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AMB NGURAH SWAJAYA:
THE TWIN BLISS OF 2017

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MILLIONAIRE

\$1,000,000

Indonesians
Make NEWS
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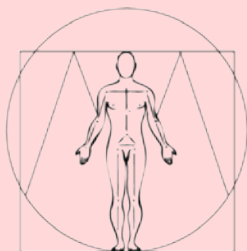
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NEW PARADIGM FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS



As Indonesia and Singapore celebrate 50 years of bi-laterals and 50 years of the founding of ASEAN, it is a time to 'develop a new paradigm on how we are going to move forward together', according to Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore HE Ngurah Swajaya in a candid chat. The people-to-people ties between Indonesia and Singapore have played a pivotal role in this wonderful co-operation and now needs to be taken to the next level in the coming 50 years.

Singapore's Chingay Parade is a great avenue for showcasing Indonesia's performing arts with which Singaporeans are already well-acquainted. This year's parade is to feature a 300-strong team of performers from Indonesia alone!

Indonesia's art, films and fashion are the most impactful representations of an artist's voice about the world around him. This year, amongst the winners of the Silver Screen Awards, traditionally given away at the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), were three prominent filmmakers from Indonesia. Their films represent the Indonesian film industry's stepping away from conventional topics, opting instead to explore traditional areas such as religion, race and politics, in an off-beat way.

Singaporeans got to discover the works of several Indonesian artists at the anchor event of Singapore Art Week 2017, the seventh edition of the much awaited fair. Satellite events included The Joseph Balestier Awards for the Freedom of Arts, held annually at the residence of US Ambassador to Singapore and several luncheon get togethers of the art fraternity were also par for the course, with renowned Balinese artist, Mangu Putra being hosted by gallerist Jasdeep Sandhu.

Creativity and patriotism are melded seamlessly into the iconic kebayas of fashion designer Ferry Sunarto, for whom the kebaya is not just a national dress—it's an inspirational representation of the many sacrifices Indonesia made for its present generation.

IndoConnect would also like to thank HE Ngurah Swajaya for taking us on a tour of the Embassy that encompassed the newly renovated Showcase of Indonesian Products, the Consular section with its state-of-the-art automated queue system and dedicated facilities for the Indonesian Merchant Seamen.

The next time you are passing through Changi International Airport—do get inspired to buy something if there's a promotion campaign on with an alluring prize in the offing. Jakarta-based Ade Iskandar Roni bought an Adidas t-shirt and became a winner of the 2016 'Be a Changi Millionaire' shopping promotion! 

Nomita Dhar
Editor-in-chief

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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.



HENNY SCOTT
The Singapore-based art consultant is an active member of many art organisations in the island, and a great champion of Indonesian art and artists. She has lived in Perth, Melbourne, Mumbai and Dubai, and Henny's dream is to retire near the Borobudur temple!



FOO YONG HAN
Foo is very comfortable writing for magazines and has plenty of experience in publications dealing with golf, travel, technology and even did a stint in media communications promoting Mixed Martial Arts in the region! Variety is his middle name and he's happiest taking on any assignment with a touch of adventure.



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TWIN BLISS OF 2017

This year Indonesia and Singapore mark 50 years of bilateral ties. This also coincides with ASEAN's 50th anniversary.



On the eve of the twin celebrations, IndoConnect Editor-in-Chief Nomita Dhar asks Indonesian ambassador HE Ngurah Swajaya, to share his thoughts on this momentous year and the recent milestones already achieved by both nations

ND: 2017 is a landmark year for Singapore and Indonesia. What plans do you have in mind to mark this occasion?

NS: We certainly have many reasons to celebrate the progress and achievements made over the past 50 years. We should also use this momentum to bring the co-operation to a higher plane and to look at the next 50 years - to expand, deepen and broaden our relationship.

This will benefit both sides as well as the region within the context of ASEAN because this is also the 50th anniversary of ASEAN – the organisation founded by Indonesia and Singapore to bring together all the countries in South East Asia.

ND: Share with us the details of Indonesia's economic growth in 2016

NS: We have accomplished much and are performing surprisingly well, despite the fact that the global economic situation is not very encouraging. We saw an upward trend in bilateral relations, especially in the area of foreign direct investment (FDI). While FDI in many different countries or regions are growing moderately, not growing or are suffering from negative growth, we experienced a 44 per cent jump in the first nine months of 2016 alone (compared to the same period in 2015). That really shows the potential for opportunities is still there.

ND: What were the areas that witnessed this growth?

NS: They were mainly in infrastructure development, energy, communications and transportation.

ND: Can you provide further insights on the Leaders' Retreat last year in Semarang?

NS: We are very happy that all the preparatory work we did finally ended up being used at that meeting. This time the Retreat was not only about keeping track of what we are going to do next. President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong also had the opportunity to jointly launch



HE Ngurah Swajaya behind the serving counter of the newly opened Rahmansyah (centre) and Mrs Nomita Dhar.

an iconic project in Indonesia - the Kendal Industrial Park located in Central Java. They even managed to visit one of the Singaporean companies in operation there. Because of its strategic location and the availability of a large pool of workers, we are very optimistic that Kendal will bring in more investments into Indonesia. It can be a production base for the sizeable ASEAN market - a growing consumer populace of over 600 million people. The two leaders build on their good personal rapport and we discussed many initiatives that we are already starting to implement.

Another outcome of the Retreat is the launch of the Indonesia-Singapore Business Council. We hope to announce the launch sometime in February. It will provide a platform for business people to meet twice a year, providing a framework for them to interact on a more professional and effective manner, and promote better understanding. Some areas that will be discussed include how the Indonesian government is contemplating deregulating the property market (to a certain extent) to allow foreigners to buy real estate.

ND: Indonesia has great hopes for its maritime sector. How is it performing presently?

NS: The government has implemented plans as well as completed many maritime projects. For example, the building



Showroom of Indonesia Products with Trade Attache Mr Sugih

of new ports, liberalization for rules related to maritime tourism, the launching of the RIAU International Cruising Highway etc. President Widodo has also ensured enforcement has been effective in standardizing fuel costs throughout Indonesia. This will contribute greatly towards encouraging growth of the transportation system.

We are also expanding the fishery industry through enhanced connectivity, more transportation routes and working with companies everywhere. One of them, from Singapore, is partnering with an Indonesian company; the latter taking the fishermen's catch and the Singapore company then repacking and readying it for export. This is in Jakarta and we are seeking to expand such tie-ups in other provinces for the fishery sector.

At the Leaders' Retreat there was also an agreement to facilitate international cruise ships that call at Singapore to travel on to main Indonesian ports such as Medan, Semarang and Bali and vice versa. We have concluded programmes for joint promotions to destinations in both countries working with the Singapore Tourism Board so travelers can be offered choices for both countries.

ND: For cultural events what can we expect this year to celebrate 50 years of bilateral ties?

Some areas (the new Indonesia-Singapore Business Council) will discuss include how the Indonesian government is contemplating deregulating to a certain extent the property market to allow foreigners to buy real estate

NS: We will be fielding a big cultural delegation for the Chingay Parade. Indonesia is going to be one of the biggest, if not the biggest participants this year. About 300 performers from different parts of Indonesia. It will be a tremendous cultural showcase and we are very excited about it.

ND. How about events or activities for the large Indonesia diaspora here in this special year?

We are finalizing the programme now but they can look forward to participating not only in cultural activities but also those related to educational, culinary and social activities to promote more people-to-people interaction.


ND: Will there be any initiatives launched between Indonesia and Singapore for this significant occasion?

NS: We will be organising the Investment Forum in July 2017 with the participation of many provincial governments. There will be great potential for opportunities for the business community here.

ND: What is your final message to stakeholders of both sides who will participate in these upcoming programmes this year?

NS: We need to develop a new paradigm on how we are going to move forward together. The work we are facing in the region will not be the same in terms of challenges or opportunities as compared to what we have achieved or have passed through in the past five decades.

One important instance is the utilisation of the digital economy and the development of the dynamic young generation, who are different perhaps from the young generation 10, 20 or 30 years ago. We will include the young generation from our different provinces, because it is very important to do so.

With the new paradigm, we also hope both countries can continue to prosper together, contribute to the region's and world's business communities. If we are able to prosper then this will benefit the people. 

SHOWCASE OF EXCELLENCE

Upgraded showroom at the Indonesian Embassy adds new dimension to buying Made-in-Indonesia products

Companies looking for opportunities to import a wide range of more than 200 products (at present) can now visit the newly refurbished Indonesia Showcase at the Indonesia Embassy in Singapore at Chatsworth Road. It was officially opened on 23 December 2016 by HE Ngurah Swajaya with Guest of Honour the President of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation Mr Douglas Foo. The Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) was also acknowledged as one of the partners in helping to establish the Showcase.

