

IndoConnect

CONNECTING INDONESIANS IN SINGAPORE

Diplomacy with Heart

Fond Farewell to H.E. Ambassador Dr Andri Hadi



FESTIVE FEATURE
A X'mas Tale of
Two Cities

SPECIAL
Ahok in Singapore
Mike Wiluan

SOUTHERN GATEWAY
Serenity of Sanchaya
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BLUE SKIES AHEAD



Many milestones were achieved this year by Indonesia. At the same time, the country also received some unwanted attention because of the haze, but we are forecasting the weather ahead will be blue skies, with warm sunshine and clear, clean air. Much of the foundation for this optimism was planted this year with the concrete initiatives launched by President Jokowi himself to tackle this annual problem.

Other measures on the economic front and recognition by the government in Jakarta for the contributions of the global Indonesian diaspora to the development of the nation are also greatly appreciated. Many of the stories of the achievements of the diaspora in Singapore and the progress of the nation have been covered by IndoConnect Magazine and we will continue to be of service in this capacity.

As the publisher of the magazine, I also feel very gratified that our small contributions have been acknowledged by the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore HE Bapak Andri Hadi. My personal impression of him when we first met has held to this day - a gracious gentleman of the old school who cares about people. Since his posting here in 2011, in all of our dealings he goes out of his way to make you feel comfortable and that he cares and will consider your thoughts and feelings in his deliberations. On behalf of everyone at the magazine we wish him the very best in all his future undertakings.

The old adage of behind every great man is a great woman is also true here when it comes to the Ambassador. We were fortunate to have another gracious personage in Mrs Ferial Saad Hadi - a true ambassador of the modern and progressive Indonesian woman. Her work and support for the many social, charitable and cultural causes as well her leadership of the Dharma Wanita Persatuan KBRI Singapura has helped and inspired many. In her case, the beauty inside is matched by the beauty outside. As a woman, I admit I do somewhat envy her impeccable sense of fashion and style - something I feel we will miss as much as her sparking personality and smile! Our lives have been lit a little brighter for having met and worked with the Ambassador and his wife. ☺

Nomita Dhar
Editor-in-chief

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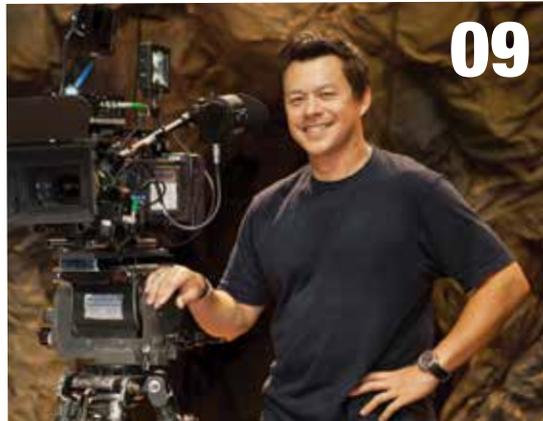
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MICA (P) 080/05/2015

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DIPLOMACY WITH HEART

Fond farewell to Ambassador Dr Andri Hadi and wife who leave an indelible impression on all who have known them



Respected and admired by the diplomatic community in Singapore, **Ambassador Dr Andri Hadi** and his wife, **Mrs Ferial Saad Hadi**, have also touched many lives in the city state especially among the Indonesian community and diaspora. In the last year of their posting here, **Mrs Nomita Dhar**, IndoConnect Publisher and Editor in Chief, asks them to share some insights about their personal lives and work in Singapore for the past four years.

Bapak and Ibu, please share with us something about of your childhood.

Pak Andri: I was born in Bandung but grew up in Cirebon and was raised by my mother. My father passed away when I was eight. I was the only son and the eldest of four siblings. We had a nice life in a small village. One of my most unforgettable childhood memories is of sitting on a buffalo and walking around a paddy field. I later left Cirebon in order to attend high school in Bandung.



Ibu Ferial: I was born in Cirebon, but grew up in Jakarta. I am the second child with three brothers. During special events such as Eid Al-Fitr, I always make time to visit Cirebon, because all my family members are still there.

How did you two meet, and please share with us some experience that made your relationship stronger?

Pak Andri: We met during a wedding reception of a distant family member in 1989. I wasn't introduced to her nor did I introduce myself then. I simply looked at her from a distance and was mesmerized by her beauty. Then I asked around who that beautiful lady was. Back then, she was still in high school. Afterwards, I met her and introduced myself to her. At the same time, I also met her mother. Fortunately, both our mothers knew each other. Our relationship flourished and then we got married in 1991.

Ibu Ferial: We met in a very traditional way, through a family occasion.

Tell us about your children, your dreams for them and how this generation is different from when you were growing up.

Pak Andri: The children are the centre of our world; the centre of our attention. We

must be able to not only act as parents, but also as their friends, and maintain good channels of communication with them. We have to be able to assure them that we will do our utmost to secure a bright future for them and that the actions we have taken as their parents always have their best interests at heart. We allow them to pursue their passion and their study of choice. By supporting them 100%, they will feel that our role is not only as parents and friends, but also as supporters. In turn, they will respect us. Up until now our relationship with the children is still very close. Even if they no longer live together with us, we always try to chat with them everyday despite the distance. As we are very close, they therefore do not feel awkward in discussing personal matters.

Ibu Ferial: The major difference between my generation and my children's generation is that they are very keen into gadgets. And to be honest I am quite worried about that. When we were small, gadgets were rarely found, as they were expensive. But now, in this generation, they focus too much of their time and energy on gadgets. For this reason, we set a rule that they can only touch their gadgets only after they have finished studying. In addition, they are only allowed to watch TV on Fridays and weekends. Luckily, they're fine with these house rules.

How do you balance your many official commitments with your responsibilities as parents and to each other?

Pak Andri: We are busy, but we're always accessible. Anytime they (the children) call, I will pick up. I never say I'm busy, even though I'm in a middle of a meeting.

Ibu Ferial: We're not a romantic couple. We hardly watch movies or have dinner only the two of us. Usually, we only go out when we're with the children. If it just happens to be the two of us, we usually feel



uncomfortable and we find ourselves in a rush to go home faster in order to look after or spend time with the children.

What are some of the common hobbies and passions that you share?

Pak Andri & Ibu Ferial: We don't really share certain common hobbies and passions. For example, I like reading, she likes baking. But the two of us enjoy each other's presence and do everything together. We also like to exercise, and we are not avid movie fans.

Please share your favourite place and food in Indonesia.

Pak Andri: As a child, my favourite place was "Gunung Sari" swimming pool which is located near my house and school. My favourite foods are Nasi Jemblang, Empal Gentong, Nasi Lengko, and so on. When I visit Cirebon, my family hardly cook for me at home because they know my preference is to eat different dishes outside.

Ibu Ferial: There is a place that I miss called "Cibulan" where we can swim with hundreds of fish of various sizes, ranging from small to up to half a meter. My favourite food would be Nasi Lengko and all kinds of vegetable dishes.

Bapak, the people of Indonesia are known as culturally rich and are

warm and friendly. At the same time the world looks to Indonesia for business opportunities. In your capacity, how have you been able to convey the qualities of the people and the country's opportunities to others around the world on your various overseas assignments?

Before my appointment as Ambassador here in Singapore, I held various posts in North America. There were not many of them there who understand Indonesia and its people, perhaps because of the great distance. Therefore, I had to be more proactive in introducing Indonesia to the society there. But it is completely different with Singapore.

As Singapore and Indonesia are good neighbours, most Singaporeans, including businessmen and related stakeholders have a good understanding about Indonesia and its people. On many occasions, when I spoke about my country and my people to the Singapore community, most of them not only have a general understanding of Indonesia, but surprisingly a very detailed knowledge of Indonesia and its people including our domestic politics and economic matters.

In addition, the presence of 200,000 Indonesians residing here in Singapore makes the task of "introducing" Indonesia to Singaporeans much easier. These people-to-people relationships are conducted at all levels: not just at the government level, but also among businessmen, students, academics, etc. I am pleased to say that the relationship between Indonesia and Singapore is very good.

Bapak and Ibu, you are always well dressed, and always amazing and gracious hosts who have made a special place in the hearts of many. What is the secret behind your ability to connect with people at all levels and make them feel special?



Pak Andri: I believe that honesty and sincerity are keys to maintaining good interaction with others. It is also part of our duty and our character. At a young age, I was taught by my parents to show empathy towards others. When I was little, there were many people around me who lived under the poverty line. I was able to witness with my own eyes, how many of my neighbours even had no rice to eat. I was taught by my mother to pay attention to others, and consequently I have embraced the principle that we have to be useful for others. We can be rich and clever, but what is the benefit of all that, if were not useful to our community? So we have to do our utmost for the sake of others!

Ibu Ferial: I too am similar to him in character. Even though I am feeling sad or angry, I still smile. It's become an integral part of me. As we are the representatives of the Indonesian people here in Singapore, we have to look our best and conduct ourselves in the best way possible. Another principle that I cherish is in terms of friendship – in making friends with others, we never differentiate whether they are from a high position or low position in society.

Regarding your comment that we are well-dressed, please note that we don't have any fashion stylist (laugh). But luckily for us, we live in Indonesia that has a lot of different cultures and styles. So we can adjust, mix and match these styles in accordance with our own personal taste in clothing.

Bapak, IndoConnect has in the last few years had the opportunity to cover many initiatives and programmes that you have done. What has been your most favourite initiative?

Pak Andri: That is a very difficult question since IndoConnect and our Embassy have maintained a very excellent relationship. I like IndoConnect because it is the only printed magazine for the Indonesian community in Singapore. With IndoConnect, it is easier to connect Indonesians from different walks of life. Moreover, it covers everything, not only culture, but also economy, health, and so on. So I believe that it is a very effective way to introduce Indonesia, not only among Indonesians but also to our Singaporean friends. We have indeed supported one another during many occasions and initiatives, and each of them has a special space in my heart.

You have been here for the last few years. How has your experience been in Singapore? What is your most favourite place in the island and your

most favourite food?

Ibu Ferial: My favourite place in Singapore would be the Botanical Garden. We can visit the Botanical Garden up to four times a week to do activities such as walking, yoga, jogging and exercise. As for our favourite food, I like rojak. Although Singaporean rojak is slightly different from Indonesian rojak, I like both because they contain lots of vegetables and fruits.

Pak Andri: Singapore has a lot of culinary experiences to offer. Among those exotic places to eat in Singapore, my favourite place is definitely the hawker centres because I love to eat. Some of the hawker centres that I often go to are Adam, Newton, etc. I like all Singaporean dishes, but maybe my most favourite dishes are chilli crab and nasi lemak.

If you are given a task to replicate one thing about Singapore in Indonesia and vice-versa, what would that be?

Pak Andri dan Ibu Ferial: One of the things that our country can learn from Singapore is discipline, effective planning as well as time management in various sectors. On the other hand, Singaporeans could learn from Indonesians to be more relaxed, to show more smiles and hospitality towards others in various sectors.

What is your assessment of opportunities, potential and possibilities between Indonesia and Singapore?

Pak Andri: Indonesia and Singapore can complement each other with their individual strengths: Singapore is known to have a wealth of knowledge and to have a strong financial background, while Indonesia has the advantage of human resources and natural resources. Therefore there are a lot of opportunities between our countries, especially in the field of economy and trading. This is strengthened by the fact that Indonesia has 250 million people and that Singapore has a strong financial

capital – thus a huge potential between the two countries.

Ibu Ferial: When we can hold events together with Singaporeans, such as charity events, we can establish and strengthen people-to-people contact. And we can also contribute to the people in Indonesia. Through our events, we always introduce other parts of Indonesia and their cultures to our Singaporean friends. Indonesia is beyond Bali, Batam and Bintan.

What is your message to Singaporean friends and members of the Indonesian diaspora here?

Pak Andri & Ibu Ferial: For our dearest Singaporean friends, Indonesia and Singapore have a long and strong history of relationship. In order to build an even stronger relationship, we have to focus more on our similarities instead of our differences. Indonesia sees Singapore as good neighbour and we want to maintain a strong relationship with Singapore.

For our Indonesian diaspora in Singapore, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude as our duties as Ambassador in Singapore would not have succeeded without the strong support from each and every one of you who have always participated in the activities and programmes of the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. We certainly hope that all of the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore will continue to support the programmes and work of our Embassy in Singapore for the upcoming years.

What is the message to readers of IndoConnect?

Pak Andri & Ibu Ferial: As the only Indonesian magazine in Singapore, we can use IndoConnect as a platform for us to interact and to exchange ideas. Therefore, please continue to support IndoConnect as a useful tool for Indonesian diasporas. 





RAPT ATTENTION FOR JKT GOVERNOR

by Syed Jaafar Alkaff



Source: Global Indonesian Voices

Indonesians here greeted him with great expectations and a level of enthusiasm usually reserved for rock stars!

Dressed in a simple rolled-up sleeved shirt, the affable Governor of Jakarta, Basuki “Ahok” Tjahaja Purnama, shared with more than 1,300 Indonesians at the Embassy, some of the plans he has to make Jakarta an even more desirable place to return to. The talk which was held on 19 October 2015 originally targeted 50 people but quickly grew to over 1,000 and was organised by the Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Indonesia di Singapura (FKMIS) together with news portal Global Indonesian Voices (GIV).

He first started by quipping that the good news is that everyone already knows what are the problems facing the city and what are the solutions. The challenge is to implement change and he talked about one major initiative he was working on – the creation of an asset management fund to finance the work needed to carry out these changes which is estimated to cost about US\$30 million. The fund would be similar in nature to Singapore’s investment arm, Temasek Holdings Pte Ltd.

It was one of the reasons he was visiting the island to meet Singapore government authorities in the area of economics. He will be leading a delegation that includes officials from Bank DKI and PT Jakarta Propertindo (Jakpro) who

will call on Madam Ho Ching, the CEO of Temasek Holdings, the next day for discussions that will include an invitation for Temasek to invest in Jakarta city’s own holding company. He hoped to establish and have it public listed before the end of his present term as governor in 2017.

Open Discussion

The wide ranging talk and the Question & Answer session that followed it at the Embassy covered subjects such as affordable housing, reduction in bureaucratic red tape as well as efforts to encourage IT start ups and making Jakarta a Smart City. He also showed in his presentation slides the various infrastructure projects that are presently taking place as well as planned for the future: A light rail transit (LRT) system, inner-city highways, mass rapid transit (MRT), bus rapid transit (BRT), transit-oriented development, venues for Asian Games 2018, public housing, clean water, waste water treatment, waste and energy management, integrated ducting facilities, seaport expansion, and tourism initiative for the Thousand Islands region.

Another topic tackled by the Governor was attracting quality human resources to help manage and complete the projects. Before the talk, he worked together with the event organisers to invite all attendees to submit their resumes if they

are interested in working with any of the province-owned enterprises (BUMDs). During his presentation he also provided the email addresses of the BUMD leaders for them to submit applications and enquiries.

The spirit of open discussion and frank communication was very evident as he good naturedly answered all questions and did not flinch when the Q&A’s session moderator, Edo Hutapea, relayed questions submitted online through GIV. One of these was whether young professionals whom he invited to return and help develop Jakarta can expect to be paid good wages.

According to a snap poll conducted by GIV among the 1,300 attendees at the talk, 61 per cent indicated they would like to return to Indonesia and that they would like to earn a monthly salary of at least \$6,000 (Rp60 million) per month. This said the Governor was not a problem as the BUMDs were willing to pay according to a person’s competency.

However, he said what was important for him was not just one’s skills or qualifications but the heart’s desire to make a difference. This was one of the main reasons he came to the embassy that night to invite Indonesian professionals here to come home and contribute to the development of Jakarta and Indonesia. **IC**

M WILUAN: WIZ OF CROSS BORDER COLLABORATION

Why Infinite Studio straddles Singapore & Batam to reach the world

Mike Wiluan, the Chief Executive of Infinite Studios, a multi-award winning media company, finds himself getting more active in the elder statesman's role promoting regional content to an international market. He talks to **Mrs Nomita Dhar** how his media business started here and how the world now is his market.

