

# IndoConnect

CONNECTING INDONESIA TO SINGAPORE

VISIT THE  
SURABAYA-  
PROBOLINGGO-  
MALANG TRIANGLE



*New Ambassador of  
Indonesia to Singapore  
H.E. I Gede Ngurah  
Swajaya & Ibu Ni Nyoman  
Mahaswi Astama*

## Harmony in Ties, Trade & Tourism

ALSO INSIDE:

### HARI KARTINI

THE DARING DAUGHTERS OF KARTINI

- IBU KARTINI'S DREAM WOMAN
- TEX SAVERIO HOT SHOT FASHION MAVERICK
- RUWATAN CEREMONY IN SINGAPORE
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# MUM'S THE WORD



**S**tereotypes of women today are known more for their negation than their compliance. Women exist as luminaries in every field from nuclear physics to politics, embodying the vision and resilience that makes humanity.

This issue of IndoConnect stands out for celebrating women like these in the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore. In this issue, we profile Indonesian women in Singapore who do an impressive job of overcoming challenges, some even managing to run a business alongside caring for their family.

On 8th May 2016, we celebrate Mothers Day. By way of tribute to mothers everywhere, Indoconnect invited a doctor to offer advice on women's health, specially for our readers. She ends an eye-opening piece on a wise, philosophical note - read the article to find out what she says.

In this issue, we had the rare privilege of welcoming the accomplished incoming Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore HE I Gede Ngurah Swajaya and his charming wife, Ni Nyoman Mahaswi Astama. They both gave generously their time and Ibu Swi graciously received me and IndoConnect Magazine into her new home to share her thoughts about Hari Kartini, herself and a little about her family. They are both eager to get to know the ground, the people, issues and interact actively and we at Indoconnect are all set to bring the news of their interactions and initiatives to our readers.

Food connects. At IndoConnect, we are adding another dimension to connecting Indonesians and Singaporeans. We are bringing the culinary delights of Indonesia to Singapore through a Food Competition and Showcase. Its my pleasure to invite all home chefs , celebrity chefs and foodies to share their craft and secrets, with Indochef, which is on its way soon. Please look out for details in our Facebook page or the next issue of IndoConnect. You can also reach us at [admin@IndoConnectSingapore.com](mailto:admin@IndoConnectSingapore.com) to be placed on our notification list. In the meantime, start perfecting and writing down your favourite recipes and be ready to connect through makan!

**Nomita Dhar**  
*Editor-in-chief*

## CONTRIBUTORS



**PRIONKA RAY**  
She's from India and has lived in Switzerland and Hong Kong before settling down in Singapore 15 years ago. She has travelled widely and is a regular contributor to IndoConnect. Her credentials are also impeccably suited for the magazine's new column ASK HERE.



**MUHAMAD ALAMSYAH**  
He is with the Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Singapore's Information, Social and Culture section and the embassy's official photographer. He also teaches photography at the Sekolah Indonesia Singapura and is responsible for many of the photos in IndoConnect related to events and functions of the Embassy.



**RANEE SAHANEY**  
She has been Consulting Editor for over 12 years to the Outlook Traveller publication group and contributed to Discover India, BBC Good Food Guide and many other titles. Her features have been published widely including a lavish coffee table book, Adventure Sites in the World and is comfortable writing on almost any topic!

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Photo by Intan Young



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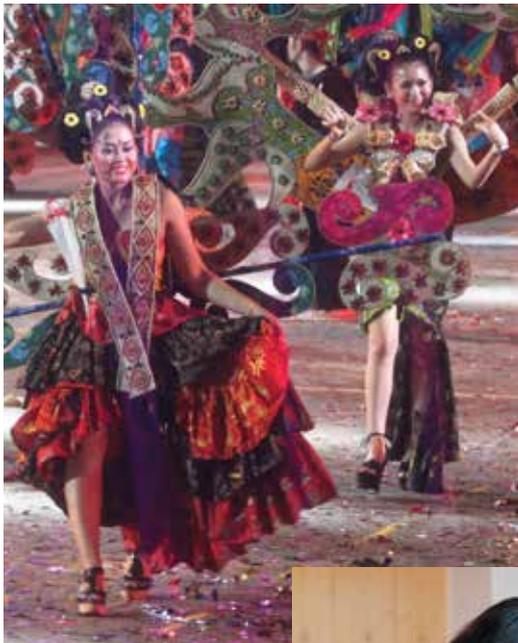
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PUBLISHER  
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Tan Yu Xian

COVER PHOTO  
Intan Young  
Michael Ozaki

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS  
Indonesian Embassy in Singapore  
Muhamad Alamsyah  
Valerius Boenawan

PRINTING  
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A PUBLICATION OF



20 Kramat Lane  
#01-02 United House  
Singapore 228773

TEL: (65) 6735 2972 / 1907, 2986

FAX: (65) 6735 3114

E-MAIL: admin@sunmediaonline.com

WEB: www.sunmediaonline.com

# HARMONY IN TIES, TRADE AND TOURISM

The new Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore H.E. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya, shares his thoughts on a wide range of topics with IndoConnect Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, Mrs Nomita Dhar



**Y**our Excellency, we are very honoured to have an Ambassador with an illustrious career such as yourself to represent Indonesia. We welcome you to Singapore. You have been here slightly over two months, when you were informed about your posting to Singapore, what came to your mind and what preparations did you make?

(Laughs) I first thought about the work ahead - the opportunities and potential in developing ties between our two countries. We already enjoy a history of long term cooperation and when it comes to bilateral trade and economic ties, even if there is a slowdown in the global economy, we see

opportunities. I also thought about re-establishing the connections with many of our friends in Singapore. From the minute I arrived, I did not need any special efforts to settle down here thanks to all the help we received from friends and staff in the Embassy.

**What are the thrust areas that we will see during your tenure in Singapore?**

We are already two good neighbours who are making progress in many fields: political, security, economic, social, culture and so on. But there are still plenty of untapped opportunities. For example, I think we can enhance further people-

to-people contacts. We tend to take it for granted, being so close, as next door neighbours, being able to visit anytime etc. Efforts that promote subjects of common interests and interaction between Indonesians and Singaporeans can enhance communication and understanding.

**There are many connecting factors and similarities between people on both sides, what in your opinion can be done for them to recognize these similarities?**

First, of course, is in economic cooperation where we complement each other. This can be done through tourism, which can help Indonesians understand more about

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore



*The Ambassador presenting his credentials to the President of Singapore HE Tony Tan in 25 February 2016*

Singapore. For Indonesians, we would encourage them not only to see what is happening just along Orchard Road (laughs). There are many other things happening here that is useful for them to know more about.

We also need to change the impressions Singaporeans have about Indonesia, to go beyond “macat” or traffic jams (famous in Jakarta). However, we have also noticed with time, things like the problems of infrastructure represented by the traffic jams are slowly becoming a non-issue with Singaporeans. When they visit Indonesia, they go for the food, shopping, golf and visit scenic destinations such as the Punchak highlands with its mild weather. There are so many attractions so Indonesia is more than just macat. And now there is greater air connectivity with more airlines flying to more destinations there.

As for our transportation and infrastructure issues, Singaporeans should understand it is not easy to manage such a large country like Indonesia which is spread across three time zones - it takes eight hours to fly from the western to eastern tips of the country! What we should appreciate is that despite such challenges, Indonesia is still able to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in this region and the world.

**Ambassador, President Jokowi has introduced many pro-active policies to enhance business and cooperation, how can these be tapped?**

It has been a year since President Jokowi took office and he has shown he really means business. Many measures have been introduced to improve the ease of

doing business. In the short time I have been here I have received very positive impressions from Singaporeans that Indonesia is changing. Yes, we still have challenges but the country is enjoying increased dynamism in economic growth and business people and investors are responding positively to this. I would like to improve people’s understanding of those changes.

For example, in the last few months the President has been inaugurating a new airport almost every month! For seaports we now have over 1,000 operating all around Indonesia. So when President Jokowi declared Indonesia a maritime nation, it was not only a declaration but he has taken concrete steps to make it a reality. The rate of development is taking place at a great speed and scale. Improvements in air and sea connectivity will have a huge impact on the economy. Earnings from Indonesia’s maritime sector doubled in 2015 from increases in cargo and passenger traffic.

**What is your message to people in the shipping sector on the upcoming opportunities due to the recent policy changes to make it easy for marine tourism i.e. visiting yachts and cruise ships to Indonesia?**

Well, I would like to tell them that the potential is there. In terms of networking opportunities and capabilities, Singapore on its side has great expertise in port and maritime

*His Excellency together with Mrs Nomita Dhar*

management, so I do not see why we cannot combine to create a win-win partnership.

**As Indonesia’s first Permanent Representative, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to ASEAN, you bring valuable experience on intra-ASEAN relations. As Indonesia’s ambassador here, how can you use it as an advantage to leverage on Singapore and Indonesia ties?**

I always like to share the knowledge that I have and I have learnt how important it is to listen to everyone. As Indonesia’s Permanent Representative, I have always worked towards bringing member nations closer together by increasing interaction among the 10 countries. It is also important to raise the awareness of ASEAN as a COMMUNITY to the world and the population of all member countries. That is why in the past, whenever possible, I would give public talks or lectures in universities in Indonesia and countries such as Australia and the US as





**“Singaporeans should understand it is not easy to manage such a large country like Indonesia which is spread across three time zones – it takes eight hours to fly from the western to eastern tips of the country! What we should appreciate is that despite such challenges, Indonesia is still able to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in this region and the world.”**

well publish articles in newspapers and journals. It’s my small contribution but I think it helps.

ASEAN is now becoming a community, and it is the responsibility of everyone to be active and participate in raising awareness of this community. There are many benefits, for example, ASEAN has made great strides working together in the area of security. In trade, ASEAN is the world’s most dynamic growth area outstripping Europe and the Americas. There are challenges too, but as long as we stick together, remain united and cohesive despite the periodic differences we might have, we can overcome difficult situations in the future.

**Indonesia has a large population base and not all have access or enjoy a good standard of living. What is happening to improve the lot of this segment of the populace?**

Indonesia is a major contributor to the UN peace-keeping forces and is also active in promoting prosperity, by solving problems that the international community faces such as food security, energy security et al. We are positive players who can contribute and we are a responsible member of the global community. One of our priorities is to actualise the human potential in our country, which can be realised through cooperation with others. That is why President Jokowi is sending a message that we are open to cooperation with other nations in the region and in

the international community as long as it results in the betterment of the people.

**Singapore is popular with Indonesians not only as a tourism destination but also for Medical and Education services and facilities. How can Indonesia tap into this flow?**

Yes, many of these hospitals even have representatives in major cities. But it is impossible to have 250 million people come to this island for their medical needs. The hospitals should take the next step and establish facilities in Indonesia. Pak Jokowi has already put in place universal access to health services and this is a sector that is booming in Indonesia. Singapore healthcare companies should seize this opportunity and capitalise on their niches in this market. There are already some tie-ups in place between Indonesian and Singapore hospitals. The potential for growth is tremendous when it comes to improving our healthcare infrastructure and capacity. This is something that can be applied to the education sector too. We would welcome collaborations between the established universities in Indonesia and educational institutions in Singapore.

**Singaporean consumers are fussy about the source of their fresh produce. Is there an opportunity here for Indonesian exports especially in fresh vegetables and fruits?**

Our geographical proximity gives us a big advantage. What we are doing now is to improve the yield and capacity

of our farmers. This coupled with our strengthened maritime network, will definitely see an increase in the availability of Indonesian fresh produce on Singapore market shelves.

Fishery is another industry that has great potential. Previously, we lost about US\$20 billion in revenue because of illegal fishing. We are addressing that problem. The government has also issued a new package of investment regulations that allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment in this sector. Cold storage and fish processing facilities would also be needed so there are many areas Singapore investors can look at in the fishing and agricultural sectors.

**What is your wish for students coming here (either as scholars or privately) for studies?**

Once they have graduated (and for some after they have served their bond) I hope they not only consider working for others but also build on their skills to return and help create entrepreneurial opportunities. This is especially so thanks to the growth of knowledge industries that uses information technology, social media and the Internet.

**Are there any new initiatives in promoting the Batam-Bintan-Karimun growth triangle?**

We are revitalizing our efforts by establishing a working group consisting of a new team of professionals that is looking into this and ironing out the problems that is hindering investments. In Batam,

## PRIVATE SIDE

### What do you do during your free time?

Playing golf, gives me some peace of mind and break from work. In Jakarta, I sometimes golf with my fellow ASEAN ambassadors for charity and networking. Unfortunately, in the past I did not spend as much time with my children because of work. For example, when I was in New York (1999 to 2003) at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia in New York by the time I reach home it was late and the children have fallen asleep. By the time I wake up next morning they already have gone to school. My advice to all parents, please learn from my experience and make as much time as you can for your children. You are going to miss them and all the opportunities to spend more time with your children\*.

I was fortunate that I was born in Bali. I feel Balinese people have a special bond with nature – it is part of our cultural identity which is already very unique. Foreigners also find the island different as it exudes a special atmosphere and they feel different when they are there. This has contributed to the growth of tourism but we should not be complacent. I hope Bali can retain that feeling. For example, we have introduced rules to regulate the height of buildings (except for some hotels in Nusa Dua which were built before the introduction of the rule) - they cannot be higher than the height of the tallest coconut trees. The Balinese have a philosophy in life called *tri hita karana* meaning the “three causes of well-being.” They are to attain harmony among people, with nature (or environment) and with God.

