Namun 2000 tahun yang lalu, dalam kesunyian malam yang jauh dari hiruk pikuk kota, tepatnya di sebuah kandang binatang yang kotor lahirlah seorang bayi yang adalah Tuhan dan Juruselamat bagi dunia. Tuhan semesta alam telah mengosongkan diriNya dan mengambil rupa seorang hamba dan menjadi sama dengan manusia. Tuhan Yesus Kristus datang ke dunia dalam kesederhanaan. Tuhan bukan hanya mengajar tetapi memberikan teladan bagi manusia. Dalam Markus 10:45 Tuhan Yesus mengatakan: "Karena Anak Manusia datang juga bukan untuk dilayani, melainkan untuk melayani dan untuk memberikan nyawaNya menjadi tebusan bagi banyak orang." Tuhan memilih jalan yang sunyi, jalan yang tidak ada banyak orang mau melaluinya, namun karena Tuhan telah melewati jalan itu, maka keselamatan bisa dialami oleh manusia.

Mengapa Tuhan mau melakukan pengorbanan bagi manusia? Dalam Yohanes 3:16 Tuhan Yesus berkata: "Karena begitu besar kasih Allah akan dunia ini, sehingga Ia telah mengaruniakan AnakNya yang tunggal, supaya setiap orang yang percaya kepadaNya tidak binasa, melainkan beroleh hidup yang kekal." Kasih Tuhan yang telah membuatNya datang ke dunia sebagai manusia dan menjadi korban penebus dosa agar setiap orang yang percaya memperoleh pengampunan dosa dan mendapat hidup yang kekal. Kebangkitan Tuhan dari kematian telah mematahkan kuasa maut, oleh sebab itu orang yang percaya dan mengasihi Tuhan akan bangkit dari kematian untuk memperoleh hidup kekal bersama Tuhan selamanya.

Siapakah orang yang percaya dan mengasihi Tuhan? Mereka adalah orang-orang yang percaya dan melakukan perintah-perintah Tuhan. Perintah Tuhan yang terutama adalah mengasihi Tuhan dan sesama manusia. Rasul Paulus mengajarkan demikian: "dan janganlah tiap tiap orang hanya memperhatikan kepentingannya sendiri, tetapi kepentingan orang lain juga. Hendaklah kamu dalam hidupmu bersama, menaruh pikiran dan perasaan yang terdapat juga dalam Kristus Yesus, yang walaupun dalam rupa Allah, tidak menganggap kesetaraan dengan Allah itu

sebagai milik yang harus dipertahankan, melainkan telah mengosongkan diriNya sendiri, dan mengambil rupa seorang hamba, dan menjadi sama dengan manusia. Dan dalam keadaan sebagai manusia, Ia telah merendahkan diriNya dan taat sampai mati, bahkan sampai mati di kayu salib." (Fil 2:4-8)

Jikalau Tuhan kita telah memberikan teladan yang demikian, sepatutnya kita melakukan apa yang telah diteladankan oleh Tuhan. Kita jangan mengejar hal yang sia sia. Ketika kita berusaha memuaskan kepentingan diri kita sendiri, kita tidak akan pernah mencapai kepuasan. Karena manusia tidak akan bisa merasa puas walaupun telah memiliki banyak. Tetapi malah ketika kita melakukan sesuatu untuk orang lain, hati kita akan merasa sejahtera, dan memang itulah yang diajarkan oleh Kristus. Kita adalah murid Kristus ketika kita melakukan apa yang diajarkanNya. Kita adalah orang-orang yang mengasihi Tuhan ketika kita menaati perintah-perintahNya.

Apakah yang kita kejar dalam kehidupan ini? Kita biasa mengejar karir yang baik, usaha yang berhasil, rumah tangga yang menyenangkan, itu semua baik adanya. Tetapi marilah kita lebih berusaha dengan sungguh dan dengan pertolongan Tuhan untuk mengejar apa yang terutama yaitu kasih. Karena Tuhan itu adalah kasih. Selamat hari Natal dan Tahun baru. 📌

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Christmas Celebrations in Singapore

Photo: Erwin Soo

Chill out this Christmas and New Year with these suggestions on what to do for the festive period right up to Chinese New Year!



Spending time with the family, shopping for gifts, seeing the Orchard Road light up and going out for events, shows and dinners. These activities sum up how many people here spend the days (and nights) leading to the countdown of the New Year. This issue we decided let's have fun doing ALL of them. Our guide for shopping – the most favourite activity here – for gifts to our family, then sail on to a 'Christmas by the River' for food and entertainment and finally an action packed programme of events and attractions to keep you busy right into 2014.

Orchard Road Light-up

Every camera buff's dream come true, this year really outshines past light ups with many stores along Orchard Road creating little niches specially for photo-taking. Between 17 to 24 December there will be carolling and special Christmas programmes along Orchard Road starting from 7pm each night. There are also **Celebrate Christmas in Singapore** events along Orchard Road is organised by the Christian community in Singapore. Together with participants from all over the world, it's celebrated with carols, floats, mass choirs, and performances.

Largest Ice Art Exhibition

This is as close as we can get to a winter wonderland here. The largest Ice Art Exhibition will be on till February next year. Inside a thermal-insulated hall at -15°C, the exhibition is spilt into six exciting themes featuring some 30 pieces of ice sculptures such as London's Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and even our Merlion, alongside towering sculptures as high as the 15-metre tall Chinese pagoda. There is also a special children's playground carved out of ice

The exhibition is held at Sheares Link, Bayfront Avenue.

Giant Snowman

Snow City Singapore's permanent indoor snow centre will attempt to break its own record to create the island's tallest snowman. Children would be awestruck by the scale of this marvellous feat which is set in the indoor snow playground. The Giant Snowman measures an impressive 5.2m x 2.6m and was carved out of snow blocks weighing a whopping 2,800kg! There will also be Snow Shows, carolling and appearances by Santa and his helpers. Catch the Giant Snowman before it melts in January.

Marina Bay Festive Extravaganza

The ultimate countdown party must be the Marina Bay Singapore Countdown 2014. There are a few events going on around the Bay including musical variety performances televised 'live' and capped by a breathtaking fireworks display.

From 20 to 31 December, festive cheer is spread at the **Espalnade's Celebrate December** with various performances featuring uplifting choral and evergreen music, sand art performances and craft workshops culminating with a New Year's eve musical programme (from 7pm to 1am; no admission charges) that will celebrate with heartwarming performances by The Singing Chef and Friends, Singapore Char Siew Baos!, Cat Ong and Sheila De Niro.

If you love to dance, gather at the waterfront area along Marina Bouvelard at The Promontory @ Marina Bay on New Year's eve for **Celebrate with the World 2014** (6pm to 1.30am; no admission charges) to dance the night away. There's non-stop entertainment by international

and local artistes such as renowned German DJ Ronski Speed, Filipino rock band Rivermaya, Malaysian singer-songwriter Namewee and our homegrown Juz-B, Chriz Tong and Queen Inc. featuring Sylvester Sim. The show will be hosted by Sheikh Haikel and Evelyn Kuek.

Singapore's MediaCorp is celebrating the New Year with its **Celebrate TV 50** that is going to be the biggest live event of 2013. There is a super programme that starts from 8pm to 3am (admission by tickets \$28 & \$68). It's held at The Float @ Marina Bay and features an exclusive red carpet event, comedy skits and the very special Celebrities' Walk of Fame - honouring TV personalities from the past and present who have left an indelible mark on Singapore's television history. Other highlights include appearances by singer-songwriter Wang Leehom and UK's hottest boy band, The Wanted. After midnight, there is an outdoor dance party with DJ Inquisitive on the floating platform – a unique dance experience with breathtaking views of the city skyline in the background.



Colourful Events at Gardens by the Bay

Just after a year since it opened, Gardens by the Bay has welcomed over five million visitors! A wonderful attraction for the whole family that's also educational. On 20 January 2014 the Chinese New Year 2014 Floral Display at its Flower Dome will open. Leading up to this event will be screenings of the award winning Anthony Chen movie ILO ILO (17 January), Dragon & Lion Dances (18 January) and performances by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (18 January) and Chinese Opera excerpts (19 January). For more details visit: www.gardensbythebay.com.sg.

Musical at RWS

If you are looking for a 'Musical Space Age Fantasy' that is great family entertainment featuring incredible acrobatics, you should check out Resort World Sentosa (RWS) latest resident production, **Lightseeker**. A multi-million 90-minute fantasy musical with an international ensemble cast, including stars from London's West End who perform original songs by Singapore songwriter Dick Lee. The musical has dazzling visuals, action sequences and theatrical effects. The show will be on till 23 March 2014 at the Resorts World Sentosa Theatre with tickets costing from \$48 to \$148.



Christmas by the River



The Quays to a good time of food,
music and dancing by the Singapore river



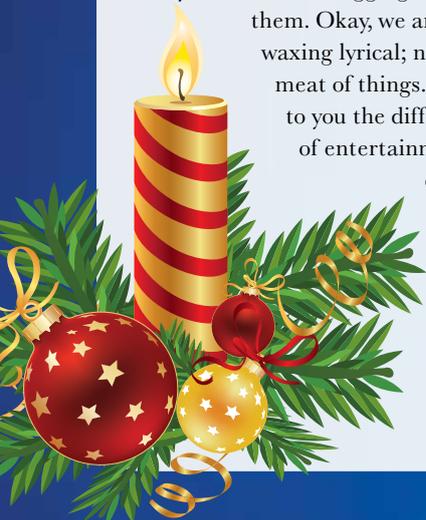
Singapore is known for its hard working locals and expats. But there is also a playful side to them. On Friday nights and all the way through the weekend, they throng to three of the hottest nightspots in Singapore – Boat Quay, Clarke Quay and Robertson Quay – to let their hair down to eat, party and dance the night away.

BOAT QUAY

This entertainment-cum-dining belt is located conveniently near Raffles Place MRT and also Singapore's Central Business District. It is also fairly centralised and if you come from other parts of Singapore, it might only take you slightly over half-an-hour to reach.

Convenience aside, Boat Quay straddles the Singapore River. As such, this lifestyle district is not only a place for you to indulge in good food and drinks, it provides you with a setting to which you can will your woes away by gazing at the hypnotic movement of the river waters as well as the colonial-style bumboats chugging away on them. Okay, we are done with waxing lyrical; now to the

meat of things. We present to you the different types of entertainment and dining options that will bring out the epicurean in you.



Eating

What is life without scrumptious food? The following are recommended eateries to satiate your taste buds.

ABSINTHE This fine dining restaurant offers a wide selection of French fare as well as reasonably priced wines from vineyards in France and other countries. Highlights include Hamachi (carpaccio of marinated yellow tail kingfish, aquitaine caviar, cucumber and baby cress), Bisque (creamy lobster bisque with cognac), Boeuf (braised wagyu beef cheeks in red wine, creamy polenta and glazed baby vegetables), Cabillaud (roasted black cod, prawn risotto and kaffir lime leaf emulsion) and Crème Brulée (jasmine crème brulée with yuzu sorbet). Hours: Lunch: 12pm - 2:30pm (Mon - Fri). Dinner: 6:30pm - 11:00pm (Mon - Sun) @ 71/72 Boat Quay. Tel: 6222 9068

ENOTECA L'OPERETTA Enjoy Italian cuisine in a cosy setting with a loved one or a small group of best friends. Must-try specialties include Minestrone (10 different veggies and aged bacon braised for six hours),

Risotto Nero Di Seppia (signature risotto with calamari in black ink sauce), Linguine Con Polpa Di Granchio (linguine with crab meat and tomato cream sauce), Griglia Di Polpo Al Trapanese (grilled octopus with trapanese sauce made of basil, paprika and pine nuts) and Saltinbocca (pan roasted veal loin wrapped with prosciutto and marsala wine sauce). Hours: Mon - Sat: 12:00 pm - 11:00 pm @ 78, 79 Boat Quay. Tel: 6438-2482

SAHARA BAR & RESTAURANT Authentic Persian and Mediterranean cuisine with sports TV channels and a great bar. Hours: Monday - Sunday: 11:30am - 3:30am @ 58 Boat Quay. Tel: 6536 6231. See page 62.

JADE FULLERTON The restaurant is in the Fullerton Hotel and offers a spread of delicious Chinese delicacies ranging from dim sum (meat and/or vegetable dumplings), herbal soups and signature mains. Highlights include wok fried egg noodles with shredded chicken in superior soy sauce, egg fried rice, boiled congee with lobster and dried scallop, stewed beef brisket

Photo: Chen Si Yuan



with bean sauce and fried eggplant and bean curd in spiced sauce. Hours: Opens daily: 11.30am to 3.00pm; 6.30pm to 11.00pm (last order 10.30pm) @ 1 Fullerton Square. Tel: 6733 8388

E.PACHI This Japanese restaurant is managed by Executive Chef Kishio Watanabe and has an Omakase-style concept where the chef personally recommends the dishes as well as cook for dinners. But if you rather help yourself, there's also an ala carte menu. Omakase courses consist of the finest Japanese beef and freshest produce and seafood while ala carte dishes comprise wagyu beef, Japanese kagoshima pork and grilled fish, among others. Hours: Monday to Friday: 11.30am to 2.30pm and 6pm to 11pm; Saturday and Public Holidays: 6pm to 11pm. Closed on Sunday @ 40/40A Boat Quay. Tel: 6535 1869

Party Time

After meal pubs or clubs for good music, viewing of live sports matches, a dose of fiery alcoholic beverage or dancing the night away.

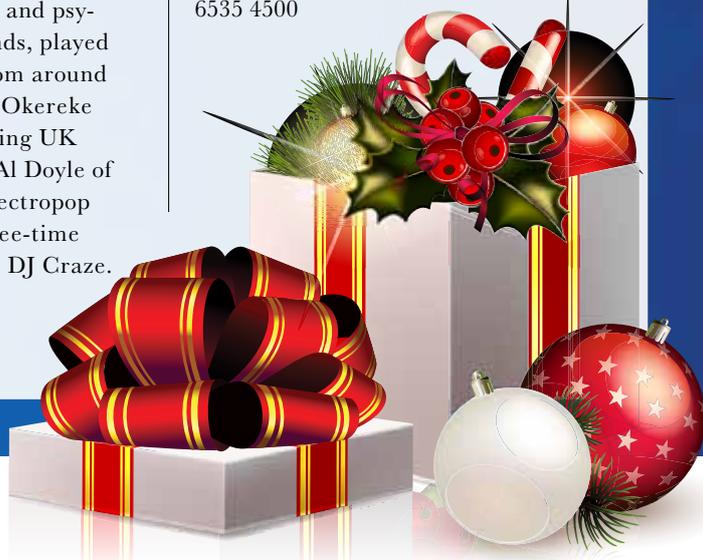
MOLLY MALONE'S Pub was

built entirely in Ireland before it was shipped here and assembled. It was one of the first Irish pubs here with Irish beer and a fine selection of wines. It is loud with heady calls and screams during live sports screenings of rugby and football games. There's live music that includes Irish folk songs and top pop tunes. Hours: Sundays & Mondays: 11am to Midnight; Tuesdays to Saturdays: 11am to 2am @ 39 Boat Quay, #03-01. Tel: 6533 3491

HOME CLUB Unlike most clubs with huge dance floors, Home Club measures just 2,800 sq ft so it's difficult NOT to get too close and personal. Club's main draw is the alternative music played here: Drum 'n' bass and dubstep beats, indie and electro tunes and psy-trance and techno sounds, played by underground DJs from around the world such as Kele Okereke of platinum record-selling UK indie band Bloc Party, Al Doyle of Grammy-nominated electropop band Hot Chip and three-time World DMC Champion DJ Craze. The club is also a big proponent of local

music, hosting local industry big-wigs such as I Am David Sparkle, Plain Sunset and Local Barboy. Hours: Tuesdays to Thursdays: 6pm – 2am; Friday: 6pm – 3am; Saturday: 7am – 4am @ 20 Upper Circular Road, #B1-01/06. Tel: 6538 2928 (1pm onwards)

RED DOT BREWHOUSE Home-brewed or microbrew beer available here. It means you can get a better tasting beer here with unique flavours and aroma. Signature microbrews you should not miss are the Summer Ale, Weisen, Reddot Lime Wheat, Monster Green Lager Beer, Czech Pilsner and Kolsch. Hours: Monday to Thursday: 12pm to 12am; Friday, Saturday and Eve of Public Holidays: 12pm to 1am @ 33/34 Boat Quay. Tel: 6535 4500



CLARKE QUAY



Photo: Erwin Soo



Walk further up the Singapore River to Clarke Quay with yet more entertainment and dining choices. It's location is also quite centralised with the Clarke Quay MRT station nearby.

Eating

HOOTERS SINGAPORE

This self-styled "Fun American Neighbourhood Restaurant" lives up to its motto with well-shaped waitresses in tight outfits and ready smiles. The food is just as tempting: Hooters' signature spicy and juicy chicken wings and many choices of main dishes such as bread fish fillet and chips, hot dog platter, grilled cheese sandwich, teriyaki chicken thigh and tiger prawns "ala olio". Hours: Sunday to Thursday: 11am to 12am; Friday, Saturday and Holiday Eve: 11am to 2am @ Blk 3d River Valley Road, Shophouse Row, #01-03. Tel: 6332 1090

BRIZO RESTAURANT AND

BAR This restaurant is in Park Hotel Clarke Quay featuring buffet spreads for lunch and dinner as well as ala

carte dishes. Highlights include sea salt crusted whole groupa, free range chicken with rosemary, Angus rib eye with foie gras, roasted US pork loin, sashimi, Maine lobsters, Chilean scallops, flower crabs, chilled tiger prawns, New Zealand mussels and red snapper fillet with roasted red capsicum sauce, among others. Hours: Opens daily - Breakfast: 6.00am to 10.30am; Lunch: 12.00pm to 2.30pm; Dinner: 6.30pm to 10.30pm @ 1 Unity Street. Tel: 6593 8888

CAFÉ IGUANA Good Mexican food served here. The restaurant's tortillas, salsa and guacamole are made with the best possible traditional ingredients in its kitchen. Staples include fajitas (sizzling platter – a choice of grilled chicken, grilled prawns, flank steak or Portobello mushrooms – served with tortillas, sautéed onions and peppers, sour cream and guacamole) and burritos (a choice of red snapper, shredded beef, pork rind, prawns or roasted pumpkin with Mexican rice, borracho beans and cheddar mozzarella encased within tortillas). Hours: Mon – Thurs: 4pm - 1am; Fri & Eve of PH: 4pm - 3am; Saturday: 12pm – 3am; Sunday: 12pm – 1am @ 30 Merchant Road, #01-03 Riverside Point. Tel: 6236 1275

Party Time

THE ARENA Probably the biggest R&B and Hip Hop club in Singapore and hugely popular – frequently packed even on weekdays. There is an electric mix of soulful numbers and catchy dance tunes played here by a talented mix of DJs from US, UK, Australia, Asia and from Singapore itself. Décor is hip, wild and flamboyant, with multi-hued lighting and pyrotechnics for a truly psychedelic night out. Great place for parties. Hours: Tuesday – Sunday: 7pm-4am @ 3B River Valley Road, #01-08. Tel: 6338 3158.