Father & Son in Movies

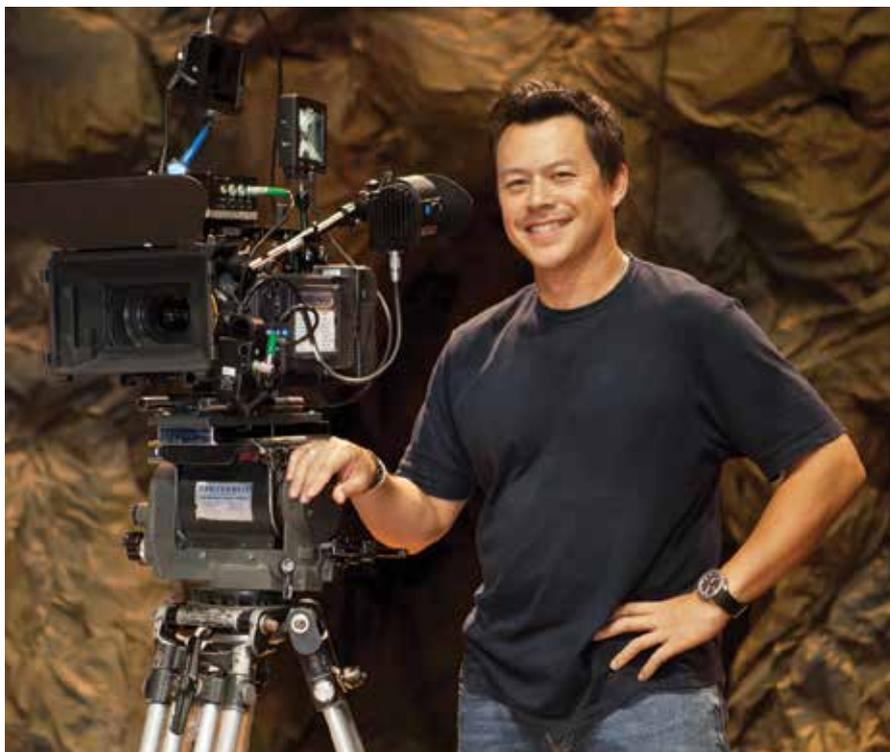
My father (Kris Wiluan, the oil & gas, tourism, property and transportation mogul) and I have been very interested in media

for a very long time. In fact, it has been in our blood since one of my father's earliest businesses was distributing videos to oil rigs out in the Java Sea - so we literally grew up with the movies.

When the economic crisis of 1997 hit us, there were many changes as well as opportunities. It was then that we started looking at creating content in Indonesia, specifically broadcasting because that presented a very secure distribution method (at that time online opportunities were not as apparent). But broadcasting is heavily regulated by the government; from 1998 to 2005 there was a lot of flux related to policies regulating media content and investments. The provinces were becoming more autonomous and they wanted to produce for their own networks; so new networks were emerging and licences were incredibly "sophisticated" to obtain. So instead we decided to concentrate on the content business in Singapore.

Coming to Singapore

Singapore was an outpost for us to look at the international market. We have always believed in Indonesia as a market but in



networks with our services. We became very good at this and with these abilities found new opportunities to expand in Indonesia.

Riau – the Middle Presence

The backdrop of our interest to pursue the media business comes from our experiences in our dealings with other aspects of industry and working with governments on many levels that involve ministries of culture, information, tourism to maritime affairs, security and foreign affairs etc. We

are now very well versed and experienced as a family in dealing in across-the-border cooperation.

Our Batam-based family business already involves bilateral business relations in sectors such as tourism and Oil & Gas and we felt we were already positioned at the tipping point in the balance between Singapore and Indonesia. Physically and strategically, Batam has been in the middle of the Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore Growth Triangle for more than two decades. Singapore already sees the strategic relevance of Riau as a resource base and another hinterland (aside from Johor) and there has been a strong interest to develop the region from Singapore's perspective.

Despite challenges of changing of governments and complexities of the regional autonomy and control, today we have a free trade zone and both governments see the virtues of Riau as the middle presence – as the branching point between the two countries. Now the market is seeing more Indonesians coming from Jakarta and from all over Indonesia to do business in Batam.

the years preceding the financial crisis in Indonesia, there were many challenges in marketing Indonesian content overseas. Indonesia usually makes an average of about 120 movies a year in the past. In the 90s it dropped to about 70 to 80 annually as the cinema exhibition business was not growing and Hollywood movies very much dominated the scene. During this period we focused on growing our international business. As we grew, we realised there is a lack of production infrastructure in Asia and Singapore. So we setup an international business with Indonesia as the production hinterland and using Singapore as the front end. We have always maintained we are an Indonesia company operating in Singapore with what I called 'dual citizenship,' that is we employ Singaporeans as well and build the industry here. The Singapore government has been very supportive of what we have been doing for the media industry here. As a result, we have grown. Most of the growth is a combination of the Singapore government's efforts in bringing multinational networks here. Due to this we were able to help the international

are now very well versed and experienced as a family in dealing in across-the-border cooperation.

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Indonesia Rises

As we grew the business in media, it was only natural for us to follow the trends and grow our business to reap cross border benefits. Indonesia emerged from the financial crisis to become a very powerful country with a very strong youthful consciousness in digital media content. The cost of technology has gone down very dramatically and the proliferation of smartphones see young Indonesians use social media and this has woken the world to Indonesia as one of the best rising markets in Asia alongside China and India.

So we then decided to bring Indonesia more centre stage. In the past, we used Singapore predominantly as a marketing base, now we are using Indonesia too as a marketing base as many other people are interested in what is happening there. So we combined the two – the best of Indonesia and Singapore as we build up our infrastructure - from our first production facilities, animation and film studios till today where we now have a content department, we executive produce, we finance, package and distribute film, television and digital media. We collaborate with all types of Indonesian companies and we work with young as well as established people. Over the years we have spent a fair amount of our emotional, and monetary investments in building the infrastructure for cross border collaboration.

Infinti is a vertically integrated studio - we do everything from start to finish. We can provide services to studios and independent producers; we also produce our own movies and approach our projects from a bilateral perspective employing both Singapore and Indonesian crews.

Indonesian HR Quality

In terms of human resources, Indonesia has always had very good talent. It is more about giving enough breathing space for a new generation of young people to take on the experience of the previous generation. Indonesia is experiencing now a huge boom in production. The challenge today is that we can't find enough crews to work on movies.

Film Production Boom

Currently Indonesia is producing an average 120 to 130 films a year and this number will grow. We have three major cinema distributors who want to push the screen counts up to 3,000 in the next few years as we are experiencing a rise in third tier cities' demographics throughout Indonesia. We will work closely with the exhibitors to find out more about current consumer tastes but we won't go into this field. We do not want to spread ourselves too thin. Also, it is not an

easy business and it is very much linked to property management while we are focused on content creation.

So Indonesia has become a focal point for our activities. It is a good market that's stable and there is much interest shown by foreign investors in Asia. More importantly, my position is that I have reached a stage where I can only grow the business so much. This is when I transit to being someone who can help grow the industry. I feel my responsibilities now is to try and bring the next generation together and collaborate with them to bring Indonesian content and talent to the next level -whether it is through using my studios or using my relationships with the networks, to push the industry to global levels.

I was asked to chair the Singapore International Film Festival last year and this year is my second time but there is no hidden agenda there. I feel it was because I have been in the industry for so long. I was born in Singapore and my business is based here but I am an Indonesian. I believe very strongly the festival is a neutral platform for the promotion of Southeast Asian content. The festival is for all film makers with a priority given to those from ASEAN. I hope Indonesian film makers are encouraged to come to Singapore to broaden their horizons. The festival is also a great place to network as it coincides with the Asian Television Forum Asian Media Festival.

Government Blueprint for Industry

You build a business out of your market but they (Indonesian filmmakers) must also use market platforms to network and refine cross collaboration opportunities. This is what I want to encourage and help them with. I also want to encourage the Indonesian government to be more pro-active in identifying talent and create a system of promoting projects, in short, to have a blueprint for the industry.

President Jokowi identified the creative economy as one of the main drivers of growth. It can contribute huge amounts to the GDP, covering diverse areas from handicrafts to media industries. Although Indonesia does have other problems that need attention such as building up its infrastructure, transportation, power generation etc and overcoming tremendous poverty, in the creative industry, Indonesia does not have to go it alone. You have to be very innovative to grow in this industry and through public-private partnerships you can find ways to incentivize foreign and local investors to get involved.

We got to multi-task national development needs in such a way to eke out benefits in

which the creative economy on a grassroots level provides income, pride, national identity and nurtures the next generation of young Indonesians (who are exposed to a huge influx of foreign influences) cultural solidarity to keep everybody together. That's what the government should realise that above all other priorities - a creative economy can offer strong intangible benefits such as a strong national identity.

Indonesian Diaspora Role

Most Indonesians look upon their country of origin incredibly fondly as they have many emotional ties with the homeland. In the 70s we produced something the country can be truly proud of, and can stand on an international level - Indonesia's first animation movie Sing to the Dawn. It earned much critical respect globally. Until then many did not know Indonesia had the creative capability to produce content that can be showcased around the world.

I have been fortunate enough to produce or be associated with projects that are in a sense Indonesian and they have gone around the world. I am not the only one; many other producers have done it. When that happens, Indonesians are incredibly proud.

How do we harness that pride and how we can work with the government and point out and say there is more to be done? This is a collective power that can be used by Indonesia around the world. Look at the Koreans. They managed to do it with their pop culture, film culture, fashion etc. It happened because the Korean government decided to back the Korean film and TV industry.

All-Indonesian TV Series for Global Market

Dead Mine was Infinite Studio's first film and since then we have done many others such as Skyline 2 and recently Agent 47; then there were the TV series such as Serangoon Road, Mata-Mata as well as Equals in Singapore. This November our latest is Halfworlds released by HBO Asia. We have collaborated with HBO for many years and this latest 8-part series is directed by award winning Indonesian director, Joko Anwar. This time round we found an opportunity to set the story in Jakarta; we shot it in Jakarta and Batam using all Indonesian actors speaking in English as the series is targeted for an international audience. The dark thriller fantasy was also launched at Jakarta's Comic Con and the YouTube trailer already garnered more than 300,000 views.



A Family Tradition

My days are very busy and incredibly diverse. Generally speaking I travel every week and mainly between Jakarta and Batam. Every two to three months I am in Los Angeles, Tokyo or London. Most of the auditions are international so I have to travel. I try to spend as much time as possible with my children – they are the most important family to me. They go to school here in Singapore and I spend as much time with them here.

Would I allow my kids to follow in my footsteps? Yes, if they want to. They must have the perseverance and knack for it. They have to demonstrate a certain tendency to do one or two things. I sometimes bring them with me, e.g. when I have made a horror movie to show how it's done. They are not so scared as they learn it is make-believe.



Mike Wiluan Bio Snapshot

The CEO of Infinite Studios (formerly Infinite Frameworks) is well known for its production of films, television, visual effects and animation. In addition to driving the company's business activities, Mike is an active Executive Producer and developer of television shows and feature films.

Some notable shows he has produced include: *Sing to the Dawn* (South East Asia's first English animated feature), *My Magic* and *Be with Me* both directed by Eric Khoo and both featured at the Cannes Film Festival as well as *881* by Royston Tan (one of Singapore's highest grossing films of all time) followed

But at the same time I do not want to kill the illusion, the spectacle or magic of what one sees on screen. Sometimes children when they grow up and see beautiful movies such as *Mary Poppins* or *Wizard of Oz*, the suspension of belief that leads them to feel for a moment that it is real, it's really a nice way to make memories of moments in your life. So at the same time I do not want them to be so cynical about life.

A typical day as I said is incredibly diverse with local and international projects, discussions can be anything from financing, distribution, development meetings we talk about stories, scripts and meetings with producers and directors. It is also very tiring because our business is very emotional. It means that if you are creatively evolving a project there is a lot of brain power put into play. It is not about the science, the math or the facts and numbers. Of course, we also have that part of the business such as meeting business targets, operational and technical matters etc.

A growing part of my job is now as an ambassador for the industry, as a lobbyist - networking and meeting others and spending time with them so they understand and we can get help to further the cause of our industry.

Favourite Movies

I love all movies, sure there are some I hate but they have all influenced me. I used to say which particular movies that I liked but today it is difficult as the list evolves all

the time. I see movies that are incredibly powerful and these are the types I would love to produce. There are movies that have influenced me throughout time with directors such as Martin Scorsese, Sergio Leone, Clint Eastwood and Orson Welles. They have created wonderful bodies of work that influence generations of filmmakers to come. They have one or two movies that are great and many of the rest are inspiring but the list changes all the time.



Films are Forever

One thing about making movies is that once it is completed, it remains the same and never changes and will be there forever, more so today with the online generation. There is a saying that when we are going through a particular difficult time in our movie making process - it is always a difficult time (he smiles) – pain is temporary, film is forever. That's your legacy. That is your contribution in the short time space we have in this planet towards humanity. Ultimately one feels to have made a difference in art and culture through the films that one has made.

by its sequel *12 Lotus*. He is also currently producing a slate of genre features with long time collaborative partner, Eric Khoo in Gorylah Pictures. The first feature film released was *Darah* in 2009.

Infinite Frameworks animation studio produced the animated film *Tatsumi* of which Mike was Executive Producer. *Tatsumi* premiered in Cannes in the 'Un certain regard' category. Other notable shows the animation studio helped produce include *Garfield*, *Franklin and Friends* and *Peter Rabbit* which won an EMMY in 2014.

His feature films include HBO ASIA's first original co-production *Dead Mine* and *Beyond Skyline* the sequel to the box office hit *Skyline* and most recently *1965* (biopic about Lee Kuan Yew). Mike's latest productions are with his long term partner Eric Khoo called *In the Room* and currently producing HBO ASIA's next series for global distribution.

In 2011, Infinite Studios launched the development of Singapore's first film studio as well as Indonesia's first film studio and backlot on Batam. Mike Wiluan has led the positioning of Infinite Studios to become a

leading media player in Asia Pacific, solidifying key partnerships with leading media companies such as HBO, AETN, IMG Darlow Smithson, Corus Group and Mark Burnett Productions.

In 2014 Mike was nominated Chairman of the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) to spearhead the revival of SE ASIA's most prominent film festival. He also serves on Singapore Polytechnic's, Republic Polytechnic's and MDIS's school of media advisory committee. In 2010, Mike was invited as on a select economic advisory committee for the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry. Mike also currently serves on several government working committees for the Media and ICT industries. A member of the Young Presidents Organisation, he has been invited as a key speaker in many media forums. In 2014 Mike received the Forbes Indonesia Progressive Figures Award in recognition of his role in media. In addition to the film business, Mike is the President of the TURI group which operates and owns boutique hotels, resorts and industrial estates in Indonesia. ©

INTAN L YOUNG: THE LATE BLOOMER

by Prionka Ray

Talented photographer with a niche all her very own



Being a mother further honed her skills and Intan believes that motherhood played a very crucial role in developing skills needed to be a photographer.

Photo note: Intan's photographs are available at www.intanphotos.com

You can find your passion anytime," says photographer, Intan L Young and she should know. The mother of three had stumbled upon photography late, but that did not stop her from specialising in capturing moments of children as they are growing up.

"Photographs capture moments that otherwise are lost forever," says Intan and this very thought had initiated her own association with photography. She wanted to capture moments from her kids' childhood as, "They were growing up too fast. I wanted to keep those moments." She also recalls her first few encounters with the camera. However, what had begun as a simple way of documenting the kids' childhood soon morphed in to a passion and friends began reaching out with photography requests.

This came as a surprise to Intan as she was just a self-taught amateur. Only when one of her photographs made it to the cover of a magazine that she took a closer look at her capabilities. The prized photograph also encouraged her to expand her knowledge and Intan began her learning journey. So, whether it was Asian Geographic photographer, John Arifin or her professional photographer friends in Indonesia or even her own frustrating trials and errors, no learning avenue was spared. "The more I learnt, the more I realised how much there was to know," says Intan.

Soft spoken and delicate, Intan fits the description of an artist more than she fits that of a photographer. So, when she reveals her love of painting, it comes as no surprise. In fact, her aesthetic bent is beautifully evident in her photography as well and many of her photographs seem like ethereal paintings that are suspended in time. Intan recalls loving colours, paintings and all things beautiful even as a child, though at that time, she had not realised her passion for it.

Intan was born in Malang, East Java, and she grew up in Surabaya and Jakarta. She belongs to a family of nine siblings and six adopted brothers and sisters. Growing up in a family that appreciated art as well as the art of being patient meant learning skills that come in handy now.

Being a mother further honed her skills and Intan believes that motherhood played a very crucial role in developing skills needed to be a photographer. She is patient and sensitive because of it.