### Very soon it will be Hari Kartini, what are your thoughts about the contribution of women today in Indonesia?

They have made great contributions - we even had a female president! So I believe gender equality and rights is not an issue in Indonesia. There has been great progress made in education too. At the same time, Indonesian women play a major role in contributing to the nurturing of the family. My wife has played a big role in my life and career. We first met and studied in Udayana University\*\* in Bali. She did better than me in academic grades and I like to think she made a smart choice in a life partner (smiles).



**H.E. Gede Ngurah then - the young scholar who gave the valedictorian speech upon graduation from Udayana University.**

for example, we have consolidated into a single authority (before there were two) to help potential investors, remove areas of duplication and improve bureaucratic efficiency. We want to see more companies moving into the enclave and develop it further for tourism and business. The government has also helped by providing clear guidelines on wages with a formula that will help employers in budgeting for wage costs two to three years ahead.

### How about the scourge of corruption – what is the progress on this front?

No country is immune from corruption. Indonesia has shown it is serious in its anti-corruption efforts as we have carried out enforcement action right up to prominent leading figures as a deterrent. It is still happening but it has been reduced. One

additional and very effective weapon we now have that keeps corruption in check is the part played by social media and the mass media who help identify officials who abuse their power. It will be some time (to reduce corruption) but we have started creating a sense of good clean governance.

### Have you any good news to share about the haze issue this year?

Let me emphasise that the Indonesian government is committed to tackling this issue - not because of pressure from the international community - but because Indonesian citizens are the ones who suffer the most. The haze brings much suffering and we spend billions on extinguishing the fires; there is a great loss in economic potential and most tragically, there was also loss of lives. Pak Jokowi went to see

for himself the effects of the haze and has directed government resources be channelled into preventive measures such as managing the peat land. As we enter the dry season we have posted the armed forces in the region. As the area to be covered is so large, we are also investing efforts to raise awareness of the problem throughout the community as prevention is very critical in controlling the outbreak. Legal action has also been brought against companies clearing the forest by burning. 

#### Editor's notes:

\*The Ambassador has two grown up children now working in the private sector. \*\*He majored in law at Udayana, a top Bali university from 1981-1986 and later received his master's degree as Master of Arts (MA), from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA.

# THE DARING DAUGHTERS OF

Are the Indonesian women in the global diaspora the best reflection of her spirit of independence?



That might seem to be the case as in the following pages IndoConnect talks to a special group of ladies, from very different backgrounds, who have scaled many heights in their work and personal lives - achievements and accomplishments that may not have happened if not for the inspirational efforts of Indonesia's national heroine Raden Adjeng Kartini. She championed education and rights for women in Indonesia. On the annual Kartini Day 21 April 2016, the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore paid tribute with a ceremony and talk to mark her contributions towards women's education, emancipation and empowerment. The event was attended by 50 invitees, consisting of members of Dharma Wanita KBRI Singapura and Indonesian women diaspora in Singapore. Discussion on modern day Kartini, games, quizzes and bazaar of Dekranasda batik and products from small medium enterprises were showcased at the celebration.



# KARTINI



## Life & Legacy

Raden Adjeng Kartini was a Javanese noblewoman who pioneered Indonesian women's rights. Her dream was to, "...make the acquaintance of a 'modern girl,' that proud, independent girl who has all my sympathy! She who, happy and self-reliant, lightly and alertly steps her way through life, full of enthusiasm and warm feelings; working not only for her own well-being and happiness, but for the greater good of humanity as a whole."

She rightly saw education as the key to release the shackles that tied the native Indonesian women to a life mainly at home. Kartini was different from other girls at that time. Her father was a Javanese aristocrat working for the Dutch colonial government. This gave Kartini the opportunity to go to a Dutch school, at the age of six. The school opened her eyes to Western ideals. During this time, Kartini also took sewing lessons from another regent's wife, Mrs Marie Ovink-Soer. Ovink-Soer imparted her feminist views to Kartini, and played a part in planting the seed for Kartini's later activism.

In 1903, she opened the first Indonesian primary school for native girls that did not discriminate based on social standing. She corresponded with Dutch colonial officials to further the cause of Javanese women's emancipation up until her death in 1904. She protested against the gender inequality of Javanese traditions such as forced marriages at a young age, which denied women the freedom to pursue an education. In 1911, a collection of Kartini's letters, entitled *From Darkness to Light: Thoughts About and on Behalf of the Javanese People* was published. To Kartini, the ideal education for a young woman encouraged empowerment and enlightenment. The results of those efforts are celebrated annually by Indonesians on Hari Kartini.

# IBU KARTINI'S DREAM WOMAN

*Who is this modern Indonesian woman? What are her attributes and beliefs? What differentiates her from her predecessor? Today's modern Indonesian woman is driven to create her own identity. She is tech-savvy, educated, optimistic and action-oriented. She is conscious of her physical fitness and mindful of the food she eats and serves to her family. She is modern yet traditional and radiates charm and tries to balance work and home life and is free to learn, travel and raise her children as responsible citizens of tomorrow. She is the nucleus of a happy home. We met some women to see how they were handling multiple roles and responsibilities as mothers, wives and career women.*

*IndoConnect spoke to several women members of the diaspora in Singapore to see how still relevant is **Ibu Radeng Adjeng Kartini** to the women here today. **Nomita Dhar**, first spoke to **Ni Nyoman Mahaswi Astama**, the wife of **HE I Gede Ngurah Swajaya**, the new Ambassador of Indonesia who shared her story and thoughts on the matter with us.*

## **Ni Nyoman Mahaswi Astama** Indonesia Ambassador's Wife *Looking After Family & Country's Interests*

Ni Nyoman Mahaswi Astama is a perfect amalgamation of tradition and modernity. While, in her smile she still retains the school girl charm, her education as a lawyer and her lifelong learning through her travels worldwide, make her a beautiful representation of today's Indonesian woman. She has all the attributes of Ibu Kartini, the prominent Indonesian national heroine from Java, who has been idealised as the country's own "Dream Woman".

Ibu Mahaswi was born in Denpasar, the capital of the beautiful island of Bali, known to her friends as Ibu Swi, she has been in Singapore for over two months and says while she is more than settled, her mantra for all her postings has always been, "to accept and adapt to the host country and make a conscious decision to be happy, be active in enhancing people-to-people contact, improve ties and make everlasting friendships".

"I studied law in the University of Udayana, Bali where I met my husband, but as he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was unable to practice law and I have been supporting and following him, in his agenda to promote the interests of Indonesia and my education has come in handy". She has done inspiring work in promoting the interests of Indonesia when she followed her husband to the Indonesia Embassy in Bonn, Germany, in Bonn; the next foreign posting was in New York where was part of the Indonesian Permanent Mission to the United Nations; next was to his first posting as Indonesia's Ambassador to Cambodia and by 2010 she found herself back in Jakarta as her husband became Indonesia's Permanent Representative at ASEAN where she was also the President of the ASEAN Women's Circle.

She takes her role as the wife of the Ambassador seriously as she also seek to inspire their two children, son Putu Prima Apri Swajaya and Ni Made Bella Octavina Swajaya, who are both perusing careers of their choice: Prima is a business consultant based in Surabaya and Bella in advertising in Jakarta. "These days the children are different, you cannot ask them to choose a career of your choice, like become a doctor, or diplomat, but you have to advise them to do their best in what they choose to do and not only do well at work but contribute to the society and lead a meaningful life".

I am happy to be celebrating Ibu Kartini's birthday here in Singapore, Kartini's concerns were not only in the area of the emancipation of women, but also other problems of the society. Kartini saw that the struggle for women to obtain their freedom, autonomy and legal equality was just part of a wider movement; it was very futuristic. She would be happy to see how far Indonesian women have come."

“I am happy to be celebrating Ibu Kartini’s birthday here in Singapore, Kartini’s concerns were not only in the area of the emancipation of women, but also other problems of the society. Kartini saw that the struggle for women to obtain their freedom, autonomy and legal equality was just part of a wider movement; it was very futuristic. She would be happy to see how far Indonesian women have come.”

The ideals that Ibu Kartini represents are universal and there is no denying women’s rights have come a long way since the era when Ibu Kartini lived in the 18th century. Today, Ibu Mahaswi is focussed on helping her husband – as his wife and life-partner – build on the ties of both countries. She felt that even though Indonesia and Singapore are next door neighbours, there is still tremendous scope to get to know each other even better, “Indonesia is rich in culture and has so much natural beauty. I would like more Singaporeans to visit my country. I have visited Singapore, many times before this posting, for example, the medical care here is very good, the doctors take special care of patients. With their very positive and caring attitude, you feel immediately better! There is a lot of scope for Indonesia and Singapore to work together.”



Photo by Intan Young



## **Lita Kadartin** Diplomat's Wife *Survivor Who Never Gives Up*

Lita Kadartin was born in Jakarta, the oldest of four children. She loves swimming and dancing since the time she was able to walk; so much so that her mother enrolled her in a dance school when she was just five years old!

Academically she excelled graduating from Gunadarma University in Information Management. But it was her love of dancing that saw her participated in a cultural dance delegation to Bogota which was where she met her husband, Ridwan Hassan, who is now the Indonesian Embassy Charge d'Affairs in Singapore.

Family commitments (they now have three children) and diplomatic –related activities have scaled down greatly her favourite pastime dancing but she recalled there was nothing growing up that had stopped her from pursuing and becoming anything she wanted to be and she felt that this is one of the legacies Indonesian women enjoy now thanks to Ibu Kartini.

Lita has met many challenges in life and appreciates how just like Kartini one must never give up the fight. A cancer survivor, she was first diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2004 and she received a double blow when she learnt at that time too that her twin daughters were mildly autistic. “Because of so much love from my husband and all my family, I eventually recovered. I also have to thank Dr Aisah Dahlan’s self-healing course that helped me to manage the pain and stress so that I have been able to also take care of my children. Today, my eldest son who is 19, is studying in one of the best universities in Indonesia and the twins are coping well with being in the mainstream classes at Sekolah Indonesia Singapura... *Alhamdulillah*. And no, they have not taken up dancing like their mother but they like singing, music and painting instead.”

She also shared her favourite quotations from Albert Einstein who said, ‘Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them’ and Dale Carnegie who was quoted ‘Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.’ This determined ‘daughter of Kartini’ declared, “I never give up in anything.”

Photo by Intan Young



## **Eva Rina Indrana** Homemaker

### *Family comes first*

Eva Rina Indrana's family was originally from Medan. Eva holds a Bachelor in Economic Development degree and has worked as the Bank Manager and later as a director in a finance company. But her impressive educational and work background has not detract her from her current goal in life. She says, "My main interest is just to make my family happy." She moved to Singapore with her three daughters to be with her husband, Pak Dwi Kurnia Indrana Miftach, who is in-charge of the Indonesian Embassy's Information, Social and Cultural section. She sees it as an a natural extension of her role as wife and mother to first support her husband in his endeavours and take care of the family. For her, the main difference between the

era Kartini lived in and today is, "Indonesia has already proven to the world that it respects gender equality when the country voted for a woman president. This is further seen in the many women lawyers, dentists, doctors, high ranking officers in the police and military forces. They were not around during Kartini's time."

On what can be done to build on Kartini's achievements for the women of tomorrow, she replied, "We should keep up our focus on religion – do not let this slip and remain respectful to our husband and parents. Have a strong will to keep on trying, do not ever give up or surrender easily for our rights and everything that we want to achieve."

## **Monique Patricia MM** Entrepreneur & Performer

### *Unique Mix of Business & Artistic Flair*

Arts is definitely in her blood with outstanding talent in the performing arts. The beautiful soprano voice of this Ambonese lady, blossomed by professional vocal training in a music school. She had a golden opportunity to get a singing scholarship in London as the best student from the school but forego that, bearing the responsibility as the eldest child of six in the family and they were raised by only by their mum when she was 14 years old. Her musical talent mixed with her dancing knowledge of traditional Javanese and ballet-jazz made her able to produce and direct a number of musicals and concerts in Indonesia and Singapore.

She has worked in multinational companies such as Philips Indonesia, the Medco Group of Companies and the last position she had was at Andalan Artha Advisindo, a security company (finance non-bank) as the Head of Administration after the company sent her for studies in Hongkong for her qualifications in Human Resources for Financial Institution for a better understanding of business and management.

Blending her business, management and arts' experiences, gave her the capability and courage to eventually establish her own company, Xnique Biz, then later Pan Premix International Pte Ltd. Her gutsy philosophy in business is, "I believe a person

who never made a mistake has never tried anything new". A real fighter, who with support from her business partner, Kian Tjoa, now runs Pan Premix Netherlands BV. It is an event and travel management company in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The start-up scored a feather in its cap when it successfully managed to organise the Indonesian Pavilion for the Indonesian Ministry of Trade supported by Indonesian Embassy in The Hague at the Ethnic Food Europe 2015 at Amsterdam RAI. "You have to keep your relationship with your God. HE is the one who guide me and gives me strength!"

Presently, she is also the Treasurer General of Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) Global and the Advisor of Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Indonesia di Singapura (FKMIS)/IDN Singapore which she was also the co-founder and the President in the period of 2013-2015.