CHUPITOS SHOTS BAR

Reputedly Singapore's only specialised shooters bar with a heady array of power-packed shots - essentially cocktails in a small glass designed to steadily give you the high rather than a straight KO and they all come with attention-grabbing names difficult to repeat in polite company. Printable super potent specialty shots to try: Flaming Lamborghini, Gas Chamber, Russian Roulette and Torture Bong. Hours: Sunday – Tuesday, Thursday: 6.30pm to 1.30am; Wednesday, Friday to Saturday: 6.30pm to 3.30am @ 3B River Valley Road, #01-05. Tel: 6333 4513.

ROBERTSON QUAY

Robertson Quay is the last one furthest up the river. Not as packed out as the first two quays but still full of life and great F&B joints.

Eating

BRUSSELS SPROUTS This restaurant serves up a brilliant mix of Belgian meat and salad dishes. Staples that are not to be missed are: Boulettes (meatballs braised in hunter sauce served with potato croquettes), Carbonade Flamande (beef stewed in belgian beer, carrots, baby onions and mustard served with pasta) and Parmentier De Crabe (baked crab meat, zucchini and asparagus in buttered mashed potatoes). Salads include Salade Liegeoise (warm salad of mesclun mix, potato, fine beans, bacon and onions tossed in raspberry vinegar and cream dressing) and SALADE DE MOULES (mussel salad with mesclun mix, edamame, belgian endive, chervil and gomadare dressing, drizzled with white truffle oil). Hours: Sunday: 12pm – 12am; Monday to Thursday: 5pm – 12am; Friday and Saturday: 12pm – 1am @ 80 Mohamed Sultan Road, #01-12, The Pier@Robertson. Tel: 6887 4344.

RED HOUSE SEAFOOD Great reputation for fresh seafood. A seafood meal is not complete without the iconic Singapore chilli crab. This restaurant has its own interpretation you must try: Red House Chilli Crab Stew. Other specialties include Double-Boiled Shark's Cartilage Soup with Mushroom & Bamboo Pith, Steamed Scottish Bamboo Clam with Minced Garlic, Drunken Prawns with Hua Diao Wine & Herbs and barbecued lobster. Hours: Monday – Friday: 11am – 11.30pm; Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays: 10.30am – 11.30pm @ 60 Robertson Quay, #01-14. Tel: 6735 7666

BOOMERANG The taste of Australia with the signature must-trys: Peppered Kangaroo Loin served with mashed sweet potato, beet relish and garlic aioli; Seared Atlantic Cod crusted with herbs and pine nuts on mash, bok choy (Chinese cabbage) and basil cream sauce; Devil's Ribs (baby pork ribs marinated in Chef's devil's sauce with potato wedges and coleslaw) and Rib Eye On Bone. Hours: Open daily from 7am to 11pm @ 60 Robertson Quay, #01-15. Tel: 6738 1077

Party Time

HARRY'S @ PIER ROBERTSON
Features live bands playing contemporary as well as classic pop hits and boisterous company to cheer on your favourite sports team every-time there is a live match on. Try out the pub's own brew Harry's Premium Lager. Quality stuff here with its distinctive character and deep golden colour which comes from only the lightly toasted malted barley and the finest hops. Hours: Monday to Friday: 4pm to 1am; Saturday & Sunday: 12pm to 1am; Eve of Public Holiday & Non-weekend Public Holiday: 4pm to 1am @ 80 Mohamed Sultan Road, #01-07/09. Tel: 6838 7952.



Gifts for the Family

Berbagilah di hari yang mulia ini..

Christmas is a time for love. The pleasure of giving is especially extraordinary during this yuletide season. IndoConnect set for itself a challenge to create a guide of special gifts, that convey a meaningful sentiment and set to bring those who receive them a feeling of joy. We start with those matter most to us – our loved ones. We hope our selection will inspire and set you thinking of more ideas for your loved ones.



Kid's Stuff

Children are a precious gift and you can't go wrong providing them comfortable, quality and fashionable wear from leading children fashion brands such as Levi's Kids (left), OshKosh B'gosh, Carter's, Neck & Neck and Nautica.

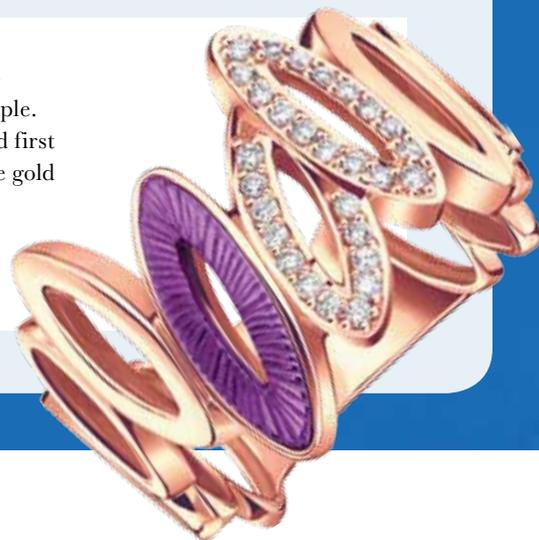


His & Hers

Classic and elegant wear for both men and women from TM Lewin one-stop brand for a complete ensemble of suits, shirts, ties to cufflinks for Him. The distinctive look of its blouse, jackets, skirts and dresses for Her.

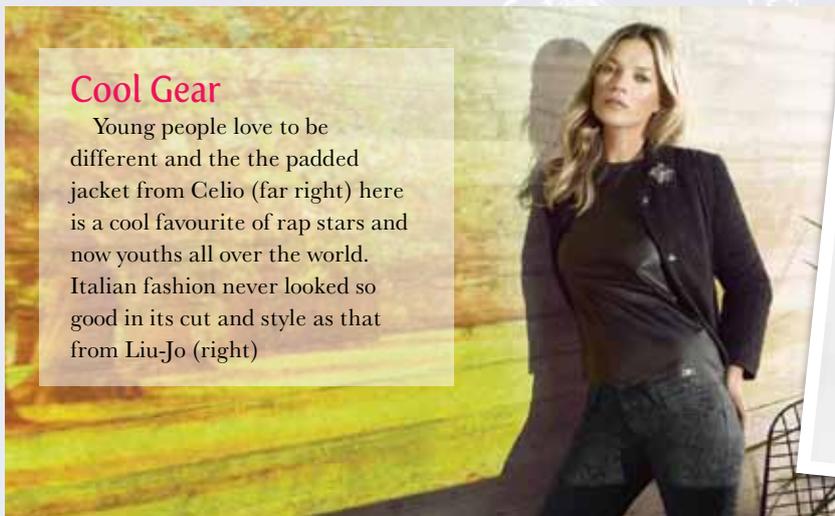
Dreams of a Purple Christmas

True love and exclusivity has a colour - purple. For something truly different, this rare, world first – purple gold jewellery by Lee Hwa. A unique gold alloy (80% pure gold) the elements have to be just right to be strong yet soft enough to be shaped to last forever!



Cool Gear

Young people love to be different and the padded jacket from Celio (far right) here is a cool favourite of rap stars and now youths all over the world. Italian fashion never looked so good in its cut and style as that from Liu-Jo (right)



Dear Girls...

Young girls grow up wanting to look sophisticated and know that sometimes clothes alone will not do unless you have an outstanding accessory to go along with it like the Aigner handbag and wallet (left). Former DJ now world renowned shoemaker Giuseppe Zanotti has his pulse on the young generation as these shoes show (right).



SHOPPING GUIDE

Celio: • Bugis+ #01-05 • Takashimaya S.C. #B2-36A

Lee Hwa Jewellery: • Bugis Junction #01-09 • Centrepoint #01-19/20 • Plaza Singapura #01-05

Levi's Kids, OshKosh B'gosh, Carter's, Neck & Neck and Nautica Kids: KidStyle Boutiques • City Square Mall #B2-21 • Jem #04-52, Paragon #05-15 • VivoCity #02-74 • United Square #01-89

T.M. LEWIN: • Raffles City #01-22 • ION Orchard #B1-20 • Orchard Central #01-08A • Vivo City #01-190 • CityLink #B1-24 • Suntec City Mall #01-336/337 • Plaza Singapura #03-75 • Changi Airport Terminal 2 - Departure/Transit Lounge #026-100-03



ISAC 2013: Generasi Muda Indonesia Harus Siap Ubah Dunia

Oleh Raka Pamungkas
Junior Diplomat, Indonesian Embassy in Singapore

Menuntut 'plan of action' untuk tema Indonesian Student ASEAN Conference (ISAC) tahun ini 'Menggagas Posisi Indonesia sebagai Pemain Utama Kawasan ASEAN'

Menteri Perdagangan, Gita Wirjawan, secara tegas menyatakan bahwa Indonesia dengan segala potensinya harus dapat menjadi negara yang diperhitungkan oleh dunia, baik saat ini maupun di masa mendatang. Hal ini tentunya perlu didorong oleh generasi muda yang produktif, cinta tanah air serta siap menjadi pemimpin.

Pesan tersebut disampaikan dalam Indonesian Student ASEAN Conference yang mengambil lokasi di Ruang Ripta Loka, KBRI Singapura pada 9 November 2013, dengan tema 'Menggagas Posisi Indonesia sebagai Pemain Utama Kawasan ASEAN'. "Komunitas Ekonomi ASEAN 2015 sedang terus dipersiapkan untuk menjadi basis produksi, basis konsumsi serta terintegrasi dengan perekonomian dunia. Indonesia yang memegang GDP 1.5 per sen dunia serta satu-satunya anggota ASEAN dalam G20 pastinya akan mengambil peranan yang besar," kata Gita Wirjawan dalam presentasinya.

Acara yang digagas oleh Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Singapura (PPI Singapura) dan didukung penuh oleh KBRI Singapura ini dihadiri oleh sekitar 200 mahasiswa Indonesia yang sedang belajar di luar negeri, seperti di Thailand, Malaysia, Filipina dan Singapura. "Tema konferensi ini tentunya menuntut plan of action serta implementasi yang harus didukung oleh semua pihak dengan bahu membahu," ujar Wakil Duta Besar RI, Ridwan Hassan, dalam pidato pembukaannya. "Oleh karenanya, diplomasi total yang melibatkan generasi muda dan pelajar akan memaksimalkan people-to-people contact sehingga pengaruhnya dapat dirasakan hingga ke akar rumput."

Pada sesi terakhir konferensi, hadir pula Kepala BNP2TKI,

Mohammad Jumhur Hidayat, yang berbagi mengenai sejumlah isu terkait tenaga kerja Indonesia di luar negeri. "Di tengah berbagai kesuksesan tenaga kerja kita yang bekerja di luar negeri, saya rasa masih ada beberapa kebijakan yang perlu terus dibangun. Salah satu kuncinya adalah mendorong komitmen untuk bisa mandiri dan memiliki self protection," tutupnya dalam konferensi tersebut. 

INDO TO ENGLISH



At this year's Indonesian Student ASEAN Conference or ISAC, Trade Minister, Mr Gita Wirjawan, said that Indonesia with all its potential should be a country to be reckoned with by the world, now and in the future. The nation's standing will be driven by a young generation that is productive with a deep sense of love for the country and he urged them to be ready to lead it.

This message was conveyed in at ISAC 2013 which took place at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore on 9 November 2013 with the theme on Establishing Indonesia's Position as a Leading Player in ASEAN. Mr Gita said that the country must be prepared as the ASEAN economic community plays a greater role as a producer as well as consumer in the world's economy. Indonesia makes up 1.5 per cent of world's GDP and as the only member of ASEAN in the G20 group certainly will play a greater role said Mr Gita Wirjawan in his presentation.

The conference was organised by Indonesian Students Association in Singapore (or PPI Singapore) with the full support of the Indonesia Embassy here and was attended by about 200 Indonesian students from Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. In his opening speech, Mr Ridwan Hassan, the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore's Deputy Chief of Mission said the theme of the conference invites everyone to follow with a "plan of action" that needs to be implemented and must be supported by all parties. Therefore, "total diplomacy" involving students and the young generation is needed to maximize their influence right down to people-to-people contacts at a grass roots level.

In the conference's last session, the head of BNP2TKI, Mr Mohammad Jumhur, shared some insights about several issues concerning Indonesia's labour force abroad. 

Eksotisme Indonesia Dipamerkan di Singapura

Untuk kesekian kalinya, KBRI Singapura berhasil meningkatkan kerjasama ekonomi melalui berbagai kegiatan promosi perdagangan

Oleh Arianto Surojo*

Indonesia Fair kali ini telah dibuka secara resmi oleh Dubes RI untuk Singapura pada 18 Oktober 2013 dengan mengambil lokasi di Giant Tampines Singapura. “Petani Indonesia sebagai pemasok utama buah dan sayuran berkualitas asli produk Indonesia tentunya akan merasa sangat bangga karena produk yang mereka hasilkan sudah tersedia mulai hari ini di hypermarket terbesar di Singapura,” jelas Dubes Andri Hadi dalam pidato pembukaannya.

Pameran yang mengusung tema “The Exotic Taste of Indonesia” ini merupakan hasil kerjasama antara Kementerian Pertanian Republik Indonesia, Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), Giant dan KBRI Singapura untuk mendukung promosi, pemasaran dan investasi kedua negara di sektor agribisnis. Singapura dengan keterbatasan lahan pertanian tentunya tidak mampu memenuhi permintaan pasar lokal yang terus meningkat dari waktu ke waktu. Seperti yang disebutkan oleh Deputy CEO AVA Singapore, Lee Kwong Weng, bahwa Singapura memang harus melakukan impor lebih dari 90% produk pangan yang dikonsumsi, termasuk dari Indonesia. “Ada tiga alasan mengapa Indonesia berperan penting bagi Singapura dalam hal ini: kedekatan posisi geografis, kualitas berbagai jenis produk pertanian Indonesia



Durian Kalimantan



Alpukat jumbo

dan eratnya hubungan kerjasama ekonomi kedua negara,” ungkapnya.

Selain itu, kegiatan pameran ini juga merupakan salah satu implementasi dari enam Bilateral Economic Working Groups yang telah disepakati oleh kedua kepala negara. Dubes Andri Hadi menjelaskan bahwa pameran ini merupakan sebuah konklusi kegiatan promosi ekonomi setelah pameran di Pasir Panjang Wholesale Center di bulan

Mei dan NTUC FairPrice pada bulan September 2013. Kegiatan semacam ini pastinya akan terus dilanjutkan oleh KBRI Singapura dengan kerjasama yang intensif bersama sejumlah pihak terkait. “Dibandingkan tahun 2011, jumlah ekspor buah dan sayuran dari Indonesia ke Singapura telah mengalami peningkatan sekitar 8% yang mencapai 26.504 ton,” jelas Mesah Tarigan, Direktur Pemasaran Internasional, Kementerian Pertanian RI.

Dalam kesempatan tersebut, berbagai produk unggulan buah dan sayur asli Indonesia dipamerkan secara apik dan unik, seperti Durian asli Kalimantan yang berwarna Oranye, Pepaya mini dan Alpukat jumbo. Pameran ini berlangsung dari tanggal 18 hingga 24 Oktober 2013 dan telah menarik perhatian banyak pengunjung Giant Tampines sejak hari pertama. “Tanpa bantuan sektor privat - eksportir Indonesia, importir Singapura dan retailer, seperti Giant, kita tidak akan mampu mencapai berbagai target untuk meningkatkan impor buah dan sayuran dari Indonesia ke Singapura,” tutup Dubes Andri Hadi dalam pidatonya yang kemudian langsung dilanjutkan dengan pertunjukan Tari Merak. 📌

*Arianto Surojo
First Secretary for Economic Affairs,
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Singapore



Rusmin Widjaja: Entrepreneur with a Cause

A busy and successful business tycoon who still finds time to promote green causes and Indonesian culture

Mr Rusmin Widjaja has lived in Singapore for the last nine years. He has many business holdings ranging from airline, natural gas to ship building and he is also devoted to green causes like forest conservation, green energy and culture - especially promotion of the angklung.

He said, "It always gives me great joy in to support and help organise cultural performances, e.g. we work with leading organisations, like the People's Association to showcase the beautiful sounds of this traditional Indonesian musical instrument. I think music is a wonderful way for us to strengthen the people connection between Singapore and Indonesia."

He described how such "cultural dialogue" works both ways, "I was invited to a grassroots event at Marsiling Constituency by Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Manpower & Ministry of Education and there was a Chinese Youth Orchestra playing music from different countries and played by not only Chinese but also Malay and Indian youths.



I suggested we bring them to Indonesia in a youth exchange programme. In September, the Marsiling Youth Chinese Orchestra travelled to Indonesia to perform at the historical Asian African building (Gedung Merdeka) in Bandung and at TVRI (Indonesia National Television) which broadcast the performance 'live' from Jakarta."

Musical Collaboration

"The 70-member Chinese Orchestra and the Angklung performers also did a combined performance. On 13 December 2013, the Youth Angklung Orchestra will perform in Singapore," beamed Mr Rusmin. It will be at the Star, Buona Vista with the Minister of National Development, Mr Khaw Boon Wan and Mr Hawazi Daipi as Guests of Honour from Singapore, the Governor of Jakarta have been invited as the Guest of Honour as well. The organisers expect about 3,500 people will watch the show here."

In the interview, it was clear his enthusiasm in talking more about the cultural performances far outweigh that of talking about his success in business. He shared instead a little of his personal philosophy, "Especially those who are students or youths, always keep learning. We must not always learn just from books but also learn from life experiences as from this you can also find opportunities."

One of Mr Rusmin's current projects

in Indonesia is installing the Healthcare Training Center to train and improve 15,000 Doctors and Nurses' skills and Certifications per year.