“I understand young children when I photograph them,” she says. “As a mother I know when children need gentle coaxing or when they want to add few fun elements to their pose. I even understand adults better now and know when they are uncomfortable with a shot,” she adds. The only disadvantage of a working mother is the challenge of time, says Intan, echoing countless other mothers across the world.

Intan’s portfolio includes portraits, Jewellery advertisements and bridal photography and she admits to enjoying photographing people. Often seen at social events and gatherings, including F1 private events, Intan enjoys clicking people in different moods. “I am not shy to tell people what will look good or what poses will work,” she says.

She is married to an Australian and has lived in Singapore for the last eight years, having lived here for a short period previously as well. “My husband is a banker and we both are very different but that’s what makes life interesting.” It’s a perfect statement from the artist who thrives on bringing different elements together to fit in beautifully. Though her kids remain her first concern, she admits that photography keeps her mind working and her passion flamed. “My work moves with me,” she says, “it goes wherever I am needed.”

Pottering around her house and fussing over her 3 children, Intan typifies the archetype of a stay-at-home mom but when she looks at a photograph

or stands behind the camera, the fluid artistic mind kicks in to action instantly. Her next plan, she informs, is to take up painting seriously. “Someday, when I have the time, I will learn how to paint too.”

And why not? All late bloomers know that there is no right time to finding your passion. 



AYU GANI:

ASIA'S CATWALK CHAMPION

by Priya Ramakrishnan

Indonesia's first *Asia's Next Top Model* winner puts the country on world's haute couture map

Source: asatmblog.com



The Asian beauty is heading for Europe with a British modelling contract.

The sultry eyed beauty and talent dazzled the panel of judges of the coveted *Asia's Next Top Model* contest. She is the first Indonesian to ever win the competition. Twenty-three-year-old Ayu Gani defeated Marlana Monika Santa Maria from the Philippines and Aimee Rose Cheng-Bradshaw from Singapore in the final round of *Asia's Next Top Model* season three and earned a contract with London-based Storm Model Management.

In a candid interview with Singapore's *Harper's Bazaar* magazine, which also featured her on the front cover in that

issue, the newly-crowned winner shared how she started her modelling career, "My mother was the one who urged me to sign up for a modelling competition in Indonesia. The first one I went for was organised by a famous Indonesian magazine. I didn't win in the end, but I made it to the top 20 and that opened a lot of doors for me."

While not every girl gets the chance to pursue her dream career, Gani who comes across as very down to earth admits that her mother has been there supporting her throughout her journey. "My mother supported me a lot. She was also the one

who encouraged me to join *Asia's Next Top Model*. Her ultimatum to me was: "If you don't do it, then you're not my daughter."

Bullying

Declaring that she feels awkward and gawky even now, thanks to some unpleasant bullying incidents while at school, Gani confesses, "I was bullied in junior high school; everyone mocked me and called me a cockroach. Whenever I walked down the hallways of my school, my school mates would cover their noses and say, "Cockroach is passing by!" I had no friends, so that was really hard." She further adds, "I still feel awkward now, even though things changed when I went to college and university. I made a lot of friends and they supported me. It's weird sometimes; I don't know how to react when people compliment me."

The bright-eyed beauty who has a huge fan following on twitter, recently shared her excitement and enthusiasm for her modelling contract in London. "I have to go to London with Storm. Hopefully, I can make it there and do well in Europe," she tweeted. Through her twitter account @ganegani, she told her supporters that she would move to London to join model agency Storm.

Describing herself as an art slave, fashion person, traveller, and a nature lover, her twitter account has over 12,000 followers. Born in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, the young model majored in English literature from Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta and received a scholarship from Cincinnati, Ohio for one year because of her talent in music. "I felt more embraced for who I am while I was living in Ohio. There weren't a lot of Asians, and the people on campus went: 'Oh my God, you're so pretty!' And since it was an art school, diversity was celebrated. Everyone wore really weird stuff. That's how my interest in fashion started," she admits in the interview. ©

Source: Asia's Next Top Model 3 © Pottle Productions, Inc



Newly crowned winner had the full support of her mother



The cover girl for Harper's Bazaar Singapore July 2015 issue

Source: Asia's Next Top Model 3 © Pottle Productions, Inc



Source: asintmblog.com

(Left & above): A picture of ultra sophistication today, but she still sometimes feel "awkward and gawky"

A X'MAS TALE OF TWO CITIES

by Priya Ramakrishnan & Michael Kristiono



During the yuletide season Priya tells how the island is lit up and Michael shares how the festive spirit in Jakarta is still strong

While there is no such thing as a white Christmas in sunny Singapore, it has its own unique traditions and celebrations unlike anywhere else. Being a melting pot of different races and culture, over time the Lion City embraced cultural influences and reinvented its unique Christmas rituals. From lighting up a whole street to mass carolling, partying with fake snow, here's a list of happenings during Christmas in Singapore.

magic. For six weeks from the middle of November, Orchard Road is at its most enchanting, so go equipped with a good camera to get some of the best shots. Millions of glittering lights dripping from decorated trees and majestic arches line the 2.2-kilometre stretch from Tanglin Mall to Plaza Singapura. There are many chances to catch street performances and carolling too. Enjoy the spectacle of seeing a giant Christmas tree in all its glory at Ngee Ann City and ION Orchard.

palate. From succulent roasts, turkeys, to yule logs, Christmas fruitcakes, as well as festive treats, Singapore restaurants and pubs go all out with the traditional menu. Some of the popular Christmas feasts can be found at the Pan Pacific, Carlton Hotel, Ocean Restaurant at RWS etc.



X'mas Magic at Orchard Road

Many are capturing the Christmas magic by taking photos and immersing themselves along the stunningly lit Orchard Road. The usually busy road full of shopping malls and eateries gets lit up like a Christmas tree every Yuletide. The transformation is nothing short of enchanting as a walk down the street is sure to revive the festive fervour and



Christmas Feasting the Singaporean Way

A foodie's heaven, Singapore leaves no stone unturned to bring out the festive fervour in its food. Whether you want to indulge in a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings or experience an eastern take on the traditional turkey, Singapore's festive feasts offer a delectable array of treats to satisfy any



Malls & Street Carolling

What's Christmas without carols? Catch your favourite carols at the many mass carolling events performed at various malls dotting the city. For a traditional choir of carollers, you can make a trip to Tanglin Mall, Raffles Hotel or City Square Mall or you can immerse in the Christmas spirit by celebrating at the Gardens by the Bay transformed into a Christmas wonderland with beautifully lit up decorations.



Christmas Concert

Make it a memorable Christmas at the Victoria Concert Hall where you can see three magical performances featuring traditional carols and favourite yuletide melodies performed by the SSO and the Singapore Bible College Chorale. The three concerts will feature 50 innovative and different local choral compositions and arrangements by Singapore's finest composers. This would include, among others, newly commissioned works, arrangements of Singapore folk songs like Dayong Sampan etc.

'Bhinneka Tunggal Ika' Spirit

Celebrating Christmas in a country with predominantly Muslim population might not seem to be a norm. However, it is not the case with Indonesia, home of 200 million Muslims, the largest nation with a Muslim population. The country's slogan Bhinneka Tunggal Ika calls for unity in diversity and this translates into tolerance and harmony, which can be observed clearly in the month of December.

Shopping malls are transformed to usher in the Christmas season. Their lobbies and halls are adorned with delightful Christmas decorations. Sinterklas (the local way to refer to Santa Claus) garbed in the usual red oversized robe can be seen distributing presents to children. Both English and Indonesian



Christmas shopping wonderland at Plaza Senayan Jakarta

versions of Jingle Bells and Hark the Herald Angels Songs are played in lobbies and individual shops. All these elements ramp up the Christmas celebratory mood in shopping malls of Indonesia.

The festivity is made even more special as hotels and restaurants are indulging their loyal patrons with special treats and discounts. Take for example Shangri-La Hotel Jakarta. The hotel has all its six restaurants prepare special menus for the guests to celebrate Christmas and New Year. The ever-popular SATOO Restaurant at the first floor of the hotel is offering Christmas specialties such as roasted turkey and minced pies on 24-25

December 2015. Nearby Shang Palace offers an Oriental touch to Christmas dining as it presents Festive All-You-Can-Eat Dim Sum Lunch throughout the month.

The celebratory mood arising from the glam and glitz of Christmas in the city's commercial sectors, has not dampen the more spiritual aspect of Christmas in the minority Christian population of Indonesia. Enjoying the unhampered freedom to practice their faith, in pockets of Indonesia with significant Christian presence, many devout Christians are commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ with their own ways. ©



(Left & above): Over-the-top Christmas displays at JKT Central Mall spectacular tree light-up



Combined Christmas Celebrations in January

A combined Christmas celebrations for the Indonesian communities in Singapore will be held on Saturday 9 January 2016 at the Indonesian Embassy. The annual event is organised by the Masyarakat Kristian Indonesia di Singapura (MKIS). Since 2010, it has been held at the Embassy and last year it attracted more than 700 participants from all walks of life. They were welcomed by the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, Dr Andri Hadi and entertained by choirs from Indonesian churches here and also treated to a spiritual musical programme and dinner. For more information contact:

infomkis@yahoo.com



At I-Altitude there are three floors of drinks, dining and dancing

CHEERS TO FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS!

IndoConnect brings you its I0 Best List to usher in the holidays and New Year

Whether you are looking to usher in the holidays in the Lion City in a boisterous crowd or alone with few loved ones, the Island City is one of the best places to keep your festive spirits high. From romantic secluded places, family friendly destinations to religious and spiritual options, Singapore promises to meet all your expectations and leave you wanting for more. Read on as we bring you ten happening places around Singapore to have a memorable holidays.

I. Indulge Yourself @ Fullerton Bay Hotel

Soak in the warm atmosphere this festive season in chic luxury at The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore which was recently named one of the world's 100 best hotels by renowned Travel and Leisure magazine. Overlooking the stunning views of the Marina Bay waterfront, as a Fullerton Bay Hotel guest, you can let your hair down and celebrate the spirit of Christmas spirit with traditional dinner and enjoy the specially planned unique News Year's eve party. With a choice

of delectable four-course degustation festive dinner menu at Clifford, or a feast of freshly shucked Oysters, Poached Live Prawns, Black Mussels and Boston Lobster at the Christmas Day Champagne Brunch and finally an indulgence of Manjari Chocolate Yule Log and Chocolate Marshmallow Yule Log at the Landing Point, you are spoilt for choices at the Fullerton Bay Hotel. The celebrations are not yet over as you can countdown to the New Year at hotel's stylish rooftop bar Lantern, which offers one of the best views of Marina Bay and the magnificent fireworks display at midnight.

2. On Top of the World @ I-Altitude

Home to the highest al fresco bar in the world, I-Altitude has one of the most coveted views of the Island City. Boasting a truly spectacular unobstructed 360-degree view of Singapore, you can catch the last sunset of 2015 and dance away the night to the live acoustic bands with a blend of folk, rock and blues. Get ready to set the rooftop ablaze thanks to

the most extensive line-up of live bands and international DJs of any single venue in Singapore. Keeping things interesting, the multi-concept venue offers a different party experience at its restaurant, Stellar. Stellar's Constellations Gastronomic Menu presents a magical six, seven or eight-course tasting journey, with an unforgettable 'dessert art' experience created at your table. Stellar is also one of only three prestigious restaurants in Singapore selected for the Krug Ambassade programme – an international network of outstanding restaurants sharing a synonymous ethos to KRUG.

3. Be Charmed @ CHIJMES

There's no cooler place to eat, drink and make merry with your loved ones than at CHIJMES, one of Singapore's most revered historical icons and premier lifestyle destinations. The rich historical setting has it all from dining options to worshipping and singing the Christmas carol, it is a family friendly destination for the holidays. What's more, there will be a Christmas fair with strolling musicians,

countdown parties, Xmas fair, roving santarina, Christmas carolling, Christmas Bazaar etc.

4. Best Buffet @ Hotel Fort Canning

Enjoy Christmas and New Year parties amidst the greenest park in Singapore with selections such as Mozzarella and Prosciutto Panzanella, traditional roast turkey breast in the soothing atmosphere of the hotel. The Glass House at Hotel Fort Canning is famous for its traditional Christmas Eve buffet with regular roasted turkey (braised in Chardonnay. At Christmas brunch you can savour deep fried turkey with giblet gravy, maple-glazed gammon ham, almond crusted dory and traditional desserts such as Christmas pudding. Worried about your toddler missing out on the festive treat? With simpler flavours, their children's spread includes three cheese macaroni, fish sticks and more. What's more children will have a blast watching movies, jumping off the bouncy castle, and visiting fun-filled activity stations just for them. The hotel's special holiday decorations make it one of the best Christmas and New Year destinations in Singapore

5. Seafood Views @ RWS Ocean

With a tableside view of an open ocean habitat housing manta rays, zebra sharks, mahi mahi, scads and other aquatic creatures, the Ocean Restaurant at Resorts World Sentosa literally flanks the world's largest oceanarium. A romantic dinner for two on New Year's Eve or Christmas celebration with the whole family, the restaurant located inside the SEA Aquarium is the place to go. Enjoy your Christmas pudding while watching the stingray swim. Developed by Resorts World Sentosa and Cat Cora - renowned celebrity chef and the first female Iron Chef in Singapore, enjoy your sumptuous

festive dinner along with an unbeatable view of the beautiful ocean view.

6. Cosmopolitan Fare @ Sentosa Cove Quayside Aisle

Embark on your festive gastronomic journey with specially put together Christmas and New Year's menu along with a panoramic view of the marina. Located in the exclusive Sentosa Cove, its unique location within the picturesque enclave makes it the place to go during special occasions and holidays. Here, you will find an enchanting dining experience and a mix of international cuisines, comprising Asian, Belgian, French, Italian, Mediterranean, Spanish and more. Beat the city crowd at the only integrated retail development within the renowned Sentosa Cove estate, offers myriad of waterfront international dining concepts.

7. New Year Countdown @ Labrador Park

Have a fun family BBQ at the picturesque Labrador Park. Home to the only coastal cliff in Singapore, the park also has several dining outlets with great view. Ideal for cycling, enjoying nature and spending quality time with family. The New Year Countdown party usually lasts for over eight hours from 10pm until 6.30am. So get ready to pitch a tent and enjoy the festive spirit.

8. Worship @ St Andrew's Cathedral

Holiday is more than just eating and making merry. Singapore is home to some lovely historic churches including St Andrew's Cathedral which is the largest church in the lion city. A stellar example of colonial-era architecture and heritage, the imposing tower and spire of the church is awe inspiring. Gazetted as a national monument in 1973, the cathedral and its grounds hold a number

of memorials and dedications. The historic church usually has a jam-packed Christmas programme including evening open air performances, food fair, carol service, midnight communion, Christmas trail and sermons.

9. Countdown Party @ Sentosa Beach

Held annually, Singapore's largest beach countdown party is where all the fun is. The high octane celebrations are for those who are seeking a night of unfettered fun and excitement. The non-stop electronic music plays for 10 hours, keeping you dancing all night. Sentosa Island's iconic party is chiefly for those who love music, people, and the beach. Revellers also get to enjoy a spectacular display of fireworks at the stroke of midnight. The event also boasts of the wackiest performances and grandest chill-out spots with the entertainment going beyond just the DJ to the stunning dancers and gymnasts on stage. You can also hang out at the viewing deck to get a bird's eye view of the party! And then there are also the typical beach balls and flame machines to create a dynamic atmosphere of partying.

10. Another Countdown Party @ Clark Quay

As Singapore goes to sleep, Clark Quay stays awake at night. Home to the Island City's best nightspots, Clark Quay countdown party will be kicking off 2016 with a big bang. The bustling riverside hub will see a selection of stellar performances hitting Central Fountain Square which is free for all! Even after the last bell announcing midnight has tolled the gritty fun spills onto Clarke Quay's many, many dining and entertainment spots. There will be festive dinners and dancing all over the place, with glow-themed parade and Neon painted dancers, roving percussionists, a UV graffiti wall and lots of colourful street decor. ¹⁰



St Andrews Cathedral



New Year Countdown at Clarke Quay

THE JAVANESE BABY SHOWER: TUJUH BULANAN

Prionka Ray witnesses first-hand the sacred traditions and rituals when a woman reaches seven months of her first pregnancy

Traditions are like roots. They remind us of our origin and anchor us to our community.

However, sometimes the emotions they evoke are so universal that they transcend the community boundaries and encircle humanity as a whole. Tujuh Bulanan is one such tradition that echoes the same anticipation and joy that is felt by the parents-to-be from across the world.