Talking about Kartini, she told IndoConnect, "Maybe I have missed a father's figure, but I have a caring husband, Chris Natahusada, and I was surrounded by lots of powerful women! My late grandma, Oma Jo; my aunt, Josta Rumahlaiselan; my mom, Wilma Patiinama; and my high school principle, Sr. Francesco Marianti, OSU were those who gave me a strong influence to become who I am at the moment. So, my Kartini were them especially my mom. She



Photo by Intan Young

once said to me that only dead people could not do anything more, but as long as we are alive, we could do anything we have to do and do it with integrity!" One of Kartini's inspirational phrases that has inspired her is "Aku mau" (I can do it). "You have to have that positive attitude. I believe it will help drive you to reach your goals. I can see that my only daughter, Chrischantelle Natahusada (almost 9 years old), is having this kind of spirit, too..."



## **Sri Astuti Sholikhin** Domestic Helper *Strength and Belief in Education*

Ibu Astuti is an embodiment of the strength of the human spirit and the devotion of a mother's heart. IndoConnect asked what inspired her about Kartini? She said like many other Indonesian mothers, she has big dreams for her children and just like Kartini, she firmly believed that education is the key to succeed in life. So in 1989, she had to leave her family behind to come to Singapore to find the means to fulfil her children's aspirations financially.

After working as a domestic helper here for decades, she will be retiring this September and returning to her family in Indonesia to spend a well-earned rest with her happily married and well-employed children. They are Asma Khozin (eldest, of age 37), Ita Asni and Sri Uliani have off springs of their own now, making Ibu Astuti a grandmother of seven. She said she was glad that it will soon be going to be a happy ending.

However, like in every fairy tale, she intimated that there first come the times that were very difficult and tragic. She is most proud of her special achievements in life - her children, whom she has played an

enormous role in their success today. A few years ago she asked her elder two children whether they wanted to go to university and vowed to them that she would ensure they would have enough funds.

She spent years doing back-breaking work and whenever it was time to pay admission fees she would borrow money from her employer and work for months to make up for that money by working on a heavily reduced salary. Her determination to give her children a fair shot at life led to both her children graduating from university. Her elder son is a graduate from Universitas Islam Indonesia in Jakarta. Her second daughter is more family-oriented and chose not to go to university but rather stay focussed on her own children and work. However, even today Ms Astuti says despite her age, she would work to fund her third child through university if she ever changes her mind.

She is indeed a reflection of the immense struggle countless mothers face when they come to Singapore in the search of work; and more importantly, how they return triumphant.



## **Diana Brunner** Homemaker & Jewellery Designer *Busy Working Mum*

Jakarta born and bred, Diana Brunner, moved to Singapore with her Swiss husband in 2010. She is today the proud mother of two sons (5 and 3 years of age) who were born here. Though the family loves living in the island republic, there are plans to move back to Zurich for the children's education as the parents want them to complete their tertiary studies in Switzerland. Cosmopolitan, well-travelled and already familiar working in the corporate world before moving to Singapore, she shared her concerns about how Kartini's contributions to women's emancipation will not result in working women being so caught up in their careers.

She said, "But sometimes, many of them are just too busy chasing their own careers and neglect their natural role as wives and mothers. Many of them might not even be interested in marriage

and having children. I was working and enjoying a good career in the logistics industry. I helped expatriates from many big companies in Indonesia but when I met my husband, I knew that I just want to be a wife and a mother." It did not mean, though, one needs to stop working completely. "I slowly build on my passion in making jewelry from home. I'm very lucky to have such a wonderful husband who is very supportive in what I do." By 2013, she founded Amedes Jewelry, where she designed and marketed her line of jewelry in Singapore, Bali and Jakarta. If Kartini was alive today, she felt that one thing that the Indonesian national heroine would encourage is learning from travel, "Our family loves to travel and I would like to take my children to as many different destination as possible, I want them to see the world, traveling will open their minds, creativity and thinking outside the box."

**Leli** Floral Stylist & Hospitality Specialist

## From Housewife to Business Owner

Leli came to Singapore in 1995, and worked as a Singapore Airlines stewardess before she eventually married to a Singaporean pilot. She now has a 17-year old daughter. In 2015, she opened her own floral boutique - Twig and Twine. Her family and friends firmly backed her to turn her passion in flower making into today a successful business venture catering from weddings to corporate events, flower orders, conducting workshops, taking part in many charitable events and collaborating and partnering with companies. She has learnt much on her own in the business world. Her philosophy is one does best if whatever one does is with love, passion, and faith. She now is also involved in the annual Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Hospitality Team and villa rental business in Bali.

Leli admits she has been inspired by the

life of Kartini and she also owes some of her entrepreneurial spirit and courage embarking on new ventures by Kartini's life story. She said, "Thinking back on what a woman could do back then, or rather, was allowed to do, I truly believe that Indonesian society has changed and evolved quite a bit. Women are not just playing their duties as wife and mother any longer, but as partners, fellow colleagues, and people whom you can discuss with, in nearly in all aspects of life. One very important landmark for us, is that women are given the same opportunity to achieve the same level education as men. And in Indonesian women history, the name Kartini is a truly heroic one. She was the first woman who fought for women's emancipation, that women has equal rights as men, in education, social treatments and job opportunity."



Photo by Intan Young

"Of course, as a woman, my priority is still family, everything else comes second and third and so on. Thus, life balance is essential if you are to reach out for other opportunities beyond family matters. And I truly believe that this is what Kartini wants us, women, to be."



**Rita Mulani** Business Education

## Indonesia Offers Better Opportunities

Rita Mulani was born in Surabaya but her grandparents came to Indonesia during the Hindustan-Pakistan war. Rita's dad was just three months old when the migrant family settled in Indonesia. He grew up and married a woman from Solo who gave birth to Rita. The second generation Indonesian Mulani went to a nursery school in Surabaya before moving to Jakarta for formal schooling. She loves Indonesia, speaking Bahasa fluently and greatly identifies with its culture and food. Rita married and settled in Singapore in the mid-90s, going into business with her husband, Mohan Mulani, to run a chain of themed food and beverage restaurants and bar as well as a hotel. In 2012, they sold their shares in the business and she concentrated on managing a children

play and music centre franchise here. She also travels often to the Sub-Continent to visit relatives there and can compare the opportunities offered to women in Indonesia and says that she feels lucky to have been brought up in Indonesia. Rita recalled schooling in Jakarta, "We celebrated Hari Kartini Day in school with celebrations such as dances, essay competitions, dramas, to appreciate women's education - and we were in a co-ed school!"

"Education is so important to a women's self-esteem. Her education and exposure should empower her to go out into the world and help others. Becoming just successful in a job does not make her a complete woman if she ignores her home and children."

## **Irvina Hulyer** Homemaker & Charity Activist *Working on Worthy Causes*

Irvina hails from Jakarta but her father is Bugis and mother is from Aceh. A graduate from the Hosta and HIM Hotel Management School in Switzerland, she had worked for hotel chains such as The Mandarin Oriental (Jakarta and Surabaya) and the Ritz Carlton Bali. Her last position was as an Assistant Director of Sales. She is married with two daughters and her husband is British and the family has been living in Singapore for almost 16 years. She is also the founder and past President of PWIS (Persatuan Wanita Indonesia Singapura). She keeps herself busy with many activities in her free time, from playing golf, flower arrangement, making jewellery and cooking. But what she enjoys most is doing charity work, "I love to spend time with the less fortunate, especially disabled children, much of this in Batam and Bandung. Seeing them grow and make progress in their lives gives me so much pleasure each time I visit. I feel content at how they appreciate all of our help."

Being an Indonesian wife and mother

has changed much since Kartini's time, she says, "During Ibu Kartini's time, we had no rights to receive any education, or even give our own opinion on anything. We lived to cook, clean the house and raise our children. Now, it's so different. Women nowadays can receive the education that they deserve and pursue any career that they choose. As a mother of two daughters I want to become more than a mother, I want to be their best friend who they can chat with whenever they have any problems or concerns, either with their school, home or social life. As a wife, I believe we should all be open to our husbands, respect each other and always be open to each other because that is the key for a successful marriage." Her answer to what is the one quality she would like to see in the daughters of tomorrow, "I want them to value their life, to be more appreciative of what they have now and I want them to share it with others, especially with the less fortunate children. I also want them to respect all individuals



and treat them equally no matter who they are and where they come from."

## **Rany Moran** CEO WOWZ TV Station & Amazonia *Corporate Chief Asserts Women's Rights*

Rany hails from Jakarta, of Javanese descent on her father's side (Solo) and her mother is from Padang. She holds a Bachelor of Economics from University of Melbourne and Master of Mass Communications from Deakin University Melbourne. Married to Colin Moran, they are blessed with two sons and have been living in Singapore for 11 years. Rany is the founder and CEO of Wowz Entertainment which covers a TV station, family entertainment centre Amazonia and F&B bistro in Singapore, Jakarta, KL and India. She is also a Director of Adavale Harner Resource, a family company with interests in mining, trading and commercial and hospitality properties. She is also the co-founder and actively committee member of Loaf Charity which is presently focussed on children education and health in Indonesia and Cambodia.

She feels that today's world has seen great improvements in the social, economic, political and legal strength of (Indonesian) women, "We have achieved equal rights and we can freely live our life with a sense of self-worth, respect and

dignity, and have complete control of our life, both within and outside home and workplace. We can make our own choices and decisions, we have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities. We have equal social status in the society, we have equal opportunity for education and employment opportunity without any gender bias in Indonesia

Women are even considered irreplaceable for certain jobs.

My hope is that young Indonesian women have a positive attitude and self-confidence to truly believe that anything is possible. It is also important they put forward their views. It is a very competitive world and you must speak up to defend your ground to succeed. They must be determined and at the same time be kind and compassionate. Use all these qualities positively along with their talents, skills and education as their role to be a good mother and educator for their children, daughter for their parents, wife for their husband, friends for their society and good leader for their community and nation.



## Riri Florance Fashion Designer

### *From the Catwalk into the Design Studio*

Riri Florance hails from Jakarta, of mixed parentage - her father and mother from Tegal (East Java) and from West Java (Bogor and Holland). She started a career in professional modelling at 14 while still schooling. "This was during the period when I also had the opportunity to work with famous models such as Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell when they visited Indonesia." Her height, talent and exotic looks resulted in her being known as one of Indonesia's earliest 'supermodels' and eventually winning the country's top model award in 1987. She said after giving birth to her first son, she thought it was a good time to wind down modelling and pursue her passion in fashion design. She enrolled at the French fashion design school of École Supérieure Des Arts Et Techniques de la Mode (Esmod) majoring in Fashion Design and Pattern Making and has also learnt from such iconic designers such as Iwan Tirta and Oscar De La Renta. These amazing designers motivated her to follow a career in fashion. She started her own boutique in Kemang, Jakarta designing and producing wedding dresses and haute couture for ladies attending the many balls in Jakarta. She said, "When I moved to Singapore I decided to keep my production facilities in Jakarta but design for my own ready-to-wear line instead called Riri by Riri."

On what she feels about women's emancipation and the how Kartini has affected the role of Indonesian women in society today, she shared: "Their roles are being affected by many factors including increasing modernisation in Indonesia, globalisation, improved education and advances in technology, while still upholding traditional family ties and legacies.

"Indonesian women are taking a much more active role in Indonesian society as evidenced by the number of women ministers and even a women president. Like myself, they are adapting to the new roles in society of having a career as well as maintaining the traditional family role around husband and children. Many



Indonesian men are also becoming more accepting and adapting to women's new roles in society - this is a gradual change.

"This is a substantial shift from the days of Kartini where it was the exception for a woman to have a role outside of wife and mother. Polygamy was still common in those days."

"I like to see myself as a mother who can teach my three children to become nurturing and to grow up and pursue their

goals in life. I try to spend as much time as I can with them, even doing little things such as dropping and collecting them from school, preparing healthy food and helping them get as much exercise as possible by taking them on picnics to the beach and other excursions. I believe that giving them as much attention as possible will make them better people. I also try to show them that women can be mothers as well pursue their own careers and be financially independent."



# AIDHA'S INDONESIAN STUDENT WINS THIRD PRIZE

## Poetry award and achievement acts as a source of inspiration to other FDWs

It is the first time the Migrant Worker Poetry competition was opened to women and 65 per cent of the entries came from women. This year, the third prize went to Sharasyamsi, from East Java, who came to Singapore in 2007. She is a student from Aidha, a financial education centre for foreign domestic workers (FDW) in Singapore. Four Aidha students made the shortlist with Sharasyamsi winning with her poem "Engkau".

Sharasyamsi came to Singapore in 2007. Although she had completed her high-school education, her parents were unable to support her in her quest for higher education. She found difficulty finding work back at home and decided to find work here. She is also very interested in learning English and takes full advantage of every chance she gets to interact with people and practice her language skills while in Singapore.

Love and admiration for someone was Sharasyamsi's biggest inspiration to begin writing, and she decided to "devote her

heart through poetry". She happened to come across this competition on the Internet and was extremely excited to participate. She composed her entry over the course of three weeks and submitted it. She plans to continue writing poetry in her spare time and is now on the lookout for more writing competitions.

She said that she gained confidence and discovered her talents at Aidha, and especially credits the institution for her leadership skills, determination and self-belief. Sharasyamsi enjoys staying in Singapore because it is a "very clean country" and the government is very "kind and thoughtful," and she appreciates her job here.

In the future, she plans to go back home and work in either a government agency or in the hospitality industry. And just in case, this plan doesn't work out, she has a Plan B in place. She could always run her own grocery business! Women like Sharasyamsi's poetry award and achievement acts as a source of

inspiration to the entire FDW community in Singapore.