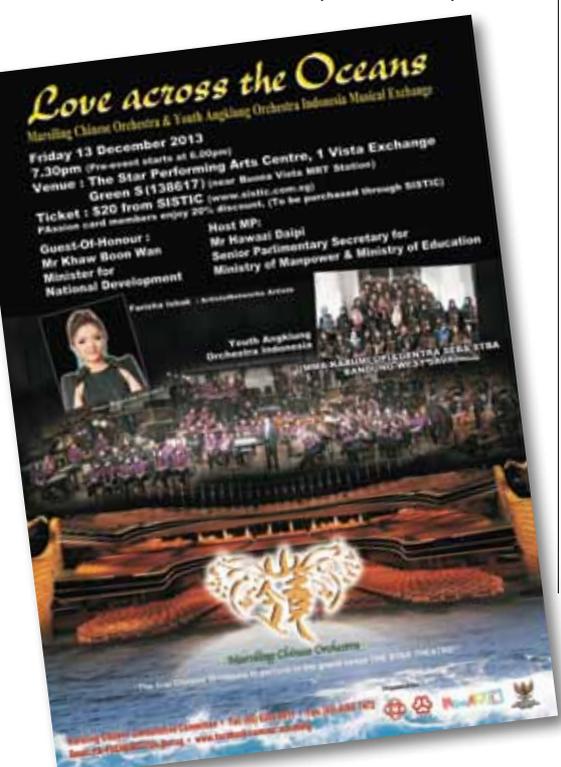
He hopes that the efforts he spends promoting Indonesian cultural performances that he helps organise here contribute to a greater appreciation of Indonesia among Singaporeans and that the people will be more accommodative to Indonesia. He felt, "Because Indonesia is so very diverse; Singapore needs to be exposed and learn our rich many cultures."

Going Green

For this Christmas issue of IndoConnect, he could not resist wishing for a Green Christmas, "I wish everyone Peace, Harmony between Indonesians in Singapore. Let us pray for a better world in the years to come and especially in Indonesia - we have to go Green.

Mr Rusmin is involved with the Rimba Raya Conservation Project in Indonesia and he has expressed his worry about the rapid loss of Indonesia's forests and championed forest conservation projects and at the same time protecting the Orang Utan from extinction.

In the last five years, he has also been involved in Green projects like the Waste to Green Energy portfolio in Jakarta, a joint-venture with Keppel Energy to manage waste and produce electricity. 





Why Tourism in Indonesia Will Increase

Mari Pangestu, Indonesian Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy shares her thoughts with IndoConnect on how the government is making Indonesia the choice for everyone's holidays

Investments in the Indonesian tourism industry in 2012 doubled over the previous year by an impressive 210 per cent. The total sum invested was US\$869.8 million with 61.8 per cent of it (US\$538.177 million) coming from Singapore.

These staggering figures showed investors see great potential for tourism growth in Indonesia. The Minister points out that this optimism is not without reason, "There were 250 million domestic tourism trips and 8.6 million foreign tourist arrivals this year. This indicates strongly that the prospect for tourism growth in the domestic and foreign markets is growing and will continue to grow." Ms Mari also reveals much of the investments went to building budget hotels to cater for Indonesia's domestic and foreign tourists.

The encouraging progress of the Indonesian tourism industry and healthy investments are the key factors in the Indonesian government's decision to make tourism development one of its top priorities in policy making. "A booming tourism industry will impact the economy in positive ways. It creates jobs and helps bring in foreign exchange revenue," explains Ms Mari.

MP3EI Master Plan

A top priority for the government to boost tourism is the MP3EI (roughly translated in English as Master Plan for Accelerating and Expanding Development throughout Indonesia). This master plan consists of developing six regional corridors. Of these, one will be a tourism corridor targeting destinations such as Bali, West Nusa Tenggara (mainly Lombok) and East Nusa Tenggara.

The development in the tourism corridor will prioritise building of infrastructure such as a new international airport in Lombok, a new ferry terminal in Bali which is scheduled to be completed this year and a completed toll road in Bali that now alleviates traffic congestion from the airport to major tourist sites.

A tourist spot is nothing without recreational infrastructure; having such a sustainable system in place is the main focus of the Indonesian government apart from essential infrastructure like roads and airports. "We are looking at inviting investments in Bali, Lombok and West Java to develop sustainable integrated resorts. We want to ensure these projects do not damage the environment and that they involve the local community and bring economic benefits to the regions they are in," elaborates Ms Mari.

Integrated Resorts & Eco-friendly Tours

The integrated resorts will include marinas to accommodate yachts and small cruisers as well as golf courses. To keep the environment intact in these tourism spots, Ms Mari mentions they intend to work closely with fishermen who use dynamite for fishing. "We want to shift their mindset away from dynamite fishing so as to preserve the corals. We want to propose to them that they can become dive guides or someone paid to protect the corals," she shares. Other eco-friendly measures include making sure any resort facilities are built on empty land or reclaimed land so that forested areas are not sacrificed as well as planting of trees on revitalised lands to make these lands fresh and suitable for wildlife again. In fact, such efforts are ongoing in Bali and Lombok and have seen birds and turtles returning in numbers to their original habitats.

Also in the line-up to attract tourists are nature-based tours such as trekking and volcano exploration on Lombok and adventure-type activities in Bali and cultural and arts festivals promoting the Indonesian way of life. The main tourism markets Indonesia plans to tap on are the top two markets, Singapore and Malaysia, and other growing markets like Australia, China, Japan, America and Europe. Ms Mari is especially optimistic about collaborating with Singapore as the country accounts for the most number of visitors to Indonesia.

"We want to co-operate with Singapore on visa matters and improving connectivity between the two countries. We are also looking at joint-destination promotions to entice tourists who visit Singapore to add a few more days to their itinerary to come to nearby Indonesian attractions such as Bintan and Batam," informs Ms Mari. Another major facet of Indonesia's tourism master plan is cruise ship tourism. This involves ten major ports throughout Indonesia. These ports are currently being upgraded to allow big luxury cruisers to berth. Three of such ports in Surabaya, Semarang and Bali have completed their upgrades and are now able to receive huge luxury liners.

The Minister was in Singapore on 23 October at the Brunch Business Meeting organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy in collaboration with the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board, Indonesia Promotion Centre and the Singapore Embassy for Indonesia. The Indonesian delegation which also included Indonesian tourism developers met groups of investors from Singapore's property development and hospitality sectors as well as business associations and other interested investors. 



Bringing Out the Spirit in the Community

Gotong Royong is a practice that is slowly being eroded in modern societies with urbanised environments such as Indonesia and Singapore

Professor Eko Agus Prawoto, an award-winning Indonesian educator, artist and architect weighs in with his views on gotong royong and why it is important to retain this virtue for sustainable living in modern societies.

“If man wants to go as fast as possible, then go alone. If man wants to go as far as possible, then go with many.” This is an African saying quoted by Professor Eko in his keynote address at the Ideas For A Better World Forum – with At the heART of Sustainable Living as its theme – on 24 October 2013 at the National Museum of Singapore. Organised by the Singapore International Foundation, this year’s forum explores how the arts and culture have the power to motivate and mobilise communities to take action for sustainable social change.

To Prof Eko, it takes more than the arts and culture to galvanise communities; gotong royong – Bahasa Indonesia for the spirit of community cooperation – is also needed. In fact, Prof Eko sees gotong royong as the driving force behind a community developing their own distinct arts and culture as well as its primary role in sustaining the fabric of societies in increasingly urbanised environments.

Prof Eko draws upon his many years of experience in helping communities in Indonesia rebuild after natural disasters and war. While he has garnered praise for his efforts, he has chosen to remain humble and consequently exemplifies what he preaches. “I do not dare to refer to my community efforts as my work. I am just a small part of the whole process. I believe process is more interesting rather than the result when it involves people within a community inter-relating and exchanging ideas with one another,” says Prof Eko.

Impact of Social Media

Prof Eko points out how modernisation has rapidly diminished the concept gotong royong. “In our contemporary setting, we are obsessed with speed and doing things our own way by ourselves. Thus, we communicate less and less. We now have a virtual community in the form of social media networks but this can never replace reality, where we meet one another face-to-face and talk and share something. Without this physical and emotional closeness, social cohesion might become weaker and weaker and we will eventually lose our sense of community togetherness,” he feels.

Prof Eko cites some examples of his rebuilding projects that evoke and emphasise the importance gotong royong. In 1996, a village on Biak Island in Indonesia was destroyed by a tsunami. “Basically the village lost its entire traditional architecture. To preserve the collective memory of the village architecture, we decided to build a new community centre that is a replica of the lost village architecture, which is a traditional house shaped like a turtle,” he shares. Prof Eko engaged two carpenters from Yogyakarta and rallied the villagers and began constructing the new community centre together with them using coconut wood.

Another effort was helping the East Timorese build a community centre after East Timor’s independence from Indonesia. Twenty-five years of war with Indonesia has caused the East Timorese to lose knowledge of their local traditions. Prof Eko felt it was important to re-introduce the culture, which is similar to Indonesia, to the next generation. Therefore, he came up with the idea of having a community centre in one of the villages in East Timor would reflect East Timorese culture. Prof Eko went in with a bamboo carpenter to conduct a workshop for the local community so that all



Patung Barry kecil 10 tahun yang mengenakan kaos dan celana pendek sekarang berada di Sekolah Dasar Besuki, salah satu sekolah di mana beliau menimba ilmu sewaktu tinggal di Indonesia



of them could gain valuable insight of their lost heritage before they commenced development of the community centre together with Prof Eko and his carpenter.

Power of Social Capital

Perhaps the project that embodies gotong royong most is the rebuilding and recovery of Ngibikan village in Yogyakarta after it was devastated by an earthquake in 2006 that left 5,700 people dead and more than 140,000 homes severely damaged. Although the village is physically destroyed, Prof Eko felt that it could recover again because the “social capital” was intact. “As long the knowledge, culture, skill and dream of the local people remain, it is always possible to reconstruct from what is there,” he elaborates.

When Prof Eko was offered the opportunity to help rebuild Ngibikan village in a grassroots effort spearheaded by a local newspaper, he agreed on the conditions that any final decision made in the rebuilding efforts – ranging from planning to type of resources needed – must lie with the villagers and that no money must be involved as it can disrupt the spirit of collaboration.

The reconstruction undertaking was a success – In 90 days, some 65 homes had been constructed using local materials and earthquake-resistant designs; labour charges were a non-issue as builders in the community pitched in. Recognised for his efforts in galvanising the involvement of the affected community, the project was subsequently nominated for the Aga Khan Architecture Award. The project now serves as an alternative model for post-disaster reconstruction focusing on community building and involvement.

Prof Eko feels that gotong royong can thrive in urbanised environments as with his experiences with villages ravaged by natural disasters and war. “There must be activities such as

arts and cultural exhibitions to extol the importance of gotong royong. Perhaps the governments and land developers can work hand-in-hand to explore innovative ways to integrate nature with residential land to create intimate spaces where people can meet and socialise often and forge bonds or have amenities that require people to come out of their homes to use so as to create bonding opportunities. Only then can gotong royong be truly alive again in modern societies,” he says emphatically. 

ENGLISH TO INDO



Mungkin hal yang jarang kita dengar di jaman sekarang ini, terlebih lagi di kota-kota besar, adalah kata ‘gotong royong’. Mengambil peribahasa dari Afrika “Apabila ingin pergi secepat mungkin, pergilah seorang diri; tetapi apabila ingin pergi sejauh mungkin, pergilah bersama-sama”, Profesor Eko Agus Prawoto, seorang pendidik, artis, dan arsitek terkemuka di Indonesia, memberikan pandangannya terhadap hidup bergotong royong dan betapa pentingnya untuk bergotong royong di kehidupan bermasyarakat yang modern ini. Pak Eko sendiri sudah sering membantu masyarakat di Indonesia dalam membangun kembali pasca bencana alam atau perang. Dan ketika dipuji, Pak Eko berkata bahwa itu bukan hasil dia saja, dia hanyalah sebagian kecil dari keseluruhan prosesnya.

Pak Eko berpendapat bahwa jaman sekarang, kita cenderung terobsesi dengan segala sesuatu yang serba cepat dan mengerjakan segala sesuatunya seorang diri. Maka berkurangnya juga komunikasi di antara satu sama lain. Menyinggung tentang media sosial, beliau berkata bahwa media sosial akan berdampak negatif karena kedekatan fisik maupun emosional dan komunikasi muka dengan muka pun akan berkurang sehingga rasa bersosialisasi di antara manusia pun akan pudar. 



Building Homes Building Lives

Habitat for Humanity Indonesia project also touches lives of SMU undergrads

Last year it was Manado and this December, it will be Bandung. Just like the earlier trip, a team of 13 Singapore Management University (SMU) undergrads will spend the festive year-end period going to Bandung to help build homes in a Habitat for Humanity Indonesia project.

A member of the team going on the Habitat for Humanity Indonesia project is Victor Julistiono Barlian, a second year SMU Business student, who explained it as being part of the university's overseas community service project under the SMU chapter of Habitat for Humanity Singapore.

According to the group's team leader, Ms Vanessa Chan Si Ning, "We are also raising \$7,800 to donate to the Humanity Global Build Fund and we need all the support we can get. IndoConnect readers can also do so by liking our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/H4HIndonesia."

In a report on last December's Manado project, the previous team described how they spent days laying the house's foundations, moving rocks, shovelling trucks of sand and laying bricks. But that was not the sole objective of going there. In fact, they might have even caused some delay in the building of the house as the students were not professional builders.

However, what one member wrote introspectively is worth repeating here: "At the end of the day, no matter the circumstances we are born in, we are just pilgrims in this world. We live, wither, and die. But perhaps, what's important is that we make a conscious effort to acknowledge that because we are the privileged and blessed, we ought to give and serve."

"Maybe we can't do great things like building houses for all the underprivileged in the world, but what we can do, laying a brick or bending wires, we do with great love. Perhaps we will feel inadequate about what we do, but to quote Mother Teresa – 'We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.'

"And so, at the end of the day, we won't be judged by the number of distinctions we achieved in school or the amount of money we donated to charity, but, instead, by how well we loved our neighbours. Intense love does not measure, it just gives." 

Ed's Note: *Habitat for Humanity Indonesia (Yayasan Habitat Kemanusiaan Indonesia) is a non-profit organization that builds safe and decent homes for families in need. For more information about the mission and work of the organisation visit: www.habitatindonesia.org*



ENGLISH TO INDO

Seperti tahun sebelumnya di Manado, 13 murid dari Singapore Management University akan datang tahun ini ke Bandung untuk membantu membangun rumah di dalam projek Yayasan Habitat Kemanusiaan Indonesia.

Seperti kutipan dari Bunda Teresa bahwa "Apa yang kita lakukan hanyalah seperti setitik air di lautan. Tetapi tanpa setitik air tersebut, lautan akan kehilangan sesuatu", kita harus mau membantu siapa pun di sekitar kita tanpa pamrih.

"Namun, pada akhirnya, kita tidak akan dihakimi dengan jumlah penghargaan yang kita dapati di sekolah, jumlah uang yang kita miliki atau pun jumlah uang yang kita sumbangkan, tetapi oleh kebaikan yang kita berikan untuk sesama. Cinta sejati tidak meminta, tetapi hanya memberi," tegas salah satu peserta acara ini

Untuk informasi lebih lanjut, kunjungi situs www.habitatindonesia.org 

Bandung Artists at Equator Art Projects



'Nothing Happens' by Wiyoga Muhandanto

There are children wearing gas masks skipping rope, in an apocalyptic setting and against iconic brands such as Universal Studios and Legoland. They form part of the background — a black-and-white commentary by one of a new generation of young and 'edgy' artists such as J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra. Another is Wiyoga Muhandanto, who has an art installation titled 'Nothing Happens'. Both artists' work are featured at Equator Art Projects, an art gallery at Gillman Barracks, which is dedicated mainly to promoting Indonesian art in Singapore. Pramuhendra and Wiyoga are both 29 years old and come from Bandung, which is known for its European-influenced modernist art culture.

Wiyoga's and Pramuhendra's works reflect societal dissonance and the negative effects of consumerism. Wiyoga's *Nothing Happens* installation is in the form of a kitchen with familiar objects such as a table, washing machine, clock, wall mounted phone, chairs and a clock. The exhibit explores a domestic drama involving a married couple. "I chose the kitchen to express my concept because it is a more intimate setting and most of the time couples interact in the kitchen," shares Wiyoga.

Nothing Happens echoes Wiyoga's other works, which touch on how consumerism can cause people to drift apart because they spend more energy on earning more money to buy more products. As a result, they have no time to foster a close relationship. In the case of *Nothing Happens*, the kitchen installation embodies a couple who are so busy with their careers that they have no time for each other and end up quarrelling over a trivial matter. There is also a hint of the wife having an affair.

"There are no actors in my exhibit. I let the items in the exhibit speak for themselves and the table in my installation is a good example of that. The table top can be flipped around to hide a mobile phone that the wife is using to text message someone. We leave it to the viewer to interpret why she needs to do that," Wiyoga explains in a jocular tone.

Pramuhendra's exhibit, *Vox clamantis in deserto* — meaning 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' — is a series of charcoal on canvas artworks that depict the aftermath of the destruction of the world. One artwork, *Skipping Rope*, shows children in gas

Equator Art Projects seek to showcase important Indonesian contemporary artists in Singapore

masks playing with a skipping rope against the backdrop of a destroyed Universal Studios. Another, *The Innocent*, depicts a sad-looking child wearing a gas mask.

Pramuhendra's works are bleak and full of grit. They can be interpreted as symbolising the fall of capitalism and consumerism as well as the oppression and disintegration of local communities. Pramuhendra, however, leaves it to the viewer to interpret his works. "I am not a political person out to make a statement. My works are a reflection of my thoughts from a child through to adulthood. As a child and even now, every time I turn on the television, I see violence. It seemed to me 80 per cent of our television content is about violence, either from news or movies," he elaborates.

Because of his exposure to onscreen violence and sometimes the turbulent history of Indonesia, Pramuhendra occasionally dreams of chaos everywhere and he felt the need to express this chaos in a medium he is adept at — art. "It's like I am purging my demons by putting my thoughts on chaos onto canvas. I want to win my war and to do it, I want to share my ideas with others through my art," he says cryptically.

Equator Art Project is developed from the famous Langgeng Art Gallery (in Magelang and Jakarta). Some upcoming exhibitions in 2014 featuring Indonesian artists:

- **10 Jan to 2 Feb:** Solo Exhibition by Sunaryo, curated by Agung Hujatnikajennong.
- **16 to 19 Jan:** Exhibitor at Arts Stage Singapore (at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre).
- **7 Feb to 9 Mar:** Solo Exhibition by Yuli Prayitno (curated by Seng Yu Jin) and project by Oky Rey Montha.