The event followed the launch of the Indonesian Domestic Worker's Card or KPIS (Kartu Pekerja Indonesia-Singapura) earlier on 4 December. Just like the KPIS project, KBRI Singapore was chosen again as the pilot embassy to introduce the concept of this informative, interactive and professional-looking Showcase for



(Above): At the opening ceremony - (from left) Trade Attache Mr Sugih Rahmansyah, HE Ngurah Swajaya, Mr Douglas Foo (SMF) and Mr Zahidi Abdul Rahman, the President, Malay Chamber of Commerce. (Right): Amb Swajaya demonstrates to Mrs Nomita Dhar of IndoConnect Magazine the large online touch-screen LED monitor to check product details

Indonesian goods. If the proof of concept and execution is successful here, the Indonesia Showcase will be introduced to all the Indonesian embassies in the world.

Ambassador HE Ngurah Swajaya was happy to note there is robust growth in Foreign Direct Investment between Singapore and Indonesia and the opening of the Showcase is another small step in encouraging this growth.

The Ambassador took IndoConnect on




a special tour of the fully re-furbished showroom that included a large LED touch screen TV, iPads and tablets that provided online connectivity for direct information, contact and in some cases, even purchase, with the manufacturer of the products.



Wherever possible, the actual products and samples are provided for visitors to inspect.

The range on display here is extensive (currently more than 50 items) and online there are presently more than 500 items. They include manufactured goods, commodities, food stuffs, industrial, arts and handicrafts, fashion, pharmaceutical and even extends to commercial and military equipment! The Indonesian Trade

Attache here, Mr Sugih Ramansyah, said the Showcase is open to anyone interested in doing business with Indonesia especially those who would like to market these products internationally. Rina Renville (see inset photo below), the Jakarta-based interior designer for the showroom, said the 120 sq ft showroom also used materials and furniture sourced from Indonesia. She said "Everything was designed to bring visitors closer to Indonesia; for example,

the food & beverage corner, the ambience gives you that feeling of being invited without actually going to Indonesia. We tried to make it as comfortable as possible and ensured the products are well displayed." 



MUHAMAD ALAMSYAH BIDS SINGAPORE FAREWELL

Pak Alam, as Muhamad Alamsyah is known to many, has been a tireless and cheerful multi-tasker, who has over the years been a close friend of IndoConnect from its inception

It saddens all of us here at IndoConnect to say goodbye to someone who has been closely associated with the magazine since its inception five years ago. His wonderful images, issue after issue, have brought alive a wide range of events and activities organised here in Singapore by the Indonesian Embassy, of which he has been such an integral part.

Muhamad Alamsyah or Pak Alam as he is affectionately known, worked in the embassy's Information, Social and Culture section and as its official photographer and has been the very backbone of this very important aspect of the embassy's engagement in Singapore.

When he first came to Singapore over 15 years ago from his native Bandung, Pak Alam had little thought on what kind of work he would find to earn a living. His teacher's degree got him a job at the Singapore Indonesian School (SIS) at Siglap Road. Later, having learned photography, he went on to teach photography also at SIS.

Teaching

Teaching, which he loved, brought him in contact with students, teachers and even parents from other communities living in Singapore. When the Indonesian embassy roped him in to set up an art festival here it was a game changer for him.

Over time he was invited to be involved in various events and eventually he started working full time with the Indonesian embassy. His teaching life had also involved the arts and sports and this brought him to interact with Singapore's local schools, public schools and international schools. There was a point when the embassy approached him to liaise with the students



of NUS when they were looking for an art instructor for the annual festival. SIS students, who are well known in the student community for their cultural activities, were also involved in the event. "Often when the communities in Singapore had an event they would call us, so we were involved with not just the students but the teachers as well," recalls Pak Alam.

Life took another turn at the embassy for Pak Alam when he was asked by the embassy to enroll for a photography course.


"My ambassador HE Mr Wardana wanted a professional photographer to cover the events the embassy organised. After I learnt the basics, I was tasked to follow him everywhere, and we focused a lot on politicians," he laughs. Thus, Pak Alam gradually came into his own as a proficient and prolific photographer for the embassy. He was then introduced to Apple's Macintosh desktop computer. "I started from zero (experience) with the Mac and taught myself to use it and began doing design work as well. As the embassy held so many events, there was plenty of work designing flyers, posters to banners. Since there was no in-house designer, I was swamped with work from the many departments in the embassy.



"I was also curating collections of pictures for different people who needed them as well as for the embassy website and Facebook page. I helped wherever I can and was happy if the event was a success; that they trusted me and that my help supported their efforts," reflects Pak Alam. Pak Alam's fondest memories of Singapore were that of finding his wife during the period he was in Singapore. He reveals that it was his friends here in Singapore who made him phone his girlfriend's father in Bandung for her hand in marriage. "I was very nervous," he admits. The call ended with her father's non-committal reply. Then an hour later her mother called and asked if he was serious. Two weeks later, they were married. After 14 years of married life, he brought his wife and three boys from Bandung to live with him in the embassy complex.

Future Plans

As he leaves Singapore, Pak Alam plans to work on his family farm cultivating eels back in Bandung. He also intends to use his expertise and experience in photography by setting up a photo studio in his home. Apart from these two projects, he is collaborating with a friend in Singapore to create an app that is related to renovating one's home, gardening and landscaping, among other plans.

Pak Alam admits life was very hard at times but his wife and parents were his strength. His relationship with IndoConnect has meant a lot for him. "It's part of my career; it's part of my life. I will always be connected to it." 



Mr Lee Seow Hiang, CEO of Changi Airport Group (2nd from left) presents Grand Prize winner Ade Iskandar Roni (in red shirt) with a S\$1 million cheque

SECOND INDONESIAN WINS CHANGI'S ONE MILLION \$ PRIZE

Changi Airport crowns 39-year-old Indonesian as its newest millionaire! The annual retail promotion caps another year of record-breaking sales at the airport

It was a million dollar dream come true for Jakarta-based Ade Iskandar Roni as he beat seven other finalists to emerge as the Grand Draw winner of the 2016 'Be a Changi Millionaire' shopping promotion held at Singapore Changi Airport's Terminal 3 on 15 January 2017 to walk away with a cool S\$1 million in cash. He was the second Indonesian to win the prize - the first was in 2014.

All it took to land Ade Iskandar his million-dollar windfall was an Adidas t-shirt that cost S\$50 – the lowest-priced purchase among the eight finalists, and also the minimum spend required to participate in the Millionaire Draw. Ade Iskandar, a procurement personnel in a telecommunications company, had bought the t-shirt as a gift for a friend on his first trip through Changi Airport in October 2016, when he was visiting Singapore for the first time with his best friend.

It was a tightly-contested final as Ade Iskandar had to out-luck his new friends-turned-competitors from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United Arab Emirates in an hour of heart-stopping action, played out in front of a 300-strong 'live' audience.



In an interview with IndoConnect Magazine the newly-minted winner who is a father of five children said, "I feel really blessed that it all turned out like this and urge all to spend more time at Changi Airport. There is so much to see, do and buy at Changi. If I can become a Changi millionaire, then you can too."

The eight finalists went head-to-head in game rounds until it came down to the final two – Indian finalist Animesh Singh and Ade Iskandar. The audience witnessed the extraordinary stroke of luck from Ade Iskandar, who successfully plugged into the millionaire life by fitting a giant travel adaptor into the socket on the podium after a nerve-racking five tries! Breaking down in tears of joy and visibly overwhelmed by the surreal experience, Ade Iskandar gushed, "I'm still

INDONESIA
in the news

shocked, nervous and in disbelief, but incredibly happy. I can't imagine how much money a million Singapore dollars will look like, how big a stack it will be!"

When asked how he would spend his windfall, he said with a big smile on his face, "I want to bring my entire extended family to the Holy Mecca for Umrah first. I would also like to develop a sustainable business that will in turn be able to help my family and friends."

Ade Iskandar added, "I'm going to visit Changi Airport every year from hereon, and check in early to shop!" He also extended an invitation to Singaporeans to visit his hometown Banda Aceh. While currently based in Jakarta he said, "I was born and raised in Banda Aceh. There is a museum called Tsunami Museum located in Banda Aceh, which is a symbolic reminder of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami disaster, as well as an educational center and an emergency disaster shelter in case the area is ever hit by a Tsunami again. Islamic culture has a very big presence in the region, making it one of the most designated Halal holiday destinations. Banda Aceh is a coastal province with many attractive beaches."