Sharasyamsi (first row, second from right) with other poet competition winners

### Engkau

Engkau,  
 Jadilah angin bagi awan-awanku  
 hingga aku tak lagi ragu berarak  
 Ke tempat niat tujuan kita  
 Engkau,  
 Jadilah angin bagi layang-layangku  
 hingga aku tak lagi takut  
 mengarungi  
 angkasa harapan kita  
 Engkau,  
 Jadilah angin bagi semua  
 kehidupan  
 Yang bisa menuntun jalan mereka  
 dan jalanku untuk kembali  
 meniti inspirasi dua hati  
 Engkau,  
 Jadilah angin yang menghidupkan  
 angan-anganmu  
 cita dan cintaku  
 hanya engkau mimpiku  
 berharap kita bersatu  
 satu dalam restu  
 yang tak lagi tabu

## AIDHA: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Finance and management courses at Aidha

Charity organisation, Aidha, not only provides financial education training to foreign domestic workers and lower-income women in Singapore, but they also help these women gain confidence in self. Aidha, a charity organisation is making a difference

in the lives of FDWs in Singapore and was selected by The Straits Times as one of the three organisations in Singapore that is making a difference in the world. Aidha aspires to provide sustainable future for its students through their training programmes which range from subjects on money management, computer literacy, leadership to entrepreneurial skills. In addition to the core programmes, they also have 'Improving Your English' and a newly expanded Alumni Development Programme (ADP) that comprises of business workshops, a Business Plan Clinic, a Masterclass and site visits. In true spirit of giving back to the society, Aidha's classes are run by a pool of volunteers who are skilled professionals belonging to different cultures and backgrounds and who have come together with the common aim of doing good.

Currently, there are about 227,000 foreign domestic workers in Singapore and most of them continue to remit their money home.

So, in spite of having worked in Singapore for many years, they have no savings to speak of. That's where Aidha comes in. Through its training programmes, Aidha managed to impact over 2,800 foreign domestic workers since 2006. According to Aidha CEO, Karen Fernandez, over 70% of their students have started businesses of their own or have invested in productive assets, such as livestock and land in their home countries after the Aidha training. Moreover, 80% of them have also started saving every month or at least, every other month. This in itself is a significant achievement as it helps them break out of their cycle of poverty. In this way, Aidha students share their skills with their family and friends and in turn, become harbinger of change in the entire community.

Additionally, students like Sharasyamsi prove that Aidha programmes are doing more than just help FDWs break out of their poverty circle. They give them a new lease of confidence too. 📌

# HELPING OUR CHILDREN

## Milestone year for PWIS for their charity project Putrakami school



**P**utrakami means 'our children' in Bahasa Indonesia and the members of PWIS (Persatuan Wanita Indonesia Singapura or Association of Indonesian Women in Singapore), many of whom are wives and mothers, have 'adopted' the children of Putrakami school in Batam as the focus of their charity drives. The *ibus'* hearts have been reaching out to these special need kids, many of whom are intellectually disabled and making a difference in the lives of the lesser privileged in both words and action.

It all started more than five years ago, when Irvina Hulyer, the founder of PWIS, received a call from across the sea from the island of Batam, asking if she could help children with special needs there. She said, "I wanted to do it - reach out and help them and started by holding small bazaars and sale from home. Eventually through friends and word-of-mouth, we gathered many others who also have a kind heart to also join in the fund-raising efforts and from there we formed PWIS."

"Initially the future of these children looked very bleak with no means, they



**(Top):** Members make monthly trips to the school. **(Above & below):** Some of the children that PWIS is helping

just did nothing and were left uncared. It was heart rending to see them in such a state. So some of our ladies helped out by frequently visiting and contributing.

We went around to see what was already available and found children with special conditions to get them admitted to Sekolah Luar Biasa Putra Kami (Special Needs School), and helped out with their tuition and therapy expenses."

It started with two students, then the net was widened slowly

but surely. Now PWIS is looking after 14 children and creating hope for their future. The funds are raised by organising bazaars and receiving donations from friends. Each month, without fail, a group will go to the school and fulfil their commitments to these children by paying the tuition fees.

### New After School Facility

This year marks a milestone for the members as they have bought a small house to take care of the children's needs after school. They have also invested in a car to help the children with their school transport and a highly appreciated school staff is Mr Ali Wardhana or Bang Ali as he is fondly called by PWIS members who volunteer ferrying the children safely. Pija Arianti, one of the children who has benefitted from PWIS' largesse will graduates this year and become the new caretaker of the after-school care facility. She will also help in providing vocational training! To complete the facility, PWIS is getting help from the community there to also provide live-in quarters for the teacher in charge.

"All is from the heart and in the spirit of giving and sharing, however, to keep the initiative going and provide these children a dignified life we have to continue seeking help and support", added the current President of PWIS, Mrs Rini Blanco. Towards this end, the organisation will hold a charity bazaar on 29 May 2016 at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. Many members are participating to make it a success and if you would like to contribute or join the ladies you can sign up as a PWIS member at the event (membership fee is \$50 per year). You can also email any query at [pwisingapura@gmail.com](mailto:pwisingapura@gmail.com) 



# INTRODUCING BANYUMAS BATIK

This year's Chingay was also an opportunity to showcase this unique style of batik and dance from this Central Java regency



Source: Reza Haryanto

*Dancer preparing costume in Purwokerto*

The batik team led by Anto Djamil Batik Studio (Studio Badja) and the Cultural Affairs Department of Youth, Sport, Culture and Tourism (Dinporabudpar) Banyumas took it as their mission to introduce regional culture at this year's Chingay Parade 2016.

Participating in the parade provided the opportunity to introduce dance and batik banyumas at the Singapore event.

Before leaving for Singapore from Purwokerto, the capital of the Banyumas Regency in Central Java, the Regent of Banyumas, Achmad Husein gave this message to the 28-member team, "Use this opportunity to learn the art and culture of the countries that are performing but most of all, promote the beauty of Banyumas batik and art." According to news portal SuaraMerdekaCetak.com, he hoped the experience and knowledge they gained from the trip can be used for similar activities such as the Banyumas Extravaganza celebrations which commemorate the anniversary of the founding of Banyumas in April. He said this is because the Chingay Parade in Singapore, is one of the best festivals in Asia that is staged on an international scale.

Imam Purwanto, the head of Studio Badja said it received an invitation from the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore to perform in the parade. He said, "We are happy to be involved and contribute to the momentum of showcasing Banyumas batik on an international stage. This is a rare opportunity."

Besides participating in the Chingay Parade, Banyumas team had the honour of performing at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore where they brought dance creations such as "Ngerong" that displayed the exotic dance and batik style of Banyumas.

**Chingay Facts:** Currently listed as the largest street festival parade in Asia with ornate splendor, diverse attractions, and festivities that attract citizens to foreign tourists. Apart from Indonesia, this year about 800 foreign performers from China, Korea, Russia, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan and Japan also took part. The organisers estimated 180,000 spectators viewed the two main parades on 19 and 20 February 2016. This is not inclusive of the delayed telecast TV audience and 'live' online streaming viewers. ©



*(Above row): Some beautiful examples of Banyumas batik designs. (Right column): Close ups of the costumes worn in Singapore. (Opposite page): Performance at the Chingay F1 Pit*



Photos by Michael Ozaki





Photo by Michael Ozaki

# RARE RUWATAN RITE AT ST REGIS



(Above right): Proud mother, Rany, with Nicholas and Christopher. (Left): Rany and her father (3rd from right) Kanjeng Pangeran Haryo Haryono Eddyarto, greeting H.E. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya and wife



Family and friends of Colin and Rany Moran had the opportunity to witness and be part of this traditional Javanese ceremony for warding off bad luck

Aside from the incongruous setting - the ballroom of the plush St Regis hotel - for parents Colin and Rany Moran, the reason for the Ruwatan ceremony is as old as time itself - the wish that their children live happily and safely. The elaborate and sacred rites were performed on 20 April 2016 for their two sons, Nicholas and Christopher, age 8 and 6 resp. It was a rare opportunity for many especially in Singapore to witness this traditional blessings rite. In fact, Colin Moran in his welcome address to guests said that this is probably the first time the Ruwatan Blessing is being done in Singapore. The Guest of Honour was the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore H.E. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya, who was accompanied by his wife and mother.

To share this unique aspect of Javanese culture, the Morans had brought in a gamelan performance troupe, dancers and the *Dalang* who sings the ritual's mantra and is the puppet master for the wayang puppet show for the Ruwatan. The pictorial highlights here show the different rituals performed on that day.

(1) Nicholas and Christopher with parents, family and guardians enter led by traditional dancers with Gamelan music (2) The *Sungkeman* session where Sukerto (Nicholas and Christopher) sit and facing their parents then grand parents to give their respects and ask for the blessings in Bahasa Indonesia (3) Leather skin puppet performance of the Story of Murwakala. (4) After the end of the blessing procession, they go to the puppet master, bringing a *kembang setaman* (flowers wrapped in leaves) and have their hair cut and *larungan* (throwing it away). (5) *Acara Siraman* or bathing session by parents, grandparents and guardians each saying a short blessing about the important values in life.



1



2



3



4



5

## ASK HERE



*Prionka Ray is a writer, educator and a mom to teenagers. She conducts workshops for Creative Problem Solving and acts as a mentor to kids-at-risk. She will be answering questions on parenting, relationships and fitting in. Please send your questions to: [admin@indoconnectsingapore.com](mailto:admin@indoconnectsingapore.com)*

**Q) I am new in Singapore and my daughter has just been enrolled in a playschool. I am not very social person by nature. How do I make friends with other mums?**

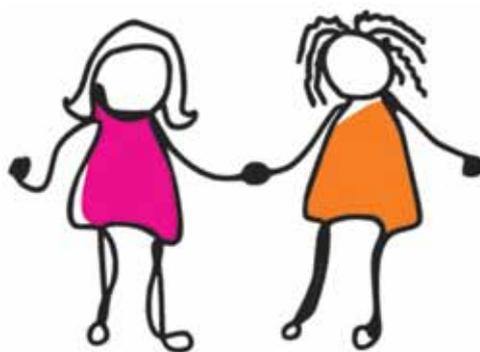
PR: Most first time parents are anxious about making friends with other parents. The best start is to smile when you see the other parents during drop off and pick up times. If joining a group of mums is not your style then approach a mum standing alone. A basic introduction of your name, your child's name and asking about their children may help kickstart a conversation. You can also ask your child's teacher to point you towards the parents of the children that your child gets along with. Invite them over for a play date. Alternatively, volunteer to accompany your child's class at school outings. Schools usually welcome parents's help during such outings and you will get to meet other parent volunteers this way.

# HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS?

...if you have any questions about life, work or play in Singapore. It is sometimes not easy to settle in a new place. IndoConnect offers our help and advice (and when necessary from the experts or authorities) to answer any of your questions!

**Q) My English is not so good. How do I learn English here?**

PR: There are many English speaking courses that you can join. These can be in small groups or you can even request for one-on-one training sessions. Some of the institutes offering spoken english courses are the British Council (various centres), English Express at Cecil Street and EF and Ascend centres, both at Carpenter street.



**Q) I want to teach batik class. How do I start?**

PR: The best bet is to start a Facebook page and share it with your friends. You can also advertise your classes with online portals or join Facebook activities or arts group page. Another alternative is to approach community centres and clubs with your proposal. Start small and expand your business as you get more students.

**Q) My husband and I have different ideas on parenting. What should we do?**

PR: Different parenting styles can confuse the child and disciplining might get tricky. I suggest you sit with your husband and find a middle ground. Some parenting styles can be his and some yours. Ultimately parenting is about teamwork. You both have to stand united in front of your child.

**Q) My 7 year old daughter is having playground issues. Should I intervene?**

PR: In most cases, no. Your child will experiment and find the best ways of interaction and group play by herself. She will also find ways to solve conflicts through trial and error. However, do talk to her and you can be at the playground too. But mostly as an observer or as a moral support to your child. She needs to know that you will be there for her but not necessarily solve all her problems for her. Please do intervene though, if the situation is extreme or if your child is being bullied or is bullying others. Both need gentle, yet interventions. ☺

# T H E P A N O R A M A



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

**T**he 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*

# FOREIGN PROPERTY WATCH: LONDON PRIME PROPERTIES BOOM



Number of 'prime' homes due to be constructed in London over the coming 10 years has hit over 35,000 – a 40 per cent increase on 2014

Despite a rapidly changing market, 35,000 new 'prime' homes have been planned to be built in London over the next 10 years. This is a 40 per cent increase on 2014, according to an analysis by Arcadis, a leading global design and consultancy firm for natural and built assets. It reported the combined sales value of these properties is estimated at £77.7 billion. When combined the total floor space of these homes comes in at over 40 million square feet, far greater than the area of the whole of the City of London (30.7 million sq ft).

It identified in its analysis 196 sites that span the breadth of the capital. The number of homes planned in these locations comes in at 35,055. This significant growth on the previous year demonstrates the extent to which the capital's high-end residential market is still viewed favourably in spite of the rapidly evolving UK housing market.

Rising construction costs and growing land values have seen input costs rise, while a softening in demand due to successive stamp duty reform combined with economic slowdown in countries such as China has seen buyer interest ease.

## Mixed Use

As a consequence, some investors may eventually reposition these assets away from 'prime' housing and into premium office space, mixed use or even a greater number of smaller homes as they look to markets that offer a greater margin.

In terms of location, it is Chelsea and Fulham that have seen the greatest level of investment, followed by the Southbank and around the City, evidence that 'Prime London' is not confined to the West End but is now widely diffused across the capital.