Equator Art Projects website: www.eqproj.com



Skipping Rope by J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra

Panggung Gembira 2013

1 September 2013 - Warga Indonesia menghadiri perayaan HUT Indonesia 68 di KBRI

There is a time to work and a time for play. When the gates of the embassy were opened that Sunday to welcome thousands to the annual Panggung Gembira show, it was time to enjoy the show organised by the Indonesian Embassy which forms part of the Indonesian Independence Day celebrations. Popular music groups and artistes from Jakarta such as D'Bagindas, Irfan Hakim, Fitri Karlina, Iis Dahlia, Dimas Beck, etc gave a rousing concert. Apart from the 'live' entertainment, there were food stalls, and sponsor booths of BNI, SingTel, AirAsia, Pos TKI, M.A.N International and Western Union among others. ©



Mid Autumn Angklung Performance

15 September 2013 - Angklung music on Chinatown Mass Lantern Walk

The Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival Mass Lantern Walk had a special guest item by 35 students from the Singapore Indonesian School who gave a lively angklung musical performance as part of a one kilometre long walk on a route through the heart of Singapore's Chinatown. Apart from traditional Indonesian favourites, the group also performed and sang a chinese song titled "The Moon Represents My Heart" that delighted the audience. 📷



Habibie dan Ainun Tayang di Universitas Nasional Singapura

4 October 2013 - Mantan Presiden Indonesia diundang untuk membuka pemutaran film

Beberapa ratus mahasiswa dan warga negara Indonesia di Singapura mengunjungi kampus Universitas Nasional Singapura (NUS) untuk menyaksikan film Habibe dan Ainun. Pemutaran film ini adalah bagian film festival Indonesia yang diselenggarakan oleh NUS Office of Alumni Relations (OAR).

Mantan Presiden Indonesia BJ Habibie is sambut oleh Direktur OAR, Prof Victor Savage, yang mengatakan jumlah alumni universitas dari Indonesia memang signifikan dan banyak yang sudah menjadi profesional sukses. Dia harap akan terus menjalin hubungan yang baik dengan Indonesia, mungkin ke depan OAR bisa lebih mengundang lebih banyak tokoh penting.

Habibe berharap film yang sebelumnya dibukukan memberi inspirasi arti dari cinta yang sesungguhnya, "Bagi saya, love itu bukan hanya terhadap istri, namun juga terhadap orang-orang di sekitar kita, lingkungan, dan juga tentunya Tuhan." @



5 cm Movie Receives Enthusiastic Reception



7 October 2013 - Author and actor gave talk before screening

To commemorate Indonesia Youth Pledge Day (Hari Sumpah Pemuda) a special screening of the Indonesian box-office movie hit '5 cm' was held at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. Based on the best seller book by Donny Dhirgantoro, it is a very popular movie among youths. The author attended the event with Fedi Nuril, one of the actors in the film. About 200 people came to watch the film. Some people in the audience asked some questions and wanted to know how Donny overcame the challenges of writing. Fedi shared how he was moved by the inspirational messages found in the book. Mr Ridwan Hassan, Deputy Chief of Mission at the embassy, welcomed everyone and said the film's positive messages of friendship and nationalism against the background of the relationships of the friends depicted in the movie would inspire them to conquer their own goals and dreams. @

Perayaan Idul Adha di Masjid Istiqamah

15 October 2013 - Walaupun cuaca hujan, antusias dan kekhusyuan jemaah tidak meredam

Di tengah guyuran air hujan, pagi itu suara takbir, tahmid dan tahlil mengumandang di Masjid Istiqamah. Para jemaah yang terdiri dari warga Singapura, warga asing yang tinggal di sekitar KBRI, dan masyarakat Indonesia satu persatu memenuhi Masjid Istiqamah sampai pada akhirnya dimulailah shalat Berjamaah pada pukul 8.00.

Yang menjadi Imam dan Khatib adalah Kh. Drs. Ahmad Dahri, dan Bapak Duta Besar Andri Hadi memberikan sambutan Idul Adha untuk seluruh jemaah yang hadir. Walaupun cuaca hujan, tetapi antusias jemaah yang mayoritas masyarakat Indonesia, menjadikan Hari Raya Idul Adha semakin semarak dengan tetap menjaga

kekhusyuan dalam menjalankan ibadah shalatnya. Dalam perayaannya, KBRI Singapura menyalurkan qurbannya ke salah satu daerah di Jawa Tengah. (Sumber: KBRI Singapura) 



HUT Ke-68 Tentara Nasional Indonesia

18 October 2013 - Memperingati dan syukuran di KBRI

Kedutaan Indonesia di Singapura merayakan Hari Ulang Tahun ke-68 Tentara Nasional Indonesia (5 Oktober 2013) dengan mengadakan upacara rasmi di Wisma Duta pada tanggal 18 Oktober 2013. Atase Pertahanan Kolonel Penerbang Isep Hassan Isoni dalam pidatonya menyampaikan bahwa TNI sekarang harus mampu mewujudkan tekad yang tercantum dalam tema HUT TNI, yaitu "Profesional, Militan, Solid, dan Bersama Rakyat TNI Kuat". Apalagi di tengah-tengah era globalisasi sekarang, TNI dapat menyesuaikan semua kondisi yang ada untuk tetap menjadikan tegaknya stabilitas NKRI. Bapak Duta Besar Andri Hadi menyambut HUT TNI bersama seluruh staf KBRI, perwakilan masyarakat dan para Perwira yang sedang melakukan tugas belajar di Singapura. 



Charity Painting at Paragon Shopping Centre



31 October – 1 November 2013 - Cheering up sick children and the caregivers

The NDFI SOS (Sahabat Orang Sakit) together with Forerunners Woman Fellowship and LOAF Singapore were the organisers of a Children Painting event at Paragon Shopping Centre where children, including seven with cancer, and parents representing their children, who are not well enough to come, were invited. They came from different parts of Indonesia and the drawing contest was graced by Mrs Ferial S Hadi, wife of the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore. The objective of the event was to bring joy, encourage and support especially the sick children and their families. 📷



Safety & Security Awareness Workshop

10 November 2013 - Singapore Police briefs Indonesian domestic helpers

The Safety and Security Awareness Workshop 2013 was organised by the Singapore Police Force and the Indonesian Embassy. About 35 Indonesian domestic helpers received tips and advice familiarise them with Singaporean rules and regulations e.g. on jay walking as well as a brief on topics like the outrage of modesty. The presentation was held at Sekolah Indonesia Singapura. The guest of honour at the workshop was Mr Ridwan Hassan, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indonesia Embassy in Singapore. 📷



ASEAN Gala Night 2013

15 November 2013 - Jointly organised by ASEAN and held at KBRI

The ASEAN Gala Night 2013 was staged at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, where it was hosted by the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam and co-organised by ASEAN diplomatic missions in Singapore. About 300 guests from diplomatic missions, government agencies and the private sectors of ASEAN countries and its Dialogue Partners attended with ASEAN food and cultural performances. The occasion provided a good opportunity for everyone to appreciate ASEAN's cultural heritage and strengthening of people-to-people ties. ☺



Discovering A Treasure from the East

30 November 2013 - Exhibition is also excellent form of diplomacy



The Indonesian House of Culture exhibition was enthusiastically received by Singaporeans when it was held at Sekolah Indonesia Singapura (SIS) from 30 November to 1 December 2013. It was an excellent showcase of artistic talents of traditional and contemporary dancers and visual artists as well as exhibition of puppets and traditional crafts. It was organised by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture who was represented there by Ibu Diah Harianti, Director for Internalization of Value and Cultural Diplomacy. Duta Besar Andri Hadi also officiated at the opening ceremony and he highlighted how in international diplomacy promotion of cultural ties is probably the best way to foster relationships with other countries.

Visitors had the opportunity to watch dances from various parts of Indonesia and were very impressed by the Tari Lenggang Kipas, Tari Ngremo from Central Java and Tari Rampai from Aceh. One of the featured artists was a very talented six-year old artist, Enggang Batu Ayau from Surabaya who has received international awards and had his own solo exhibitions! ☺



UPCOMING EVENT

Talented Teens Concert in February 2014

16 February 2014 - Upcoming concert showcases singing talents of Indonesian and a Singaporean pianist



Charis Singers will present on 16 February next year a special concert featuring the talent of 13-year old Indonesian teenager, Natasha Michella Da Costa who will be sharing the programme with Amanda Yun Yee Lee playing piano. The performance will be held at 3pm at the Lee Foundation Theatre at NAFA, Bencoolen Street.

Music lovers will especially appreciate the mixed genres of music by 13-year old Natasha who will sing some traditional western classical numbers such as "Intorno All'idol Mio" by Marco Antonio Cesti, "Silent Worship" by Handel as well as some musical pieces from famous productions such as "On My Own" from Les Miserables, "Think of Me" from The Phantom of the Opera and "I See the Light" from Disney's "Tangled". The closing number she will perform "Maria Wiegenlied" by Max Reger with Amanda.

She has been involved in numerous concerts, classical competitions and received one of the Stars of Young Talent Project 2013 awards.

Amanda will play classical music piano programme that features works from Moszkovski, Haydn, Mendelssohn, JS Bach and Chopin among others. Amanda who is only 12 years old has also won distinctions in her music studies, won awards at national and international levels and is an accomplished pianist performing in many concerts. 



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Mundhi Hastuti: Upgrading for a Better Future

Former student is now a teacher at the school!

When we met Mundhi Hastuti, also known as Dhais, she was invigilating an exam at the Sekolah Indonesia Singapura (SIS). She has been a teacher here since 2012 but one thing that sets her apart was she herself was a student at SIS and is now imparting knowledge to others as a professional educator! “The students are sitting for bahasa pascasarjana for subjects here on accountancy, management, English and administration,” she says.

Dhais herself has just recently graduated from the Open University’s course on accountancy conducted at SIS. She has already been teaching the subject for the past one year and is really relishing the challenge of her new job as she can identify closely with her students who are her contemporaries. In addition to accountancy, she also teaches statistics, mathematics and IT computer subjects.

Dhais said, “We know exactly how it is for them (students) studying here, They only have time to study and prepare for exams at night. It can be a little difficult managing the housework in the morning till evening and during the late night studying before waking up early morning to prepare breakfast for their employer’s family. Then they come to SIS on Sundays where they can study the whole day.”

Dhais counts herself lucky as before she had earlier studied in Singapore and had passed her O levels and Bishan ITE as well as taking up computers but, “After I graduated from there I receive career advice from my counsellor at the Indonesian Embassy to join the Open University at SIS so I can improve my work prospects for a better future,” she says. 

Equivalency School

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore has set up an educational programme for Indonesian domestic workers also known as P3K or Indonesian Training Centre. It is open on Sundays from 10 am until 5 pm at SIS and currently offers courses on English, Computer, Sewing, Hairdressing Course and Facial Course, Mandarin, Cargiver Training (Basic) as well as Equivalency School for Junior Secondary (Paket B) and Equivalency School for Senior Secondary Level (Paket C).

The Paket B and Paket C are designated for those who graduated from Primary School or Junior High School (or equally qualified level) and would like to pursue the study to higher level (Junior High School or Senior High School respectively). The study period will be at minimum 3 semesters or 18 months and maximum two years. The final exam will be held in every June and October. Students who pass will be given School Certificates, issued by the Ministry of National Education and Culture of Indonesia. Course fee is S\$50 per semester. 

Siapakah Kalian Menyambut 2014?

ARIES (21 Mar - 19 Apr)



Tahun 2014 merupakan tahun yang baik untuk kalian karena kalian akan mampu menyelesaikan semua pekerjaan yang selama ini tertunda. Tahun ini juga kalian akan terdorong untuk melakukan aktivitas berenergi tinggi seperti berpergian, petualangan, dan sejenisnya. Akan ada beberapa kendala yang tidak dapat dikesampingkan. Masalah-masalah yang terjadi harus diselesaikan dengan seksama dan tidak boleh dibiarkan begitu saja.

Pastikan bahwa kalian tetap stabil dan kokoh mencapai ambisi kalian. Jangan pernah ada kata 'puas' atau kebimbangan. Posisi planet-planet di tahun ini dapat membantu kalian untuk menargetkan tujuan hidup kalian.

Pastikan bahwa kalian tetap fokus pada pekerjaan kalian dan tidak tergoyahkan oleh ketidaksabaran. Kalian akan menuai buah dari usaha kalian pada akhir tahun.

GEMINI (21 Mei - 21 Jun)



Selama tahun 2014, hidup kalian akan menjadi mudah dan mengalir seperti sungai tanpa ada halangan. Kedudukan planet-planet tidak berada di posisi yang akan memiliki efek buruk untuk kalian di tahun ini. Namun kalian harus berpikir dua kali saat kalian menyelami usaha yang baru. Ini adalah saat yang tepat untuk menuangkan rencana dan ide kalian ke dalam pekerjaan kalian.

Kedamaian dan keharmonisan akan terjadi di rumah dan tempat kerja. Lingkungan kalian akan menjadi mudah sebegini besar di tahun ini. Sekarang kalian dapat melakukan lebih baik dibanding tahun-tahun sebelumnya. Masalah tertentu yang mengganggu kalian akan berakhir. Keahlian kalian dapat dimanfaatkan dengan baik di akhir tahun. Pengambilan resiko akan mengarahkan kalian untuk tujuan kalian dalam hidup. Janganlah ditundukan pada keadaan.

LEO (23 Jul - 22 Agu)



Tahun 2014 akan menjadi masa produktif untuk kalian. Kalian akan mampu memenuhi banyak ambisi dan cita-cita berkat kekuatan, kehendak, dan hasil kerja keras kalian. Perubahan radikal mungkin akan terjadi di dalam hidup kalian selama tahun ini. Kalian dapat mengkonsolidasi segala proyek yang dimulai beberapa tahun sebelumnya.

Kalian memiliki waktu yang panjang untuk menikmati hidup. Tapi pastikan bahwa kalian membuat keputusan sewaktu dibutuhkan.

Kalian akan berada di dalam situasi di mana kalian harus mengambil keputusan penting dalam hidup yang berkaitan dengan kehidupan pribadi dan profesional. Kalian harus belajar untuk menangani rintangan yang datang. Selalu berikanlah yang terbaik.

Pada saat yang tepat, tunjukkanlah kemampuan kalian. Lewati tahun ini dengan penuh semangat.

TAURUS (20 Apr - 20 Mei)



Tahun 2014 akan membawa perubahan besar dalam kehidupan pribadi maupun profesional kalian. Kalian harus menjauhkan diri dari kebiasaan buruk. Namun kalian disarankan untuk tetap pada hati nurani kalian. Alihkan aktifitas kalian pada aktifitas yang lebih rileks. Kondisi mental kalian akan lebih kuat dari biasanya selama tahun ini.

Kalian akan mendapat inspirasi hidup dari orang-orang sekitar kalian sepanjang tahun ini. Aset terbesar kalian adalah kesederhanaan dan kemampuan kalian untuk beradaptasi dengan segala macam situasi di sekitar. Sekarang adalah saatnya untuk menghadapi dunia dengan keberanian yang baru. Hindari segala macam godaan yang datang. Bersiaplah untuk memberi dan menerima saran dari orang di sekitar kalian. Kalian akan berprestasi dalam bidang yang kalian sukai.

CANCER (22 Jun - 22 Jul)



Di tahun 2014, kalian akan lebih terlibat di dalam kehidupan pribadi dari pada kehidupan profesional kalian. Kalian akan mendapat banyak kesempatan untuk menaikkan status sosial kalian. 'Mendengar' adalah kata kunci yang tepat, dibandingkan dengan 'Berbicara'. Hubungan kekeluargaan akan tetap stabil sebagian besar tahun ini. Hasil karya kalian akan mendapatkan pengakuan dan dukungan dari sekeliling kalian selama tahun ini.

Tetapi pastikan bahwa ego kalian tidak meninggi. Kalian harus membungkuk ke bawah seperti padi, kian berisi kian merunduk, untuk memahami orang lain. Kalian harus membuang sikap egois. Belajarlah menahan keinginan batin dan emosi selama periode ini. Kalian harus menunjukkan kebaikan kalian melalui perkataan dan perbuatan kepada orang-orang di sekitar kalian.

VIRGO (23 Agu - 22 Sep)



Selama tahun 2014, kalian akan dipenuhi oleh energi untuk melewati hari-hari dengan penuh semangat. Akan ada keseimbangan sempurna di segala aspek hidup kalian. Kalian juga akan berada di satu titik di mana semua yang ada di sekeliling kalian akan mendukung kalian sepenuhnya terhadap apa yang kalian lakukan. Dan ini lah saat yang tepat untuk menyimpang dari kebiasaan lama untuk menjadi lebih baik. Lakukan kegiatan yang berhubungan dengan kesenian saat kalian membutuhkan kepuasan dan kekuatan batin.

Akan ada perubahan besar seperti kenaikan pangkat yang sudah lama-lama kalian tunggu. Fokuskan seluruh energi kalian untuk memberikan yang terbaik. Ini adalah waktu yang tepat bagi kalian untuk meningkatkan reputasi dari masyarakat sekitar. Kalian dapat melakukan kegiatan sosial atau amal.

Menurut kalender Gregorian, tahun baru 2014 akan jatuh pada hari Rabu, United Nations, atau yang kita kenal dengan Organisasi PBB, menetapkan tahun 2014 sebagai International Year of Family Farming dan International Year of Crystallography. Apakah peruntungan kalian di tahun 2014 menurut rasi bintang kalian?

LIBRA (23 Sep - 22 Okt)



Tahun 2014 akan menjadi tahun yang bebas dari percobaan dan masalah besar yang telah menghantui kalian selama

beberapa tahun terakhir. Kalian akan mampu mengarahkan jalur kehidupan kalian dengan lebih jelas. Kalian harus pindah ke tempat yang menguntungkan dan akan banyak kebebasan dalam hidup kalian, tidak seperti sebelumnya. Kalian akan diberi kesempatan untuk memaafkan dan melupakan.

Cahaya batin akan memandu kalian melalui tahun ini. Perspektif kalian tentang dunia luar akan berubah banyak dan kalian akan mampu memahami realitas di tempat kerja. Kalian tidak boleh dipengaruhi orang lain, tetapi harus sebaliknya; orang lain yang dipengaruhi kalian. Sekarang adalah saatnya kalian harus membuat pilihan hidup yang bijaksana dan 'presisi' adalah kata kuncinya. Pastikan bahwa emosi tidak menghalangi kehidupan kalian.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov - 21 Des)



Ini adalah tahun di mana kalian akan mulai dapat memvisualisasikan cita-cita dan kehidupan ideal kalian.

Perubahan yang besar kemungkinan akan mempengaruhi gaya hidup kalian selama tahun ini. Pastikan bahwa kalian mengambil keputusan yang bijaksana dalam kegiatan-kegiatan penting di rumah. Kalian akan menghadapi rintangan-rintangan, tetapi biarkanlah inspirasi kalian menolong kalian.

Buanglah kenangan masa lalu dan jangan biarkan hal itu menghantui semangat kalian. Hadapi dunia dengan semangat dan kekuatan yang baru. Kehidupan sosial akan melibatkan kalian dengan koneksi-koneksi yang akan datang dari segala penjuru. Pilihan pribadi kalian dalam hidup akan terasa sulit untuk kalian tangani selama periode ini. Tetapi percaya lah pada diri sendiri dan biarkan tindakan kalian mengalir.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan - 18 Feb)



Tahun ini adalah tahun di mana emosi kalian akan memuncak. Kalian harus menuruti perasaan hati. Banyak kesuksesan yang akan

datang di kehidupan kalian. Hiduplah secara harmonis dengan lingkungan sekitar kalian. Kreativitas kalian akan dikedepankan tetapi jangan sampai inspirasi kalian mendatangkan perubahan yang buruk. Kalian akan cenderung pelan tapi pasti dalam kehidupan pribadi kalian selama tahun ini.