Tujuh Bulanan means ‘seven months’ in Bahasa Indonesia. It is a Javanese ceremony performed when a woman reaches seven months in to her first pregnancy. The event, comparable to a baby shower, celebrates a new family and wishes the mother-to-be, a safe delivery. However, instead of gift-exchange and games, it is marked by sacred traditions and rituals.

Aster Lita’s Tujuh Bulanan was conducted in Singapore. Though the scale of the event was not exactly how it would have been back home, the attention paid to the rituals, remained the same. The revered Budhe Yogya was specially flown in to Singapore to conduct the ceremony and some of the traditional decor for the room was specially made available by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore.

The splashes of pink, in the form of balloons and dainty cupcake-frostings contrasted as well as complimented the traditional set up and infused a happy festive atmosphere. Adding to the beauty of the event were the exquisite kebayas and the elaborate hairdos of the women present, though the most beautiful, was the happy glow of the mother-to-be.

The father-to-be is considered an important part of the ceremony and Aster Lita’s French husband Pierre-Andre’s presence reinforced the traditional importance placed on the unit of the family as well. The couple had met each other for the first time at Bali and they have been married for the last three years.



Mrs Lita Link, Twig and Twine

Siraman ▲

The purification shower or ‘Siraman’ is said to purify the mother-to-be and her baby. For this ritual, water from seven springs are brought in seven ‘kendis’ (clay pitchers) and mixed in a traditional bowl with seven types of flowers. The water is stirred with a special ladle made of a coconut half that has holes. This symbolises prayer for a smooth delivery. Seven people were chosen to pour ladles of water on Aster Lita. The water was poured from the head, front, back, right arm, left arm and finally the legs, in quick splashes to represent the hope for immediate action during childbirth.

The next ritual of colourful ‘Fabric wrapping’ again emphasised the cultural importance of the number, seven. The first fabric that was used for wrapping was white combined with red and the second had red and white, representing the beginnings of human creation. Yellow represented nobility and prayed that the baby is blessed with a noble character while green represented the hope for

baby’s prosperous life. Blue, represented prayer for the baby to be loved by all, purple stood for courage and brown, represented the earth to remind those present that, in the end, everything will be returned to the earth.

‘The Egg and Old Weaving Shuttle Gliding’ prepared the mother for a smooth and painless delivery and for that, Pierre-Andre glided an old weaving shuttle through the wrapped fabrics. Equipped with a special tray, Aster Lita’s sister received the tool at Aster Lita’s foot. Next, Pierre-Andre rolled the egg again in the same way, which then was caught at the foot and allowed to break on the tray. This signified the baby’s escape from its ‘shell’ without difficulty.

The ritual of ‘Breaking the Coconut,’ forecasted the sex of the baby in the ancient times. For this ritual, the father-to-be cuts the coconut in to two using a big knife. According to traditional beliefs, a boy is forecasted if the water explodes and a girl is predicted, if the water leaks slowly.

Sungkeman ▶

The Tujuh Bulanan ceremony begins with the ‘Sungkeman,’ where the parents-to-be ask forgiveness for their sins and seek blessings from their elders before embarking on the responsibility of parenthood themselves. Aster Lita did ‘Sungkeman’ to her husband before they both uttered their feelings of gladness and gratitude to the family for their love and care and apologised for their past mistakes. Interpreted as a prayer to ensure baby’s smooth and safe delivery, ‘Sungkeman’ is an emotional ceremony and when Aster Lita and Pierre-Andre knelt down with folded palms, there were many misty eyes in the room.



Rizky Budiyo, A Creative Alternative



Rizky Budiyo, A Creative Alternative

Ubo Rampe ◀

For the ritual of ‘Ubo Rampe,’ offerings representing various elements are presented on traditionally woven trays. This includes various types of savoury and sweet kueh-kueh to represent the hope that the baby’s life will be happy and full of colour.

The ‘Tigas Kendit’ signifies cutting off the cord for which the father-to-be cuts a cord tied to the tummy of the mother-to-be and takes several steps backwards to represent hope for a safe delivery.



Mrs Leli Link, Twig and Twine



Rizky Budiyo, A Creative Alternative

Pantes-Pantesan ◀

For the ritual of ‘Dressing Up,’ the mother-to-be tries out seven ensembles that are paired with different batik cloths. The final ensemble, batik ‘Truntum’ and kebaya in brown colour is eventually voted, “good to go” or the ‘perfect’ fit suitable for the ‘perfect’ new mother by those who are present. The ensemble signifies that the parents will always love each other and live happily ever after.

Angrem ▲

For the ‘Angrem’ or egg hatching ceremony, the couple sits on a pile of batik cloths and imitates chicken incubating their eggs. The accompanying sound of “pletok-pletok” that they make represents the hope for mother-to-be to stay healthy and to deliver her baby safely.

For the ritual of ‘Choosing the Coconuts,’ Pierre-Andre was asked to choose between coconuts that had drawing of either God Kamajaya representing a baby boy or Goddess Kamaratih, representing baby girl. However, the father-to-be had to make this choice without looking at the drawings.

Rizky Budiyanto, A Creative Alternative



Nasi Tumpeng ◀

The ceremony of Tujuh Bulanan also included various food items and traditional dishes, including the Nasi Tumpeng that is often present at the Javanese celebrations. As is customary, the Nasi Tumpeng at Aster Lita's Tujuh Bulanan also consisted of cone-shaped yellow rice accompanied by side dishes and adorned with red chillies and vegetables.

Aster Lita's Tujuh Bulanan finally ended with warm wishes for the parents-to-be and though the ceremony was away from home, it was still a celebration of Javanese cultural heritage that was accentuated by the anticipation of a joyous new arrival. **IC**

Selling the Cendol ▶

For the next ritual, the mother-to-be sells cendol or dawet, a traditional sweet drink/ dessert made of green cendol and coconut milk. In preparation of this ceremony, the attendees are given a piece of 'kreweng' made of roof tile to buy the drinks or the rojak with. The ritual signifies that the parents-to-be would put in effort to provide a good home and healthy environment for their baby.



Rizky Budiyanto, A Creative Alternative

SINCE 1938

Merayakan Acara-acara Special Sejak 1938..

Lawry's adalah tempat berkelas dan sempurna untuk segala perayaan seperti ulang tahun, pernikahan, acara perusahaan dan pesta pribadi. Nikmati hidangan 'Roast Prime Rib of Beef' yaitu iga sapi panggang yang kami sajikan dari 'Silver Cart' disamping meja Anda di lengkapi dengan Yorkshire Pudding dan Original Spinning Bowl Salad.

Dengan hidangan yang mewah, keramahan kelas atas dan suasana yang indah, Lawry's adalah pilihan yang paling untuk merayakan momen kebahagiaan Anda!







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BEST TECH GIFTS

by Syed Jaafar Alkaff

Some interesting ideas for shopping - tech products that will appeal to both men and women



◀ Apple Watch

This is the most desirable of them all. Apart from the luxe looks, the smart watch has many apps supporting it and complements the Apple eco-system devices. More info: www.apple.com

Samsung Gear S2 ▶

The latest Gear has a rotating bezel to make it easier to operate and now works with non-Samsung phones. They now look extremely good whether in metal or leather. More info: www.samsung.com



◀ Stylish Xoo Charging Belt

Look stylish and be ready if your handphone battery runs flat with this Xoo Charging Belt that has a built-in phone charger. The fashion-phone accessory also complies with airline regulations! More info: xoo.co



Phantom Drone Time ▲

There are many others on the shelves but the DJI Phantom 3 Quadcopter Drone can fly off the shelf and stay in the air for 23 minutes and has a two km transmission range! More info: DJI.com

Stylish and Compact Camera ▼

Nikon 1 J5 has a stylish retro-style with interchangeable lenses. The small wi-fi enabled camera can also shoot movies in ultra-sharp HD and 4K. There's a touch-sensitive tilting screen for self-portraits. More info: Nikon.com



OLED TV Meets 4K for Xmas ▶

At around the \$6,000 plus price range, the LG 55EG960V marries the latest OLED and 4K technologies to produce the best looking pictures on screen. More info: lg.com



Crosley Messenger Turntable ◀

Technology has come full circle – a portable turntable to play all your vinyl EP and LP record collection. The battery operated player has an auxiliary input and earphone jack as well as two built-in stereo speakers. Classic looks and costing just US\$80 on Amazon.com More info: www.crosleyradio.com

Chopper Tech G-Shock ▼

The tough G-Shock GPW-1000 uses tech usually found in helicopters - a world first - GPS hybrid radio wave reception system that can detect and keep time accurate no matter where you are in the world. More info: G-Shock.com



Chromecast Magic ▶

The thumb drive-sized device is the easiest way for you to stream video and apps from your android phone, tablet, iPhone, iPad, Mac or Windows laptop to your TV. Simply plug it into the TV's HDMI port. More info: info.singtel.com/personal/chromecast



◀ SanDisk Ultra 200GB microSD

For the photo junkies the ultimate microSD with 200GB of storage! Ready for Android phone or tablets and there is an adaptor for it to be slotted into cameras. Class 10 certified for HD video taking. More info: sandisk.co.uk





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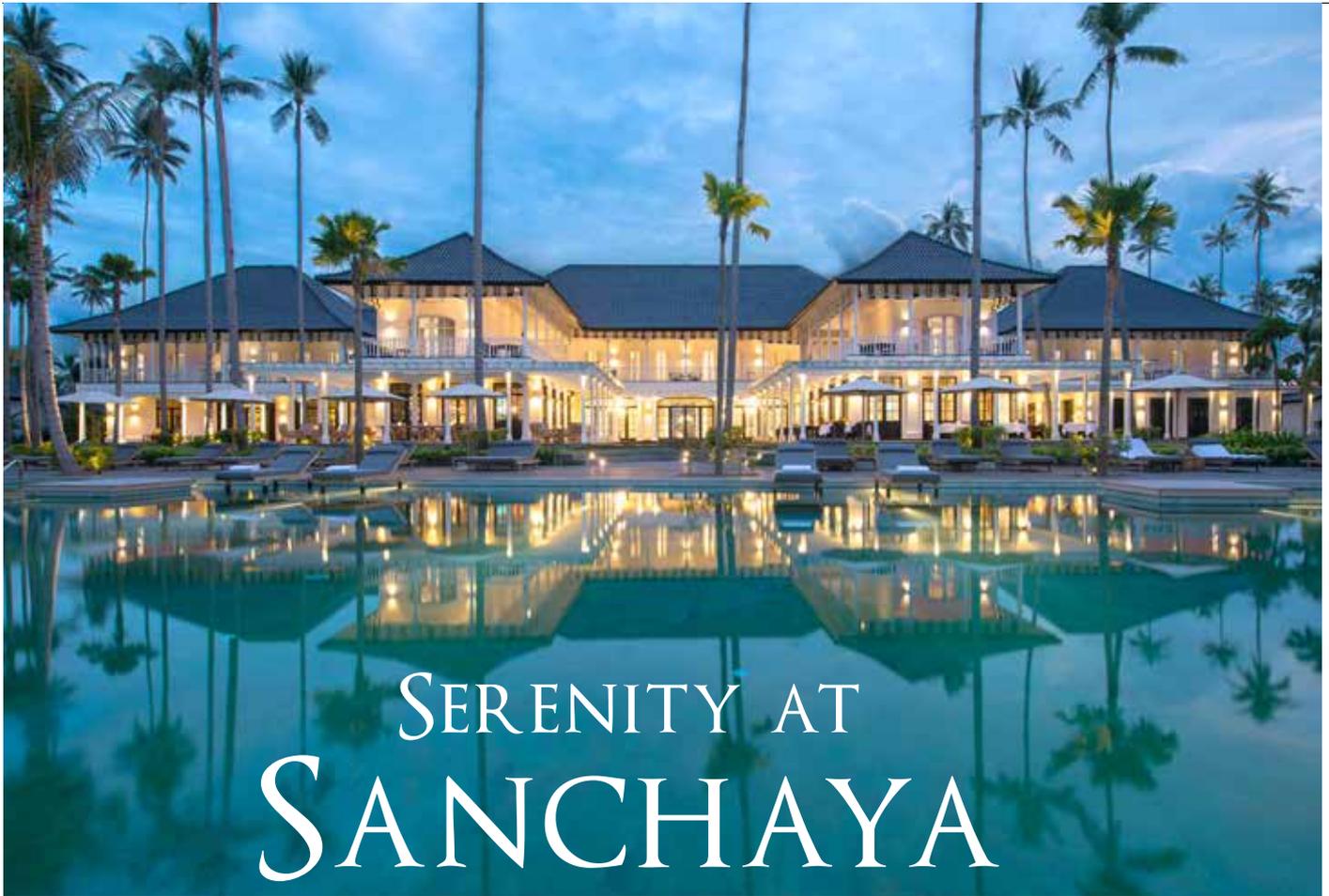
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Great World Serviced Apartments is the largest stand-alone serviced apartment development in Singapore. You can choose the appropriate size, type and layout to meet the needs of your visit. Located centrally in the heart of the prime River Valley residential district, the apartments are just minutes away from Orchard Road and the Central Business District.

The tastefully decorated apartments are spacious, practical, functional and user-friendly, offering great value for money. The aim is to provide a convenient and affordable home-away-from-home environment. The apartments are never 'old' as they undergo constant refurbishing to enhance the existing facilities and amenities. This is a unique feature at Great World and customers pay a premium to book the luxurious apartments. Facilities include a near Olympic-sized swimming pool and within the Great World City Complex is an array of over 200 shops including the largest Cold Storage supermarket in Singapore, a cinema, clinics, restaurants, pharmacies and hair salons. In the past, Indonesian families residing in Great World appreciated the convenience and flexibility offered. For example when Melissa Alatas came to Singapore to accompany her father for medical treatment, they had to bring their family pet, Bruno, a 3-year old dog, along with them. "At Great World, we could stay with Bruno, and it made the entire trip relaxed," she said.

Enquiries: Great World Serviced Apartments, 2 Kim Seng Walk, Singapore 239404. Tel: (65) 6722 7000. Website: www.greatworld.com.sg





SERENITY AT SANCHAYA

After 20 years since the founding of the Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore Growth Triangle, Bintan, Batam & Karimun islands which are in the middle of the Triangle have firmly established themselves as a major holiday and business hinterland. In this issue, we look at the latest attraction in wellness and luxury resorts in Bintan

The Sanchaya is a newly opened resort that also marks how matured and advanced is the development of Bintan as a travel destination for the well-heeled who are also seeking wellness resorts amidst peaceful environs. With just 30 rooms what are the unique qualities that will attract visitors there? IndoConnect's Publisher and Editor in Chief, **Mrs Nomita Dhar**, talks with **Mr Anshuman Narayan**, The Sanchaya's Estate Manager, what is the irresistible pull of the new resort.

"The Sanchaya overlooks an incredibly beautiful and peaceful beach. It's akin to what you get in The Maldives." It is sited in a sprawling 9.6-hectare estate fronting a secluded beachfront at Lagoi Bay. Bintan Island is extremely close to Singapore - only 45 minutes by ferry as well as enjoying easy air access from Jakarta and Anshuman drew parallels with other thriving cities with famous vacation destinations, "New York has its Hamptons, Sydney the Blue Mountains and Rome its Naples. In fact, most major world cities have a go-to retreat where the well-to-

do flock for a weekend escape. They're nearby, upscale and ultimately restorative. In Singapore, Bintan is emerging as such a retreat, proving to be a major drawing card for the Singapore's well heeled. Due to ease of access, Bintan is also an ideal go to retreat for those wishing to temporarily escape bustling Jakarta."

The Sanchaya is a member of the exclusive 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World' group and offers an all-round luxurious rest and relaxation experience. For example, using signature bath salts created only for The Sanchaya, combined with a delightful food and beverage in a candle-lit ambience, your bath menu offers four indulgent bathing experiences: Indulgence with its signature fragrance, served with canapés and single Malt; Lush with vetiver and black pepper with patchouli fragrance, served with chocolate strawberries and champagne; Revival with peppermint fragrance served with a cheese platter and port and Tranquility with lavender and ylang ylang fragrance served with canapés and wine!

Another distinction the resort goes out

of its way to make is the quality of service. He said instead of "service staff," The Sanchaya's 'companions', who are trained by the renowned British Butler Institute, are on hand to assist residents throughout their stay. This heightened standard of service extends to the welcome received by guests when they arrive by ferry. It is the only property on Bintan with its own VIP lounge at the Bandar Bentan Telani Ferry Terminal, for a seamless arrival and departure experience with express immigration and customs clearance.