Est. approx. total sales value of homes by location (top 10)		
1	Chelsea & Fulham	£20bn
2	Southbank	£14.2bn
3	City & fringe	£7.3bn
4	Mayfair	£6bn
5	Belgravia	£5.6bn
6	Victoria & Pimlico	£5.1bn
7	Midtown	£4.7bn
8	St John's Wood	£4bn
9	Kensington	£3.7bn
10	Knightsbridge	£2.4bn

"Since around 2009, the value of prime residential property in central London has seen dramatic rises, making it one of the hottest markets in recent memory. So, it is hardly surprising that we have seen ongoing interest from investors all over the world. What is interesting, though, is the continuous geographical spread we are seeing. Prime housing is springing

This, coupled with a recent gradual easing off of buyer demand could affect margins and mean investors opt to convert their developments to target the more buoyant office and commercial markets. With no obvious end in sight to the unpredictability of the global economy this approach could soon become the norm."

up around regeneration areas and on the outskirts of the financial district, suggesting the days of the West End dominating the high-end property market may be over.

"That said, things are changing. It remains to be seen how the market responds to the new set of challenges being thrown at it. Land, materials and labour are growing in price, meaning the costs involved in actually building these homes is growing significantly.

## Arcadis Report: Singapore Still Top Country for Infrastructure Investors

In a separate analysis released by Arcadis in May 2016, on the most attractive countries for long term infrastructure investment, it still rated Singapore top in its rankings, followed by Qatar and UAE. They possess stable political environments, secure business environments and strong growth potential said the global design and consultancy firm. Matthew Cutts, Global Sector Leader, Financial Institutions at Arcadis added, "Infrastructure is an increasingly popular asset class for private sector investors, particularly in times of increased risk and uncertainty. Income streams are relatively more stable and will be around for 30 years or more, just the sort of timeframe investors are being increasingly drawn to." Elsewhere in Asia, Malaysia and Japan both rose in the ranking to 5th and 12th respectively. China ranked highly across most indicators, but its less attractive business sector and higher risk environment saw it placed in mid-table at 17th.

# ALLURE OF A SINGAPORE-BASED EDUCATION

by Prionka Ray

An overview of what Singapore has to offer for students who seek a quality education in a cosmopolitan city that is safe and secure



Education has been a cornerstone of Singapore's strategy for growth and nation building and according to the Acting Minister for Education, Mr Ong Ye Kung, significant implication is being placed on higher education with evolving educational contexts. This has resulted in many new initiatives, launched not only to encourage local students but to also promote Singapore as a premier education hub for international students. Currently, Singapore stands at a strong 15th position in the QS Best Student Cities list and this position promises to get stronger.

Higher education in Singapore can be categorised under national universities, autonomous institutes and partnership programmes. Thus, students have a choice of universities, polytechnics, specialised institutes and foreign institutes that offer a wide range of courses in various formats to suit their needs and interests.

## Universities

Singapore is home to many top class universities including, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Both these universities feature in the top 15 QS University world listing for the year, 2015-2016. In addition, NTU introduced the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, as part of its collaborative venture with the UK's Imperial College London.



National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore Management University (SMU) is another well-known institution that ranks high in the fields of accounting and finance, computer science, economics, law and statistics.

The other universities include Singapore Institute of Technology, Yale NUS College and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). Few institutes like the National Institute of Education, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies are autonomous and some even have their own partnership programmes.

Yale-NUS College was the first liberal arts college in Singapore that was formed through the partnership between the National University of Singapore and the US's Yale University. The Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management offers another partnership programme. Other collaborations include SUTD with US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and China's Zhejiang University. These collaborations increase the opportunities and avenues for the prospective students.

## Polytechnics

The local polytechnics are another viable alternative to universities in Singapore and provide three-year diploma courses. They accept students based on their GCE O-level, GCE A-level or Institute of Technical Education (ITE) results and provide industry-oriented education as an alternative to junior colleges for post-secondary studies. The polytechnics in Singapore are Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic. Some of these have Poly-FSI tie-ups with reputed foreign institutes and bring niche courses to its graduates. For example, Ngee Ann Polytechnic has engaged Chapman University in the United States to provide a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Producing; Singapore Polytechnic ties up with Massey

## About QS Rankings

The QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) in partnership with ELSEVIER. It features the global overall and subject rankings, alongside three independent regional tables (Asia, Latin America, and BRICS). QS rankings are viewed as one of the most widely read university rankings. Its QS Best Student Cities annual index ranks the world's leading urban destinations for international students. It assesses cities in five key categories: university rankings, student mix, desirability, employer activity and affordability. For more information: [www.topuniversities.com](http://www.topuniversities.com)

University, New Zealand to offer Food Technology course and Nanyang Polytechnic ties up with the University of Stirling in Scotland to provide course in Retail Marketing.

**Foreign & Private Institutes**

Current regulations require all private schools conducting educational courses to be registered with Singapore’s Ministry of Education. These include Private Education Institutes (PEI) offering diploma or degree programmes and all full-time post-secondary courses that lead to awards of a certificate. There are over 300 private education institutions in Singapore. Some of them are:

- James Cook University (JCU) Singapore: JCU Singapore is fully owned by James Cook University Australia. Apart from programmes at the graduate, undergraduate and doctorate levels, JCU Singapore also offers courses at the pre-university level, which are specifically designed to provide pathways for students who are unable to immediately attain university entrance standards. These programmes are English language preparatory programmes, Foundation programme and Diploma programmes
- Ngee Ann Adelaide Education Center: Ngee Ann-Adelaide (NAA) Education Centre is a joint venture partnership between two of the most

established and respected institutions in the Asia Pacific region, namely, the Ngee Ann Kongsi and the University of Adelaide.

- Curtin Singapore: Curtin has received an overall five-star excellence rating in the QS stars rating 2015. The courses offered at the Singapore campus are identical to those offered at Perth and there are opportunities to transfer between the Curtin campuses.
- Kaplan: Kaplan was ranked as the ‘Preferred Private Education Institution,’ both in 2012 and in 2013 by Jobs Central. Kaplan provides diplomas, degrees, professional qualifications and English language programmes to both young and adult learners and its full time programmes are offered in three languages: English, Vietnamese and Chinese. Many of their courses are offered in partnership with globally ranked universities, such as Murdoch University, Birmingham City University, Royal Holloway University of London and University College of Dublin, among others.
- INSEAD Asia Campus: With three full campuses in Singapore, France and Abu Dhabi, INSEAD is one of the largest Executive Education providers in the world. Apart from their MBA, Executive MBA, specialised master’s degrees and PhD programmes, INSEAD also participates in academic partnerships with many universities like the Wharton School, the Kellogg School of

- Management and the Johns Hopkins University.
- SP Jain School of Global Management ranks in The Economist’s top 100 Full Time MBA courses programmes and offers Global MBA, BBA, MGB and Executive MBA.
- DigiPen Institute of Technology, Singapore: DigiPen focuses on world-class technology education and it is world’s first college to offer a bachelor’s degree program dedicated to game development.
- University of New Castle (UON): UON Singapore is the wholly owned entity of the University of Newcastle, Australia and offers both part time and full time courses in business, commerce, communication, construction management, information technology, environment and occupational health and safety and engineering. They partner with professional bodies like CPA Australia, Singapore Computer Society (SCS), Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH), Engineers Australia and Institute of Public Relations Singapore (IPRS). UON also works with global and regional institutes on research projects, research seminars and faculty-specific collaborations.
- Singapore Institute of Management (SIM): SIM University is another known university in Singapore and its global education arm, SIM Global Education (SIM GE) offers overseas

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academic programmes through partnerships with international universities. In 2014, SIM won the Platinum Award in the Private Higher Institution category at the Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Awards. According to the Director of Higher Education, Mrs. Ho Soon Eng, about 20% of SIM's student cohort consists of international students. SIM GE has 'no-bond' SIM Global Education Diploma Scholarship for its students. The application period for this scholarship is opened between 1 April to 30 June 2016 for Oct 2016 intake.

### Others

Apart from the mainstream academic courses, there are also many independent training institutes in Singapore that offer specialist courses of study. These courses offer certificates, degrees and diplomas.

- Lasalle College of Arts

Art: Some of the institutes offering art courses are Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) LASALLE College of the Arts, M.A.D. School and Singapore Raffles Music College.

Jewellery Design: Jewellery Design and Management International School (JDMIS) offers single and advanced diplomas in Jewellery Design and Management. Apart from the full-time courses, JDMIS also offers many short 34-

hour skills based certificate programmes that are relevant to both students and existing jewellers in the trade.

Animation: CG Protege provides advanced certificates in animation course and their training is administered by industry veterans and trainers with animated TV series and animated feature experience

Culinary Arts: OSAC International College for Professional Diploma in Culinary Arts offers Professional Diploma in Culinary Arts programme and The Culinary Institute of America, Singapore offers Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) in Culinary Arts Management.

Speech and Drama: Teaching certificates in Speech and Drama are available at the British Council, Julia Gabriel Centre for Learning and Lorna Whiston School.

The list of institutes providing options for higher education in Singapore is not limited to the ones mentioned here, however, the aim is to provide a brief overview of the Singapore educational scene. In the subsequent issues, we will be covering more on the educational institutes as well as the current educational trends in Singapore. 

### Info for International Students

#### Entry & Visa Regulations for Foreign Students

Once accepted by a university, applicants must apply within two weeks to the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for a Student's Pass. The application is processed online.

#### Cost of Higher Education

Tuition fees vary between institutions and courses but International students can apply for a tuition grant, which is administered by the Ministry of Education (MOE). This grant is offered to all admitted students.

#### Student Housing

The admitting university helps with finding accommodation but students are advised to arrange short-term accommodation in a hostel before leaving home. Long-term accommodation ranges from on-campus residencies to student hostels and private rented accommodation.

#### University Guide

<http://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/asia/singapore/singapore/guide>

#### General Information for International Students Studying in Singapore

<http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/webarchives/details/www.singaporeedu.gov.sg.html>



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# TEX SAVERIO

## OVER THE EDGE AVANT GARDE

By Raneé Sahaney

He's been called the 'Alexander McQueen of Indonesia'. It is not every teenager who can chuck up high school and end up dressing global fashion icons like Lady Gaga or Kim Kardashian

And not every teenager who'll get the support of the family, in such a situation, to pursue the fickle world of fashion as a career option especially in Indonesia which can be pretty conservative when it comes to their children and academics. But for the 1984-born Tex Saverio, who has been hailed as 'the Alexander McQueen of Indonesia', since the time he quit school at the age of 18, joined Jakarta's Bunka Fashion School, apprenticed at the Phalie Studio and showcased his first collection—it's been no mean achievement.

Tex has proven his detractors wrong with his single-mindedness of purpose, his passion and unequivocal talent for the avant garde, which set the catwalks from Paris to Jakarta aflame with its unleashed potential. The young Indonesian designer (also called Rio) is remarkably modest about comparisons with McQueen, but in an interview admitted that "...I'm a new designer, definitely not a match for a legend. McQueen is incomparable. But being compared to McQueen is such a big motivation for me to push me harder and further..."

While singer Lady Gaga in 2012, decked herself out in a black tulle gown from his Spring/Summer 2011 collection for the photo-shoot of the *US Harper's Bazaar's* May edition, fame and good fortune came high-stepping down the ramp in the arena of global fashion when Saverio's bridal gown

Jennifer Lawrence in a Tex Saverio dress she wore in the Hollywood blockbuster *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*





—a confection of an organza corset and dazzling detailing with Swarovski crystals, from his White Collection, was chosen for Jennifer Lawrence's character in the runaway sequel *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. Closer home he also being favoured by Japanese star Ayumi Hamasaki.

His label Tex Saverio Prive was Saverio's official kick-off (2010), for his fashion career as an haute couture designer. Not for him the laidback languor of high fashion designerwear. The sound and fury of Saverio's fantastical creations were best defined by the edgy theatrical and the spectacular. It's little wonder Lady Gaga, went gaga over his work... But Saverio also had the high flexibility of the naturally talented fashion designer to re-invent himself—driven not just for his personal satisfaction, but also by the desire to wow his audiences with the element of surprise and sheer genius. Critical to his flamboyant, almost other-worldly oeuvre (marked by fierce, bold structures and silhouettes) are the influences of Asian culture, intricate details of embroideries and embellishment, as well as edgy laser cuts.

Understanding the realities of the market has come early to this cool young Jakarta-based designer. While clearly there's a part of him which creates purely for the ramp—this is 'purely in the name of fashion and art'—the other side of him wants more people to share the experience of his work and this can happen only by providing more wearable, affordable (his hand-embroidered gowns alone cost up to \$15,000 apiece) creations for men and women. It was this which led to his collaboration with Warren/Faye Liu in 2012 for their ready-to-wear fashion company Saverio & Liu, which is on trailblazing path in its aim to offer the entire shibang of clothing, jewelry and home product lines to become Southeast Asia's first global fashion house.

## ◀ Tex Saverio aka Rio

Glowing from his success at Paris Fashion Week Saverio shared his vision in an interview with the *Jakarta Post*, 'The House of Saverio will not only be an Indonesian fashion brand, but will also be a global lifestyle brand. It's going to be an empire.' Saverio launched his second ready-to-wear line, TXID, early 2015 in response to the lightening acceptance of his first ready-to-wear line—Tex Saverio Jakarta; his collaboration with several foreign online ready-to-wear brands has also been paying rich dividends.