Ms Lim Peck Hoon, Executive Vice President of Commercial at CAG said, "We congratulate Ade Iskandar, our seventh Changi Millionaire and thank our passengers for journeying and shopping with us the past year. We are pleased to achieve yet another all-time high for concession sales at Changi Airport, which helps to keep Changi Airport's aeronautical charges competitive. We will continue to make shopping at Changi a fun and rewarding experience for all our travellers."

To participate in this year's Millionaire Draw, passengers and airport visitors alike simply shop or dine at Changi Airport, with a minimum spend of S\$50 in a single receipt. The number of winning chances increases exponentially with the amount spent – a \$500 spend rewards the shopper with 100 chances. The other finalists won S\$5,000 in cash. All enjoyed a three-night hotel stay in Singapore, with return airfare provided for non-Singapore residents. **IC**



STRONG INDONESIAN PRESENCE AT ART STAGE SINGAPORE

Story & photos by Henny Scott

The anchor event of Singapore Art Week 2017, the seventh edition of the fair was held amidst uncertainties in the market



Photo: Foo Yong Han

Art Stage Singapore, which ran from 11 to 15 January at The Sands Expo, Marina Bay Sands reintroduced programmes such as the South East Asia forum (on the theme of capitalism) as well as The Collectors Show. The moves were welcomed by many as art collectors' presence is a key ingredient for successful art fairs. The SE Asia forum was first introduced in 2011 and VIP programmes included an After Party, private brunches for their discerning VIP guests – that were all well attended.

The VIP Brunch was a 'hot' event which was fully booked six weeks ahead of the event and managed to attract many young Indonesian collectors. Nathalia Napitupulu-Thiery (who was featured in Vol 4 no 5 of IndoConnect magazine) hosted the brunch at her private residence in Nassim Road and gave the VIP guest guided tour to her



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private collection of contemporary arts. The event was seen by renowned collectors as a great way to connect with like-minded people to exchange their thoughts, opinions and knowledge. The brunch also featured artists such as Erizal As, the recently re-elected leader of Komunitas Seni Sakato, who shared his insights on his work in Nathalia's collection entitled "Ambitious" which was acquired during his solo exhibition in Singapore last year. Participating artists and gallerists also enjoyed the exchange of dialogue with the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, HE Ngurah Swajaya, who made a surprise visit to the fair during the VIP Preview. Thank you, Bapak and Pensosbud Team for your support. Guests who flew in from Indonesia included art collector Alexander Teja, the owner of Sheraton Grand Jakarta Gandaria City Hotel, who hosted the inaugural Art Stage Jakarta last year. He also attended the Joseph Balestier Awards for the Freedom of Art.

Also seen at the fair included: Ms Amalia Wirjono, architect Cosmas Gozali, Dr Oei Hong Djien, the owner of OHD Museum in Magelang, Dr Wiyu Wahono from Jakarta, Mr Prasajo & Mrs Myra Winarko, Dr Laurentius Lau and wife, Mrs Evie Miranda, Mrs Syenny Setiawan, Mr

(Clockwise from top left):

1. HE Bapak Ngurah Swajaya exchanged dialogue with Guillaume Levy-Lambert who shared the work by artist Mulyana.

2. Lunch in honour of renowned Balinese artist, Mangu Putra, hosted by Jasdeep Sandhu, owner of Gajah Gallery. The exhibition entitled *Between History & The Quotidian* combines the artist's fascination with photographs and his masterful painting techniques. Showing until end February 2017. (From left): Jasdeep Sandhu, Mr Prasajo Winarko, Mangu Putra, Mrs Myra Winarko & Henny Scott.

3. Dr Melani Setiawan in red sarong modeling for NTU CCA show at Gillman Barracks Art After Dark.

4. VIP Brunch with young collector, Nathalia Napitupulu-Thiery, well attended by international art collectors.

5. Entang Wiharso with his *Exotic Land* at Art Stage 2017



3



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Konfir Kabo, the Papadimitriou family from Jakarta was prominently represented by Andreas, Georgius and Maya Sujatmiko and many other leading social, business and political figures of Indonesia.

Other regular guests who flew in include many participating Indonesian artists such as Eddie Hara, Entang Wiharso, Erizal As, FX Harsono, Heri Dono, Indiguerillas, Mangu Putra, Mulyana, Naufal Abshar, Oky Rey Montha and many others.

Returning galleries exhibiting works by Indonesian artists include Arario Gallery, Art Porters Gallery, Can's Gallery (previously known as Cana Gallery), D

Gallerie, Element Art Space, Gajah Gallery, Lawangwangi, Mizuma Gallery, Nadi Gallery, Pearl Lam Galleries, Roh Projects, Srisasanti Syndicate and many others. Arndt Gallery which strongly represents top tier Indonesian artists did not participate as exhibitor for the first time. Results were mixed where some galleries did better than others during these challenging economic times.

They were all made to feel especially welcomed to Art Stage Singapore by the fair organisers, Mr Lorenzo and Mrs Maria Elena Rudolf, at a specially arranged Indonesia Welcome Reception at the fair.


Indonesian artists found strong support among the galleries here such as the Australian gallery, Sullivan+Strumpf which has a presence in Gillman Barrack. The gallery included works by its newly represented artist from Bandung, Irfan Hendrian. Gajah Gallery exhibited works by artists Mangu Putra, Yunizar, Rudi Mantofani and Erizal. The galleries appeared to enjoy healthy sales. Eldwin Pradipta is represented by Lawangwangi (Bandung) and Yeo Workshop presented works by James Alen Abel and Maryanto. 

Photo hotdetik.com / Tia Agnes



Arahmaiani was a finalist for The Joseph Balestier Award for the Freedom of Art 2017

Photo: FB / Naima Morelli



Laila Azra at Dessert Party (Gallery - Element Art Space)



Publicity still of Datang Untuk Kembali at Gillman Barracks

Satellite Events during Singapore Art Week

The events were reportedly well attended and the major highlights included:

- The Joseph Balestier Awards for the Freedom of Arts is held annually at the residence of US Ambassador to Singapore, Mr Kirk Wagar, this year nominees included Arahmaiani (Indonesia) and two artists from Myanmar, Aye Ko and Chaw Ei Thien. The 2017 Award was given to Aye Ko after being nominated for it three times.
- Dessert Party hosted by three galleries located at Raffles Hotel Shopping Arcade which feature works by Laila Azra, Ronald Apriyan and Arkiv Vilmansa.
- The Singapore Art Museum and Benesse Holdings, Inc. partner to spotlight and award Asian artists in the 11th edition of the Benesse Prize. Five artists from Asia who participated in the Singapore Biennale were short-listed including Ade Darmawan from Bandung. The Singapore Biennale which ended is showing until end of February 2017 and incredible body of works by other Indonesian artists include Agan Harahap, Eddy Susanto, Made Djirna, Made Wianta and Tita Rubi have wowed the local and international visitors.
- Lock Route, public art installations curated by Khairuddin Hori at Gillman Barrack selected 15 artists from nine countries include Indonesians, Entang Wiharso and Indiguerillas who are based in Yogyakarta comprising husband and wife duo, Santi Ariestyowanti and Dyatmiko "Miko" Bawono. They are exclusively represented by Mizuma Gallery. The Lock Route was specially commissioned by NTU CCA (Centre for Contemporary Art) for Gillman Barracks Art After Dark featured creative collaboration by fashion designer Lulu Lutfi Labibi and visual artists, Indiguerillas (husband and wife, Miko and Santi) and music director, Ari Wulu who presented *Datang untuk Kembali* (Arrival to Return), a performance presented in the form of fashion show cum procession which imitates *Sekaten*, a central Java traditional ceremony involving festival, and night market to commemorate the observance of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad.

This show was performed by about 20 model-performers, moving along a designated route from the NTU CCA Singapore to Mizuma Gallery. Spotted among the model performers was Dr Melani Setiawan, renowned art patron from Jakarta who is a great supporter of Indonesian contemporary artists for over four decades. Lulu Lutfi Labibi, made waves by reviving the use of *lurik*, a traditional cotton based fabric with stripe patterns, which was incorporated into his designs.

The show attracted a huge crowd of spectators. This contributed greatly towards achieving the highest attendance record of 10,000 visitors to Gillman Barrack! Well done, Indonesians!