And if that was not exclusive enough, The Sanchaya's has its own 56 ft motor cruise yacht that can accommodate up to eight passengers (and two crew members) which is available for hire for private transfers between Singapore and Bintan, as well as for private half and full day charters and sunset cruises.

In the matter of food, another five-star example of the level of sybaritic treatment guests experience is the resort's culinary artisans can discuss with all residents what they would like to eat and create bespoke dishes not featured on the menu.

Plantation Manor

Sanchaya means ‘collection’ in Sanskrit and you might say, the plantation-like layout of the resort is a collection of 21 villas and nine suites, with ‘The Great House’ – a two-storey beachfront manor - overlooking a clubhouse, two restaurants and 24-hour in-villa dining, a bar, wine cellar, wine-cheese-and-cigar lounge, function space, 50-meter long infinity pool, spa, fitness center, beachside yoga pavilion, croquet lawn, among other facilities.

The nine suites are situated in the The Great House while the seven one-bedroom villas are found in its Thai-inspired Lawan Village which lines a lagoon’s banks and the Village’s Leelawadee compound features a private pool. There are also 12 one- and two-bedroom villas that open up to stunning ocean views and the ultimate four-bedroom Presidential Vanda Villa has its own private swimming pool.

According to Anshuman, The Sanchaya is also ready with facilities for weddings to corporate retreats, senior management meetings and large gatherings, in this case, its function room which can seat 48 banquet or 75 people theatre style, opens up to a large terrace and lawn suited for cocktails or outdoor events.

The one year old resort recently won the International Hotel and Property Award 2015 (under 50 rooms category) for its architectural and interior design. Its citation says The Sanchaya has successfully captured the essence of the Orient with European refinement. In addition to this it was included in the Condé Nast Traveler Hot List of Best New Hotels in the World, Travel + Leisure IT List for Best 43 New Hotels Around the Globe and DestinAsian’s Luxe List this year.

The Sanchaya shows Bintan has certainly arrived as an oasis for exclusive experiences as a travel and wellness gateway. For more information:

www.thesanchaya.com

THE SANCHAYA SPA EXPERIENCE

Balinese in style, its spa has two treatment rooms for a multitude of massages and two verandas with zero gravity beds catering to foot reflexology. The two outdoor Thai cabanas naturally lend themselves to Thai massages. Guests can also indulge a treatment in their villa or suite.



Relax, rejuvenate and restore a sense of wellbeing to body, mind and soul thanks to an array of treatments including Balinese, traditional aromatherapy, deep tissue, herbal, and Thai massages as well as reflexology and back therapy. For The Sanchaya Signature massage, the therapist uses Java volcanic stones to warm the body’s tissues, followed

by relaxing long stroke movements combined with forearm pressure.

Residents can choose from a range of customized chakra massage oils you will not find anywhere else to ease physical ailments and promote spiritual growth, and sip on tea before and after their treatment to lower stress, refresh the mind and balance mood. ☺





Source: Australian International School

ENTERING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS' MIDDLE YEAR PROGRAMME

by Priya Ramakrishnan

Why parents here are enrolling their teenage children into international schools and the first 'barrier' to overcome to secure admission

Today, parents are focusing more on developing their child to be a global citizen rather than just a regional or national citizen. As the world grows smaller because of globalisation, parents are also broadening their outlooks to find the best opportunities for their children. When it comes to education, it is especially important to know about the various curriculums and also ascertain whether admission to an international school offering an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum would be more suitable.

While Singapore has one of the world's top public education systems with students having the highest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) scores internationally, it is widely acknowledged that the inquiry-based approach adopted by the IB curriculum emphasises creative and critical thinking and helps prepare them to cope with coursework they can expect at the university level.

While it is relatively easy to enrol children into an international school

in the pre-primary or primary level, securing admission for children who are in the secondary level is definitely not a cakewalk. Most international schools demand standardised assessment tests such as The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS), Educational Records Bureau tests (ERB tests), English Proficiency Test known as Aptis and other local English placement assessment tests. Don't give up yet as IndoConnect brings you more details on the all-important assessment

tests that your children should prepare for to secure a seat in International School of your choice!

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. Primarily designed to test skills in four major domains such as reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy.



Source: Australian International School

Schools such as Australian International School (AIS) and many other schools ask for the assessment test as an important admission criteria into middle year programmes (MYP). NAPLAN tests broadly reflect aspects of literacy and numeracy common to the curriculum in the particular country or region. However, NAPLAN tests are not tests students can 'prepare' as their skills will be tested only through having fundamental understanding of school curriculum.

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)

Several American international schools and colleges consider the ITBS as an assessment test that sums up the eligibility of the student applying for secondary programmes in IB schools. The test is chiefly to assess the growth in fundamental areas of school achievement such as vocabulary, reading comprehension, language, mathematics, social studies, science, and other sources of information. The achievement standards represented by the tests are crucial in educational development because they can determine the extent

“ While it is relatively easy to enrol children into an international school in the pre-primary or primary level, securing admission for children who are in the secondary level is definitely not a cakewalk. Most international schools demand standardised assessment tests.”

to which students will benefit from future instruction. Since the ITBS is a norm-referenced test where percentile is calculated rather than percentage, the performance of students can be compared a representative sample of students who took the tests from the same region.

General Ability Test (GAT)

A standardised assessment of the student's general reasoning ability, GAT measures observation skills, problem solving ability as well as learning capacity. Free of language and cultural biases, the test score is given to the schools directly for assessment. Specific preparation is not required for the test as all the information needed to respond to each

test item is presented within the test item itself. The one hour long test is widely recognised for measuring not just the literary or memory skills, but problem solving and reasoning capabilities.

Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) scores

Schools such as Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) ask for PSLE results as an entry criteria into their secondary year programmes. Several schools also offer individual entrance tests in lieu of PSLE results for non-local students, where they test proficiency in language, mathematics and general aptitude.

Aptis

Aptis is an English proficiency test which assesses a student's ability to read, write, speak and understand English language. This test is useful to show competence in English as first language and especially useful for children from countries which don't have English as native language. Conducted by the British Council, it is widely recognised in most British and European schools as a standard assessment test for literacy in English. 

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PLAY ON!

HOW A MUSIC EDUCATION HELPS THE BRAIN DEVELOP

Albert Einstein credited much of his inspiration to music. “The theory of relativity occurred to me by intuition, and music is the driving force behind this intuition. My parents had me study the violin from the time I was six. My new discovery is the result of musical perception.”

Einstein’s perception of the role music played in his life and work has since been backed by a wealth of scientific research. The Royal Conservatory of Music, one of the foremost schools of music education in the world states that current neuroscience research has established the link between understanding and learning music and mental development, IQ enhancement, and memory. In fact, learning to play an instrument leads to changes in a child’s brain with the following advantages including;

- Stronger neural connections and more grey matter in the brain.
- Better information processing skills.
- Higher IQ.
- Better memory and attention span skills.

Recognising the importance of music education in preparing young learners for classroom excellence, the Australian International School (AIS) is introducing a new Orff Musical Literacy Program, from January under its enhanced Early Years Specialist curriculum.

This weekly music program, starting at 18 months, uses improvisation, composition and a child’s natural instincts to create music and develop a child’s cognitive and social abilities. From these very first steps on the musical journey, children start violin lessons from age 3, building an early foundation in instrument playing and improving posture, finger dexterity and increased attention span.

From this robust platform in the early years, students’ progress through the best of the International Baccalaureate and the Australian curriculum gaining

a profound insight into listening, theory, reading, performance, notation, and composition.

Musical Mentors

The AIS Inventors and Mentors program brings internationally renowned thought leaders and experts to AIS, inspiring students to achieve excellence. Richard James Gill OAM, an internationally renowned conductor and Australian music educator, joins AIS teachers and students in an ongoing partnership to place AIS at the forefront of music education and increase the impact of music on learning. Mentors bring an evolved understanding of music to students, fuelling their passion and creativity.

Performances Galore

No music education is complete without the joy of performing; acquiring both confidence and pleasure from the performance experience. Music talent is celebrated throughout the year where AIS students have the opportunity to participate in over 100 performances annually and 16 music ensembles.

A highlight of the performance calendar is the annual music ensemble, showcasing a range of music styles by AIS students including vocal performances, jazz, soul, a piano concerto, percussion ensemble and a string quartet for an audience of over 500 viewers.

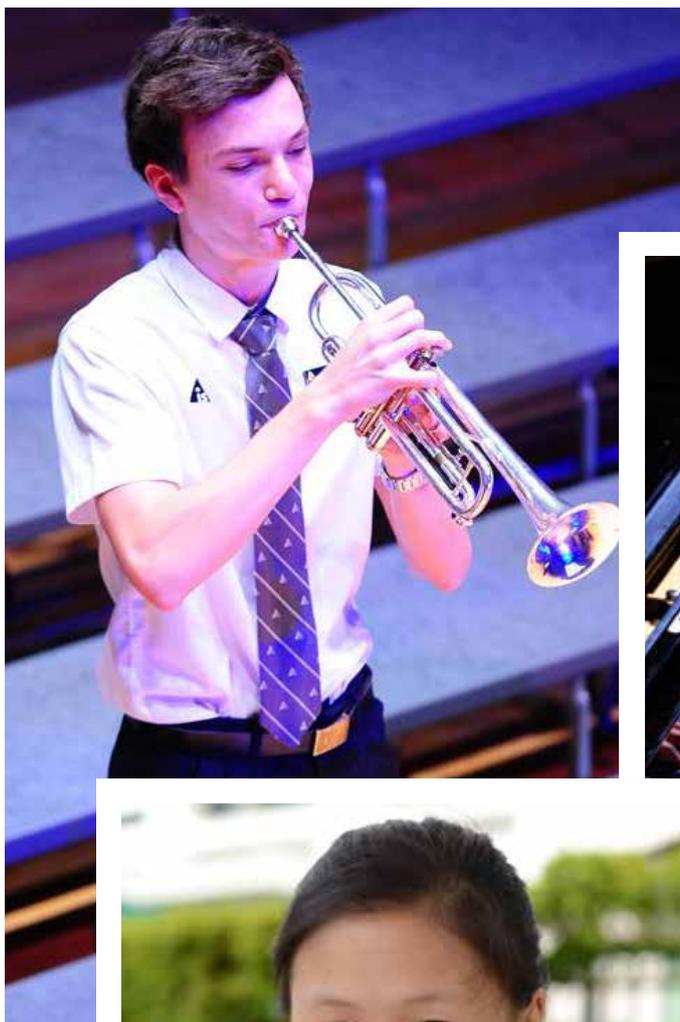


EXCELLING IN MUSIC AND ACADEMICS

The AIS young musicians program aims to foster a love and appreciation of music, and many students become accomplished musicians whilst excelling academically.

Joel Bulow ▼

An accomplished Bugle player, Joel a Year 10 student received a Top in the World award for the IGCSE Global Perspective examinations (highest mark for a single subject).



Rino Darusman ▼

Rino, currently a music and commerce double major at Monash University, received the first Dr Nick Miller Principal's Award for Best All-Round Student and achieved 42/45 in the IB Diploma examination.



Carissa Sim ◀

Carissa, an accomplished pianist and violinist, achieved an outstanding 44/45 points in the IB and an ATAR of 99.8 in 2013.

To find out more about AIS' music education visit www.ais.com.sg or call +65-66537906.

TOP STUDENT CHOICE OF AN IT DEGREE

Juan Intan Kanggrawan shares his experience and valuable insights on undertaking a degree that combines IT & Business studies



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It is not easy to work and study at the same time but the challenge can in the end prove rewarding. Top student, Juan Intan Kanggrawan, is now a Senior Consultant (Business Intelligence) at Icon Business Solution and is the Partnership Manager (Venture Capital) at Keiretsu Forum. He recalls his days studying for the University of Newcastle (UON) in Singapore from 2007 to 2009 at PSB Academy.

Juan received his Bachelor Degree in Business Information Systems and IT Applications from UON and was also the student with the highest GPA for the three years of his studies. He also has a Master's degree in International Political Economy from NTU RSIS and is a Partnership Manager at Code4Nation & Hackathon Merdeka with chapters in 28 Indonesian provinces that are involved in citizenship issues.

Q. Please share your experiences in Singapore as a foreign student. Was this your first experience studying abroad?

Yes, it was my first time studying abroad as a foreign student. Initially, there were many uncertainties and anxieties (far from home, old friends, family). However, the transition and adjustments were smoother than I thought. I really like the modern, sophisticated and multi-cultural characteristics of Singapore. In my first few months in Singapore, I was really glad to make some good friends from various countries. These friends provided a supportive network. They gave me sound advice and were always willing to lend an ear.

They were certainly a pillar of strength as I could - and still can - share my struggles and challenges with them and connect with them directly.

Q. What made you choose to pursue a degree from UON?

I really liked the combination of IT & Business in the Bachelor of IT degree that I was undertaking. The degree not only equipped me with technical skills (programming, database, IT modelling), but also gave me insight into management, marketing, accounting and economics. In addition, the UON degree is fast and solid (three years including a foundation year, or two years for direct in-take), so I could fully utilise study period in Singapore. UON also has good affiliations with the industry, making it easy for me to find a full-time job right after I graduated.

Q. What did you like about studying in UON?

Besides the vibrant environment and good mix of international students, I liked the way projects and assignments were styled in UON. Not only do the projects and assignments emphasise academic rigour, but they also gave me a chance to look at real case studies that I can relate to in the actual industry environment. With that, I can apply the knowledge that I have gained from these projects and assignments to my actual full-time job and I think that really shows that I had a world-class education.

Q. How does the UON degree prepare you for the real world?

First of all, most of the lecturers and tutors in UON have solid industry knowledge, hence, they are able to share actual situations in the real world and prepare UON students accordingly. One of the most important aspects of my degree programme is the Final Year Project. In our Final Year Project, we have the chance to execute projects from real business clients and deliver an actual solution. My Final Year Project on Web Application for real estate agents and their customers with Geographical Analytic function was really relevant as I can now apply the research to my present job.

Q. What other aspects of study did you take away from your journey in UON?

My journey in UON was insightful and enjoyable. I am glad that my friends and lecturers gave me a lot of exposure and opportunities. I had opportunities to be the IT Head of the Indonesian Student Association at PSB Academy, the Student Welfare Chairman of the Overseas Student Association, and President of UON-SCS (Singapore Computer Society) Student Chapter. My study experiences with UON have shaped me both academically and professionally by influencing my character, maturity and readiness to face the global industry environment. 📍

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FLOWERS OF ASMAT CLASH OF IDEAS & VALUES

by Syed Jaafar Alkaff

NUANSA'15 was entertaining and thought provoking



As the cast and crew of *NUANSA'15: Flowers of Asmat* sang and danced to the iconic 'It's Jakarta', the curtain came down on the annual production produced by the Indonesian students of the National University of Singapore (NUS). This year's musical was seen by 1,300 people and had left a very powerful impression on the audience. The musical enticed them with melodious, heart-warming songs, magical dance items as well as sharing a message about overcoming conflicts to achieve unity.

Since *NUANSA's* first show in 2008, the NUS Indonesian students cultural group has brought the diversity of Indonesian culture to Singapore audiences with many productions that range from exploring the exotic nature of the Island of the Gods, Bali, and its caste system (in 2013) to enlightening them of the complexity of life as a *Priyayi* (in 2014). This year's production continues along the same vein.

According to third year NUS undergraduate, Deiver Muljadi, 22, who is also the producer of *Flowers of Asmat*, one of the major differences of this production over previous years was how *NUANSA'15* had lifted the veil on life in Papua. He said, "The story's

setting is away from Java, Sumatra or Bali. It is set in vast, thick forests of Papua and the spotlight is on the unique customs and culture of the Asmat people there. We did extensive research on the province and this was reflected, for example, in the costumes and makeup." The NUS students prepared for almost a year to bring the concept to life and the production is the result of the work by 120 committee members of all three *NUANSA* divisions: the Artistic, Production, and External Affairs.

Artistic Director, Rianda Jacobs, 21, concurred, "Getting accurate and credible information was a challenge but it was important towards understanding the culture, which is unique." The third year undergraduate Project and Facilities Management major explained, "Unlike the Javanese or Balinese culture, the Asmat people have a high level of energy or spirit and that was a challenge to convey to the audience that 'energetic' performance on stage."