In October, at Jakarta Fashion Week, 2016, the star designer, took the audience by storm with his more accessible ready-to-wear secondary line —TXID, a street wear collection. Edgy, youthful and contemporary the collection, made from light materials and aimed at men and women between 18-30, featured tops, bottoms, sweatshirts, dresses, outerwear and playsuits. This diffusion line marks his comfort level with creations which are 'more accessible and commercial pieces' inspired by his main oeuvre without losing on the wearability elements. As he described it to the media ahead of the show, 'It's neither my couture line nor my premium ready-to-wear line.' This take is further underscored by the show note on TXID, when describing it as invoking 'a strain of casual athleticism currently taking over the street fashion scene to cater to "a young, androgynous and modern clientele."

A strange marriage of two contradictory brands has proved to be a big hit. Furthering inroads in this market segment Tex has also partnered with Viola Tan and Rachel Lim, of Singapore's online fashion retailer Love, Bonito, to produce a limited edition for the online retailer which pairs Saverio's edgy and flamboyant structures with Love, Bonito's feminine silhouettes. Previously featured at the Singapore Fashion Week in May, 2015, his offerings (showcased alongside Victoria Beckham and Diane von Furstenberg) featured both monochrome and fierce designs, and a set of more colourful options. Tan wants to enter the Indonesian market, and Tex wants to tap the Singaporean market—as both markets hold immense potential for their offerings.

A lesson well learnt from the Lady Gaga anecdote is the importance it had not just for him personally but also on the Indonesian fashion industry, especially the new designers.' Saverio seriously believes that, "The story of Lady Gaga is not only about me, it is about that nothing's impossible and unreachable, it's about the courage to do what you are blessed with and make the most out of it." 



▲ 'Resurrection' by Tex Saverio for Swarovski Runway Rocks (2013) at Lane Crawford, Shanghai Times Square. The couture dress is encased in sculpted metal, crystals and feathers. Inspired by the phoenix, a symbol of resurrection and immortality



▲ Last year Saverio launched his second ready-to-wear line - TXID

▶ Tex has also partnered with a Singapore online fashion retailer Love, Bonito to produce a limited edition line for the online retailer

# JEWELLERY ARTS: UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY!



Professionals, home-makers and creative individuals the world over are discovering how they can express themselves and provide avenues for profit and success by creating their own jewellery. It is easier than you think!

Jewellery bridges the gap between art and commerce in a way few other outlets can: placing value on creative expression and uniqueness while using quality, precious materials that have their own intrinsic value in an established and vibrant market.

Creative jewellery artisans, unlike painters, sculptors, and other artists can almost effortlessly move from skilled craftsman to independent business person. Those that keep abreast of the fashion trends and translate these in to precious expressions for their customers see successes ranging from profitable side-lines to fully fledged jewellery brands.

## Who can become a jewellery artisan?

The first step for any aspiring jewellery artist is to develop the eye for detail and the technical skills needed to produce outstanding jewellery creations. Traditionally, this process required many years of apprenticeship and painstaking, laborious work building dexterity and skill with a wide range of complicated and expensive specialised tools. While traditional techniques are still appreciated and used in jewellery, today's designers have a wider palette of materials and techniques to work with, including new technologies that enable creative expression faster than ever before. The modern jewellery designer can mix traditional

metalsmithing techniques with space-age materials to produce anything from fine jewellery pieces to contemporary fashion jewellery designs. With such a wide range of skills and materials to work with, anyone can find their niche in this creative field.

## How do designers select the best value materials?



When thinking of jewellery, most of us first imagine the gemstones that capture the attention of the room with their brilliance and life. Twenty-first century jewellery artists have a wider selection of spectacular gem materials to select from than ever before.

Designers can source fine natural materials from every corner of the world with minimum effort but must be careful to understand common trade practices and pitfalls to ensure they choose wisely. For those that are constrained by budget, gem science has progressed to the point where lab-grown, cultured gems provide affordable means to create stunning jewellery. Even those designers opting for non-gem materials can find exceptionally well manufactured components from world renowned brands that raise their jewellery above mere costume pieces. Regardless of the materials they choose to use, the

modern designer must be an informed and shrewd buyer to ensure they choose the best materials for theirs, or their customers' budget.

## What are the key elements of a great jewellery design?

Looking beyond the gems, it is the precious metals that bring a jewel to life, determining the style of the piece and telling a story about the wearer. The most successful jewellery artisans draw inspiration from fashion trends while incorporating influences from different cultures and time periods to develop exceptional, unique designs that stand out amongst the competition of mass-produced jewellery. Savvy consumers look for these distinctive design elements in their jewellery purchases and once found, follow their designers jewellery lines in future purchases.

While the design is key to capturing the attention of jewellery buyers, it is the quality of the metals used and the excellence in craftsmanship that reinforce the relationship between designer and client. Bespoke designers set themselves apart from the volumes of low quality costume jewellery on



the market by choosing better quality materials and fashioning them using professional, lasting techniques to produce beautiful jewellery that is comfortable and durable. Designers choose to work with fine silver or modern silver alloys incorporating rare earth minerals to minimize tarnishing, others select gold alloys that avoid nickel or other metals that cause allergic reactions. What becomes clear to consumers as they experience jewellery from different vendors is that the mark of a true professional goes well beyond design, affecting the materials, workmanship and overall quality.

#### What is the difference between a professional and amateur jewellery artisan?

Many inexperienced jewellery artists overlook the assembly techniques used to combine their uniquely crafted centrepiece with other design elements to create necklaces, bracelets or other popular jewellery pieces. Jewellery collectors who know how to identify value and quality look beyond the highlight elements of the jewellery to see how the artists has combined these with the 'findings', common jewellery elements used to complete a piece of jewellery. Proper selection of earring backs, posts, clasps and other less conspicuous elements can both ensure a high quality finished design, and accentuate the artists custom creations. Today, fashion jewellery artists are taking increasing care with their components and techniques in order to further stand apart from more typical high street jewellery.

#### When does a jewellery artist become a creative entrepreneur?

A brief glance at the jewellery industry shows at least as much activity by independent designers as there is amongst the established brands. These budding designers may begin small, attending events in bazaars or setting up small blog shops, but may grow into full fledged designer brands with successful online and brick and mortar businesses.

Many creative individuals start their journey by identifying their passion – be it to meticulously create masterpieces from raw materials or explore and combine prefabricated components to produce new and exciting variations.

Next, they refine the technical and creative skills while they kit out their wardrobe and those of friends and family. These experiences and reference allow them to learn more about their target market and begin to develop a brand, business and marketing strategy to delight their customers. It is a fun, fascinating journey that requires little more than a creative streak and desire to succeed.

#### Where can you start on the path to creativity and independence?

The region's Jewellery industry is becoming more accessible and creative opportunities in Jewellery more exciting.



Singapore's Jewellery Design and Management International School has been fostering the jewellery industry, including the growing ranks of creative artisans who are driving many modern fashion trends. JDMIS is the only professional education institution in the region that specializes solely in the jewellery arts and is well known for its interdisciplinary diploma programs and customized corporate training for the biggest players in the jewellery industry. It also offers expert, short skills certifications in jewellery design, gemmology, traditional and modern jewellery fabrication, jewellery trends, business and retail operations. Each of its intensive



skills courses are 'modular': ideal for existing jewellers and budding artisan entrepreneurs who want fast-paced access to the skills they need for success in the jewellery field, but in combination, leading to a recognised diploma qualification in the jewellery field.

Tanja Sadow, the Dean and founder of JDMIS and President of the Guild of Jewellery Professionals and Artisans has been involved in educating and directing the jewellery industry since the early 80's. She has trained over 15,000 students in 11 countries. Tanja and her international team of professional instructors, together with proprietary easy-to-learn techniques and a convenient location, have attracted students from all over the world who have gone on to become award-winning designers and successful entrepreneurs.

For more information about the school and its courses, visit [www.jdmis.edu.sg](http://www.jdmis.edu.sg) or visit the school's comprehensive facilities in the centre of Singapore's arts and heritage district. ©

# WOMEN'S HEALTH: HOW TO STAY HEALTHY - A DOCTOR'S ADVICE

By Dr Sarah Akbari



**It is not easy to achieve a healthy lifestyle in today's 'modern world.' We are affected by our environment from the day we are conceived in our womb! Start by having a greater awareness and knowledge of what we can control and do to lead a healthier life**

I have been asked to write on Women's Health from teen to menopause but I would like to emphasize that our health status starts way before birth. And it lasts beyond menopause. Each stage has its own risk factors for health.

It might interest you to know a study\* done in 2009 found more than 200 dangerous chemicals and toxins in newborn babies' umbilical cords! This is one of the reasons I mentioned earlier that our health status starts before birth. In my opinion, it is probably safe enough to say that it starts at conception and is highly dependent on the parents' health.

Knowing this, then we have to be aware and conscious of healthy living all our lives with modifications based on age, even when we don't have any family histories of diseases. We cannot change our genes, but the gene expression (whether we become sick or stay sick-free) is within our control.

I usually explain this to my patients by comparing two different gardens or farms. One farm has many bad seeds, the other full of good ones and we tend to take care more of the bad one and make that garden or farm become fruitful.

We take less care of the good farm, assuming that it will produce healthy plants but the good one ends up with diseases. This is what happens to us - even when we have good genes, the way we live, our lifestyle, will decide whether



## Pollution in Newborns

In 2005 and 2009, the Environmental Working Group (EWG), an American based non-profit organization, did studies that found blood samples from the umbilical cords of newborns contained an average of 287 toxins, including mercury, fire retardants, pesticides, and Teflon chemicals. Of the 287 chemicals EWG detected 180 of them can cause cancer in humans or animals.

we develop diseases or stay disease-free.

## Nutrition – Fresh Food!

Nutrition is one of the pillars for optimum health. Basically babies, children and teens can consume more calories than adults and the elderly as they need the energy to grow; thus the calories will not be stored as fat. This is especially when their activity escalates in older kids. However calories is not the only thing we need to consider, what we

eat is more important. Having said so, some children may consume less calories but manage to fulfill their minimum requirement of nutrients to grow optimally.

Fresh food is the key!! Remember, food should not have expiry dates, we know by nature when they expire, that is when they become stale or rotten.

Living in our sophisticated world, we are in constant contact with toxins and free radicals, we inhale them, injected them, ingest them, apply them, touch them, we cannot run from them! So apart from avoiding it as much as we can, enhancing our free radical defense with antioxidants is important – consume colorful foods EVERYDAY! Their color has high antioxidant properties that support us.

One thing you might not know, our gut is responsible for 80 per cent of our immune system and about 80 trillions bacteria that live in our gut play a huge role in it.

Our health and immune system are strongly dependent on our microbiota – germs living in our digestive system. What we eat alter the composition of these germs and imbalances in this bacterial community – called dysbiosis – will lead us to an array of diseases, including aging itself.

To make sure we have enough and balanced good bacteria, we have to eat probiotic foods (food containing good bacteria) and prebiotic food (foods that feed our good bacteria). Examples of

probiotic foods are miso soup, kimchi, achar, sauerkraut, yogurt, kefir, tempeh. And those of prebiotic foods are onion, garlic, raw honey, most veggies, legumes, low sugar fruits such as berries, apple and pear.

During childbirth, is when we are first exposed to bacteria outside us. Babies delivered vaginally will be exposed by bacteria living in the birth canal while babies delivered by cesarean will be exposed by bacteria living in the mother's skin and they are a totally different composition and the incidence of allergy or atopic diseases in babies delivered by cesarean are increasing along with the increased rate of cesarean delivery. This leads to a hypothesis that delivering vaginally will give you healthier baby. The next encounter to microbiota is through breastmilk. Along with colostrum in breastmilk, babies get all their needs for nutrition to be healthy.

As for women, with erratic hormonal cycle every day (if not every minute) of their life, we have to take into account what nutrients – the good stuff in our nutrition – that support the hormonal cycle. Fiber, EPA/DHA, vitamin C and Glutathion are amongst those important in female hormones as well as health in general.

## Harmonal Imbalances

PMS is a collection of symptoms experienced by women prior before each cycle and last straight after the cycle starts. Most likely this is due to hormonal imbalances between the hormone Estrogen and Progesterone. For women age 40 and above, knowing your number for hormone levels is important as each of these hormones contribute to your health status. However, for younger females below the age of 21, PMS could be lessened by the consumption of fish oil and an optimal level of vitamin D3 in the blood (measured by lab testing). Their hormone producing organs have not fully developed yet and this may cause them PMS too with different reasons from the older adult.

Menopause can happen between the ages of 30 to 60 years old. Later is not always better than sooner as they have their own consequences. You can expect what is known as The Seven Witches of Menopause – itchy, bitchy, sleepy, sweaty, forgetful, bloated and psycho

As our hormones protect our brain,

**Studies have confirmed that prevention for these risks following menopause will have a better outcome if done early – best is during what we call the “perimeopausal stage”, two to four years before the actual menopause – that means around 47 years old with the average age for menopause being 51 years old.**

bone, heart, vascular and help us heal, menopause means that protection is less if not diminished and we heal slower from any injury, stress or trauma.

Studies have confirmed that prevention for these risks following menopause will have a better outcome if done early - best is during what we call the “perimeopausal stage”, two to four years before the actual menopause - that means around 47 years old with the average age for menopause being 51 years old.

## Stress, Exercise & Diet

Prevention would include stress management, exercise, good diets (high fiber, high lean protein, good fats, low in sugar and simple carbs, low in bad fats), supplements and hormonal therapy if needed.

The common factors shared between the Centenarians around the world for their longevity are being active, spiritual beliefs, purpose of life and friends and companions. To my opinion, if we adapt to this way of life, every one of us would have the chance to live longer with a higher quality of life.