Banyak peluang besar selama tahun ini untuk kemajuan hidup kalian. Gunakanlah semua kesempatan tersebut! Jangan menolak segala pertolongan yang datang dari berbagai pihak. Pada saat kalian membutuhkan seseorang untuk bertahan pada saat dibutuhkan, andalkanlah keluarga atau teman-teman terdekat. Kalian akan mendapat status pemenang untuk sebagian besar tahun ini dengan dukungan total dari mereka.

SCORPIO (23 Okt - 21 Nov)



Tahun 2014 akan membawa kejutan baru bagi kalian. Sebuah periode yang menggembirakan karena kalian akan

dapat memberikan yang terbaik dari dalam diri kalian. Kalian harus memperhatikan segala perubahan yang terjadi di sekitar kalian untuk dapat bergerak maju. Relokasi mungkin juga dibutuhkan jika kalian bersedia untuk melakukannya. Tantangan-tantangan harus dapat kalian tangani dengan keberanian, serta hindari kepuasan diri dan penundaan-penundaan. Berikan prioritas untuk berambisi dan bercita-cita dalam hidup.

Kalian akan menemukan jawaban atas pertanyaan yang belum terjawab. Akan ada keharmonisan sempurna dalam hidup kalian dan kedamaian akan datang. Ini lah saatnya untuk bekerja lebih giat menuju masa depan yang lebih baik. Jangan biarkan kenangan masa lalu meredam semangat kalian.

CAPRICORN (22 Des - 19 Jan)



Tahun 2014 memiliki faktor yang baik untuk kalian. Segalanya akan berjalan seperti yang kalian kehendaki. Namun kalian harus

fokus terhadap masalah relasional seperti menjaga orang tua dan lain-lain. Lakukan upaya untuk meluruskan kehidupan orang-orang di sekitar kalian. Ini adalah saatnya yang tepat untuk mengambil cuti untuk liburan panjang. Selama tahun ini, kalian akan terinspirasi untuk melakukan hal-hal besar dan jauh lebih baik dalam hidup.

Akan ada konflik internal dan ketegangan dalam kehidupan pribadi kalian. Cobalah untuk memilah-milah setiap masalah yang timbul dalam hubungan selama ini. Kalian perlu belajar untuk menyeimbangkan hal dalam hidup. Dedikasikan kembali diri sendiri untuk berkomitmen dan kalian akan yakin dengan masa depan yang lebih baik di tahun mendatang.

PISCES (19 Feb - 20 Mar)



Tahun 2014 akan membawa kebaikan, kekuatan dan kesenangan di dalam hidup kalian. Sejumlah peluang

yang banyak akan datang menghampiri kalian. Kalian akan menjelajah ke tempat yang belum pernah kalian ketahui sebelumnya. Pikiran kalian yang beragam ditambah dengan peluang yang besar akan memperbanyak ketertarikan kalian terhadap segala sesuatu. Lupakanlah masa lalu dan hadapi dunia ini dengan keyakinan dan semangat baru.

Kalian akan terdorong untuk melepaskan diri dari orang lain. Jangan berkompromi dengan segala sesuatu yang berhubungan dengan kehidupan pribadi kalian. Buka suara kalian terhadap segala ketidakadilan yang ada di sekitar kalian. Ini adalah waktunya untuk kalian untuk menunjukkan sisi kreatif kalian. Kalian tidak perlu mengubur talenta dan minat kalian. ©

Farah Quinn Opens Celine Boutique at DFS

Elegant leather range of Celine bags and fashion accessories now available in DFS Galleria

Beautiful and glamorous Indonesian media and celebrity chef Farah Quinn was in Singapore on 18 October 2013 to open Celine at DFS Galleria. The French-based boutique is famous for its use of smooth calf leather as well as other more exotic materials such as crocodile, cobra and python skins.

This is the first time in Singapore that Celine has brought in a curated collection of its exotic bags. The boutique displayed many of the great in-demand pieces such as those from the Michael Kors Collection, and will hold limited quantities for short durations. Also at the opening was well-known fashion guru, Daniel Boey, who gave a short introduction about Celine.

Both Daniel and Farah have been long-time fans of the French brand. Farah says she loves them first for their design, saying “The design has this long-lasting quality about it, so they don’t really go out-of-style. For us women who spend so much on purses and bags, it’s like a long term investment. Then there is the variety of styles; there is a Celine bag here that can fit your personality or lifestyle.” Speaking of lifestyle, the beautiful mother of a six-year old son admits the size of the bags is an important factor for her. She said, “I am very busy person and I am very mobile so I love big bags. It’s really practical as I bring along so many things with me including some of my son, Armand’s things.”

Fashion director, Daniel Boey gave some insights on the brand, “Celine has limited edition bags made from exotic skins so there is exclusivity – you don’t want to have something that is used by 500 other people in the world. Celine was started in 1945 by Céline Vipiana but the company has some of the most famous fashion designers in the world designing for it such as Michael Kors, Roberto Menichetti and now Phoebe Philo. The latest range has gone back to basics. They are simple, luxe and very understated. Open the bags and look inside you will discover tremendous craftsmanship – they are very well made and technically the construction of every single bag is absolutely astounding.” 



Mother en Vogue

Fashion to match both mum and baby

Mother en Vogue specialises in nursing and maternity lifestyle fashions as well as baby wear. It believes in quality clothes that should be fashionable and comfortable at the same time. Special thought and care has also gone into the design of clothing as the brand embraces breastfeeding and using natural fabrics (such as cotton, linen, bamboo – all naturally derived yarns). Nursing mothers and babies benefit most from wearing natural textiles which are comfortable and breathable. For more information: www.motherenvogue.com 



Peter Pan Long Sleeve Top & Onesie



Mom & Child - Bloom In Art - Cherry Red



Partridge In a Long Sleeve Tee & Onesie - Dusky Turquoise



Peter Pan Long Sleeve Top & Onesie



Partridge In a Long Sleeve Tee & Onesie - White



Supply & Demand (Beez) - White



Swarovski by Shourouk Necklace



Christmas Ornament Gingerbread Man

Swarovski's Crystal Clear Choices

You can find Swarovski Crystal in more than just fashion trinkets and accessories. From sunglasses to wine glasses and a host of other fun stuff!



Indira Watch Black Stainless Steel



Vesuve Ring

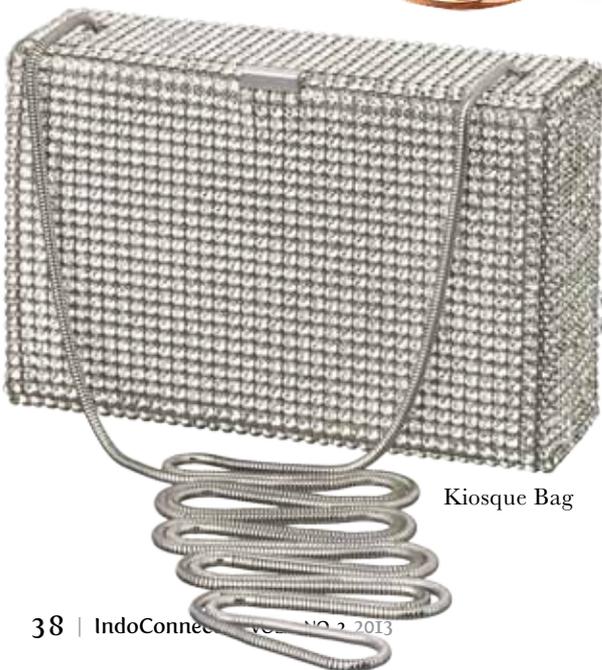


Ciara, Havana



Vanilla Pierced Earrings

Crystalline Toasting Flutes



Kiosque Bag



Swarovski by Shourouk Bracelet

Benefits of Coconut Oil on Skin

By Leilani Cardona

The humble coconut holds many health and beauty secrets

In the tropics, coconut grows abundantly and is used for many different things. Every part of the coconut is put to good use. The water or juice of the coconut is consumed as a refreshing beverage. The milk is used as a main ingredient for cooking. Even the shell is used and hand carved into cups, utensils, jewelry, and musical instruments. One of the most beneficial parts is its oil. Not only can it be used for cooking, but it is also used in various products such as soaps, shampoos, hair oils, massage oils, margarine, and toothpaste.

Coconut oil is packed with vitamin E. Vitamin E is a powerful antioxidant with great health benefits when taken internally and wonderful on the skin when applied topically. Coconut oil also contains a fatty acid called lauric acid. It is antimicrobial and kills fungus, viruses, and bacteria. Both vitamin E and lauric acid have incredible healing properties.

With these two potent ingredients, coconut oil offers vast benefits to the skin. Its antimicrobial and healing properties enable it to be used effectively on cuts and burns. Not only can it make your skin heal rapidly, it also forms a barrier on the skin, keeping it protected from harmful bacteria and infection. It heals and soothes dry skin and can reduce the symptoms of eczema, psoriasis, and dermatitis. It can also be used effectively to soothe the itching from poison oak and ivy and heal and protect your skin from sunburn. You can even use it to treat diaper rash, as well as sore and dry nipples from breastfeeding.

One of the main causes of acne is bacteria and the buildup of dead skin cells. When combined with baking soda, coconut oil can be used as a scrub to exfoliate the skin and remove dead skin cells.

Its antimicrobial properties can kill bacteria to help treat and prevent acne. It does not clog the pores and can be used as a face moisturizer, keeping your face soft and hydrated. It also reverses the effects of aging. Its powerful antioxidants can minimize the appearance of wrinkles and help firm and tone the skin. It also reduces bags and puffiness under the eyes and can protect your skin from the sun and from developing age spots.

There are so many other wonderful benefits that this “miracle oil” harbours. It is anti-inflammatory and can help reduce the pain and swelling of hemorrhoids. It is great when used as a massage oil and personal lubricant. You can use it to prevent and reduce the appearance of stretch marks, scars, and varicose veins. It get rid of any unwanted fungus under your nails or cure itchy, irritating athlete’s foot.

The list of the benefits of coconut oil on the skin seems almost endless. Just remember that not all coconut oils are the same. You want to purchase one that is pure virgin and is certified organic. Make sure it is fresh and not made from dried or copra and that it has not been, refined, hydrogenated, bleached or contains any GMO ingredients. 





Must Have Make Up: Face Creams Moisturisers

By Tina Agustina

Everyone seems to forget about this makeup whenever they buy cosmetics

Some people think that moisturiser is not important and only designed for dry skin. Most people think, dry skin needs face cream moisturiser to hydrate the flaky area. Is it true? What about any other skin type? Do they still need moisturiser?

Face cream moisturiser is not only good as a make-up base, but it is also good to feed your hungry skin. Besides, it has also four more functions:

- It serves as a protector from free radical damage. Every day, we deal with pollution, smoke, and junk food. These things carry over free radical substance. This substance is dangerous since it can make your skin dry and dull. Moisturiser has the power to cover your skin from getting direct interaction with free radical substance, so it will lessen its impact.
- To make it elastic. Dryness in your skin can be caused by so many things. Lack of liquid, pollution, and age will make your skin less elastic. Face cream moisturiser will help you to get elastic skin, since it triggers the skin to produce more oil and collagen. Oil and collagen are good for keeping your skin soft and elastic.
- Protect your skin from UVA and UVB. A lot of moisturisers have a sun screen protector substance. This substance will block UVA and UVB radiation. Those sun rays will not only make your skin dry, but it will make uneven dots in your skin.
- Anti-aging. As your skin gets hydrated and elastic, it will look years younger than it actually is.



What Your Skin Type Needs the Most

When you buy moisturiser, it is better to know what your skin type needs. If you have dry skin, choose the crème moisturiser that will hydrate it longer than lotion. Dry skin is allowed to get oil-based moisturiser. For oily skin, it is better to have gel or lotion water-based moisturiser. The light texture and water substance don't block the pores, so it won't trigger off acne or blackheads. For combination skin, use water-based or fruit-based moisturiser to control the oil production and hydrate the dry area.

For oily skin, summer can be the biggest enemy since it makes the oil production go into overdrive. And for dry skin, winter is their nemesis. The dry, cold weather makes their skin even more dry. And if care isn't taken the dry skin will get extremely dry, flaky, and even peel. To prevent it from worsening its best to use natural skin moisturiser. 



Trouble Relief Spot Gel (20ml)
Antibacterial spot gel for reducing topical troubles

Laneige Launches Trouble Relief Line

Come January 2014, Laneige will be launching an entirely new range of skincare that effectively treats adult acne – Trouble Relief Line



Trouble Relief Cleansing Tissue (40 sheets)
Soft cotton cleansing tissues that produce rich bubbles for mild cleansing



Trouble Relief Cream (50ml)
Soothing moisturizing cream with antibacterial and moisturizing actions to form a protective covering for problematic skin

Acne is one of the most common skin problems that usually plague teenagers during puberty as the body undergoes changes and sebum activity of the skin becomes more active. However, because of environmental elements, such as pollutants, humidity and lack of hygiene, as well as physiological factors, such as hormonal imbalance, stress and health issues, acne can also be the bane of adults, especially women. It is usually harder to treat adult acne as the cell renewal and skin-healing ability slow down with age. But, with effective products that help to clear, soothe, protect and maintain the skin's integrity, adult acne can be treated successfully.

Trouble Relief Line is the latest addition to Laneige's skincare range, specially formulated to treat acne-prone skin. Dermatologically tested, non-comedogenic and paraben-free, Laneige Trouble Relief Line contains Hinoki Cypress Polysaccharide extract – a key ingredient that reduces the growth of acne-causing bacteria by suppressing the formation of biofilm (a mixture of micro-organisms, bacteria, and metabolites that are attached to the surface of the skin) on the skin where bacteria thrives. It also helps to combat acne inflammation by effectively soothing irritated skin and maintain the skin's moisture level for clearer, smoother and healthier skin.

Suitable for sensitive skin, Laneige Trouble Relief Line will launch in January 2014 at all Laneige boutiques and counters. 

About Laneige

Laneige is Korea's leading Young Premium Total Beauty Brand, loved by Asian women worldwide. Laneige values water as the source and most important element of healthy skin, dedicating 20 years of research to 'water'+ 'science' to help young women achieve her best skin – moist, transparent and radiant. Laneige is your K-Beauty Expert, with 'waterful' skincare and exciting makeup, bringing pure beauty to Asian women aged 18-30, in 14 countries.

Sweet Christmas

Let the scent of fragrance freshen up your Christmas with this range of products from Crabtree & Evelyn

Noël® Home Fragrance Spray

(100ml)
Spritz into the air and create a zesty citrus fused aroma to indulge in along with a burst of spicy nutmeg and clove



Noël® Fragranced Botanicals

This delightful array of fragranced botanicals can be arranged in an open bowl or decorative container. Refresh when necessary with Noël® Home Fragrance Oil.



Noël® Large Poured Candle

(50 hours of burn time)
With a beautifully bold frosted red jar our Noël® Poured Candles will gradually release a festive, warm and welcoming aroma to transform any room



English Honey & Peach Blossom Body Wash

(250ml)
Our intensely moisturising body wash contains conditioning peach blossom extract and moisturising honey and glycerine



English Honey & Peach Blossom Hand Therapy

(100g)
Our intensive conditioning cream leaves hands feeling softer with each use. Formulated with conditioning shea butter, peach blossom extract and macadamia nut oil to moisturise and soften hands, along with myrrh to help condition cuticles and nails



English Honey & Peach Blossom Body Butter

(250ml)
Our rich body butter is formulated with conditioning peach blossom extract and moisturising honey, shea butter and moringa oil for soft and silky smooth skin

EGG Nutrition

By Bharat B



A lot of negative connotations have been said about eggs, especially among the health conscious crowd

There are claims that eggs worsen your cholesterol levels because of the fat it contains, thereby increasing your chance to have heart diseases. Little do we know that eggs are packed with so many vitamins and other nutrients which only go to show that it's indeed about time we unscramble and debunk these stories of falsehood? Since, there are several benefits of egg, we should update ourselves with the latest poultry news and updates.

Good for the Brain

An egg yolk is said to contain 300 microgram of Choline, a B-complex vitamin that is good for the cell membranes. Choline also prevents the accumulation of homocysteine - a dangerous composite that causes cardiovascular diseases. Aside from decreasing the likelihood of severe inflammation, this nutrient is linked to the improvement to the functions of our central nervous system. With these amazing benefits, it would be difficult to comprehend as to why one wouldn't make it an integral addition to their diet.

Better Eyesight

Other than getting the goodness of Vitamin A, a vitamin that is great for better eyesight, wolfing down some eggs gives us a good supply of lutein and zeaxanthin — nutrients that are great supplements in

reducing the risk of cataract development. Macular degeneration — the leading cause of blindness (due to the deterioration of the retina area of the eye that enables us to have a clear vision) is prevented by the consumption of lutein and zeaxanthin that are both present in eggs. So if you're becoming a little dyslexic lately, perhaps it's time to visit your ophthalmologist and start your much-awaited love-affair with those nutritious eggs hidden in your fridge.

Healty Heart and Cancer Prevention

There have been some studies that are asserting egg's power to prevent cancer. In a study at Harvard University, it's shown that the risk of developing breast cancer will be greatly reduced if egg consumption is regular during adolescent age - along with high-fiber diet and consumption of vegetable fat. Another study conducted at Yale University states that eating eggs leaves no harmful effects even to those who are living with coronary heart disease- one of the leading causes of health-related deaths around the world- if they eat a maximum of two eggs per day because of the healthy cholesterol found in them.

It's All in the Yolk

Because of the fact that eggs are enriched with amino acids, and not to mention the fact that they're also a major source of protein and other health-giving nutrients, we can say that there's no reason

to steer clear from these heaven-sent, nutrient-rich yolk wonders. Another set of important minerals found in eggs are iron, phosphorus, and zinc. These said minerals are important in keeping our system in shape. Iron, for instance, is important to those who are low on red blood cells. If you're an anemic, a woman having her menstruation, or someone who feels the need to fortify their body resistance, it's time you dash off to the grocery and stock up on these poultry magic! With so many minerals under its belt that help improve our body's immune system, it would be hard not to indulge in them knowing that they will help us achieve health and wellness each one of us long for. 

ENGLISH TO INDO



Walaupun telur mengandung lemak yang bisa menaikkan kadar kolesterol di dalam tubuh kita, tetapi banyak sekali kegunaan telur untuk kesehatan kita bisa dikonsumsi menurut takaran yang tepat.