NAUFAL ABSHAR: BACK IN SINGAPORE

By Henny Scott

Here for his solo exhibition, he clarifies the concept behind the 'puzzle' of his art work

Born in Bandung 24 years ago, Naufal is a fresh face emerging into the Jakarta and Singapore art scene. The young artist found popularity through his "HAHA" series where he explores the roots and boundaries of humour and laughter.

Trained at the Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore and Goldsmith University of London, Naufal presented his works during the Singapore Art Week with a solo exhibition at the Art Porters Gallery in conjunction with the launch of the gallery's charming brand new space at 64 Spottiswoode Park Rd, Singapore 088652.

Naufal works were also part of the show at Art Porters Gallery Booth B2 at 2017 Art Stage Singapore, alongside other artists represented by the same gallery including Mulyana, Wayan Novi, Artheline and Laure Hatchuel Becker.

IndoConnect spent a few days with this young and charismatic young artist and uncovered his artistic journey in which he received immense support and built up a reputation on a number of important regional platforms, including the Singapore Art Fair 2015, Art Stage Jakarta 2016 and the recently ended Art Stage Singapore 2017.

Keen to practice his French influences with fellow exhibiting French artists for the visitors in his booth during the Fair, as also for the gallerist Guillaume Levy-Lambert, who represents his work, Naufal is ready to explore international opportunities to nurture his artistic career further and hopes to benefit from a different creative environment, resources, mentoring and support through an artists' residency program in Europe. There is no stopping for this young man to move up to the next level in his artistic space.

HS: Naufal... nice to see you again in Singapore and congratulations on your solo show. You are very young. How did you end up being given a solo show with Art Porters Gallery?

NA: Hello Ibu Henny! Nice to see you again and thank you! Well it's quite long story. To begin with I used to work with an art logistics company called Arts In Mind - that's the first time I met Sean (Sean Soh is one of the Directors of Art Porters Gallery). At the time I didn't know that Sean had a gallery. During my working hours he brought me to some galleries

and collectors' houses around Singapore. Seeing amazing artworks either in the gallery or collectors' house inspired my art practice and also motivated me, so I asked Sean to visit my studio to ask him for some feedback about my work. During his visit he invited Guillaume & Mark (co-owners of Art Porters Gallery). They were visiting my studio and we had a great discussion about my art and they loved my art.

So for some time I asked Sean to exhibit my work and they gave me an opportunity to exhibit in Singapore Art Fair at Suntec in 2015, continuing with Art Stage Singapore 2016, Art Stage Jakarta 2016 and until now.

HS: Wow! The discovery of your talent is quite an inspiring story as you were not waiting to be found by a reputable gallery through an art show. You took the initiatives to show them what you do and it takes times for the show eventuated. You are a role model for young people! I hope many more young people work hard to achieve their dreams as things just don't fall out of the sky. Seeing that the launch of their brand new gallery space is featuring your works on a solo exhibition, are you exclusively represented by Art Porters Gallery?

NA: Yes.

HS: Your puzzle-like art is a refreshing idea. I have never seen anyone doing this. Do you mind elaborating your painting process.

NA: Thank you. So the Puzzle Painting concept is inspired by a simple thing which is LEGO. Ever since I was very young I





loved playing with my LEGO set. It is wonderful that we can create our unlimited worlds through this toy. What fascinates me so much is the concept of the LEGO figure, I can swap the head and the body of the character and create a completely different character. For instance the head is a policeman wearing a helmet but the body is a spaceman or a nurse. It is simple, childish and playful but yet it is very interesting in terms of concept and philosophy if we connect to the concept of life.

HS: What is the idea behind the puzzle?

NA: The Puzzle Concept offers the ultimate freedom for the collector to curate-create his own story, because I believe art is universal. By assembling the paintings as pieces of a puzzle, which the audience can mix and choose as they wish, the active viewers are presented with the option of asking questions, seeking the authenticity within each one of them to create his or her own story. Because I believe our life is like a compilation of puzzles, constructed by many stories that build one big story which is life itself. On top of the freedom to curate-create your own story of art, the philosophy behind my work is a reflection on our lives as humans. We are destined to have a kind of life, but we've been given by God a heart and a brain to choose what kind of story of life we live in.


HS: You've really pushed the boundary of creativity with this puzzle-like art. Many people were drawn to it. What are the issues in society you attempted to explore through your work? What are your artistic influences and how do you hope your work will evolve from here?

NA: Most of the issues that I bring to my work are based on our daily activities as human beings, such as love, relationships, lifestyle, power, politics, social issues or even people's life stories that might be trivial but sometimes are very important for us.

Most of my artistic influence is derived from video games, movies, animation movies (Disney cartoons, Pixar movies...), toys, comics and social issues that occur every day. I hope this puzzle concept will give me unlimited opportunities to develop my art practice in term of skill, context, concept and more sophistication. Because the puzzle-painting concept is very open to playing with any story, in the future I have to do more experimentation in creating and collecting art.

HS: It looks like the response to your work was quite positive. You mentioned that you would like to travel and explore Europe to further study or do Artist Residency programs. How do you plan to facilitate that wish. Many artists thrive from the times they spent at Artists in Residency program where meeting like-minded artists leads to new discoveries and creative inspiration.

NA: Yes, I'm planning to have a short residency in my fellow artist friends' place in Madrid and in Ireland, and during my trip I want to explore and see big art events such as Venice Biennale, Documenta, and Art Basel. It is very important to see and also stay in some places to have some interaction with the local artists and maybe I will make some works there too.

HS: Well we wish you all the very best. We look forward to closely following your works from here. 

Naufal Abshar's works are available at Art Porters Gallery on 64 Spottiswoode Park Rd, Singapore.
Please contact happiness@artporters.com
Tel +65 6400 7458

MANGU PUTRA REOPENS

BETWEEN HISTORY & THE QUOTIDIAN *By Henny Scott*

The solo exhibition by the highly regarded Balinese artist was brought back by popular demand during the Singapore Art Week!



Photos: Artist & Gajah Gallery



It's not often done but Mangu Putra's 'Between History and The Quotidian' exhibition was originally held between 25 November to 11 December last year but was reopened again during the 2017 Singapore Art Week in January 2017.

The 11 drawings show his masterful skill and attention to fine details to create hyper-realist paintings exploring the broader social, historical and political landscape of Bali. The result of a decade long study and rediscovery of the Balinese Puputan War, Mangu Putra digs deep into archival footage of Dutch intervention in Bali in the early 1900s. The Puputan War is an integral part of Balinese culture with strong reference to a mass ritual suicide in preference to facing the humiliation of surrender. Although the paintings on this war theme display conflicts of power, fighting for independence, military violence, they strongly retain the character of his works: calm and luminous with muted lighting. Prof. Adrian Vickers and Jim Supangkat contributed with essays in the catalogue.

In this exhibition, Mangu combines his fascination with photographs and his masterful painting technique, which translates into the hyper-realist details of his subject, according to Gajah Gallery owner, Mr. Jasdeep Sandhu.

This is the second solo exhibition by the same artist at Gajah Gallery. The first one was proudly presented in 2005 entitled *Spiritual Landscaped*, a testament of the artist's offering of gratitude to his homeland of Bali.

Born in Selat Sangeh, Bali on May 11, 1963, like many modern and contemporary artists in Indonesia, Mangu Putra, also known as Agung Mangu Putra was educated at Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI), the country's premier art school. Having majored in Design and Visual Communication, Mangu previously worked as a graphic designer until 1997 when he decided to change direction in his career to pursue a career as a painter, whereby his works initially focused on nature and the environment of Bali.

Although I was already familiar with the works of Mangu Putra, I only met him in 2016 in the grand residence of his major patron,



Bapak Prasodjo and Ibu Myra Winarko who generously hosted a reception and shared their collection to international visitors who were in town in conjunction with the inaugural Art Stage Jakarta.

Specially curated for this reception, the works by Mangu Putra and Entang Wiharso stood out amongst other works shown. I had the opportunity to exchange pleasantries and contact details with Mangu Putra shortly after we were introduced by Pak Pras (Mr Prasodjo Winarko) during which the artist clearly exhibited a down-to-earth and pleasant demeanour despite being the star artist at the reception.

Mangu Putra was in town briefly last week to reopen his exhibition and participated at Art Stage Singapore; he was seen visiting the Fair accompanied by his son. As it turned out he has shared his canvases with the second generation of artists, with his son, Jemana Murti, pursues art study at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). A strategic choice deliberated by Mangu Putra to ensure his talented son has greater international exposure to a more vibrant art scene of Singapore and creative opportunities to develop his career as an international painter.

Those who have seen 'Between History and The Quotidian' exhibition can anticipate the continuation of this exhibition as Mangu Putra works on more pieces for his next show in Jakarta later this year.