Answering the question comparing the health of today's generation of women with the generation before us, in my personal opinion, despite of our better knowledge, our acceptance of our condition – menopause or getting old – it is not as good as our ancestors. But acceptance is also the key to happiness and happiness is the key to longevity and aging gracefully. 



### About the Author

Dr. Sarah Akbari, MARS, FAARM, ABAARM, ES Centre, Dharmawangsa Square, The City Walk 2nd Fl, 39-40, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Website: [www.elandarisarah.com](http://www.elandarisarah.com)  
Email: [p.s.akbari@gmail.com](mailto:p.s.akbari@gmail.com)

Graduated as a MD in 1997 from Christian University in Jakarta and 2001 for Master of Hospital Administration from University

of Indonesia. She firmly believes in prevention and holistic approach is greatly involved in anti-aging, regenerative and functional medicines in Indonesia and overseas. Currently a Fellow in Anti Aging and Regenerative Medicines of American Academy of Anti Aging Medicines (A4M) and is a Board Certified Physician of the same. She is also an active member of ACNEM - Australian College of Nutrition and Environmental Medicines – where she took her certification for Injectable Nutrients and taking courses for Heavy Metal Detoxification certification.

She heads the Curative and Rehabilitative Department at AKSHARA (Persatuan Kesehatan Integrasi Nusantara), a new association in Indonesia whose aim is to introduce and apply Integrative Medicine in addressing patients' symptoms.

She continues her education in at present taking Post Graduate Certification in Integrative Medicines at School of Medicine and Health Sciences at George Washington University in USA.

# Sari Ratu ★★★★ Real Padang

by Syed Jaafar Alkaff



## Authentic Padang cuisine prepared by chefs from Indonesia

**H**ow authentic? There are FOUR chefs from Padang available to work the kitchen preparing the food for diners. Sherly, who with the other chefs Armon, Agus and Barnok, make sure the taste and quality of Sari Ratu food meets the strict standards of this successful chain of Padang restaurants which now has spread from Indonesia, then Malaysia and to Singapore.

Sherly, who is originally from Bukittinggi, Padang and acted as spokesperson said that although there is a great proliferation of Indonesian restaurants in Singapore, Sari Ratu is still able to stand apart from the rest.

### Spices

Sherly, who has been with the restaurant since it opened here five years ago, said one of the ways Sari Ratu maintains its high level of quality and taste, is to make all the spice pastes from scratch - no short cuts, "We ground the spice seeds and leaves. No pre-packaged spices are used. Also, the *santan* (coconut milk) we use comes from fresh coconuts. All our ingredients come from natural sources no powdered or packaged stuff. This includes our *kampong* (free range) chicken imported from our suppliers in Malaysia." She described how important it is for the quality of Sari Ratu's food to be kept consistently high. The chain founder's son Mr Auwines and partner of the restaurant at Pahang Street can even discern from just

smell if a different type of spice is used.

The restaurant is air-conditioned and you choose your food at the counter. The food is served hot (if you order separate food items rather than all together with your rice). Highly recommended and popular here are the Gulai Tunjang (beef tendons), Daging Rendang, Krepek Kentang (Potato Crisps), Ikan Danau (Sumatra-style anchovies) and the crusty Ikan Nila Goreng.

My favourite here is the Daging Rendang and it also serves as another good example of Sari Ratu's authenticity as the go-to Padang restaurant in Singapore. It is cooked for several hours, a day before they are served which is why they appear a little darker than those available elsewhere.

### Trademark

One traditional trademark characteristic of Padang food is the liberal use of chillies. You are also served both red and green chillies. The former quite spicy hot. The green chillies are not as hot and I found them more savoury as they contain trace amounts of petai bean and anchovies.

Simple foods, taste terrific according to my taste buds as the potato crisps are lightly spiced and, again, made from fresh whole potatoes so they have that good 'natural' taste. The two Sari Ratu Restaurants at Pahang Street and Lucky Plaza are a must try for anyone who appreciates tasty, quality Indonesian food. 



### SARI RATU INDONESIAN RESTAURANT

20 Pahang St, S(198617)  
Tel: 6294 9983

304, Orchard Road,  
Lucky Plaza, # 02-107, S(238863)  
Tel: 68369983

Open Daily: 10am to 10pm



*Ikan Nila Goreng*



*Tunjang*



*Red & Green Chillies*



*Ikan Danau*



*Daging Batukok - a Minang favourite*

# QUICK BITES

Serving bite-sized news and reviews



## Special Ramadhan One-for-One Buffet at Kintamani

Iftar at Kintamani will be a moderate (cost-wise) and meaningful affair as the well-known full *halal* Indonesian restaurant at the Furama RiverFront hotel is offering a Ramadhan Buffet \$55++ for dinner with 1-for-1 credit card promotion. Diners who wish to perform their evening prayers after breaking their fast can do so at a function room on the same floor. For reservations call 6739 6463 or for more info visit: [www.furama.com/riverfront/Dining](http://www.furama.com/riverfront/Dining)



(Above): Kintamani's Rendang Daging Sapi and (right) part of its lavish buffet spread



## Best Bebek at Chijmes?

Many who have dined here raved about Bebe Tepi Sawah restaurant's signature dish the slow roasted leaf wrapped duck originating from Bali. The upmarket location and luxe ambience is also reflected in the menu prices but if you love duck, you owe it to yourself to go down to Chijmes and try the Bebek Betutu at least once.

For reservations call 6336 1015 or if you want to know more about the restaurant chain visit: [www.bebektepisawahrestaurant.com](http://www.bebektepisawahrestaurant.com)



## Newly Opened: Muslim Delights@Orchard Banquet Hall for Weddings

Located on the first floor of the Concorde Hotel on Orchard Road, it can seat 400 (for one time sit-down diners). It replaces Muslim Delights' previous wedding venue at the roof top of Luzerne House on Bendemeer Road. The central city location should prove to be very popular and for more info on its restaurant and wedding packages visit: [www.muslimdelights.com](http://www.muslimdelights.com)

## Tea Time Buffet at the Regent

The Regent Hotel's Tea Lounge features an extensive buffet featuring live crêpe and waffle station, salad and sushi bar, and a decadent dessert spread that promises to end things on a sweet note. There's also a spread of local delights at Tea Lounge's refreshed weekend high tea buffet by Senior Sous Chef Then Kok Leong. His signature staples such as the well-known Hainanese Chicken Rice, Chilli Crab with Fried Bun and a unique dim sum selection that includes Chef's Prawn Har Gao, Salted Egg Yolk, Yam and Kaya Dumplings. For those with a sweet tooth, there's the Kopi and Chocolate Amedei Dome.

To view the full menu: [www.regenthotels.com/EN/Singapore/Cuisine/Tea-Lounge](http://www.regenthotels.com/EN/Singapore/Cuisine/Tea-Lounge)

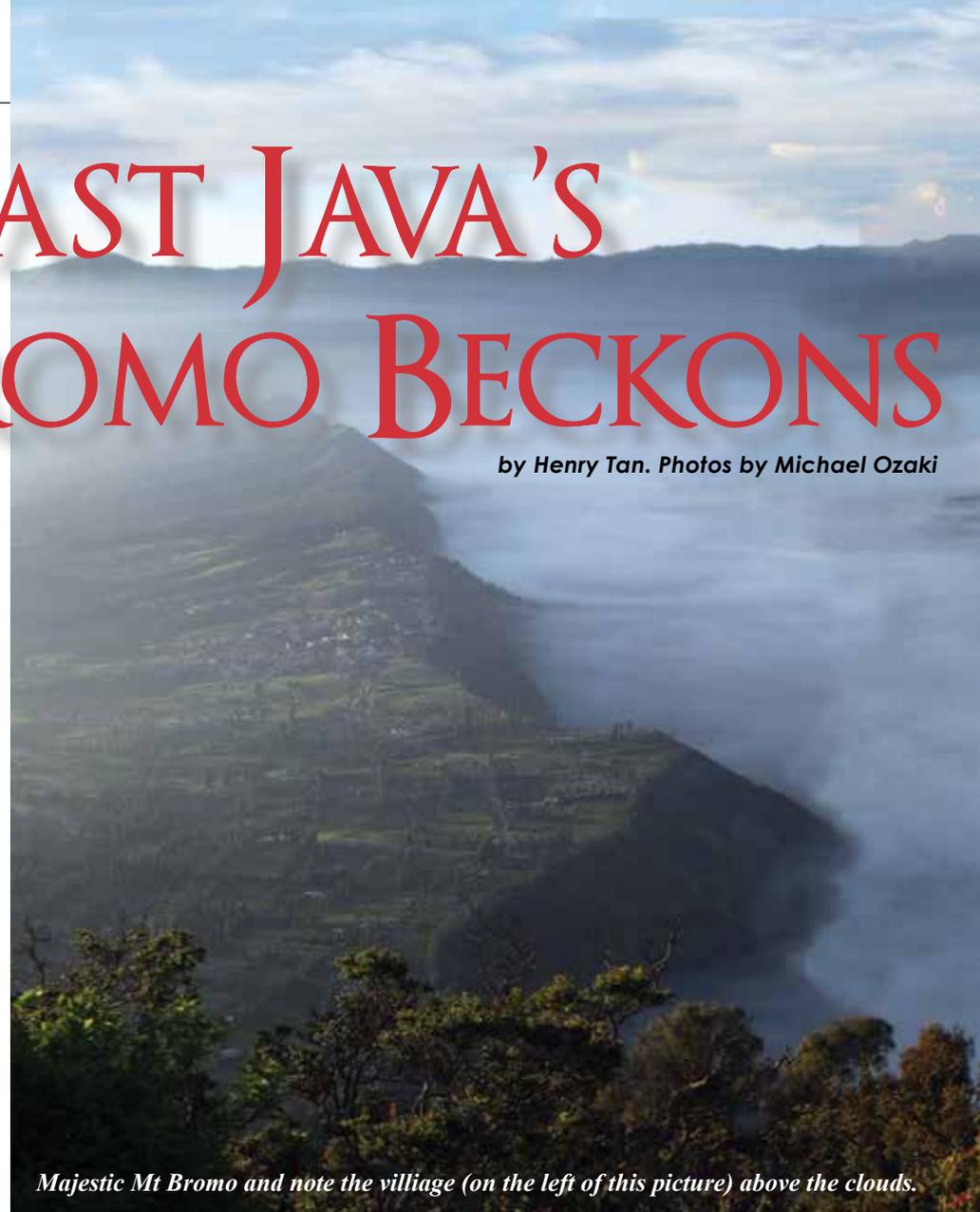


# EAST JAVA'S MT BROMO BECKONS

by Henry Tan. Photos by Michael Ozaki

Sweeping caldera, a crater perpetually emitting sulfurous plume, eco and agro tourism stops, vast fruit plantations, antique car collection, mini theme parks and more are encountered on the Surabaya-Probolinggo-Malang travel "triangle." Following are some of the highlights of the experience to visit Mt Bromo, one of Indonesia's 35 active volcanoes. It is not the biggest but its allure lies in its setting within the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park.

The pre-dawn ascend to the lookout point on Mount Penanjakan gave us a beautiful vista of the sunrise from the east of the famous mildly active Mount Bromo volcano. This popular vantage point at 2,770 m (9,100 ft) elevation is higher than Mt Bromo's 2,329 m (7,639 ft). This gives a clear (weather permitting) of the sun rising over the far horizon to the left. Bromo is named after the Hindu deity Brahma and is arguably Indonesia's most famous fire-mountain, with its signature thick



*Majestic Mt Bromo and note the villiage (on the left of this picture) above the clouds.*



1



2



3

*(1) Part of the crowd at the Lookout (Viewpoint 1). (2) You have to transfer from the 4x4s to horses or motorbikes to cross a large desolate plain to reach the second Lookout*

column of climbing white plume would be impressively visible in a surrounding sea of mist with the ever brightening sky.

We embarked on the last leg up to the lookout before 3 am from a midway hotel in Ngadisari, on a 4x4 jeep which is the only vehicle type allowed, aside from motorbikes. The short drive was up tight hairpin bends on a narrow mountainside road, then a smooth passage through a sandy plain and again shooting up even more hair-raising

steeper meanders on asphalt.

The final stretch was by foot power on a moderately inclined slope and a long flight of stairs. We arrived at the peak before the ever-thickening throng of crowds and were able to secure choice spots at the railings and the apex. The first discernable pre-dawn streaks of saturated orange and blue hues greeted us at about a quarter to five. Ten minutes later, the tentative rays that herald the arrival of Apollo's (sun god of Greek mythology, among other portfolios)



**(3) Breakfast on the flat plains before tackling the climb (4) to the top of the second Lookout. (5) There is also a Hindu temple at the foot of the ascent. (6) Adventure crossing, locals sometimes cross the dried river bed which runs next to the temple.**

charge began the light show. We linger around for the next hour to witness the slowing emerging majesty of Bromo as the sun progressively lighted up its spectacular visage.

### Five Observation Stations

Besides Mount Penanjakan, there are at least five other observation stations easily accessible to the public. For groups, it is advisable to avail the services of a local tour agency for transport and accommodation

arrangements, but adventurous independent travelers could make the trip with a little prior fingerwork on the keyboard.

On the return journey, we stopped at the Cemoro Lawang Sea of Sands in the Tengger Caldera. This was the fiat sandy plain we passed through in the dark hours earlier. Surrounded by mountain walls on all sides, horses and ponies graze lazily on the lush verdant grass on our left. The vast expanse of

grey volcanic soil on our right is the way to the climb up the crater rim of Bromo, passing by an old Hindu temple complex.