One new dimension added this year was in casting a wider net for audiences outside NUS said Deiver. For the first time there were roadshows along Orchard Road and at other universities such as NTU, SIM and SMU to promote the production. The musical was staged

at the NUS University Cultural Centre Hall on 4 October 2015.

Adaption from Novel

Loosely adapted from the novel *Namaku Teweraut* written by the late Ani Sekarningsih, *NUANSA'15: Flowers of Asmat* follows the lives of twin sisters, *Teweraut* (played by Zefanya Angelica) and *Anggrek* (Natasya Aviana). Their names both mean orchid in Papuan and Bahasa Indonesia respectively. The two sisters possess different personalities and attitudes towards traditions and modernity, as well as significantly different values. These differences later lead to conflicts in the village after *Teweraut* comes back from Jakarta after pursuing her education in the city.

Rianda Jacobs summed up the message of the show, "Although *Flowers* tackled issues of tradition versus modernity and young versus old, the most important thing was in the end the unifying factor was the sense of family in the village."

Indeed, it is hoped by *NUANSA* that the sense of family seen in *Flowers of Asmat* was able to instil love and pride for Indonesian culture and identity in many members of the Indonesian diaspora and inspire them to actively engage others in promoting Indonesian culture. 



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WHAT'S HOT IN 2016?

by Priya Ramakrishnan

This year was ruled by bohemian braids, neon lipsticks and culottes, 2016 is set to bring in winds of change

As we get ready to bid adieu to a year that brought back bright colours, laidback style, loose pants and creative eyebrows, fashionistas across the globe are predicting that 2016 will bring in more of those lazy Sunday looks and reinvent new nudes! Some looks will get a brand new spin to them and others will get the world buzzing. Several others will revive the 50s or 70s look! With IndoConnect, you get a sneak peek into what's going to be hot in 2016.

Hippie Chic

The hippie look of the 70s is back with a bang. It warmed up in 2015 and it is going to shake up the fashion trends of 2016. Designers at the recently concluded New York Fashion Week were all about Boho maxis, flared pants, palazzos, wide bottom denims, butterfly sleeve tops, platform pumps and some chunky beaded jewellery. So dig out your loose maxi dress and pair with some dangling earrings and some headbands to rock the look!

Bomber Jackets

If you want to up your style ante and grab all the eyeballs at your next outing? Add a versatile bomber jacket to your outfit and instantly elevate your cool quotient. Whether they are lace, knits or embroidered, bomber jackets are back for good!

Apron Neckline

No, it's not the apron that's in style but the apron neckline that is turning heads. The look is being touted as the next big style as it has become a recurring theme on the runways of London, Paris and New York. A style that was big in the 90s, the apron neckline made a comeback at shows of who's who of fashion world including designers such as Michael Kors, David Koma and Bottega Veneta.

Footwear Accessories

Yes, now you even have accessories for footwear. This trend has caught the imagination of the fashion capitals and has been seen often on the runways. Shoe clips, pom-poms, heel decals, shoe chains, heel tags, foot jewel are some of the exciting accessories you can use to add a dash of glamour to your evening looks!

Sorbet Colours

Making waves on the global runways, sorbet colours aka pastel shades or candy floss colours are ruling the roost. Pastel-powder pinks, greens, blues, lilacs and yellows are set to come as a breath of fresh air into the fashion scene. Getting out of the black and white monotonous mode, the sorbet shades will up your cool quotient when you wear them as a sheer legging, jacket, bags, and shoes and even on your nails! 



Source: Stylelovely.com

Shoe accessories ►

How about a pearl brooch shoe clip or heel rings for a feet fashion makeover?



Hippie chic ▲

Great example of hippie or the more current term 'boho' chic - ethnic print dress with a tribal handbag and suede fringe boots and rounded off with gypsy chunky necklace

Source: www.revolveclothing.com



Bomber jacket ▲

The fabric + lamb leather Bomber Jacket for Women from BROGDEN, Britain. It's basic with front zip closure and side split pockets and the contrast sleeve is in 100% lamb leather



Source: www.blogivoga.com

Apron neckline ▲

Apron necklines are back again on the catwalk with an avid following of world fashion designers such as Michael Kors, David Koma and Bottega Veneta



Source: michaelatornaritis.wordpress.com

▲ Photographer Michaela Tornaritis caught actress Vanessa Hudgens at the Coachella Festival in full hippie chic. Michaela's blog at michaelatornaritis.wordpress.com has other posts of the actress at the festival in similar gear



◀ You will see them everywhere - candy sorbet colours rule the catwalk, from fashion to nails and even these Dior hand bags

Source: www.etsy.com



▲ ‘Slave bracelet’ jewellery for foot bare sandals are more fashionable than you think. Shown here are examples from www.etsy.com which specialises in vintage and hand-made items

Source: www.urbanoaffitters.com



▲ This Kimchi Blue Apron Neck Embroidered Maxi Dress is just effortlessly chic with a breezy silhouette with a criss-cross straps at the back



Source: www.asos.com

▲ From online shopping portal the ASOS Bomber Jacket costs just under S30 and in khaki colour! It belongs in the simplicity is elegance category

THE PANORAMA



An iconic and luxurious masterpiece, set to be the landmark in a highly sought-after residential enclave, right in the heart of Singapore.

The Panorama, located on the fringe of Ang Mo Kio Town Centre, a 698-unit residential development, is set to be a landmark in Ang Mo Kio with its commanding presence in the vicinity of top schools.

Renowned developer

Developed by Wheelock Properties (Singapore) Ltd, one of Singapore's leading property developers, The Panorama combines luxury living with serenity, located in a highly sought-after residential enclave. The Panorama joins a portfolio of luxury properties built by Wheelock which include exquisite projects in prime districts, such as Scotts Square, Ardmore II and Ardmore Park.

Highly Sought-after Location

Ang Mo Kio estate has been well established as one of the most popular suburban housing estates in Singapore. As a mature town, Ang Mo Kio is an attractive location for potential home owners because of its abundance of amenities and enviable proximity to recreational spaces and employment clusters.

Seamless Connectivity

Strategically bounded by Ang Mo Kio Avenue 2 and Ang Mo Kio Street 13, The Panorama is surrounded by a wide array of food choices and amenities offered by the nearby Ang Mo Kio Town Centre and AMK Hub.

The development is also accessible to all parts of Singapore via major road networks. Travel time will be further shortened with the future North-South Expressway (NSE), expected to be completed by 2020. In addition, the upcoming Mayflower MRT Station (2020) which is just steps away, will offer residents seamless connectivity

to Orchard Road, Marina Bay Sands, Central Business District and all the way to East Coast.

Luxurious Lifestyle

Within the development, you will be greeted by lush gardens and water features which form part of the grand homecoming experience every day, while wide open spaces with sprawling central greens offer boundless enjoyment for the young and old.

Residents will be able to return to a serene environment with picturesque scenic views. Sky parks cantilevered between two pairs of towers, form large communal decks where residents can relish breathtaking views of the Lower Peirce Reservoir and Bishan Park while enjoying a rooftop party or working out in the Sky Gym.

In addition, the iconic Panorama Trail offers residents an avenue for evening strolls and morning jogs at the convenience of their door steps. As Ang Mo Kio continues developing into a cycling town, cycling enthusiasts can enjoy accessibility via park connector networks to the nearby Bishan Park.

For the Families

The Panorama offers the perfect environment to raise a family, especially when planning for their children's education. The area is well served by a good selection of reputable educational institutions from Primary, Secondary to Tertiary. Apart from the adjacent CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School, Nanyang Polytechnic, Anderson Junior College and James Cook University are also close by.

Families would also be able to enjoy the many other amenities suitable for all ages, from the Kids' Riding Loop, to the Sand Play Corner, to the Mini Putting Green and Garden Chess. These

amenities provide the perfect interaction platform for the different generations to bond and develop strong family relationships.

For investors

Investors can be assured of great rental potential as there is limited supply of new private apartments within Ang Mo Kio. Furthermore, the new industrial cluster at Seletar Aerospace Business Park, which is easily accessible via the major road networks provides a ready pool of professional tenants for the keen investors. Despite market uncertainty, residential property prices have been, on the whole, resilient. URA data show that prices have fallen an average of 8% since the peak in 2013. With TDSR in place, downside risk remains contained. At today's pricing levels, an investment in The Panorama is an attractive proposition.

Homes to meet your preference

2 bedroom	700 sqft
2 bedroom + Study	797 sqft
3 bedroom	990 to 1066 sqft
3 bedroom + Study	1109 to 1163 sqft
4 bedroom	1313 to 1335 sqft
5 bedroom	1561 sqft
Penthouse	2379 to 2411 sqft

With the 1-bedroom fully sold, there are still choice 2- to 5-bedroom units and spacious penthouses available. Each home has been thoughtfully designed, accompanied by a selection of quality fittings and branded appliances. For more details, do visit the showroom, located along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8, between 11am and 6pm. For enquires, call 67339822.

Article contributed by Mr Tay Kah Poh, Executive Director & Head, Residential Services, Knight Frank Pte Ltd

FURNISHING HOMES - EASE OF LEASE



Source: Lian Hup Furniture Rental

Have you considered renting furniture and who to call if you decide to do it?

Relocation does not mean feeling dislocation - that is what **Home Essentials** (tel: +65 6476 7600 www.home-essentials.com.sg), one of the world's most popular furniture rental companies, says about moving and temporarily settling down overseas. You should consider the rental option as it can help save money and can be very convenient for those who are staying here for the short term. You will be relieved of the cost, stress and pressure of having furniture shipped over to Singapore.

Home Essentials is one of many companies here that specialises in providing the flexibility of leasing the furnishings in one's new home. The first advantage is savings (compared to buying new furniture and paying huge shipping costs) and then flexibility as expats can rent on a monthly or one- to two-year basis and do not have to worry about disposing the furniture when they leave.

For long established local company, **Lian Hup Furniture Rental** (tel: +65 6653 3042 www.furniturerental.com.sg), the minimum rental period for short term rentals is one month up to a maximum of six months. Like many other furniture rental companies, you can visit their

website to order online. Its website gives an extensive set of attractive choices of furnishings. However, short term rentals will use refurbished furniture. The company which was founded in the 1960s offer long term leases of up to three years. For such long term leasing arrangements, if the home owners like the furniture, they can purchase it at a reduced rate at the end of the lease period.

Prices & Savings

According to **RentoLive Furniture Pte Ltd** (tel: +65 6100 8100 www.rentolive.com.sg), it estimates expatriates can save up to 60 per cent if they rent instead of buying new furniture. RentoLive's aims to give customers the 'best value' possible - it lists out their prices online with costs starting from S\$288 to S\$388 monthly for its long term and short term packages respectively for 12 items. Under its long term package plan for a 3-bedroom home it costs \$388 monthly for 16 items.

Apart from not having to make any heavy capital outlay in moving here, other advantages for rentals include no long-term obligations to dispose or ship back the furniture when you leave Singapore plus most of the companies maintain and

repair the furniture; moreover, furniture rental cost is a deductible business expense so take advantage of the tax deductible privilege by leasing.

Renting also means your belongings remain safe in your home country. You not only minimize shipping costs but also remove the risk of breakage during transportation; for valuable items like paintings you can avoid damage due to exposure because of climate changes etc. There is also no worry about whether the electrical system requirements of your appliances may be compatible for Singapore.

Biggest Player

The biggest player (literally) in the Singapore furniture rental scene is probably **HC Lifestyle** (tel: +65 6227 2000 hclifestyle.com) - a specialist in furniture rentals and home retail. It has a 30,000 sq feet furniture rental gallery with the widest collection of home furniture and home appliances for rent or purchase at Tampines. If you are wondering whether it is worth a trip to Tampines, HC Lifestyle offers a virtual tour of the store online at its website where you can 'walk' through the showroom and see their selection of

furniture and accessories. And apart from RentoLive, HC Lifestyle is one of the companies that shows a comprehensive listing of the costs of its Short and Long Term Rental packages. There is a pricing guide with a range of options for furnishing one- to three-bedroom homes.

WTP Taste & Style

When style is as important as savings, you should check out **WTP The Furniture Company** (tel: +65 6235 2760 www.wtpstyle.com). The initials mean Window to the Past, quite fitting as it was established more than 20 years ago). Its forte is flexible leasing packages, custom designed furniture and furnishings and interior design services. The company's objective is to provide furniture with presence and personality so the home reflects the character of those residing there.

Ms Mimi Somjee, Managing Director of WTP, inherited some her style and presence from watching some of her mother's keen sense of detail and handpicking of furniture and other decorative items from their various travels all over the world. After two decades since the creation of WTP, Mimi, has transferred that knowledge to her daughter Naazli Somjee. The mother-daughter duo continue to shape the future of WTP with the pride of its past.



Source: WTP The Furniture Co

WTP project at The Oliv

WTP's portfolio of clients and projects read like the equivalent of the Who's Who of residential listings. They include supplying rental furniture to homes at Cape Royale and Seascope of Sentosa Cove, St Regis, Nassim Park and Marina Bay Residences, Ardmore Park etc.

Growing sophistication in styles and tastes have also meant that apart from the usual types of furniture offered such as beds, tables and chairs, clients are also offered objects de art, antiques and sculptures that can help the home owners stamp their own individual accents on the furnishing of their homes.

It's also not all about how large or the variety of inventory the companies carry. Service is very important said Nazli and in this area companies like WTP offer highly personalised interior decoration consultancy (at no extra charge) and convenience as customers can browse their website and then visit their

18,000 sq ft store that has 5,000 pieces of furnishings to consult about what's best by mother or daughter. Another good reason to drop by is the WTP's Outlet loft which has on display a budget range of greatly discounted items.

New or Pre-Owned Furniture

Some other companies like **Singapore Furniture Rental Pte Ltd** or **SFR** (tel: +65 6759 1021 www.singaporefurniturerental.com) offers clients to either choose the

furniture from its extensive online catalogue or use its 'Rental Packages' for long term leases (one to two years) and they are usually brand new furniture. For SFR's Short Term Rentals (one to six months) a client can also just describe the type of furniture needed and SFR will select the matching furniture and deliver to the customer within three working days.

Customers who prefer to choose online instead of the packages get to mix and match the items of their liking but SFR may not have ready available stock and might take a longer time to meet the order.

Expats Furniture Rental or **EFR** (tel: +65 6276 7606 efr.com.sg) tries to stand out in their business approach as they believe the 'one size fits all' concept is passé and values every individual's different needs and preference. Because of this EFR does not have a standard or fixed package. Clients can either choose from a wide selection of in-house furniture or items from outside retailers.

For the latter, EFR strives to negotiate for a better price and pass the savings to its clients. EFR also rents out entertainment, kitchen, cooking and washing appliances; soft furnishings (bed linens, towels, carpets) as well as other essentials such as baby-cots, baby highchairs as well as other decorations to spruce up the home décor. **©**

Rent Tycoons: Peer-To-Peer Power

Rent from others in Singapore – that's what a new website that helps link individuals and businesses to rent items and services from one another does. Apart from home furnishings and appliances there are many other categories of items that can be rented. Check it out at www.rentycoons.com

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GOING TO SURFACE IN 2016

by Syed Jaafar Alkaff

New Microsoft Surface Book the “ultimate” laptop-tablet hybrid to have next year?

Microsoft used to have an image of manufacturing for the masses rather than being the creator of premium styled products such as Apple. But Microsoft’s new Surface Book – a hybrid tablet-laptop shows that if Microsoft wants to, its offerings can be just as tempting as, if not more than, those of Apple.

Since its launch in late October in the US, reviewers’ verdicts were almost unanimous. The new 13.5-inch Surface Book is scoring four and five stars. Anyone doing their Christmas shopping in Singapore would probably be disappointed as there is no confirmation from Microsoft Singapore yet of the arrival of the Surface Book (as of November). Most likely, we will have to wait till early next year. In America itself, the “ultimate” version of the Book (with i7 processor, 1TB storage and 16GB RAM memory) will only be out on 22 January 2016. So will the new Surface Book be worth waiting for? We hope this article will help you make that decision. In the meantime, the good news is that if you are in the market for the latest tablet, the new Microsoft Surface Pro 4 will already be out on 19 November 2015 (see accompanying box story). However, it is the hybrid Surface Book though that has stolen much of the spotlight and attention of the computing world.