Three Indonesian directors made it to the list of award winners at the 27th Singapore International Film Festival's (SGIFF) Silver Screen Awards. Tackling social themes, these films have been heralded as the 'new voices' of Indonesian cinema. Indoconnect speaks to Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo, whose directorial debut film, *Turah*, recieved the Special Mention at the Asian Feature Film Competititon

SGIFF SILVER SCREEN AWARDS: RECOGNISING 'NEW VOICES' OF INDONESIAN FILMS *by Prionka Ray*

The Silver Screen Awards, an integral part of Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), was held on 3 December 2016 at Marina Bay Sands. Presented at this glittering ceremony were 14 awards to well deserving contestants. Among the award winners were the Indonesian directors Wregas Bhanuteja, Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo and Bayu Prihantoro Filemon. The jury head for the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition was Indonesian producer Mira Lesmana, who had revitalised Indonesia's film industry in the early 2000s and heightened the appeal of local films amongst Indonesia's youth. Other jury members included Programming Director of the Hawaii International Film Festival Anderson Le and Singapore filmmaker Bertrand Lee.



(Top left): Director Wicksono Wisnu Legowo. (Above): A still from *Turah* (Source: 27th SGIFF)

In the last few years, Asian film industries have created a base from which to expand globally and find new avenues and diverse audiences for the movies in the region. Riding on this trend, the Indonesian film industry also expanded to include movies that moved away from the conventional topics, and instead tackled themes such as religion, race and politics - once considered controversial. These newer movies, not only found appreciative audiences but also gained recognitions at many award ceremonies. This was reiterated at the Silver Screen Awards 2016, where the Indonesian filmmakers tackling social themes made it to the award winning list. These directors were, Wregas Bhanuteja, who won the Best Short Film of the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition with his film, *In the Year of Monkey* (Prenjak), director Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo, whose film *Turah* was given Special Mention in the Asian Feature Film Competititon director, Bayu Prihantoro Filemon, whose directorial debut, *On the Origin of Fear*, received Special Mention in the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition.



Bayu Prihantoro Filemon, Director of *On the Origin of Fear* (middle)

All three directors explored social themes in their films and all three movies were inspired or influenced by real events or characters. These filmmakers join the list of 'newer voices' bringing different perspectives and compelling storytelling to Indonesian films. According to Yuni Hadi, Executive Director of SGIFF, the festival aims to recognise both up-and-coming filmmakers as well as established names in Asian cinema. This trend was visible at the Awards as well where two Indonesian directorial debuts were recognised. Indoconnect speaks to director, Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo on what it is means to receive an award for a debut film and the reason behind making a movie with a social theme.

Q. What does this award mean to you and does it change the way people look at your work?

WWL: Receiving an award for the first feature film production that I did, encouraged me to stay with this passion of mine. Apart from that, I love this feeling. Receiving this award felt like the love of my life accepted my marriage proposal. I'm not so sure that by accepting this award, people will start to see my creations as something different; however, this award has changed the way I perceive my work.

Q. *Turah* is a portrayal of society and the divisions within it. What made you choose this theme?

WWL: When I first arrived at Kampung Tirang, the location of the film *Turah*, I felt like a corpse. I live very close to the location, a mere 3 kilometres away, however I was never aware that such living conditions still existed so close to my home. It was so far away from what the media (newspapers, magazines and television) had portrayed a life should be. In Kampung Tirang, people lived with just the basics, life without all the luxuries of things such as perfumes, and many other luxuries. People lived here everyday trying to make ends meet and what was I so busy doing? Trying to recreate the recipe to one of my favourite meals? So what went wrong?

Q. Is there any changing trend in the Indonesian film industry?

Trends in themes I feel haven't changed much at all. What I feel has changed the most is the way that movies are promoted. It is about how to make sure the films that are made get to the target audience they were created for and how each production house is always competing against each other to find the best way to promote their films and to generate the best profits. 📺

Synopsis

Directed by Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo
Special Mention (Asian Feature Film Competition)

Wicaksono's directorial debut *Turah* received Special Mention in the Asian Feature Film Competition. Tackling yet another social theme, the film chose to expose the corruption and hypocrisy inherent in society through the microcosm of a small village. Inspired by the lives of the inhabitants from a village in Tegal, Central Java, the film paints an authentic picture of the struggles of the lower class amidst corruption and indifference from the privileged upper class.

Synopsis

On the Origin of Fear

Directed by Bayu Prihantoro Filemon,
Special Mention, SEA Short Film.

A self-taught filmmaker and alumnus of Asian Film Academy, Bayu Prihantoro Filemon works primarily as a cinematographer and *On the Origin of Fear* is his directorial debut. The movie was given Special Mention by the jury in the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition.

It tells a story that is set in an audio recording studio, where the director pushes a soldier to the limit by taking on the roles of both the victim and the aggressor in a scripted anti-Communist propaganda campaign recording. The film revolves around an existential exploration of the evils of humanity in an environment that is quite unusual.

Synopsis

In the Year of Monkey (Prenjak)

Directed by Wregas Bhanuteja
Best Short Film of the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition



Director Wregas Bhanuteja with the cast

Jakarta-born Bhanuteja studied at the film school at the Jakarta Institute of the Arts, and directed his first short film, *Senyawa* on 16mm in 2011. His awarded film in 2016, *In the Year of Monkey (Prenjak)* has been described by the jury as a "bold yet sensitive" story, and it has not only won the Best Short Film of the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition at the Silver Screen Awards, but has also garnered the Leica Cine Discovery Prize at the Cannes Film Festival earlier in the year.

The film tells the story of protagonist Diah, who in her desperation for financial help, sells matchsticks to her friend for 10,000 rupiahs and in return, allows him to see her private parts. The story is based on women who sold matches in Indonesia in the 1980s, and its main character is inspired by a real person. The film is a strong example of the dynamic new voices in Indonesian cinema that draw attention to social themes, in this case, social inequality.

Kamila

CAME, SANG, PLAYED & CONQUERED!



IndoConnect talked to KAMILA, the violin-singing trio, who rocked the stage at last year's Indonesian Embassy's Diplomatic Reception in Singapore. They made a huge impact with their beautiful renditions and we hope this profile will nudge you to check out the range of their music!

Kamila is made up of Ava Victoria, Mia Ismi Halida and Ana Achjuman. Mia is of Banten-descent but was brought up in Bogor, West Java. She proudly shared that, "Bogor is near Jakarta and is usually referred to as the city of rain. Ava and Ana are 'mixed' - Sundanese and Javanese-descent, but were born and brought up in Jakarta." Mia and Ava are making a full-time career out of music with Mia having her own solo projects outside of Kamila - she is active in the area of cultural events. As for Ava, she has her own orchestra and does music arrangements on a regular basis. Ana is doing both music and her engineering side job as a freelancer.

Ava and Ana are sisters and they were introduced to the violin by their parents when they were young. They recalled, "Though we struggled learning the instrument, we fell in love with it afterwards. Mia also practiced violin at a young age. We are just trying to explore our capabilities, perform with the instruments we love, and express our feelings. There is no specific group that we are trying to emulate (there is no group at the moment that sings and plays the violin as a specialty), though we may have our own role models."

There is no doubt the girls are driven by hard work and ambition to make it in life. One immediate objective they share coming up soon is the release of their music singles and,

hopefully, first album. According to them, “The genre or sound that we are going for is Pop EDM - pop electronic music. We are trying to bring in new sounds with our violins and voices.”


IndoConnect asked the ladies what and whom are the major influences in their life as well as their music. According to Ana, “The major influence in my life is my father because he is brilliant, smart, and determined to succeed in everything he does. As for music, I don’t have any specific major influence since I admire most of the artists in the industry for their individuality and their own specific work. But if I have to choose one person, I would go for J.P. Bluey Maunick. He has always been my influence in making music because his work has a distinctive sound and I can almost recognize it anywhere even with different singers.”

For Ava, “For all the beautiful things that happened in my musical career, I owed them to my mother. She’s the biggest influence in my life for being a strong and independent woman. Without her persistence, I could not have achieved anything in my music career. As for music, in my eyes everyone is fighting for their passion and therefore I respect everyone who pursues their passion.”

Finally, Mia shared how, “My major influence in music since I was a kid has been Michael Jackson. He gave his all when working on his music projects and his songs were amazing. In terms of violin, Sharon “The Corrs” was the one who made me want to study more about violin. I love how her Irish background is reflected in her way of playing the violin. As for Art in general, I always love to see any kind of perspective from each artist, because their diversity makes more variation for my reference.”