Bromo has been active for the past hundreds of years, with the most recent eruptions in 2004, 2010, 2011 and 2015. However, human casualties are rare, with most serious suffering being from sometimes copious volumes of ejected ash. Still, it is generally safe to visit; just check the news and updates before planning a trip there.

## SIDE TRIPS

### ○ Sampoerna Museum

Within the Old Quarters in north Surabaya is House of Sampoerna Museum, an imposing Dutch colonial compound built in 1862 and which began life as an orphanage. It is now a cigarette factory. PT HM Sampoerna was founded by Liem Seeng Tee, who acquired the place in 1932 to greatly expand the production of its very popular brand of *Dji Sam Soe* (meaning 234) kretek (cloves) infused cigarettes. To commemorate the company's 90th anniversary 13 years ago, the delightful little museum was set up for the public. Besides the obvious mandatory tobacco related displays, it showcased the common things of everyday life in the bygone era as lived by the founder and his family.

Of interest are the antiquated postal paraphernalia, ancient bikes of both the human and gasoline powered varieties and the elaborate clothes worn by the ladies. A souvenir shop, café and art gallery complemented the visitors' oddity experience.



### ○ Bejay Bakau Resort

A two-hour plus drive from Surabaya, is Bejay Bakau Resort or BJBR, the ecotourism facility adjacent to the harbour of Probolinggo City. Maritime romantics can feast on the sight of old but functioning gaily painted wooden hulled schooners and small likewise built fishing boat.

BJBR features an artificial inland beach play area for a host of fun activities for the young and young-at-heart.. Getting to the cozy restaurant, which serves a good variety of Indonesian and sea food, entails a lovely stroll along boardwalks through a dense canopy of mangrove branches. The 2 kilometre network of wide elevated wooden path over the mangrove forest, parts of which are bicycle friendly, offers a back-to-nature experience. BJBR presently has 10 bungalow guesthouses with glassed walls in their North, East and West sides to offer dawn views over a watery horizon, in air-conditioned comfort.

### ○ Malang

The city of Malang lies at a cool altitude of 476 m, a comfortable enough respite from Surabaya's hot stifling climate.

Many varieties of fruits, the most famous being apples, are grown in the mid hills a short distance from the town area, Over a hundred big and small orchards raise this produce as their main or even sole crop. One of the largest is that grows not just apples but also, guavas, papayas, strawberries amongst other fruits. This sprawling property is also an agrotourism destination with its own resort hotel, convention centre and waterpark! The restaurant here also serves a selection of (what else) apple-based cuisines such as: Apple Beef Steak, Apple Chicken Steak, Mie Sarang Apel and Apple Fried Rice. Order a glass or two of fresh-from-the-trees apple juice to wash it all down.



*Welcome to Malang - the Big Apple of Indonesia*

### ○ Angkut Museum ○ Movie Star Studio ○ D'Topeng Kingdom Museum

Not far from the apple farms, at 15km west of Malang city centre, is a transportation museum billed as the largest of its kind in Asia. The blurb says transportation but aside from a few ship models, it's overwhelming cars and bikes. Well, there's an old train and a downscaled but still imposingly huge Apollo moon rocket replica. The only plane is on the rooftop! A retired early series of the Boeing 737 jetliner. Auto aficionados, especially of the vintage era, would be in seventh heaven at the sight of the hundred or so cars and motorbikes.

The longest ride on display is a Hummer stretch limousine capable of ferrying 18 passengers in over-the-top luxury along its over five metre length. Other than the plethora



of the real McCoys, the make-believe movie world is also represented, such as the Batmobile and a sofa car from a spy movie. Going backwards in timeline, the collection includes handcarts, rickshaws, horse-drawn carriages, unicycles, bicycles, tricycles and even a quadracycle. There are also coal-fired, steam-powered bikes and trikes! Next comes the Universal Studios-esque Movie Star Studio where buildings, street scenes, vehicles and other props were painstakingly recreated. There's Buckingham Palace, Hollywood theatres and cinemas, old Chinatown, major cities of America, Asia and Europe, and a Gangster Town reminiscent of the Bugsy Malone and Al Capone world of crime. Last, and maybe least of this three-in-one attraction is the D'Topeng Kingdom Museum that features a comprehensive collection of traditional masks and textiles, sculptures, decorative knick knacks, and other cultural art objects from all over the Indonesian archipelago. Near the exit/entrance is **Kampung Apung** which depicts a floating market and street stalls selling souvenirs and food and drinks.

## FOOD STOPS



Two standout restaurants in Malang worth talking about are **Waroeng Bamboe Sidomeoljo** (see photo above) and **Taman Indie Resto** on the outskirts of the city. The former is a rustic bamboo edifice where the diners sit on the ground at low tables surrounding fish ponds. The dishes are chiefly of fish but they are delicious, along with the great ambience. Our dinner was at the more upmarket above-mentioned Taman where the sumptuous combination platter of local fare was accompanied by live performances of traditional Javanese dance and later, music and songs. For street food, must try is Bakso Malang. The beef balls in come in two sizes; 2.5cm and a hefty mouth-stretching golf ball sized 5cm! Some easy-to-carry Malang specialty to bring home recommended boxes of apple strudel from the **Malang Strudel** chain. There are currently six outlets in the city though it was started only a year ago. It is helmed by popular TV personality Teuku Wisnu. 

*The East Java travel and sojourn was organised and made possible by The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore & Visit Indonesia Tourism Office – Singapore, and sponsored by the Indonesian Tourism Ministry.*



▲ **SEMINAR ON 'INDONESIA'S FOREIGN POLICY'** by H.E. Ngurah Swajaya on 8 April 2016, at the invitation of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. Under President Joko Widodo, Indonesia's foreign policy is based on Nawacita and Trisakti which emphasizes the importance of down to earth diplomacy. Priorities are the protection of Indonesians overseas, enhancing economic diplomacy and Indonesia's role in regional and international fora. Indonesia also seeks to implement the Global Maritime Fulcrum, to cultivate a maritime culture, preserve and manage maritime resources, develop maritime infrastructure and connectivity, promote maritime cooperation through diplomacy, and build a strong maritime defense.



▶ **INDONESIAN FOOD & BEVERAGES AT FOOD AND HOTEL ASIA 2016** held from 12 – 15 April 2016 at the Singapore Expo.

▼ **INDONESIA'S ROLE IN ICAO** (International Civil Aviation Organization) hosted at the Indonesia Embassy on 22 April 2016.



▲ **TNI COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL GATOT NURMANTYO CONFERRED PRESTIGIOUS SINGAPORE MILITARY AWARD** - the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) or Meritorious Service Medal (Military) by Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam. Gen Gatot was presented the award by Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen in an investiture held at the Ministry of Defence on Monday 28 March 2016.



◀ **INDONESIA-SINGAPORE INVESTORS FORUM** with Key Speaker H.E. Luhut Panjaitan Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs on 3 March 2016

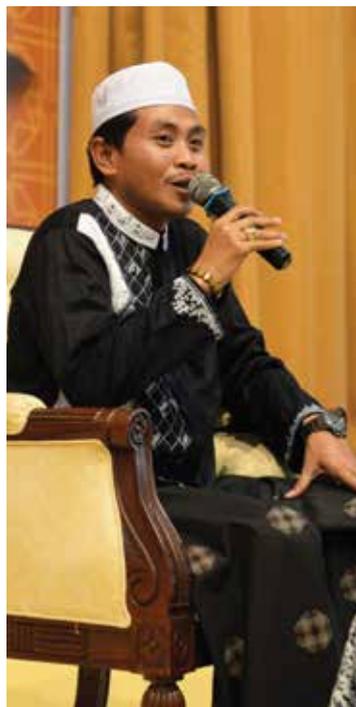


▲ ▼ **FORMER PRESIDENTS PROF DR BJ HABIBE & PROF DR SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO** officiated at the book launch of *Living Sacrifice*, a biography of philanthropist Dato' Sri Prof Dr Tahir, at the Singapore Management University. Earlier Prof Dr SB Yudhono witnessed the signing of the Tahir National University of Singapore - University Gadjah Mada Collaboration in Medicine Programme.

► **GARUDA CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY FLYING FROM SINGAPORE** by launching a History Booth at Changi Airport T3 on 31 March 2016. One can scroll through a photo album to check out cabin crew uniform over the years, historical Garuda fleets, and the brand's visual evolution. The booth was opened by KBRI's Charge D'Affairs Hasan Ridwan.



◀ **THE INDONESIA EMBASSY IN SINGAPORE HELPED EXPEDITE Rp 1.6 BILLION ACCIDENT INSURANCE PAYMENT** to the beneficiaries of the late Ifferd Demus, a seaman who died from sickness while working on board a tanker vessel in Singapore which is managed by Raffles Ship Management Services. The cheques were handed over to them on 28 April 2016 in Bandung witnessed by the Deputy Mayor who said he was impressed and appreciative of the efforts of the Embassy in processing the insurance claims and payment so that the beneficiaries were able to receive the payment directly without any administrative or bureaucratic difficulties.



▼ **SEKOLAH INDONESIA SINGAPURA PERFORMS AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE ARTS FESTIVAL 2016.**

They presented 'Music and Dance of Traditional Indonesia' on 25 March 2016.

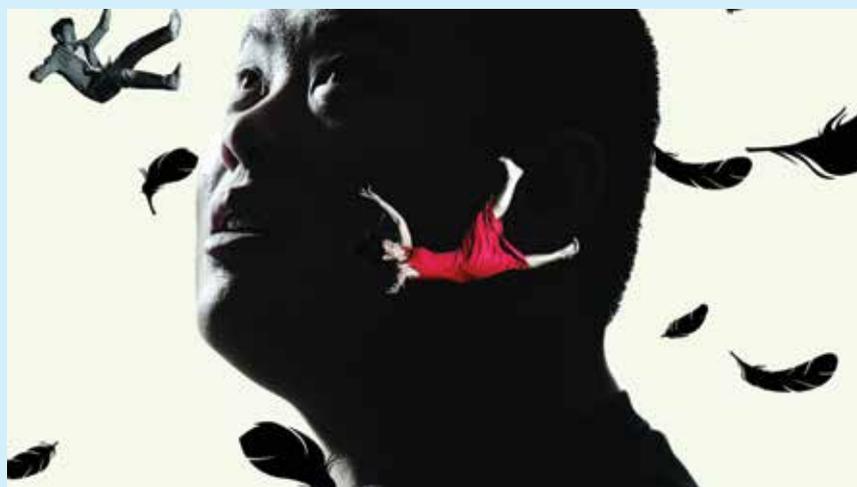


◀◀▲ **3,500 DOMESTIC WORKERS ATTEND RELIGIOUS TALK AT THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY** by KH. Anwar Zahid on 13 March 2016. The talk was also attended by the Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya and his wife. He said he was also proud and happy for the presence of the workers who so enthusiastically participated in the Embassy premises.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Festive season's varied programmes of music concerts, and events



## Falling

Fri, 13 May - Sun, 29 May 2016  
Venue: DBS Art Centre

Local theatre company Pandemonium follows the ups and downs of Tami and Bill, ordinary parents raising their

two teenage kids – Lisa, a typical hot-headed 16 year-old; and Josh, an 18 year-old with autism. This emotional and enlightening family drama explores what it means to love unconditionally in the face of adversity.

## The Illusionists

Fri, 6 - Sun, 15 May 2016  
Venue: MasterCard Theatre, Marina Bay Sands Resort

Mother's Day is in May and we recommend this great treat for mum and the whole family go see the very entertaining 'best of...' magicians, escape artists, mentalists show called THE ILLUSIONISTS. It features seven of the most talented illusionists today and they will showcase hilarious magic tricks, death-defying stunts and acts of breathtaking wonder! The seven are masters in their fields. More information visit [www.BASEentertainment.com](http://www.BASEentertainment.com) or [www.MarinaBaySands.com/ticketing](http://www.MarinaBaySands.com/ticketing).

## Asian Festival of Children's Content 2016

Wed, 25 May - Sun, 29 May 2016  
Venue: National Library, Singapore

Children's books and story telling, this annual festival has an exciting line-up that includes a book fair, book illustrators showcase, title launches, conferences, masterclasses, performances, etc. More info: [afcc.com.sg](http://afcc.com.sg)

## GREAT SINGAPORE SALE

Fri, 3 Jun - Sun, 14 Aug 2016  
Venue: Singapore Stores & Online

Best reason to start saving from now as there will be many great savings and offers as EVERYTHING will be on SALE.



## Singapore Food Expo

Fri, 27 May - Tue, 31 May 2016  
Venue: Singapore Expo Hall 4

Eat your fill of local food and sample the latest culinary creations at this four-day food fair that features more than 100 exhibitors. More info: [www.singaporefoodexpo.org.sg](http://www.singaporefoodexpo.org.sg)

PICTURE  
POST

# FUTURE WORLD



For its landmark permanent exhibition, Marina Bay Sands' ArtScience Museum collaborated with teamLab, an award-winning Tokyo-based art collective of "ultra-technologists" that includes artists, programmers, engineers, CG animators, mathematicians, architects and designers. The result is Future World – Where Art Meets Science - Singapore's largest interactive digital playground. The exhibits are fully interactive and immersive. Fifteen art installations are spread over 1,500 sqm digital universe, brought to life and evolve in real-time through visitor presence and participation. Be amazed as this stunning interactive world responds to your behavior, and changes according to *your* creative input!



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