Wish List Come True

In terms of specifications, it is like a wish list come true; in terms of aesthetics and ergonomics its looks-finish, keyboard and display feel and comfort are beautiful to behold and use. Even critical reviews (Mary Jo Foley of ZDNet.com) observed how, “The Surface Book is a really beautiful device. I really like the keyboard. The keys are well-spaced and it’s comfortable and fast for those of us who live to type and type to live. The 13.5-inch screen, with 3,000 x 2,000 resolution, makes everything pop. The track pad is actually usable, especially if you are using Microsoft’s Edge browser in Windows 10, where scrolling is incredibly fluid.” Some even speculated the Book is a respectable contender as a MacBook Pro Killer!



(Left): Surface Pro 4 Tablet.
(Above): The screen detachable Surface Book

The Achilles heels of portables and the Surface Book has a brand new type that helps the device from tipping over when opened as it lengthens the device’s footprint when it is opened. The Surface Book is a high-end luxury lap-top with tablet characteristics. The tablet part comes from its detachable touchscreen display. This also means it requires to house separate batteries in both the keyboard base and screen. Handling the screen clipboard style (four hours battery life) is quite a novelty - if you have use of it in this mode - you can doodle, draw and hand write with the Surface Pen. Connected with its keyboard base, Microsoft says the Surface Book can run 12 hours of video playback before recharging so it should be safer now to leave the battery cord when you leave home for the work day.

The Surface Book has models with NVIDIA GeForce GPU with 1 GB GDDR5 memory for greater graphic processing muscle, meaning gamers and power users who run processor intensive programmes like Photoshop, video editing and CAD-CAM will benefit. It has a 13.5 inch PixelSense display 3,000 x 2,000 resolution (267 ppi) and the models will run on either the 6th Generation Intel Core i5 or i7 processor. With GPU, the Surface Book weighs in at 1.516 kg.

Microsoft Book seems to present the best of both worlds – either as a tablet or laptop; even when the screen is detached you can still run all the full desktop apps in your computer. And for those who would like the best of everything and for whom budget is not such a big issue, you will have to be patient as the ultimate spec

machine is expected to be launched here by early next year. In the US the i7, 1TB storage and 16GB RAM memory Surface Book retails online for US\$3,199. 

SURFACE PRO 4 TABLET HERE & NOW

This is the one to compare all other tablets against. Microsoft touts the new Surface Pro 4 as the tablet that “can replace your laptop”. It is no idle boast as the latest range is thinner, lighter and faster as they run on the 6th Generation Intel Core m, i5 and i7 processors. The 12.3-inch PixelSense display has a “Best in Class” high resolution of 2,736 x 1,824 (267 ppi). Price starts from S\$1,338. They come installed with the latest Windows 10 Pro.

The Surface Pen has also been redesigned to offer 1,024 levels of pressure sensitivity letting you write, draw and mark documents with precision ink on one end and an eraser on the other. The heaviest variant weighs only 786g and thickness is just 8.4mm. Onboard storage uses SSD (solid state drives) from 128GB to 1TB! The top spec model has 512 GB Intel Core i7 with 16GB of RAM costs S\$3,278.



MEDITATE YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH

A doorway to achieving inner happiness and peace, meditation is a powerful tool that fosters good health and combats stress.



It is a well-known fact that the world we live in today is geared up to high achievers and winning the rat race is on everyone's list of goals. The old adage "survival of the fittest" is apt in the daily stressful grind. With technology taking over even our private space, the distance between work and home has grown even shorter. Finding an oasis of peace and harmony in this constant clamour is difficult but not impossible. All it takes is practice and motivation to achieve that inner quiet. A state of mind which is neither affected by bliss nor grief, like that of the tall mountain, untouched and unaffected by the vagaries of changing weather.

The meditative state will bring about a sea change in the way you look at the world and you don't need any fancy equipment or expensive club membership to achieve this. Just devoting 20 minutes a day to calm your heart, mind and soul through meditation will bring wonders to your life. Here are few simple steps which can help you reach your calm oasis even amid raging inferno.

Posture

Meditation calls for an upright posture whether you are sitting in a chair cross-legged or on the floor. Straighten your spine with your chin facing up. As the mind and body are interlinked, a balanced body will help attain balance in the mind. To straighten up your posture, imagine that your head is touching the sky. Keep your eyes closed and maintain the posture with deep and relaxed breathing.

Breath

A racing heart is not conducive for meditation, hence slow down your breathing with deep and relaxed inhalation. After a couple of breaths, a rhythmic pattern will emerge, just count until five every time you breathe in and out.

Focus

One of the most important and difficult step in meditation is to maintain focus. Emptying your mind of all thoughts is easier said than done. As a beginner, you will notice that random thoughts about the grocery list, laundry, the new movie etc. will keep popping up. The mind is unruly and it doesn't quiet down easily without effort. So don't beat yourself up. Instead, try to bring your focus on to your breath. Keep your awareness centred on the air travelling up your nostrils to the lungs and emptying out. Thoughts will come and go, let them just drift away while you keep your focus on your breath.

Silence

While you are spoilt for choice with plenty of meditation music available online and offline, it is better to start with silence as it helps you focus better. Silence is also healing and after the first couple of sessions, you will welcome the blessed silence which allows your mind to rest. ©



BULLY-PROOFING YOUR CHILD

by Priya Ramakrishnan

Bullying is recognised now as a serious offense that can leave deep psychological scars on the victim

From kindergarten to college, children have been facing bullying across all stages. Rampant and insidious, bullying often goes undetected and unchallenged. However, it is often the parents who notice something amiss in their child's behaviour and upon questioning discover that their child is a victim of bullying. It is vital to help your child handle bullying and also learn to recognise and respond to it.

Most of the time it is either one or more children intentionally trying to intimidate, harass or harm a victim who is usually perceived as weaker and unable to defend themselves. A form of aggressive behaviour, bullying can be physical, verbal, social or cyber bullying. It can take the form of:

Physical Bullying

Bullies use physical strength and size to intimidate or hurt the victim. It includes hitting, shoving, kicking and tripping a child. It can also include purposefully break the child's property.

Verbal Bullying

Teasing, name-calling, taunting, shaming and making inappropriate sexual comments are form of verbal bullying. This is often done in front of many students in order to embarrass or shame the child.

Social Bullying

This type of bullying involves spreading rumours about a child, embarrassing him or her in public, or excluding him or her from a group.

Cyber Bullying

One of the rampant form of bullying in the smart phone age, cyber bullying involves using social network, email, text messages, videos posted on social media to threaten or harm a child's reputation.

“For cyber bullying, communicate with children regarding the correct way to use technology. Make sure you know how your children are using the Internet, social media platforms, or their phone to interact with others.”

What to Do

If your child is being bullied, you will first need to check what sort of bullying is being encountered. If it is one or more form, you need to record the details and contact appropriate authorities. However, before this step it is vital to address your child's fears and concerns. Firstly, parents need to remain calm and encourage their children to express their feelings and to gently point out that he/she isn't to be blamed. Furthermore, it is important not to promote feelings of retaliation in the child as this might exacerbate the situation. Instead teach your child to approach a teacher, coach or adult for help. The child should also be encouraged to build friendships and get involved in activities that highlight his or her strengths and talents.

For cyber bullying, communicate with

children regarding the correct way to use technology. Also it is essential to make sure you know how your children are using the Internet, social media platforms, or their phone to interact with others.

Dealing with Bullies

Once you know the culprit and have the whole information, it is time to act:

- Start out with communicating with your child's teacher. If the harassment is happening at preschool or kindergarten, make administrators aware of the problem right away. However, instead of laying blame, ask for help to solve the bullying problem. Keep notes on these meetings. Keep in contact with school officials. If the bullying continues, be persistent.
- Create a list of responses and encourage your child to practice phrases to tell someone to stop bullying behaviour.
- Encourage your child to be an upstander, where they take positive action when confronted with a bully.
- Seek information on the school's policy on bullying, document instances of bullying and keep records, and stay on top of the situation by following up with the school to see what actions are being taken to address the problem.
- If even after persistent follow up the bullying problem continues, get help from others outside of school, like a family therapist or a police officer, and take advantage of community resources that can deal with and stop bullying. 📌

INDONESIAN FOOD TO GO

Successful promotion to titillate taste buds to travel!

If you are inspired by food to travel, the Indonesian Tourism Minister invites you to check out dishes special to Indonesia. **Mr Arief Yahya** said this in the press conference to promote Wonderful Indonesia in Singapore at the Novotel Clarke Quay where there was also an Indonesia Food Festival held at the hotel's The Square restaurant. A team of cooks who included celebrity **Chef Vindex Tengker** (pictured here) showcased the top '30 Iconic Dishes from Indonesia.' The judge of Master Chef and Top Chef Indonesia is also the Executive Chef of The Dharmawangsa Jakarta and President of the Jakarta Association of Culinary Professionals, so diners here were in for a special treat, tasting authentic Indonesian cuisines from the various provinces. The 30 Iconic Dishes theme was obviously inspired by the Ministry of Tourism's own excellent food guide titled 30 Indonesian Traditional Culinary Icons. Below are two recipes from it for you to try. We too hope you will be inspired to travel there and check out the other dishes from the region.



Laksa Bogor



Nutrient	Nutrient per 100 gms	Nutrient per portion
Fat	7 g	41 g
Protein	8 g	44 g
Carbohydrate	4 g	23 g
Calorie	110 kcal	640 kcal

It's a major challenge to trace the origins of the word Iaksa. There are hints, however, that clue to its origins from Chinese culinary heritage, the word might have originated from the Cantonese word 'liet sa', which means spicy sand. The name has to do with the fact that the dish boasts spicy soup containing ground dried shrimp that feels sandy or granular. Another theory points out the possibility of the word originating from the Hindi word lakshah, which means a type of vermicelli. Malaysia is home to two variants of Iaksa: laksa with coconut curry soup, commonly called laksa Iemak, and laksa with fish broth.

In Indonesia, laksa dishes can be found in regions with strong Malay heritage, such as Riau, Bangka and Belitung. However, Jakarta and Bogor, as well as Cibinong (located between Jakarta and Bogor) have also developed their own original champions, when it comes to Iaksa. Laksa Bogor makes use of oncom (fermented by-products of soy bean, peanut presscake, cassava tailings and coconut presscake) that is boiled until it dissipates into the soup. The use of oncom lends the dish its unique aroma

and taste, whereas the mild coconut curry brings out a flavourful kick of the dried shrimp. Laksa Bogor uses thick yellow noodles, bean sprouts, shredded boiled chicken and fish balls. When topped with a couple of fried wontons, the dish turns into Laksa Pengantin.

Another region that boasts a wide variety of laksa is Riau. One of its original variants can be found on Pulau Penyengat. Like most Riau Iaksa dishes, the noodles tend to be thicker; but here, they are made from transparent greyish sago flour, which in a way resembles letek noodles from Bantul, Yogyakarta. Although well boiled, the noodles are not overly cooked and manage to stay al dente. The sago noodles are served on mangkohan leaves (*Polyscias scutellaria*)—a perfect size for appetizers. It is then coated with thick, aromatic curry that oozes strong flavours of fish and shrimp paste. The soup is made from dried tamban fish (in the family of *Rastrelliger*) well ground with ginger, curry powder, chili and coriander, kincung (*Etlingera elatior*), shallots, shrimp paste and coconut milk.

Both the aroma and flavour of kincung and shallots come out wonderfully. The mild sour taste derives from the use of asam gelugur or asam potong (*Garcinia atroviridis*). As a note, the region of Palembang also possesses dishes called lakso and laksan, both of which are different from Iaksa.

Ingredients (serves 5-6):

800 gr	(1 whole) chicken (boil and shred the meat)
	3 tablespoons cooking oil
26 gr	2 pcs lemon grass stalks, crushed
4 gr	4 pcs Indonesian bay leaves
250 gr	peeled shrimp
165 gr	3 pcs eggs (hard-boiled, cut into 8 pieces)
	3 tablespoons tried shallots
15 gr sambal)	15 pcs bird's eye chilies (boil and grind to make
60-75 gr	Indonesian basil leaves
55 gr	1-2 pcs limes, sliced
1500 cc	coconut milk (use one mature coconut)
	2 tablespoons dessicated coconut, panfried without oil until the colour turns brown, crushed

- 225 gr dried vermicelli, blanche with hot water until tender, drain
- 150-175 gr bean sprouts, remove the roots, blanche with not water until tender, drain

Ground Spices

- 6 gr 3 pcs garlic cloves
- 90 gr 9 pcs shallots, 1 tablespoon coriander, roasted
- 20 gr 2 teaspoons galangai
- 10 gr 2 cm kunyit
- 12 gr 3 pcs candlenuts, roasted
- 1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt

Directions

1. Boil chicken with 1,000 cc water until the meat is tender. Remove, set aside approx.. 500 cc of the chicken broth. Shred the chicken, set aside. Sautee the ground spices, lemon grass and Indonesian bay leaves until everything is well cooked and aromatic. Add the shrimp, coconut milk and the crushed dessicated coconut. Bring to boil and stir occasionally to prevent the coconut milk from curdling.
2. Serving: Place the vermicelli, bean sprouts, shredded chicken

Kue Lumpur Jakarta

Kue Lumpur is a famous traditional Indonesian cake available throughout the country. It is also known in several Asian countries by the name of Indonesian Mud Cake.

The appearance of kue Lumpur resembles a small round pancake, with a very soft texture that reminds one of mud. It is made from flour and egg, with caramel custard-like consistency and texture, but tougher and firmer. It is common to find raisins as the toppings on kue Lumpur, though some people prefer using slivers of young coconut flesh. You can find kue Lumpur almost anywhere in Indonesia. The dessert also makes a favourite snack box treat.

Ingredients (serves 28-30):

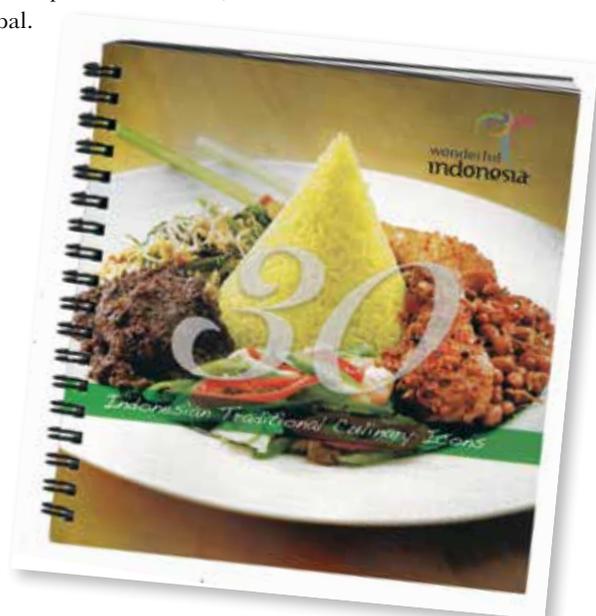
- 100 gr grated cheese
- 1/2 pcs young coconut flesh, slivered
- 100 gr margarine
- 325 cc water
- 100 gr flour
- 100 gr smass steam potato
- 600 cc coconut milk (use one coconut), boil then let cool
- 150 gr sugar
- 440 gr 8 pcs eggs
- 1 gr 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 gr 3/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 150 gr raisins

Directions

1. Melt margarine and water over low heat; pour in flour and smass steam potato in small parts along with sugar, salt and vanilla. Keep stirring until the batter is smooth and well blended. Remove and cool down.
2. Pour in coconut milk in parts while breaking the eggs one by

and eggs into a serving bowl. Pour hot gravy to cover these and sprinkle with fried shallots. Add basil leaves, sambal and lime slices, to taste.

3. Sambal: Grind 6 red chilies and 8 boiled bird's eye chilies, add 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Boil, then remove and serve as sambal.



Nutrient	Nutrient per 100 gms	Nutrient per portion
Fat	10 g	4 g
Protein	7 g	3 g
Carbohydrate	28 g	12 g
Calorie	230 kcal	100 kcal

- one, beating well after each addition.
3. Heat the mud cake molds, oil them and fill them almost full. Cover and cook until they are half done.
4. When the cake starts to firm up, scatter raisins, coconut slivers and cheese on top. Cover again and continue cooking until the cakes turn golden yellow. Remove from molds and serve. ©

HOT HALAL CAFE RESTAURANTS

The 'café society' is thriving in the halal eatery scene here

Keep this list for more choices on where to go for brunch, snacks or tea time. News portal Singaporeplus.net compiled several that just "can't be ignored." They were rated for great food and awesome ambience so you should check them out. Another great source we recommend for ideas on where to go is Facebook's 'Halal Cafe & Restaurants in Singapore.'