The opportunity to perform in Singapore came about when Mia was doing a cultural project in Singapore with the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism. That was when the Indonesian Embassy here asked her to bring the Kamila trio to perform and celebrate Indonesia National Day there in Singapore. Mia happily remembered, “Naturally, Kamila was very excited. We talked to the embassy about our concept and also brainstormed about the songs we wanted to perform. They wanted a grand but fun performance; they asked us to sing several international top 40s, old songs, and also traditional Indonesian songs (that we presented with a modern musical arrangement). They wanted us to let the international audience know that we, Indonesian musicians, also Indonesian women, are able to perform such a variety of music. We then proved it by showing them how we can play and sing not only traditional numbers but also international songs. We were so happy that the audience enjoyed the night, sang along and serenaded with us. And, of course, we hope we will have another chance to perform in Singapore again!”

It’s undeniable Kamila made a great impression in Singapore last year, projecting a unique image and sound with a great potential for success. Apart from the Diplomatic Reception in Singapore, there were other major performance highlights, one of the most memorable Mia says was when, “We performed in a concert last October called ‘Tanda Mata Glenn Fredly untuk Ruth Sahanya’. We collaborated with so many talented artists of different generations and the concert’s ambience was amazing. Performing at the Indonesian embassy in Singapore was also one of our favorite performances as the crowd was very engaging. Not only that, we also got the chance to share with an international audience – practically the whole diplomatic corp in Singapore – more about Indonesian musical performance.”

The girls have a mature and grounded outlook on life as Mia shared how they felt that success in the music field means, “We are able to stay true to ourselves and be honest in all the work we do. We will deem ourselves successful when we are able to spread the message that we are trying to convey to the public via our music and make people happy or feel what we feel just by listening to our music!” Kamila has released original music singles since last October and plans to release an album this year. Meanwhile, fans or anyone who would like to listen to them can do so via iTunes, Spotify, Amazon music, and Youtube (they have their own Youtube Channel - Kamila Official). 



(From left): Ava Victoria, Mia Ismi Halida & Ana Achjuman



Dinata (right and above) with HE Ngurah Swajaya and wife at the Opening Night of Three Sassy Sisters

NIA DINATA: BREAKING THE STEREOTYPES

by Prionka Ray

Director, Nia Dinata's film *Three Sassy Sisters* was chosen for a special screening at the SGIFF. She speaks to Indoconnect on the challenges of adapting famous classics, portraying social issues through filmmaking and on breaking the stereotypes of women in cinema



Source: Michael Ozaki

Award-winning Indonesian film director, Nurkurniati Aisyah Dewi, also known as Nia Dinata, enjoys making films that mirror or even satirise society. In doing so, Dinata has courted both fame and controversy. Her fame began with her second feature film, *The Gathering* (2003), which did well both commercially and critically, and won six major awards at the Indonesian Film Festival. The film also garnered controversy since it was the first Indonesian film, featuring a homosexual theme.

Dinata has, since, written, produced and directed many other films, two of which, *The Courtesan* (2002) and *Love For Share* (2006), were submissions to the Academy Awards under the Best Foreign Language Film category. Her latest, *Three Sassy Sisters*, was chosen for special screening at the 27th Singapore International Film Festival on 28th November. A film on women empowerment, *Three Sassy Sisters* manages to break quite a few traditional stereotypes of women. According to Dinata, "society puts us in boxes," and

therefore, she believes that a more honest portrayal is needed to break these stereotypes.

Is it a woman's perspective or the Indonesian sensibilities that mark your films more?

ND: I identify as both, a woman filmmaker and an Indonesian filmmaker, because I am proud being born as woman and I am a proud Indonesian as well.

Do you feel films are a reflection of the society that we live in and if yes, do you feel a responsibility to bring out a pertinent issue though your films?

ND: Absolutely. A film is the voice of the maker/director/writer/producer. To me, it is my form of reflection, personal views and a medium to express my concerns. I don't feel any responsibility to bring out the issues because responsibility is such a serious word. I feel a natural instinct to convey that voice instead.

Are the films with strong social messages commercially viable or is there a conflict between the two?

ND: It's not always commercially viable. I have weaknesses in projecting commercial outcome.

Your movies are known for tackling subjects that are considered controversial and your movie, *The Gathering* (2003), was the first Indonesian film to have featured a homosexual theme. Do you think the reaction of the audience to these subjects are changing slowly?

ND: I feel that today a film like *The Gathering*, will not pass censorship in our country. Indonesia is changing. We used to be pretty open minded and tolerant back in early 2000 to 2007. The years after that, the fanatic religious group surfaced and the government has not been firm enough to keep Indonesia's tolerance level. That's why the public is confused and they resort to religion as their only saviour. Likewise, social media makes it possible

“...out of my love for the characters and the film, the challenges turn to joy. Indonesia was more open minded in the 50s and I know that many from the silent majority are still living with that much open mindedness.”

- Dinata on the challenges of adapting the 1950s much-loved classic Tiga Dara



Scene from Three Sassy Sisters and (inset) still from the original 1956 Tiga Dara (Source: 27th SGIFF)

for the radical conservative to patronize the public. However, I believe our silent majority are still pretty moderate.

The movie, *Three Sassy Sisters*, is a modern adaptation of a 1950s classic film. Is it challenging in any way, to reimagine something that is already established and loved?

ND: It is very challenging. I grew up watching the film in our National TV in the late 70s with my grandma. The TV station re-run it a lot. But, out of my love for the characters and the film, the challenges turn to joy. Indonesia was more open minded in the 50s and I know that many from the silent majority are still living with that much open mindedness.

What is the biggest difference between the original sisters of *Tiga Dara* and the three sisters of your film?

ND: The biggest difference is the sisters in my film are not domesticated.

In the 50s Indonesia was a tolerant nation, but the view of women was still limited to certain tasks and responsibilities inside the home. The modern sisters in my

movie possess passion and ambition to live according to their true spirit.

There's a strong theme of women empowerment in *Three Sassy Sisters*, and yet there are proud feminine features. How do you react to the stereotypical expectation that strong women can't be feminine as well?

ND: I have faced this notion that strong women can't be feminine even in my earlier working environment as an assistant director back in the day. I think society put us in boxes. You are either a feminine airhead or a smart androgynous. I don't believe in classification; you can be whatever you are in whatever form you choose. I embrace women's feminine traits.

Do you think there is enough women representation in Indonesian films? How important is it for women to be involved, and have a stronger voice, especially in projects that portray women issues and problems?

ND: There is more women representation in Indonesian films now compared to decades ago. However, there is still not

enough representation of 'real women' that can challenge the patriarchal society in our films. I think it is important for both women and men director/filmmakers to have an alternative perspective about 3 women characterization in films. We need more honest portrayal and more courage to break the stereotypes.

Is it more difficult to create female characters that are flawed as compared to their male counterparts? Does the audience expect a traditionally 'good' woman to be flawless?

ND: Honestly, it has not been easy to create female protagonists that are flawed. The Indonesian society is so used to seeing the 'good' women as flawless superwomen. Even in *Three Sassy Sisters*, the general public loved Bebe's character (the youngest sister) until they found out the ending of the film. Even our censorship board had difficulties in accepting the ending of the film. That is why, I feel more and more certain that making fun of ourselves in a film is the mark of civilisation. With the evidence of growing conservatism in my country, I believe that we are definitely at a major crossroad. **IC**

FOREIGN PROPERTY WATCH CHARMING CHATEAU

by Foo Yong Han



A chateau is a manor house in medieval Europe for the nobility and if you wonder if you too, could live like a king you don't have to look far. Nearer home is 'The Chateau' in Iskander Malaysia

The Chateau is part of Eco Botanic, a development integrating luxury homes with a pristine lake in the shape of a butterfly, scenic gardens and parks, exquisitely-fashioned steel sculptures, luxuriant greenery and facilities such as a fitness pavilion and a pool at the resident-exclusive Eco Botanic Club House. There is also a jogging trail for those who want to work their lungs.

Eco Botanic has been developed by EcoWorld, a recognised brand in the Malaysian property market specialising in new townships, integrated commercial developments, luxury high-rise apartments and green business parks.

'The Chateau' is the crown jewel of Eco Botanic, consisting of superlinked (or terraced) houses and semi-detached houses with generous living space ranging from 2,500 sq ft to 3,300 sq ft. The architecture of the houses is inspired by European colonial-era manors and this design gives the houses in 'The Chateau' an aura of regality.