Telur mengandung zat-zat seperti: Choline untuk pertumbuhan sel-sel otak kita; vitamin A untuk menurunkan resiko katarak pada mata; amino acids untuk protein; dan zat besi, fosfor dan zinc untuk menaikkan sel darah merah. Selain itu, telur mengandung pula zat-zat untuk mencegah kanker dan juga membantu meningkatkan sistem kekebalan tubuh kita.

Jadi jangan takut untuk mengkonsumsi telur demi kesehatan kita. 



Examining Eastern Healing Techniques

Senior Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) physician Wu Yue elaborates on the effectiveness of this now well-accepted form of treatment



Wu Yue, a physician with 24 years of experience in TCM, came to Singapore in 2005 to help a well-known private healthcare group in Singapore set-up its TCM unit. Ironically, he found the patients were mostly Caucasians and Indonesian Chinese. However, this has changed over the past eight years, with Singaporean Chinese and even a few local Malays and Indians now making up half of his patients. Mr Wu left the private healthcare group sometime in 2011 to set up his own TCM practice.

Wu Yue attributes the growing acceptance of TCM by locals to the effort put in by the Singapore government to not only incorporate TCM into Singapore's national and private healthcare systems but also in the syllabus of the country's schools. Nanyang Technological University, for example, has a TCM discipline as part of its double degree programme consisting of a Bachelor of Sciences in Biomedical Sciences (Honours) and Bachelor of Medicine (Chinese Medicine).

And it is not just the integration of TCM in hospitals and universities that demonstrates

the prominence of TCM in Singapore; it is the number of increasing collaborations between Western doctors and TCM practitioners that underlines the importance of TCM in what is generally considered a landscape that was previously conditioned to put faith only in Western medicine.

"For the past five or six years, I've been invited by many Western doctors to collaborate on talks in public forums on how TCM and Western medicine can complement one another. We have also done many joint researches together," elaborates Mr Wu.

Case Histories

Mr Wu's Western-trained counterparts have also referred many of their patients to him. He cited the case of a Chinese patient who had major surgery to remove a portion of his colon due to cancer. The surgery resulted in the patient having severe constipation. The Western doctor recommended another surgery to allow bowel movement which the patient rejected. "After going through a major surgery, the patient had reservations about a second surgery. Therefore, my opposite number recommended the patient to

me," he reveals. After a week of intensive acupuncture sessions, the patient was able to move his bowels normally.

Another instance was when a Singapore Chinese patient averted surgery was when she was suffering from a slipped disc. This causes extreme pain to the sufferer and usually, treatment requires surgery. However, the patient in this case did not want surgery, so the Western doctor referred her to Mr Wu. Using a combination of acupuncture and acupressure (or Tui Na) – application of pressure on various parts of the body - Mr Wu relieved her of pain after three months of treatment.

As illustrated from the case studies presented, TCM is an effective alternative or complement to Western medicine. Mr Wu hopes that in times to come TCM will play a greater role with its Western peer especially in the area of preventive medicine. In the meantime, the graduate from Beijing TCM University plans to give more public talks and establish his own TCM online portal to create more awareness about what TCM can do for one's well-being.

Mr Wu currently practises at Royal Pine TCM & Wellness Clinic@VIP Hotel. He is the owner and Senior TCM Physician of the clinic. 



Royal Pine TCM & Wellness Clinic



Wu Yue

Senior TCM Physician

Royal Pine TCM & Wellness Clinic

Bachelor of TCM, Beijing TCM University (1989)

Registered with TCM Practitioners Board (Singapore)

- More than 20 years of clinical experience
- Originally from China, graduated from Beijing TCM University in 1989
- Served as Deputy Chief Doctor (Associate Professor) at Fujian TCM Hospital
- Registered TCM Practitioner in 2006 and worked at major hospital
- Set up private practice in 2011

TCM TREATMENT AND SERVICES

- Pain Management & Sports Injury
- Diabetes
- Cancer Aftercare
- Stroke Rehabilitation
- Infertility
- Women's Health
 - Issue on uterine fibroids, ovarian cysts, menstrual cramp, menopause etc.
- Eyecare (Myopia)
- Stress Management

- Depression
- Insomnia
- Cardiovascular Health
- Children's Health
- Men's Health
 - Issue on prostatitis, erectile dysfunction, impotency etc.
- Induced Labour
- Skin & Body Care
- Toning and rejuvenation of face
- Weight control and management

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Clinical consultation
- Acupuncture
- Acupressure 'Tui Na' Massage Therapy
- TCM Herbal Medicine
- TCM Qigong Classes
- TCM Talks (Corporate Lunch time talks with quick consultation)
- TCM Dietary Cooking Class

For appointment,
please call 6778 0787
Operating hours:
Mondays to Saturdays
10am to 6pm
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

Royal Pine TCM & Wellness Clinic
@VIP Hotel
5 Balmoral Crescent
Singapore 259895



Accelerated Learning for Special Needs Pre-School Children

The Excelerate Education centre is recognised for its Excelerate V.2 programme which is specially aimed at children aged 18 months to 6-years-old with special learning needs. We take a look at what the programme entails

The Excelerate V.2 programme began in early 2004 as a pilot intensive intervention programme for children with various developmental conditions such as autism spectrum disorders, developmental delay, language disorder, motor planning difficulties and sensory integration dysfunction.

The programme was conceived, planned and put into action by Australian Pika Sen, a senior speech-language therapist. She was later joined by Joanne Silvestri, a compatriot and fellow senior speech-language therapist. Together, Ms Sen and Ms Silvestri brought the programme to the forefront of paediatric service delivery in Singapore and the region. The Excelerate V.2 programme then rapidly became the gold standard for effective therapy provision, attracting families from within Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States of America.

The programme is run solely by developmental therapists who have the expertise to facilitate and assist children with various special learning needs. The overarching objective of the Excelerate V.2 programme is the integration or re-integration of each child into a typical preschool environment with as much independence as possible.

Therapeutic Teaching Methods

The therapists are adept at applying various therapeutic methods in teaching your child. They are able to constantly modify and adapt each method to accommodate each child's particular personality, family and community situation.

Excelerate V.2 focuses on the following communication and learning essentials within the framework of therapy:

- Building attention and concentration skills
- Following directions and auditory processing
- Forming and maintaining relationships
- Recognizing spatial and relational concepts
- Extensive speech and language training
- Academic foundation skills
- Fine motor and motor planning training
- Social language development
- Building mental and physical stamina
- Cognitive acceleration
- Whole brain learning

At the school, teaching occurs in a group. This is because research has documented that three out of four children with a learning disability have inadequate social interactions with their peers (*source: Evans, Axelrod, & Sapia, 2000*). Children with disabilities often experience negative social relationships and are commonly rejected by or isolated from their peers. These children spend more time interacting with their teacher than with their peers, thus further reducing opportunities to develop age appropriate social and communication skills. Proximity is important in developing and maintaining friendships, such that children who are withdrawn or seated away from classmates are less likely to make friends. This is the reason why Excelerate V.2 utilises group therapy as a means of enhancing and facilitating children's social interactions with their peers.

For full details of the programme, visit: www.excelerate.com.sg or email: enquiries@excelerate.com.sg 



Thinking Out of the Box

Developing Critical Thinking can start from very young

The educators at The Thinking Box@Tanglin are inspired by philosophers, politicians and teachers throughout history who were focused on the art and science of critical thinking. They believe the ability to engage in careful, reflective thought is needed for a person to become educated and responsible in life. This nurturing of critical thinking starts from young and the educators at Thinking Box have crafted a programme that strives to cover every aspect that is important to the development of critical thinking.

Thinking Box's programme operates on the belief that people will be more eager to learn about subjects that capture their interest. Thus, the educators at Thinking Box are trained to identify your children's interests and create a setting that is conducive for your children's learning experience.

At Thinking Box, books on nearly every topic are made available as are writing and drawing materials, blocks and construction equipment, dramatic play accessories, musical pieces and many types of maths and science discovery materials. The children are encouraged to ask, measure, listen, think, consider, conclude, perform,

disagree, create, take apart, dance, and their imaginations fly.

Letters and numbers appear throughout the programme in games, art projects and stories, always with a relationship to the current activity so that the child can link the letter or number to a concrete concept. There are many activities that extend the concepts of literacy and numeracy, such as sequencing, classifying and developing memory.

Stories are chosen for their beautiful illustrations, excellent writing, and their relevance to the children's experience. Favourites can be read over and over again, stimulating conversations about the characters, the pictures, and what might happen next.

The intricate complexity of the people and cultures of our world is interwoven daily in Thinking Box's programme. The children are introduced to and surrounded by music, songs, stories, art methods and objects, customs and foods from various aspects of human experience and history. Relevant cultural holidays are joyfully celebrated, and every child and family can feel included and respected.

If you are interested to find out more about the details of the school's programme, visit www.thinkingbox.com.sg or email: admin@thinkingbox.com.sg 



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Where to Buy Consumer Electronics?

The choices are many (including those online). Here is how a 61-year old Singapore family business has been holding its own as one of the top electronic providers of choice

If you are thinking of buying a TV or anything else electronic this festive season, you might try a walk-in store that has been around for over 60 years thanks to its quality of service, selection and competitive prices.

Parisilk started life literally as Paris Silk Store selling mainly silk textiles by Gulabrai Primalani in 1952 in Nee Soon. He eventually handed the business to his three sons in 1973. As growth in the textile industry was limited, a year later they converted the store to selling consumer electronics.

Through the years, Paris Silk Store expanded from Nee Soon to now its flagship store in Holland Village and outlets in Bedok Central and East Coast. The company was rebranded to Parisilk Electronics & Computers Pte Ltd in 1997.

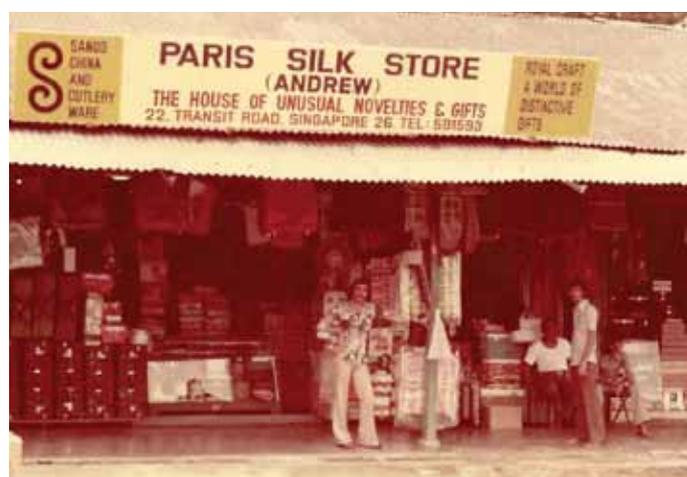
Customer Care & Handholding

Parisilk grew through the years by building on the strong relationship they have with their customers. They did this through personalised customer service and competitive pricing, which led to Parisilk emerging as the leading consumer electronics store in Singapore.

“Parisilk’s success lies in our dedication to our customers. Our customers know that when they come to us, they get not only the best advice and service. Those who hate haggling would be pleased to know that we also offer the best prices possible,” says Andrew Primalani, Managing Director.

“When we started in Holland Village in 1988, we were worried as it was the first time we were setting up shop away from where we started in Nee Soon. We worked really hard to ensure each and every customer was happy with their purchase and went out of our way to please,” informs Kevin Primalani, Director.

One such Parisilk customer attested to the electronics’ chain excellence in service and competitive pricing. Cherrylene L posted a glowing online review on established Singapore business directory-cum-review portal, Yelp. She said, “Unlike some stores in Holland Village which are more popular with expats in general, the fact that even locals patronise this shop goes to show that their prices are indeed quite competitive. I always return to buy my AUX cable from them (\$8) everytime I need a new one. Each cable lasts me at least half a year, and that is only because I’m extremely careless with them. The shopkeepers also always seem



to know exactly what I’m looking for even when I don’t give the best descriptions. Even if they don’t have what I’m looking for, they will help me think of alternative solutions or suggest places where I am able to find them.”

“There is no way we can match the marketing dollars of the big chain stores. So we ensure that each and every customer is very happy with their experience and they in turn will spread the word to their family and friends. Nothing beats word-of-mouth,” adds Larry Primalani, Director.

He summed up Parisilk’s way of doing things based model as a family business built on family values and invited customers to come to the store for an honest opinion on what’s good and what’s not! 



Short Breaks

Ombak Villa Langkawi

The newly opened four-star resort is part of a riverside group of hotels that cater to all budget

For a short break, December is not an ideal time to travel south to Batam, Bintan or the East Coast of Malaysia because of the seasonal monsoon rains which can last up March. The traditional choices are to go up north on the Malaysian West Coast.

A new resort in Langkawi, Malaysia, Ombak Villa by Langkawi Lagoon Resort was officially opened in September that offers luxurious accommodation consisting of 76 Ombak suites, two honeymoon suites and one premier villa and they all come with a breath taking view of the Andaman Sea.

Ombak is one of three properties owned by the same developer with three distinct characters and budgets starting with the Melaka Inn (the cheapest with twin room rates starting from RM\$150 for two nights), the next step up is Langkawi Lagoon Resort (twin room rates starting from RM900 for two nights) and finally the luxe suites of Ombak Villa starting from RM1,400 (for two nights). Please check for actual rates as room prices are subject to change according to seasonal demand these rates are provided just as a guide.

Ombak Villa Premier Suite



Ombak Villa by Langkawi Lagoon Resort

In the last two months, Ombak has been receiving good reviews from guests who appreciate the quick check-ins, courteous staff and raves about the seaviews. It is just a 10-minute drive from the airport. It is also close to some of Langkawi's attractions like the Field of Burnt Rice, Pantai Cenang Beach and the Underwater World. But you will be perfectly happy staying in and enjoying the amenities of the hotel.

The resort area located at Kampong Padang Masirat, just beside a river where there is a small river-side community, surrounded by padi fields that evoke a peaceful, remote away-from-it-all setting.

In-resort facilities include its own half-sized Olympic pool by the beach, spa facilities, gym, sauna and steam room. Other recreation facilities include tennis courts and a library as well as a children's play corner and barbecue facilities.



Ombak Villa Premier Suite

Langkawi Lagoon Resort

The resort offers two kinds of accommodation - the Beach Front Hotel Suites consisting of Deluxe Hill & Sea View and Junior Suites, or the more interesting wooden Sea Village constructed on stilts on the water! These are made up of Studio Suites, Executive Studio Suites, Deluxe Studio Suites, Family Sea Duplex and the luxurious Villa Sri Andaman. Each unit comes with a private balcony and full room amenities, and is built within a sanctuary of calm waters protected by a spectacular breakwater arching dramatically out to the Andaman Sea.

The Beach Front Hotel Suites consist of 86 units of sea and hill view rooms/suites. Spacious rooms ranging from 36 sqm to 63 sqm with full room amenities, chaise longue (pangkin) and kitchenette facilities are available. Also welcome is the large beachfront swimming pool with jacuzzi and sunken bar!

Melaka Inn

This is the value-for-money option that might also surprise you as the room size and facilities are comfortable and clean with airconditioning and showers. Although it has its own café, there is a hawker centre on the roof-top that the hotel gives rent-free to for local food vendors to set up shop!



Ombak Villa Honeymoon Suites



Ombak Villa Honeymoon Suites

Langkawi Top Inland Attractions

Sun. Sand. Sea. You can get them all on the scenic Malaysian island of Langkawi.



Langkawi's many beaches are rated among the best in the world. It is also known for historical attractions, good food, excellent diving and this duty-free island also offer very cheap shopping. On land some of the attractions you should try to go when you are there:

Cable Car & Skybridge Pantai Kok

It's a 20-minute ride to the top of Gunung Machinchang, with spectacular views of the lush surrounding mountainside along the way. You purchase tickets at the Oriental Village – a charming pseudo-French old-style Chinese town. At the top of the mountain is the Skybridge – a curved suspension bridge – which affords awesome views of the island.

Al-Hana Mosque

This golden onion-domed mosque features intricate Moorish architecture. Although located within the bustling streets of Kuah, this house of worship manages to maintain its imposing mystique. Featuring motifs and carvings from Uzbekistan along with time-honoured Malay elements, it is the best-known mosque on the island as well as the largest.

Dataran Lang

Also known as 'Eagle Square', this massive 12-metre tall monument of a sea eagle preparing for flight stands beside the Kuah Jetty and greets arriving visitors to Langkawi. This attraction is surrounded by landscaped ponds, terraces and bridges.

Galleria Perdana

Houses a variety of gifts offered to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahatir, this museum at Pantai Kok is actually a good way to gain insight into some of Malaysia's political accomplishments. Gifts from a variety of global leaders are displayed throughout the museum, ranging from lovely Malay wooden architecture to an ample collection of motor vehicles.

Lagenda Langkawi Dalam Taman

Located within Kuah, this 50-hectare 'folklore'-themed park is basically a skilfully landscaped garden. Featuring a narrow strip of manmade beach this recreational park has 17 multi-hued statues depicting Langkawi's myths and fables. The park has four manmade lakes and is a popular spot for joggers.

Langkawi Bird Paradise and Wildlife Park

This is home to a tropical garden with over 150 species of exotic birds, including toucans, hornbills and flamingos.

Mahsuri's Tomb

Mahsuri Tomb at Padang Matsirat is a historical complex that houses the shrine of a Malay princess who was unjustly accused of adultery and sentenced to death. The grounds are dominated by an enclosed slab of white stone as well as a recreation of a traditional Malay house. The attraction is also home to a theatre – where musical performances take place – and a few food shops.

Sungai Kilim Nature Park

Get up close with Langkawi's famous brahminy kites and sea eagles as well as some spectacular mangrove swamps. Boats take you down the winding river to the swamps to see the lush collection of flora and fauna.

Sunset Dinner Cruise

The sunset dinner cruise is a great way to see Langkawi Island. The cruise comes with a sumptuous barbecue. Later sip on a drink from the open bar and take in the sights of some of Langkawi's most beautiful islets. It's quite romantic and fun way to end a day.

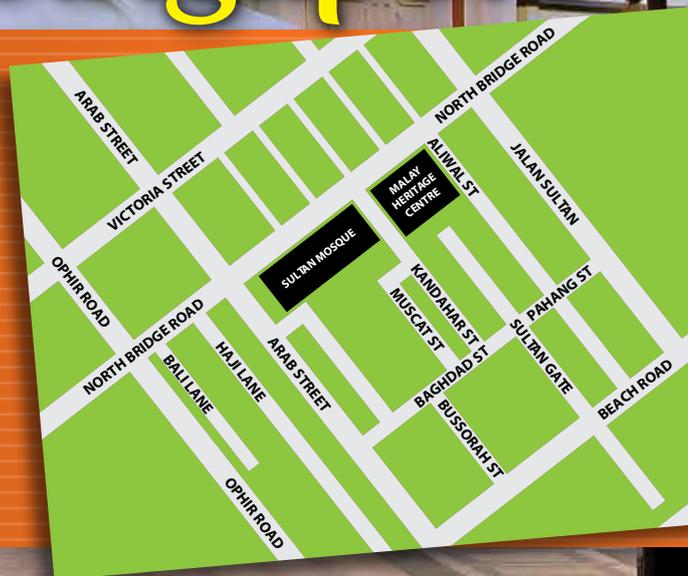
Underwater World

Located at Pantai Cenang, it houses more than 100 specially designed tanks and over 500 species of animals and sea creatures. The family-friendly complex is divided into three sections – Tropical Rainforest, Temperate and Sub-Antarctic. One of its highlights is the 15-metre, six million litre walk-through underwater tunnel tank, home to sharks, giant stingrays and green turtles.