Selamat makan!



Paddington House of Pancakes

A franchise from Malaysia that serves an international menu of pancakes with a large variety of toppings. Location: City Square Mall 180 Kitchener Road #02-3/3, Singapore 208539. Tel: 6612 9029.



Spize (River Valley)

Open till late (until 6am on weekdays), The supper spot for "midnight cravings" from burgers and fries to classic Maggi Goreng with Asian, Mediterranean, Indian and Western kitchens. Mama Mia Murtabak with keema, mushroom and cheese and Roti John are recommended. Location: 409 River Valley Rd, Singapore 248307. Tel: +65 6734 9194.

Springleaf Prata Place (Jalan Tua Kong)

Try at least one of the inventive murtabak variations, you will not be sorry. Just remember to bring a big appetite for its "Ultimate Murtabak" that is filled with tender chunks of tandoori chicken and a thick layer of oozing mozzarella and mushroom slices. Another worthwhile choice is its cheese-filled Murtaburger and eggs Benedict-inspired Plaster Blaster. Location: 457251, 53 Jln Tua Kong, Singapore 457251. Tel: +65 86935393



Carousel (Royal Plaza on Scotts)

A favourite for special occasions; it probably has the best spread of buffet food choices in Singapore (and the prices to match) that includes: Mediterranean, Asian and Japanese cuisines, as well as seafood, French rotisserie, and three dessert stations! There is surely something here for everyone. Reservations are recommended especially on weekends. Since it's popular among big groups, reservations are highly recommended, especially on weekends. Location: 25 Scotts Rd, Lobby Level, Royal Plaza on Scotts, Singapore 228220. Tel: +65 6589 7799

Olivye Cafe Gelato

The cafe offers a halal certified western food and gelato combo at reasonable prices. They first found fame serving chicken chop and grilled fish at the Nanyang Technological University campus for more than 10 years and are probably the only halal certified gelato vendor here. Check out their café in Changi Village with many down-to-earth flavours for ice creams such as classics

like Chocolate, Hazelnut and Vanilla Cookies and tropical fruits like Durian and Chempedak. Location: Blk 5 Changi Village Road, #01-2009, Singapore 500005. Tel: 81397418.



Roy Et Vous

This muslim-owned French inspired bistro serves cosmopolitan fare from smoked duck breast, chicken rendang to juicy prawns pasta. There is also freshly brewed coffee with desserts to tempt you. Location: 17 Bali Lane, Singapore 189853. Tel: 6293 0270.



Wilder

It has been described as offering "a fresh spin on classic brunch fare in an industrial cafe setting." Recommended is its French Toast which is a unique Eggs Benedict-esque creation with two fried eggs seated atop a savoury, stuffed brioche! There is also a selection of dessert items and drinks available. Location: 749 North Bridge Rd, Singapore 198717. Tel: +65 6635 1136. 



FKMIS YOUTH MEET

“Pulang Kampung atau Tetap Merantau?” (To Return Home or Always Abroad?) was organised by Forum Komunitas Masyarakat di Singapura (FKMIS) on 19 September 2015 at the Embassy. The event comprised of a photo exhibition, musical drama and inspirational talks on the subject of how there are many ways to express one’s love for Indonesia.



IDUL ADHA PRAYERS

This year’s Hari Raya Haji or Idul Adha at the Indonesian Embassy at Istiqamah Mosque was filled to capacity as a strong turnout of staff, Indonesians and the diaspora in Singapore turned up in full force on 24 September 2015.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP AT SIS

A wide cross section of women studying at the Singapore Indonesia School signed up for the Entrepreneurship Workshop that was held on on 27 September 2015. The ladies learnt among other things introduction to concepts such as business models and how to draw up a business plan!



NUANSA'15 GALA NIGHT

Kudos were lavished on the students of National University of Singapore for a successful production of NUANSA' 15: Flowers of Asmat. The Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, HE Dr Andri Hadi and his wife Mrs Ferial Saad Hadi were the Guests of Honour at the 4 October 2015 performance.



JAZZONOMICS

JAZZonomics is a special Indonesian jazz series that showcased the band Indro Hardjodikoro's The Fingers featuring Soukma. It was held at Hard Rock Café Singapore on 4 October 2015. The band has played all over the world and Soukma Egas is a well established jazz singer who has toured internationally.



TNI 70TH ANNIVERSARY GAMES – BADMINTON & BOWLING

The embassy staff including members of the military commemorated the anniversary of the Indonesian Armed Forces or Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) with a bowling and badminton competition on the 2 and 10 October 2015 respectively. September 2015.



TNI ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Indonesian Armed Forces celebrated its 70th Anniversary which fell on 5 October 2015. Food, music performances and a special “birthday” cake was presented to representatives of all the military branches by HE Dr Andri Hadi.



SAFETY & SECURITY AWARENESS

A comprehensive briefing was held for those interested in knowing more about Singapore road safety rules, laws and regulations pertaining security as well as how the police force is organized in here was held at Singapore Indonesia School on 20 October 2015



CITIZEN SERVICE EXHIBITION

Serving the public to the best of their ability – the Indonesian Embassy Singapore brought that message to Jakarta in its own Citizen Service booth held at the exhibition on Closer Coordination for the Protection of Indonesian Citizens with 30 Indonesian Representatives of Citizen Service (Rapat Koordinasi Nasional Perlindungan Warga Negara Indonesia dengan 30 Perwakilan RI Pelayanan Warga) organised by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 20 October 2015.



TOURISM AND FASHION AT WESTGATE

A chance to promote Indonesian tourism and fashion was held at the Westgate shopping mall from 6 to 8 November 2015. The Batik Fashion Show was from IWAPI or Indonesian Women Entrepreneurs Association (Surabaya Branch). Shoppers were also enthralled by the cultural performances from Indonesia organised for the event.



SG50 DIPLOMATIC CHARITY BAZAAR

The diplomatic community has organised for the first time a special event for charitable causes and this time HE Dr Andri Hadi was the organising chairman of the event this year. It was held at the Shangri-La Hotel on 24 October 2015. Singapore's new Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivan Balakrishnan was Guest-of-Honour.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to a line up of entertaining shows and activities for the whole family



New Year's Eve Countdown Gala Concert 2016

Thur, 31 Dec 2015 10pm
Venue: SOTA Concert Hall

Ring in 2016 in style with an evening of classics! Sit back and celebrate the year-end with orchestral favourites at the SOTA Concert Hall. Together with Maestros Lim Yau and Terrence Wong, as well as presenter William Ledbetter, The Philharmonic Orchestra promises a delightful evening and good company on December 31st! To top it off, have a glass of bubbly to go with great music!

Cinderella, A Fairly True Story

Thur, 10 Dec 2015 - Mon, 4 Jan 2016
Venue: Resorts World Theatre, Resorts World Sentosa

The most loved fairy tale retold in its Asian avatar, Cinderella, A Fairly True Story comes from the creators of internationally acclaimed Peter Pan, The Never Ending Story. Cinderella's tale is sometimes funny, sometimes happy, sometimes sad, but always fairly true. This new musical production is jointly staged by Resorts World Sentosa and Belgium's Music Hall, and adapted from a show called Assepoester, Het Tamelijk Ware Verhaal that was first staged in Europe in 2013. Classic elements such as the ball, pumpkin transformation and the glass slipper remain, but our pretty protagonist is also

encouraged to face up to her own responsibilities in this more down-to-earth version. A spectacular musical production everyone in the family can enjoy, featuring an international cast, a mix of original music and popular hits, with dynamic choreography and memorable moments of magic. It's a live theatrical experience not to be missed.

Lillian Too's Feng Shui Extravaganza 2016

Sun, 3 Jan 2016 10am
Venue: Suntec Convention Hall 401-402

Feng shui maven Lillian Too is in Singapore to share the secret of tapping the best opportunities in the upcoming Year of Fire Monkey. The year is ruled by the Fire Monkey, a highly intelligent creature who has an impressive almost imposing intellect, but also highly developed opportunistic tendencies. The Paht Chee chart of the year meanwhile is highly unbalanced, with a total lack of WATER, which in 2016 stands for authority, power and the ability to lead. Combined with the ruling #2 star in the centre, which makes this what feng shui experts call a BLACK YEAR, everyone will need to be well-versed and well-armed in order to safely navigate the hazards that pave the way. Lillian's incredible ability to teach, entertain and impart knowledge to make 2016 your best year ever!

National Geographic Live Ocean Wild with Brian Skerry

Sun, 24 Jan 2016 3pm
Venue: Esplanade Concert Hall

Dive deep into the world's oceans with one of National Geographic's most seasoned explorers. Watch as Brian Skerry's images illuminate the vast, hidden world beneath the waves. Having spent over 10,000 hours underwater using his camera to tell the story of some of the ocean's most elusive inhabitants, Brian Skerry's mission is to enlighten and inspire people to care about the beauty, bounty, and health of the world's oceans.

Viper Challenge Singapore

Sat, 23 Jan 2016 from 7am to 5pm
Venue: Beach Station, Sentosa Island

Singapore's first Viper Challenge is here to put the participant's mettle to test. The New Year will see its first event in Sentosa Island where there will be a 10km route and 15 challenging obstacles, built in the hot sandy beach of the island! Holding true to Viper Challenge's motto of "Leave No One Behind", participants are encouraged to join with family and friends as a team, but individuals can still participate in the fun. Nevertheless, everyone will help one another to overcome all obstacles. 





RAJA AMPAT'S DECEMBER DIVE DATES

Seatrek offers a glimpse of the marine world's Garden of Eden

Indonesia is home to one of the world's 10 best destinations for diving. Raja Ampat is a group of over 600 rocky islets spread over 4.5 million hectares and boasting 750 km stretches of pristine sandy beaches. This is the 'must go' dive and snorkeling destination as the underwater kaleidoscope of coral reef, fish and other marine life are a major draw for tourism. The turquoise blue water, palm fringed beaches and slow pace makes it one of the last paradises on earth. One of the best ways to savour the sights, sounds and seas of Raja Ampat is to charter a boat.

One of Indonesia's premier adventure cruising operators, SeaTrek Sailing Adventures, is offering two very special opportunities in December to experience

the magic of Indonesia's Raja Ampat National Park onboard their six-cabin Katharina, a 35-metre wooden 'pinisi' schooner.

Raja Ampat which is located in the far eastern reaches of Indonesia off the west coast of Papua, sits in the heart of the renowned Coral Triangle. It is the most diverse marine ecosystem on the planet and home to more than 70 per cent of the world's coral species. Many of the fish, corals and crustaceans that live in these waters are found nowhere else on Earth. Yet, while the below-surface world is reminiscent of a living kaleidoscope, the above-surface views are among the most stunning that one is ever likely to behold.

Seatrek brings some of these stunning

scenes here in the photo layout of these two pages. The company is organising two 8-day cruises to the north and south of the archipelago, the first is called Raja Ampat Snorkelling & Paddling North (5 to 12 December 2015) and the second is Raja Ampat Snorkelling & Paddling South (14 to 21 December 2015). Both will leave from Sorong in West Papua. SeaTrek promises it will take guests on a far-reaching exploration of what is without a doubt one of the least visited but most memorable adventure-destinations and the chance to snorkel, paddleboard, kayak, trek, swim and explore the rich natural history and beauty of Raja Ampat. For more details, visit SeaTrek's website at www.seatrekbali.com



Now Easier for Boat Owners to Visit with Abolition of CAIT

According to Mr Mohd Iqbal Alamsjah, Indonesia's Head of Law & Communication Public Ministry of Tourism, wildlife conservation societies have confirmed the country's coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangroves are home to 3,000 species of fish and 300 different types of corals including the very beautiful soft coral known as *Dendronephthya Carnation*.

The legal expert was highlighting how motor yachts and sail boat owners will now find it easier to visit and see for themselves the beautiful corals as the government has made it easier to process visiting vessels by abolishing the Clearance Approval for Indonesia Territory (CAIT) when Singapore boats enter at any 18 designated ports.

For commercial cruises the government has also removed Asas Cabotage to give them priority access to depart / arrive at five selected harbours.

Mr Mohd Iqbal announced this in November in Singapore at a briefing for journalists to publicise the new regulations and efforts by the Tourism Ministry to attract more visitors to experience the archipelago's rich marine life.

Indonesia is famous for several diving sites with stunning coral scenery. Some of the best of such sites are found in the island waters of Raja Ampat, Togean, Komodo, Bunaken, Bali, Lombok, Bangka Belitung, Weh, Wakatobi and Banda. 📍

PICTURE
POST

SENSATIONAL OF THE SPECIES

TOTEM is an all-new and inspiring acrobatic journey created by Cirque du Soleil on the evolution of mankind. Cirque's big top will be pitched at Bayfront Avenue beside Marina Bay Sands and will run from 28 October 2015. The production won the 2013 NYC Drama Desk Awards for Unique Theatrical Experience and features a cast of 46 acrobats, musicians and singers performing many jaw-dropping acts that is an "uplifting array of athleticism, comedy, soul-searching theatrics and surprising visual effects." Ticket prices start from \$98. ¹⁰

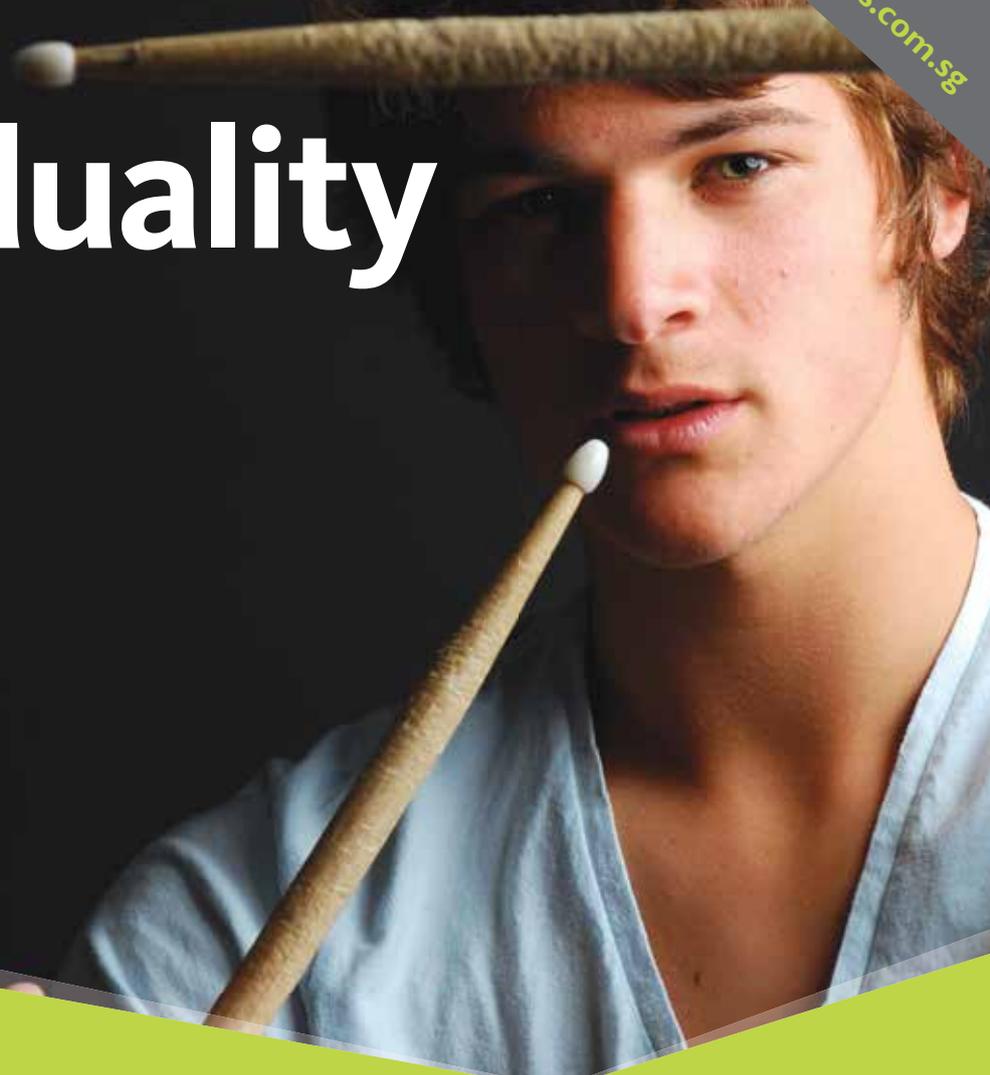


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Artist's Impression



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