If you are a homeowner or property investor looking for a luxurious abode at competitive prices, 'The Chateau' at Eco Botanic is a viable choice with a generous dash of class and charm. ©



All above are artist impressions of the development

Homeowner packages feature (from top to bottom):

1. *The Sandringham (43' x 80')*
2. *The Laeken (28' x 75')*
3. *The Grassten (26' x 75')*

PROPnex: PRIVATE HOME SALES (INCLUDING ECs) HIGHEST IN 2016

2016 was a record year for sales of a total number of 12,408 new homes, including Executive Condominium (ECs) compared Y-O-Y with 10,199 units transacted in 2015 and 9,026 units in 2014. This is an estimated 21.6 % increase from 2015 and EC sales were the driving force, comprising a total of 32.6 % of the total sales figure for 2016.

A more in-depth analysis showed developers sold a total of 580 units (including ECs) in December - down from the 1,110 units sold in November 2016. The number of units launched was also lower at 183 - compared to 1,363 in the previous month (inclusive ECs) as no major launches was introduced in the market.



Source: solacresc-cek.com

“As predicted, the overall 12,408 total private new residential homes that are transacted, showed the market confidence in new projects in 2016. In fact, the incremental growth in numbers in the Core Central Region this year indicate that today’s price points of 20 to 25% cheaper compared to the previous peaks for some development as developers had to clear their stocks by dangling incentives to avoid the extension fee. This contributed to around 67.2% spike in the number of units transacted in the Core Central Region,” said Mr Ismail Gafoor, PropNex Realty CEO.



Under the Residential Property Act, developers issued with a QC upon buying private residential land must finish building the project within five years of acquiring the site and sell all units within two years of obtaining a temporary occupation permit. Failing that, the developer pays extension charges pro-rated to the proportion of unsold units. Thus, in a bid to move units, more property developers have adopted aggressive marketing campaigns, attractive financial packages such as deferred payment schemes in shifting unsold apartments. (Source: URA, PropNex research).

For December 2016, Outside Central Region (OCR) accounted for the bulk of private home sales with 444 units sold (or 77 per cent) with the balance in the Rest of Core Central Region (RCR) and Core Central Region (CCR). However, comparing Y-O-Y, activities have picked up from 431 units sold in 2015 in CCR while 2016 saw 721 units exchanged hands in 2016

(Top left & above): Artist impressions of the Sol Acres Executive Condominium (EC) development

ECs were the chart-topping projects in December (see table below) and contributed to the robust activities in 2016, largely due to the near completion of these projects last year. HDB upgraders are motivated to snap up the units of their choice, and move in without much delay.

With the existing stocks and with some good new launches (with excellent location) expected in 2017, Mr Ismail predicts that the new private home sales for 2017 is likely to remain similar to 2016 with approximate 12,000 units (including ECs) to be sold.

Mr Ismail notes that there are still several issues plaguing the private residential market namely; the mounting supply of homes amid the on-going global economic, political uncertainties and the impending interest rate hikes that will affect buying sentiments. There is also an inertia to commitment as buyers remain on the sidelines whilst anticipating further price declines. Developers will continue to act with caution – taking a slow and deliberate approach in launching their projects, as well as having a competitive pricing strategy to further entice buyers.

Project Name	Region	Units sold	Median price (\$psf)
Sol Acres EC	OCR	66	\$789
The Terrace EC	OCR	33	\$790
The Santorini	OCR	26	\$1,047
Queen's Peak	RCR	25	\$1,652
Parc Riviera	OCR	22	\$1,240

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The Singapore Sports School is a specialised, Independent School and is the only educational institution in the country that grooms students as not only athletes who can represent their country on the world stage in sports but also academically competent professionals



The Goal

Inaugurated on 2 April 2004 by the second prime minister of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, the Singapore Sports School's programmes are calibrated to develop student-athletes so they can realise their full potential based on Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles, while acknowledging their academic aspirations and drive to build character. The Sports School's team of expert coaches is supported by sport scientists to provide optimal training and competition for student-athletes founded on the principles of LTAD.

Lifelong Involvement

The LTAD framework is widely identified as the optimal sport development model for student-athletes. LTAD offers a pragmatic and scientific approach where a systematic, integrated system is built around developing student-athletes and identifying appropriate levels of competition at each stage. The Sports School believes that the athlete-centred, coach-driven and administration-supported approach in an LTAD model will help develop a lifelong involvement of student-athletes in physical activity and sport participation, as well as produce future champions.

The LTAD model in the Sports School comprises three key stages (Learn

to Train, Train to Train and Train to Compete) to cater to the needs of the student-athletes aged 13 to 18 years. Key principles of this model include:

- Developmental age (maturity), rather than chronological age is used in training/ competition planning;
- Fundamental movement skills are viewed as the building blocks for sport-specific movement patterns;
- Training load and competition is balanced to prevent injuries and burn-out; and
- Athletes and coaches are given the platform to fulfill their potential and remain involved in sports.

The Programme

Aspiring student-athletes who enroll in Singapore Sports School can either choose the Academy or Individual Programme. While all student-athletes in the Academy and Individual Programmes are entitled to the flexible yet rigorous education programme (progressing through the equivalent of secondary school education and then on to diploma studies), given the option to board on campus, and receive sport medicine, sport science and athlete life management support from the National Youth Sports Institute (NYSI) located on campus grounds, only those in the



Academy Programme will receive sports coaching from the Sports School. Those who choose the Individual Programme will get their sports coaching from their respective National Sports Associations for their sport training plans.

The Academy Programme which the Sports School runs for student-athletes are for Badminton, Bowling, Fencing Football, Netball, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis and Track and Field while the Individual Programme for student-athletes covers Archery, Diving, Golf, Gymnastics, Pencak Silat, Sailing, Taekwondo, Tennis, Triathlon, Water Skiing and Wushu as well as other sports not under the Academy Programme.

The Trainers

The team of sports staff in the Sports School has experience at all levels of sport, through the talent development stages to youth competitions such as the Thailand Sports School Games, Asian Youth Games and Youth Olympic Games to senior elite international competitions such as Southeast Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Paralympic Games and Olympic Games.

The Success

The Sports School has raised the bar in the Singapore sporting scene and continues to be the pipeline for the national teams. In the last 11 years, the school has produced 355 national athletes who have won medals not only at

youth games, Asian Youth Games and Youth Olympic Games but also at senior level including gold medals at South-east Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and sport-specific World Championships. Sports School has also produced four Olympians who represented Singapore at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and London 2012 Olympic Games.

While the Singapore Sports School is predominantly for Singaporean student-athletes, international students who find the Sports School a credible institution to facilitate their budding sporting career and academic development can visit <https://www.sportsschool.edu.sg/admissions/admission-for-international-students> for more details. 



Nov 2016 IBDP Exam Results: Sports School Hits Perfect 45

Singapore Sports School's second cohort of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme student-athletes turned out top-notch results in the November 2016 Examinations. Sabrina Chau Shu Ning was Sports School's top scorer, receiving a "perfect" result slip of 45 points on 5 January 2017. The golfer overcame the odds in the 2016 year-end examinations to garner top scores in all subjects. Having entered Sports School as an academically-average student-athlete, Sabrina, who had the lowest PSLE T-Score amongst her 13 other classmates, outperformed them in the rigorous programme.

Nine of the 14 who sat for the examinations scored 42 points and above. Including two student-athletes - Natalie Chen Mei Qing (Synchronised Swimming) and Avelyn Leong Kit Yan (Netball) - who took the May 2016 Examinations, Sports School's average is 41 points.

"Singapore Sports School is delighted with the excellent results. Our student-athletes and teachers worked very hard to show that it is possible to combine regular sports training and academic studies. They have proven that last year's stellar performance was not a one-off," said Principal Tan Teck Hock.

IS IT BETTER TO GO TO A 'SMALL' SCHOOL?

A small school provides a nurturing, inclusive and empowering learning experience for many students. ISS International School catches up with students and parents to find out what they appreciate about being part of a small school.

1

Small Class Size

The first obvious advantage is the small size of the classes. Students benefit from the close interaction with teachers, made possible only by keeping a low student-to-teacher ratio. Class ratios at ISS International School can be as low as eight students to one teacher at high school, 15 students to one teacher at middle school and 18 students to one teacher at elementary school.

"It's a lot easier to make appointments with teachers as they have more time for you," Ashmitha, a student from Southeast Asia, describes. "As a result of the relationship you develop with them, they care a lot more about your comfort level with

the subject and with you as a person."

With such personalised attention, students are less likely to feel lost or unnoticed, which can happen in a large student body. Instead, they will be valued and nurtured as individuals under the watchful care of their teachers.