Where the Kampong Life Lives On in Singapore

A street-by-street selection of the many Indonesian, Arab and Malay attractions from food, clothes, arts-crafts shopping and heritage sites

Photos and text by Foo Yong Han





Kampong Glam is famous in Singapore as a colourful ethnic enclave showcasing predominantly Indonesian, Malay and Arab culture and food. The 'Glam' is not an abbreviation of glamorous but rather the name of the tree which grew in abundance in the area in the past. However, Kampong Glam is also a trendy night spot for the young with shisha joints, sidewalk cafes and cosy middle-eastern restaurants. So while tourists throng the shopping alleys during the day, it is busy at night and over the weekends with the dinner and supper-time crowds.

The area stands out today as the home of the excellent **Malay Heritage Centre** that charts in detail the arrival of the Javanese and Bugis travellers who came and eventually settled in Singapura; then there is the majestic **Sultan Mosque** and finally a host of food places specialising in Padang, Middle Eastern and Persian foods for all budgets. Shopping is also a delight especially for the ladies with rows of clothing and silk stores on **Arab Street**. Here is a rundown on what is hip and hot in Kampong Glam:

MUSCAT STREET

The first thing that catches your eye when you walk along Muscat Street is the towering Masjid Sultan. It is the largest mosque in Singapore and its prayer hall can accommodate up to 5,000 people at prayer time. Its architecture is inspired by Persian and Arab influences and captures the attention with its huge, bronzed dome. Visitors are allowed to enter the mosque and take snapshots if appropriately attired – no short pants for women and men. If you are not in the right outfit, you will be provided Muslim garb at no cost.

Directly in front of the mosque, is a pedestrian-only boulevard flanked by British colonial-era shophouses and palm trees known as Bussorah Mall. The establishments there include:

- **Istanbul Grill's Turkish Restaurant**
- **Zac's Middle Eastern & Mediterranean Cuisine Restaurant**
- **Deli Moroccan Restaurant**
- **Malay Art Gallery.** A unique store featuring a host of kerises (daggers) and weapon-related items from Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia.

- **Wardah Books.** Specialises in books on Sufism and Islamic philosophy. The titles range from children's books to Prophetic sirah and translations of the Qur'an and history to the latest nasyeed.
- **Bushra Café.** Reasonably priced, with a wide selection of halal food that covers Malay, Thai, Northern Indian, Chinese and Western specials.
- **Wahab Textiles.** Retail a variety of traditional Malay and Indonesian fashion wear such as baju kurung and kebaya as well as woodcraft and jewellery.

SULTAN GATE

Sultan Gate is a lane parallel to Muscat Street (with Kandahar Street in between the two). Here you can find the **Malay Heritage Centre (MHC)**. This heritage institution is an eye-opening presentation of the history, culture and contributions of the Malay community in Singapore from its colonial days through to the present.

The centre consists of six permanent galleries distributed over two floors. The galleries showcase a wide collection of traditional Malay artefacts and paintings to give visitors an insight into Kampong



Glam's history as a bustling commercial hub that was responsible for the growth of the Malay community in Singapore. The MHC also houses two temporary exhibition galleries in separate one-level buildings which play host to temporary and travelling exhibitions that will complement the exhibits of its permanent galleries.

If you are craving for authentic Malay fare after a tour of the MHC, make a beeline to the nearby **Gedung Kuning** (Yellow Mansion). Previously owned by a Malay entrepreneur and pioneer Malay philanthropist, Haji Yusoff, who bought it in 1912, the Gedung Kuning was acquired by the government in 1999 and turned into a cultural-cum-recreational complex, where entrepreneurs can rent the mansion and do business. The current occupant of the Gedung Kuning is the **Mamanda** restaurant.

Mamanda prides itself on serving an appetising line-up of traditional Malay cuisine infusing the best of Malay cookery and ingredients such as aromatic herbs, buds, roots, fruits, grains, shoots and stems blended with spices. Besides being a restaurant, Mamanda can also accommodate weddings and conventions.

ARAB STREET

After lunch at Mamanda, perhaps you might like to swing by to Arab Street, which is alongside Masjid Sultan. This entire stretch is a haven for shoppers looking for knick knacks, handicraft, furniture and textiles. Also on offer are carpets, floor mats, hand-woven baskets, gemstones. You can also pick up Malay and Middle Eastern apparel for men and women, home furnishings and men and women's accessories like handbags, wallets and belts. Most of these items are either locally made by the local Malay community or imported from Indonesia, the Middle East and Iran.

HAJI LANE

If you want something unconventional or artistic, take a trip down to Haji Lane, which is a stone's throw away from Arab Street. It looks like the narrowest street in Singapore with just enough space for a car to squeeze past another with the rest of the space meant for walking or sitting; this lane is home to many quirky stores retailing designer wear and fashion accessories as well as offering hair-styling services. The following are two stores that stand out:

- **Filmbox.** Like a movie with a twist, the store retails men's and women's accessories rather than film paraphernalia. While these items consist mostly of bags, shoes and fashion wear, they catch the eye with their creative styling, colours and material.
- **tokyobike.** It is a Japanese brand of bicycles that come in customised versions and pre-assembled variants. These no-frills bicycles are lightweight and compact and yet, durable — meant for leisurely rides in the city and parks. The frames and wheels of each bicycle are elegantly designed and come in many colours.

BAGHDAD, KANDAHAR, BUSSORAH AND PAHANG STREETS

These streets are located either at the junction of or beside Muscat Street. They comprise mainly of eateries serving Middle Eastern, Indonesian and Malay food. You will be spoilt for choice when you drop in for either lunch or dinner. Notable eateries include:

- **Sari Ratu** (20 Pahang Street) and **Rumah Makan Minang** (18 and 18A Kandahar Street). Both these bistros boast authentic Padang food that will make you come back for more.
 - **Kampong Glam Café** (17 Bussorah Street). Has a range of affordable Malay fare such as Mee Siam, Tahu Goreng, Mee Rebus, Roti Kirai and many more.
 - **Bhai's Place** (14/16/18 Baghdad Street). Provides a variety of Indian fare such as roti prata, thosai and biryani (mutton/fish/chicken).
 - **Nasrin** (12 Baghdad Street). Serves up a mouth-watering array of Persian food such as kebabs and lamb chops.
- After a long day at Kampong Glam, you might want to visit **Jamal Kazura Aromatics** (21 Bussorah Street). This fragrance boutique has a wide range of Arabic perfumes, massage oils, scented body soap and shower creams from the Middle East, India and Europe. It is the ideal way to end your visit to the vibrant district on a high note, pun intended! 

ENGLISH TO INDO

Kali ini IndoConnect meliputi area Kampong Glam yang penuh dengan kebudayaan Melayu, Indonesia, dan Arab yang beragam. Kata 'glam' sendiri bukan merupakan singkatan 'glamour', melainkan nama pohon yang tumbuh di sana pada jaman dahulu. Tetapi sekarang, restoran-restoran timur tengah, cafe-cafe pinggir jalan, dan toko-toko lah yang tumbuh menjamur di sana.

Beberapa tempat di Kampong Glam yang tidak boleh terlewatkan:

- Muscat Street: Masjid Sultan, Istanbul Grill's Turkish Restaurant, Zac's Middle Eastern & Mediterranean Cuisine Restaurant, Deli Moroccan Restaurant, Malay Art Gallery, Wardah Books, Bushra Café, Wahab Textiles, dll
- Sultan Gate: Malay Heritage Centre (MHC), Gedung Kuning, Mamanda restaurant, dll
- Arab Street: toko-toko kecil yang menjual pernak-pernik, kerajinan, furnitur, tekstil, dll
- Haji Lane: Filmbox, tokyobike, dll
- Baghdad, Kandahar, Bussorah, dan Pahang Street: Sari Ratu, Rumah Makan Minang, Kampong Glam Café, Bhai's Place, Nasrin, Jamal Kazura Aromatics, dll 



Ayam Goreng



Sop Ekor (oxtail soup)



Sari Ratu: Still Tops for Quality & REAL Taste of Padang Food

Already a culinary institution in Indonesia and famed for Padang food, Sari Ratu's first restaurant in Singapore is fittingly in the colourful and vibrant cultural district of Kampong Glam. It is the real deal, as the restaurant's kitchen is personally overseen by Chef Agus, one of the pioneer cooks when Sari Ratu was first founded in Indonesia in the '80s.

The first recommendation on the menu is the *Sate Padang*. According to Sari Ratu Singapore's owner, Mohammad Ali, this is their signature dish and cannot be found anywhere else in Singapore. Does it live up to its hype? Absolutely! Served with *lontong*, an order consists of five succulent and meaty chunks of skewered beef bathed in curry infused with turmeric. This dish is best eaten warm when the tender, juicy meat melts in the insides of your mouth and sends shivers of warm delight through the insides of your stomach.

Next up is the *Terong Balado*, which has generous pieces of brinjal served with red chilli. This spicy, savoury and juicy mix is as heady as they come. Other must-try highlights include the piquant *Gulai Kambing* (braised lamb in homemade gravy), *Ayam Bakar* (barbecued chicken) and *Sup Ekor* (oxtail soup). Be sure to complete your meal with Sari Ratu's signature beverage, the avocado juice. It is a rich, refreshing brew made up of finely sieved avocado and drizzles of chocolate sauce.

Location: 20 Pahang Street. Opening hours: Mon - Sun: 10:00 am - 10:00 pm.
Tel: +65 6294 9983. Website: <http://www.sariratu.sg/> 



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A Chance to Win a \$1 Million

Spending in Changi Airport wins Tio Irvung a one-in-six chance to be a millionaire

The 47-year-old Indonesian businessman purchased some cosmetics and became the latest lucky shopper at Changi Airport to qualify as a grand draw finalist of in the airport's 'Be a Changi Millionaire 2013' lucky draw. This is the largest retail promotion in Singapore with a prize-purse of S\$1 million.



"I was shocked and surprised when I received the news! I shop very frequently at Changi Airport but I never imagined that I could be so lucky as to get a chance to become a Changi Millionaire finalist", said Mr Tio. He and his family are frequent visitors to Singapore and Changi Airport, and are familiar with the retail and dining offerings at Changi. "We love shopping and dining at Changi. My favourite dining place is Peach Garden at Terminal 1", said Mr Tio. "Shopping is very enjoyable as there is a great variety and prices are more competitive than other airports in Asia."

A finalist will be drawn per month during the promotion which started from 1 May ended on 31 October 2013. There is just one more finalist left to be picked before the Grand Draw early next year. In addition to a chance to become a millionaire, each finalist wins a cash prize of S\$5,000 and a three-night stay in Singapore. 



Pan Pacific Nirwana
Bali Golf Resort



World Travel Awards 2013: The Best of Indonesia

The highly coveted 'Oscars' of the travel industry gives recognition to these Indonesian hotels and resorts

The World Travel Award (WTA) celebrated its 20th anniversary in November at a glittering ceremony in Doha, Qatar that gave out awards to the best travel companies, government tourism ministries and agencies including airlines, hotels and resorts around the world. Travel agents cast their votes for which organisation they think is the best in each category.

Under the ASIA category, Conrad Bali was awarded 'Asia's Leading Family Resort'. There is great competition from all over the world for the highly coveted WTA awards. A very pleased Ms Wiwit, the General Manager of Qunci Villas in Lombok, which was awarded 'Indonesia's Leading Resort', was interviewed on the win. He said Indonesia has many islands with tourism spots and many think of Bali first but Lombok is completely different from Bali offering a different experience. He was very happy that the award has put Lombok and Qunci Villas on the tourism map of the world.

Under the country category, members of the WTA picked Indonesia for the following:

- § Indonesia's Leading Business Hotel: Hotel Mulia Senayan, Jakarta
- § Indonesia's Leading Golf Resort: Pan Pacific Nirwana Bali Resort
- § Indonesia's Leading Hotel: The St. Regis Bali Resort
- § Indonesia's Leading Hotel Residences: Hotel Indonesia Kempinski Jakarta
- § Indonesia's Leading Resort: Qunci Villas Lombok
- § Indonesia's Leading Serviced Apartment Brand: Ascott The Residence
- § Indonesia's Leading Serviced Apartments: Ascott Jakarta
- § Indonesia's Leading Spa Resort: AYANA Resort and Spa Bali 



Hotel Kempinski Jakarta



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There are always rooms to stay in Singapore. We recommend the latest top hotels opened in the last year for anyone coming here for business or the holidays

New Hotels to Try Out

Resorts World Sentosa - TreeTop Lofts

This sprawling, multi-themed hotel-cum-entertainment complex has many types of rooms, villas and lofts for you to choose from. The new TreeTop Lofts consists of two unique one-bedroom lofts Angsana and Tembusu, they serve as the perfect nature lovers' hideaway. Tucked away in a canopy of native trees and perched 12 metres above ground, the two lofts are the epitome of exclusivity and privacy. Featuring a spacious living room, an en-suite bedroom adjoined to a walk-in wardrobe and private outdoor terraces, guests are treated to five-star comforts such as luxurious amenities and personalised butler service whilst being completely immersed in nature.

Location: 8 Sentosa Gateway, Sentosa Island, Singapore 098269
Tel: +65 6577 8899

Parkroyal on Pickering



Located close to the city centre, this hotel gives you accessibility to the bustling cultural enclave of Chinatown and the entertainment spots along the scenic Singapore River. When you are done exploring, you can bask in this hotel's 15,000 square metres

worth of lush sky gardens and an exclusive rooftop Orchid Club lounge that offers a sweeping 360-degree view of the Singapore city skyline. The hotel has 367 elegant and contemporary hotel rooms and suites and a dedicated wellness floor with terrace pool, spa and a jogging track high above the street level.

Location: 3 Upper Pickering Street, Singapore 058289.

Tel: +65 6809 8888

Dorsett Singapore



This modest 10-storey hotel catches the eye with a full glass building façade that dovetails with the colourful cultural precinct of Chinatown. All 285 guestrooms and loft rooms are equipped with free wired and wireless high speed

internet access, 40" LED TV with cable TV and international channels, posturepedic mattress to ensure a healthy good rest, cordless phone and IP phone with IDD access, iPhone/iPad docking app-enhanced dual alarm stereo clock radio, complimentary tea and coffee making facilities; and a host of other facilities to ensure a memorable staying experience.

Location: 333 New Bridge Road, Singapore 088765.

Tel: +65 6678 8333

Village Hotel Bugis



Situated right in the heart of the town, the 393-room Village Hotel Bugis offers convenience and easy accessibility to many shopping, dining and entertainment options in the Bugis area as well as the unique cultural district of Kampong Glam

and its Arabic, Malay and Indonesian food, traditional apparel and paraphernalia. With the completion of newly renovated Deluxe Rooms, guests can expect refreshing contemporary design, modern furnishings, a recliner armchair, open-concept wardrobe and an indulgent rain-shower experience in a stylish bathroom.

Location: 390 Victoria Street, Singapore 188061

Tel: +65 6297 2828

Pan Pacific Orchard



Nestled along this dynamic city's premier shopping belt, this five-star hotel offers convenient access to a variety of entertainment and retail options, including Palais Renaissance, Wheelock Place and ION Orchard, one

of the city's largest malls, showcasing well-known luxury brands. The recently refurbished hotel features a refreshed collection of 206 guest rooms and modern and rejuvenating leisure facilities designed to enhance every moment of your stay.

Location: 10 Claymore Road, Singapore 229540

Tel: +65 6737 0811

Orchard Parade Hotel



Located at the entrance of the Orchard Road, Singapore's most famous shopping belt, Orchard Parade Hotel is just a ten-minute walk from Lido Cineplex and major shopping centers such as ION Orchard, Wisma Atria

and Ngee Ann City. There are 388 rooms to choose from; among them Superior Rooms, Deluxe Rooms and Premier Rooms. Recently, 100 deluxe rooms were given a makeover to include 40-inch LCD televisions and bathrooms equipped with rainforest showers.

Location: 1 Tanglin Road, Singapore 247905

Tel: +65 6737 1133

Ramada Singapore



This four-star hotel offers 384 well-appointed guest rooms with contemporary elegance enhanced by distinctive décor and refined touches designed to satisfy and delight you. The hotel features a restaurant – Flavours at Zhongshan

Park offering authentic Straits Chinese cuisine coupled with a carefully selected mix of international and western favourites. You can also choose to unwind with drinks at the cosy lobby bar, Heritage Lounge. Other facilities include a swimming pool, a gym and business centre. For the convenience of hotel guests, the hotel adjoins a two-level retail mall consisting of eateries, shops and a supermarket.

Location: 16, Ah Hood Road, Singapore 329982

Tel: +65 6808 6888

The Scotts Tower: A New High in Vertical Luxury Living in Singapore



The Scotts Tower articulates the notion of living well in vertical spaces - bringing about a new level of live-work-play experiences.

Singapore's prime residential district 9 has landed itself in a fresh air of architectural sophistication and urban milieu with the addition of the The Scotts Tower (TST). Nestled at the intersection of Scotts Road and Cairnhill Road, the stunning new 31-storey, 231-unit luxury apartment was conceptualised by Red Dot award-winner, co-founder and principal architect of UNStudio Ben van Berkel. It is the first of a distinctive collection of new generation SOHO apartments developed by Far East Organization to roll-out under its new lifestyle brand, Far East SOHO.

SOHO LIVING, A NEW URBAN LIFESTYLE

All Far East SOHO properties carry the hallmarks of strategic locale, excellent connectivity and flexible space, designed for those in search of personalized living spaces that are flexible, stylish, function optimally, and are situated in connected urban locales. With the TST, each of its 1 to 3-bedroom apartments and 4-bedroom penthouses will feature high ceilings equal to or more than 3.4m in height, borderless floor spaces, floor-to-ceiling windows, as well as edgy and artistic interiors. High floor units will enjoy breath-taking views of the skyline. A semi-white plan will also give residents the freedom to personalize their own work-live-play spaces according to their lifestyles and aspirations.

Decked with expansive landscaped gardens and lush sky terraces, the development will feature a bevy of recreational facilities such as a 50m lap pool, Jacuzzi, fitness and sun decks as well as entertainment facilities including avant-garde dining terraces and Wi-Fi enabled meeting pods. A private party deck with a 12m lap pool is also featured on Level 25. Exclusive concierge services as well as connectivity further exemplifies the concept of 'living well in vertical spaces'.

'VERTICAL NEIGHBOURHOODS'

A vertical city concept was applied to the project's innovative spatial design. Communal areas were also designed to forge stronger bonds between the dwellers of this 'vertical neighbourhood'. According to Mr van Berkel, "Our design approach is not just to concentrate on the shape of the building, but to pay particular attention to how we organize the space within it in order to connect a diversity of inhabitants with different communities and lifestyles. With The Scotts Tower, we took the principle of vertical cities into consideration and created what we call 'neighbourhoods in the sky'."



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Sahara Riverside

Oasis for Persian & Mediterranean Fare

Sahara scores with authentic tasting Iranian and Med food with a friendly chill-out spot by the Singapore River



Sahara Bar & Restaurant was founded by Esad Sedjic 10 years ago. Moshee joined him as a partner last year in December, introducing Persian cuisine to Sahara's existing line-up of tasty Mediterranean dishes. Sedjic and Moshee come from Bosnia and Iran respectively and became famous for their footballing exploits in Singapore's premier football tournament, the S-League. The fruit of that partnership is reflected in the convivial, almost playful atmosphere any one stepping into the outlet can feel. Plus they are also competitive about offering the best of Persian and Mediterranean food.

Sahara is well known for generous portions of kebabs and we are happy to confirm this in a food tasting session there. Among the outlet's signature kebabs are the Kebab Koobideh and Sultani Kebab.

The meat used for the kebabs are either lamb or chicken. They are minced to very fine pieces. They are skewered and grilled, eventually forming a long juicy and meaty strip. The kebabs are infused with a blend of onions and spices such as saffron, cinnamon and turmeric before being served with aromatic, polished saffron rice, barbecued green chilli, tomatoes and lettuce.

This mix delivers a heavenly boost to your palates and you will find yourself ordering another round of kebabs in no time.

We also recommend another Persian dish called Mahiche. It is one big piece of lamb shank braised in savoury gravy. It is so succulent and tender that you will find no problem finishing the entire shank like you have not eaten in months. The Mahiche is accompanied by a serving of refined saffron

rice. And if you still cannot have enough of Persian meat dishes, then you should not miss out on the Shishlik, consisting of marinated and barbecued lamb chops. The meat is full-bodied and firm to the bite with a satisfying crunch to finish the meal.

The Mediterranean dishes in the restaurant are just as eclectic and well prepared as their Persian counterparts. The standout dish is the C'evapi, comprising of grilled chunks of minced beef and lamb. The C'evapi comes together with ground red chilli, onions and saffron rice, making it a satisfying meal on its own. Other Mediterranean highlights include crowd pleasers such as pastas and pizzas. Recommended pastas are the chicken or beef carbonara and aglio olio. For pizzas, there are the pepperoni, Sahara Special and vegetable variants.

For those watching their waistlines, Sahara also serves salad dishes with the Persian-inspired Shirazi Salad. It is a heady mix of lettuce, tomatoes, red cabbage, cucumbers and imported Greek pepper. The Mediterranean equivalent is the Greek Salad, a sweet and tangy concoction of tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, green chilli, feta, Kalamata olives and cheese.

After the meal, there is no need to adjourn elsewhere for a drink (or two) as you might want to knock back some drinks and take in the wonderful views of the Singapore River alongside the restaurant. Food, drinks and ambience; you can find them all at Sahara Bar & Restaurant. ☺

Location: No.58, Boat Quay, Singapore 049847

Business Hours: 11.30am - 3am (Mon - Sun)

Contact: Tel. 6536 6231

Website: www.saharapersiancuisine.com.sg



Special Mixed Grill Kebab



Baklava



Mahiche



Kebab Koobideh



**Persian and Mediterranean flavours
by the Singapore River**

The tantalising taste and aromatic scents of Persian and Mediterranean fare come to life at the Sahara Authentic Persian Restaurant. For over a decade, Sahara has been the leading restaurant serving Iranian cuisine specialising in grilled meats and Middle Eastern kebabs and Mediterranean delights such as pastas and pizzas.

Founded by Esad Sedjic and Mojtaba 'Moshee' Tehrani, Sahara is an institution in the Singapore food scene. The former sportsmen, Esad and Moshee, bring the same energy and enthusiasm they displayed on the football pitch to serve the best of authentic Persian and Mediterranean food at the Sahara Authentic Persian Restaurant.



Bal Kebab



Sultani Kebab



Sahara Special Pizza



Zereshk Polo Ba Murgh



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Nasi Tumpeng



Bahan (6 porsi):

600	gr beras, dicuci, ditiriskan
700	cc santan kental dari 1 ½ butir kelapa tua (buang kulit arinya)
2	sdm kunyit parut
1-1½	sdt garam
1	sdm air jeruk nipis
3	batang serai, dimemarkan
6	lembar daun salam

1. Kukus beras sampai setengah matang (± 20 menit), angkat, tuang ke panci. Campur kunyit parut ke dalam santan, masak bersama garam, serai dan daun salam.

2. Tuang nasi kukus dengan santan mendidih berikut semua daun, masak kembali sambil diaduk hingga santan terserap beras, angkat. Kukus kembali hingga matang.

3. Hidangkan nasi kuning bersama lauk-lauk tidak berkuah sesuai selera.

Serabi Bandung

Bahan (20 buah):

300	gr tepung beras
180	gr kelapa parut dari ½ butir kelapa yang muda
½	sdt garam
600	cc santan cair
120	cc air perasan 4 lembar daun pandan (ditumbuk/ diblender dulu)
2 - 3	sdm minyak goreng untuk mengoles cetakan

Saus Gula Merah:

600	cc santan dari 1 butir kelapa tua
250	gr gula merah
½	sdt garam
2	lbr daun pandan, sobek-sobek buat simpul

1. Campur tepung beras, kelapa parut, dan garam, aduk-aduk sambil dituang santan dan air daun pandan sedikit demi sedikit. Aduk-aduk terus sekitar 15 menit, sampai lembut dan halus.

2. Panaskan cetakan/wajan serabi. Olesi minyak pada permukaan wajan.

3. Tuangkan 4 sdm adonan, tutup dengan penutupnya/tutup panci kecil. Jika adonan mulai terlihat berporipori dan adonan di permukaan serabi sudah padat dan licin, keluarkan serabi dengan mencongkel dengan sutil kecil. Sajikan dengan saus.

4. Saus gula merah: rebus semua bahan, gunakan api kecil, aduk-aduk sampai mendidih, angkat, hidangkan sebagai saus



Book Tittle
30 Ikon Kuliner
Tradisional Indonesia

Book by
Ministry of Tourism
and Creative Economy



30 Ikon Kuliner Tradisional Indonesia is a publication by the Ministry Tourism and Creative Economy under the advocacy of the Minister Ms Mari Eika Pangestu. Written by Bondan Winarno and Linda Adimidjaja



Galantin

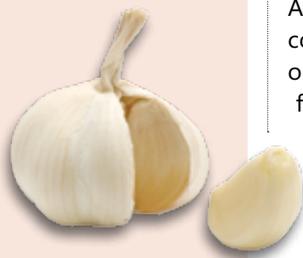
(Meat and Glass Noodles Loaf)

Ingredients:

- 500 grams minced beef
- 50 grams glass noodles, cut into 10 cm length, soaked until tender, drained
- 2 sliced bread, cut into 1 cm cubes, soaked in hot water, squeezed
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon sweet soya sauce
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon powdered nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon salt

Sauce:

- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 1 clove garlic, finely sliced
- 4 shallots, finely sliced
- 150 cc stock
- 2 tablespoons sweet soya sauce
- 1 tablespoon tomato sauce
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon powdered nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch, mixed with a little water



Methods:

Combine beef with other ingredients and mix well. Clean a milk can and cover with banana leaf / plastic up to 2 cm from the top. Fill the can with beef mixture and steam until cooked. Remove from the steamer and let it cool. When cooled, remove the beef from the mould and fry with margarine. Slice into pieces 1 cm thick. Serve with sauce, fried potatoes and boiled vegetables.

Sauce: Heat margarine and fry garlic and shallots until soft, then pour in the stock. And the other ingredients, stirring in cornstarch last, to thicken the sauce.

Note: If you don't have a can, you can put the mixture in the centre of a banana leaf and roll it up firmly into a cylindrical shape. Secure both ends, then steam.

Gingerbread Cookies

(Kue Roti Jahe)

Ingredients:

- 125 grams butter + more for greasing
- 2 tablespoon milk powder
- 100 grams grated palm sugar
- 25 castor (superfine) sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 360 grams plain (all-purpose) flour + ½ teaspoon baking powder + ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda, sifted

Frosting:

- 2 egg whites
- 500 grams icing (confectioner's) sugar
- food colouring

Methods:

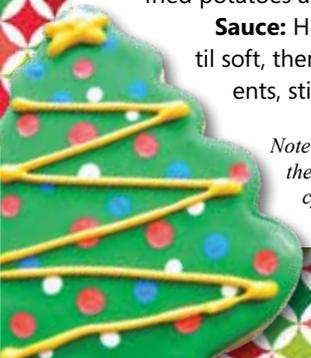
Preheat oven to 160°C (325°F). Grease a baking tray with butter. Line tray with baking paper and grease again. Set aside. With an electric mixer, beat butter or margarine, milk powder, both types of sugar and salt until light and fluffy. Add egg, ginger, cinnamon and cloves, and beat until well combined. Add flour into the mixture and stir with a fork or a wooden spoon until combined and dough no longer feels sticky to touch. With a rolling pin, roll out dough to 0.3-cm thickness. Use a gingerbread man cookie cutter to cut out shapes. Transfer to prepared tray. Place in preheated oven and bake for 15-20 minutes until cookies are done. Press candies into dough for eyes while cookies are still warm.

Frosting: beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Gradually add icing sugar while whisking until combined. Tint separate portions of frosting with food colouring of choice. Place into piping bag fitted with tiny decorative tips and decorate cookies as desired. ©



TAKEN FROM

Book Title: The Best of Indonesian Cooking Cookies: fun and tasty treats
 Author: Yasa Boga
 Publisher: Marshall Cavendish



Malai Kabab

By Sarab Kapoor

Best-selling cookbook author and TV Celebrity chef Sarab lived in Indonesia for almost 30 years before moving to Singapore. She hosts the much loved international vegetarian cookery show 'Cook Love Eat with Sarab' which was first aired on Zee TV and now on another Indian channel, COLORS.



Ingredients:

250 gms	Mock chicken
3 large	Potatoes- boiled & peeled
2-3	Green chilies
1"	Ginger
1 cup	Mint leaves
1/2 cup	Coriander leaves
4 slices	Bread
1/2 cup	Cream
1tsp	Garam masala
1tsp	Chaat masala
10-12	Cashew nuts
1tsp	Salt

Method:

1. Bread Crumbs to coat and oil for frying.
2. Remove crusts from bread and soak in cream.
3. Blend all the ingredients together except potatoes.
4. Mix in mashed potatoes. Keep the mixture in fridge for about 30 minutes
5. Shape in to cutlets and roll in bread crumbs.
6. Shallow fry and serve with chili sauce.

Dum Truffle Biryani



Biryani Rice Ingredients:

1¼ cup	Basmati Rice
1"	Cinnamon stick- broken into half
2	Bay leaves
3	Green cardamoms
	Salt to taste

Method:

Cook the rice in 2 ½ litres of water along with the rest of the ingredients till three quarters done. Keep aside

Other Ingredients:

300gms	Button Mushrooms
1tbsp	Ginger- chopped
2tbsp	Garlic- chopped
2	Green Chilies-chopped
1	Onion- sliced
2	Tomatoes- sliced
3tbsp	Coriander leaves-chopped
4tbsp	Fried Onions
1tbsp	Cumin seeds
½ tsp	Turmeric powder
½ tsp	Chili powder
½ tbsp	Garam Masala
1tbsp	Lemon juice
4tbsp	Fresh Cream
1tbsp	Ghee
2tbsp	Truffle Oil
2tbsp	Cooking Oil
	Salt

Method:

1. Heat cooking oil and add the cumin seeds. When they begin to crackle add ginger, garlic, green chili and sauté for a minute. Add sliced onions and fry till translucent. Add tomatoes and cook till they are mushy.
2. Add turmeric and red chili powder followed by mushrooms and (200ml) water. Cook for about 3-4 minutes and

add the cream, salt and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and mix in garam masala and lemon juice. Mix in the cooked rice and half of the chopped coriander leaves.

3. Transfer into a copper pot or casserole and sprinkle with remaining coriander leaves, truffle oil, ghee and fried onions on top.

4. Cover with puff pastry and bake.

Puff Pastry Cover Ingredients:

240gms	Puff Pastry
1tsp each	Chaat masala , Sesame seeds, Onion seeds
1tbsp	Butter- melted

Method:

1. Roll out the puff pastry slightly larger than the diameter of the pot. Cover pot with pastry, seal edges with water. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle chaat masala, onion seeds, and sesame seeds.
2. Place in a pre-heated oven and bake for 20 minutes till the pastry is crispy and golden.

From Singapore with Love

Feedback

A daughter of the dot.com age comes to Singapore to be part of the online excitement

I am 28 and from Sanana, Indonesia. I am very much part of the Facebook and blog generation with my own online store that I created that I run for fun called BonBon Shop. I am a 'total life' lover who enjoys exploring the relationship between the human mind and reality. Currently I am the Creative Head – Social Media Associate at Foodpanda Singapore.

I chose to come to Singapore after my studies because I was very impressed by the country's peaceful, multicultural scene where everyone gets along and works together well and where the internet business scene is growing at a very fast and exciting pace with many opportunities for work.

I was from the creative industry being a <graphic/fashion> designer by training

and at Foodpanda Singapore I still consider myself very much part of the creative industry – only in a different field. Just like IT (infocomm technology), creativity can be applied across a large horizontal range of industries thanks to the Internet.

Having so many other avenues open for work here has moved me to modify some of my plans for work and life. I believe as a human being we need to keep growing and explore what we truly want in life.

For example, I'm currently handling the company's creative and social media side and Foodpanda is one of Rocket Internet's venture. Rocket Internet is the world's biggest business accelerator which has also launched another successful fashion brand Zalora.

What keeps me here is the excitement of growth as Rocket's venture Foodpanda



is one of the world's leading food delivery platforms that targets three billion people worldwide and half of the population of Latin America.

So I intend to keep very busy working while I am in Singapore!

Merlyn Wikarsa

Creative Head – Social Media Associate
Foodpanda.sg



Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Singapura (2013-2014)

Salam hangat untuk seluruh pelajar Indonesia di Singapura. Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Singapura (PPI Singapura) dibawah naungan KBRI telah mengabdikan selama 7 tahun membangun atmosfer pelajar yang dinamis dan memfasilitasi komunikasi antar pelajar secara kondusif. Selain itu, PPI Singapura juga aktif mengadakan acara-acara atraktif yang berorientasikan pada semangat nasionalisme. Semuanya adalah buah karya asli para pelajar Indonesia di Singapura dan merupakan manifestasi kontribusi kita kepada tanah air Indonesia.

Semangat dedikasi komite kami tahun ini terangkum dalam sebuah slogan "Empowering People, Enabling Networks". Melalui empowerment, kami bertekad untuk memaparkan lebih banyak aktivitas bernuansa edukatif dan profesional. Dengan demikian, manfaatnya akan langsung terasa bagi para pelajar. Implementasinya akan berupa jaringan karir, training, seminar, peluang magang dan kerja full-time baik di Singapura maupun Indonesia. Untuk networking, wadah IndoNetwork akan menjadi jembatan penghubung virtual antar pelajar. Kontennya akan berupa forum dan informasi menarik lainnya bagi pemegang kartu anggota digital PPI Singapura.

Terdapat kurang lebih dua puluh ribu pelajar Indonesia merantau belajar di negeri Singa. Ini membuat Singapura sebagai salah satu negara dengan jumlah diaspora Indonesia terbanyak. Jumlah ini semakin memotivasi kami, PPI Singapura untuk terus meramaikan aktivitas pelajar dengan beragam kegiatan. Di bidang sosial dan edukasi, PPI Singapura turut andil memberikan pelatihan keterampilan dan penyuluhan kepada para PLRT.

From Singapore with Love

“Berikan saya 10 pemuda, maka akan kuguncang dunia!”

- Ir Soekarno

PPI Singapura bersama PPI Malaysia akan berkolaborasi lebih jauh menjadi pusat informasi TKI di kawasan ASEAN, sehingga konklusinya akan lebih signifikan bagi kemajuan bangsa. Dalam hal seni dan budaya, PPI Singapura turut serta mempromosikan kebudayaan Indonesia kepada khalayak ramai, terutama turis asing melalui festival festival kesenian, seperti Indonesian Arts Festival (IAF) dan Indonesian Students Festival (ISF). Untuk merangkul para pelajar lebih kuat di bidang olahraga, setiap tahunnya diadakan kompetisi antar sekolah dalam bentuk Liga Basket dan Futsal, serta OlymPPIc. Masih banyak lagi peran serta PPI Singapura dalam meramaikan suasana masyarakat Indonesia di Singapura.

Terlepas dari beberapa program kerja internal organisasi, PPI Singapura kini mulai merajut sinergi yang harmonis dengan PPI se-ASEAN dan beberapa badan eksekutif mahasiswa (BEM) di Indonesia. Saat ini PPI ASEAN terdiri dari 5 PPI negara, yakni PPI Singapura, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam dan Filipina. Ini menjadikan PPI Singapura sebagai organisasi dengan peluang networking yang sangat bagus dan kian meluas dari waktu ke waktu. PPI Singapura yang kini sekaligus ditunjuk sebagai koordinator

PPI se-ASEAN bertekad untuk lebih menggaungkan nama organisasi ke taraf internasional, dan meningkatkan kualitas pengabdian kami melalui kerjasama-kerjasama yang potensial dengan organisasi kemasyarakatan sekitar. Semua bermuara pada satu tujuan, yakni bangsa Indonesia yang maju.

Akhir kata, saya selaku presiden terpilih PPI Singapura periode 2013/2014 sekaligus koordinator PPI se-ASEAN ingin mengajak kepada seluruh elemen diaspora untuk mendukung dan mensukseskan komunitas PPI Singapura yang kita cintai ini. Layaknya romantisme Bung Karno dan Hatta. Bung Karno membangun bangsa dari dalam negeri, sedangkan Bung Hatta sebagai pelajar luar negeri ikut pula membangun tanah air. Begitu juga dengan kita pelajar di Singapura. Meskipun kita di luar negeri, saya yakin kontribusi kita konkret membangun Indonesia. Terima kasih. 

Gerry Anggacipta

Presiden, Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Singapura (PPI Singapura)

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