2



Customised Learning Journeys

With more focus on students as unique individuals, a small school is able to customise the learning journeys according to the needs and interests of its students. The close and authentic student-teacher interaction – a successful formula for ISS International School – enables the delivery of an education centred on students' needs, to give students the best chance to realise their potential.

The progress of a student's learning journey – including their interests, strengths and weaknesses, actions and behaviours – are all tracked frequently to influence the way the school plans and delivers its curriculum to help students excel. This bespoke approach extends to language support to help non-native English-speaking students acquire English language skills, as well as other learning needs and extension work that students may require, in order to thrive academically in the school curriculum.

As Camille, a student from Europe, shares: "Of the five schools I have attended in two countries, I see a difference at ISS International School. It has a diverse range of classes and activities to accommodate different learner profiles. The teachers are always willing to help after school and between classes. I have known a teacher since Middle School and she still offers support to me."

3

Passion in Teaching

The close student-teacher bonds do not only benefit the students' learning and well-being at a small school. They also add to the sense of job fulfilment that the faculty and staff members experience, which in turn fuels their passion to shape the best learning experience for students.

Within a small school, faculty members are better able to form a close-knit, informal and supportive community while receiving more opportunities for professional training to improve their craft. One of the teachers at ISS International School shares that "we feel appreciated for the work done, compared to what I had experienced in my other teaching assignments. As a result, I feel fulfilled that my work is recognised and this gives a further boost to my passion to teach."

At ISS International School, the passion is well-reflected in the teachers' willingness to innovate in their teaching methodologies, to go beyond the call of duty to support students and to build life-long friendships with students. As Ashmitha observes: "The teachers are very passionate about their subjects and their teaching. They have been carefully selected to fit the requirements and the environment of the school. And yes, I can see that it is reflected in their zeal to educate their students. I can honestly say that I genuinely enjoy the majority of my classes because of the incredible support I have received from my teachers in those subjects."



4

Big Fish, Small Pond

A small school is still able to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular and leadership activities to complement the academic subjects and holistically nurture the students' personal development. But the difference is that there are more opportunities for students to get involved.

"A small school has the advantage of allowing children



greater participation, especially in the leadership positions," observes Ai Hoon, a parent from the United States. "There are also more opportunities for them to represent the school in different events."

Some students also share that it is much easier to take part in different sports. Small schools provide opportunities for beginners to learn the sport, instead of just choosing the best athletes to play.

5

Close-Knit Community

Finally, a small school is able to provide a safe and nurturing environment where faculty and staff know the students by name. They are thus able to care for the students' well-being and address any bullying or emotional problems in a timely manner if the need arises.

At ISS International School, the close-knit community extends to including the parents of students. Involving the parents is integral to the students' progress. In addition to receiving regular updates from the school, parents are frequently seen participating at student events.

While students appreciate the 'family' feel of the school, Malin, a parent from Europe, notes that the warm welcome received gave her a very good first impression of ISS Interna-



tional School. She says: "The administrative staff members were very friendly and generous with their time in answering all our questions. They took great care in sorting out everything we needed, and this made us feel very welcome. We felt certain our children would feel at home."



If you would like to find out more about our IB School (KI to GI2) curriculum

Please write to admissions@iss.edu.sg

or call **6653 2973**.

Click [here](#) to visit ISS's official website.



TOP INDONESIAN STUDENTS IN S'PORE

TISIS: KATHERINE'S CHOICE

Katherine Erika topped her 'A' levels results in Indonesia and shares why she and her parents (both PhD degree holders) chose Singapore to further her studies

"I was from Jakarta and I came to Singapore because my parents felt they couldn't be too far from their kids, so the options we had were either continuing our studies in Singapore or Indonesia. As I was accepted in NUS, I chose Singapore for sure."

My parents are from Surabaya and both have a PhD degree; in fact, my father has two; he's an entrepreneur and a professor (that is why he is very strict about our education), while my mother is a housewife. They live in Jakarta but they come to Singapore almost every month.

I studied at St. Ursula Jakarta, from kindergarten to junior high school and then I moved to SMAK 1 BPK Penabur for high school, taking the KBI stream (Kelas Berstandar Internasional or Internationally Standardized Class), which means we took both national and A-level exams.

Junior high school was the first time I didn't take my grades for granted, maybe because I followed my sister's footsteps as she performed very well academically. However, as I entered high school I sort of lost my motivation and got distracted by reading old serial stories and questioning the importance of my studies, which harmed my grades a lot and alarmed everyone. Approaching the date of the A-level exam I was afraid about my future prospects and decided to study very hard. That short moment pretty much saved my future.

I chose Singapore because it is convenient and close to Indonesia, but mainly because this is the only overseas country my parents allowed me to go to.

I'm in my second year studying Industrial and Systems Engineering. One

thing I treasure most about my course is that it introduced me to *systems thinking*; in short how to bring together the various factors that affect a condition. This is very useful and I feel it is applicable to any area in our lives.

I find mainly two challenges here. Firstly, being a direct student from Indonesia (not attending junior college in Singapore), I am not accustomed to the distinct English that Singaporeans have. Although I found no problem with written English, I was not used to use it verbally. It became a barrier to interact with the locals. As I needed to maintain my social life so as to not be limited by nationality, I decided to join a club where there were no Indonesians and I think that has helped my English a lot. Secondly, I feel that the bell curve grading system is a bit cruel. Besides making it harder to score, peer competition will be more apparent.

As of now, I haven't decided about what profession I want to be in, so I'll try different possibilities with an open mind by taking internships during the holidays.


Fast-paced lifestyle

Many people say Singapore's fast-paced lifestyle bother them, but I have no problem at all with that, I like it instead. Basically I didn't really have any massive culture shock. I do notice however that Singaporeans are generally more liberal than Indonesians. One thing I like about Singapore is that I feel racial harmony is well maintained.

Two years ago I joined NUANSA (National University of Singapore Indonesian Students Cultural Club) as a member of the lighting division. I forged good bonds with my fellow team members and had a great time, even having a bit of PPS (post-production



"As of now, I haven't decided about what profession I want to be in, so I'll try different possibilities with an open mind by taking internships during the holidays"

syndrome, feeling very sad when it was over). Since I have an interest in stories and books, I decided to apply for the scriptwriter role for this year's NUANSA. At first I felt inadequate, thinking my writing skills were not so great, but then as long as there is a will and serious intention, everything is fine. Other than NUANSA, I also joined Indonesian Catholic Community (ICy) last year, serving as its secretary and cell group vice-leader, and this year as a co-cell group leader. I met most of my close friends through this society and felt very grateful for it." 

KEBAYA KING



Ferry Sunarto

He has made the traditional kebaya ultra chic and contemporary for today's Indonesian women

Ferry Sunarto's fashion journey began in 1995 when he won the second place at Lomba Perancang Mode. The graduate from Futura Fashion Centre and Taipei Fashion School, got the attention of the fashion world with his distinctive touch that has become his signature style.

The Ferry Sunarto Kebaya is a unique combination of modern and traditional cultural identity. He said, "I started my career in fashion when I won first runner-up during the national Indonesia Fashion competition. After the competition, I worked as a part timer in a garment factory and, in addition, I took private orders from my clients. Armed with this experience, I then decided to spread my wings and open my own label - Ferry Sunarto - in 1998."



"Inspiration occurs in our daily life. That's what my goal is to always keep my Indonesia kebaya name ringing, because I know what sacrifices Indonesia went through for me."



Ferry makes every effort to reflect tradition and culture in all his collections. Every kebaya is designed in detail and his collections more often than not feature pastel colours, embroidery and delicate embellishments all designed on one piece of fabric beautifully. The objective is not only to look beautiful while wearing it but the pleats, ruffles and drapery frames the figure and beauty of a woman very nicely.

Inspired by Indonesian Culture

Ferry Sunarto has been aiming to present Indonesian traditions in a modern way so that people from around the world may adopt this cultural dress and choose to wear it on special occasions just like a Kimono and Cheongsam. When asked about what influenced and inspired this in his approach, he explained, “The main influence of my designs comes from Indonesian culture. Indonesian culture is rich with so many islands, peoples and materials. The kebaya grew from this diversity of Indonesia’s characteristics into a national clothing icon. However, to me, kebaya isn’t just a national clothing icon it also unites the nation. This interesting fact makes it my source of inspiration.”

Ferry has in the past, also expressed what motivates his creativity by maintaining that: “Inspiration occurs in our daily life. That’s is what my goal is to always keep my Indonesia kebaya name ringing, because I know what sacrifices Indonesia went through for me.”

Targeting the ‘Bold Woman’

The modern kebayas designed by him are especially targeting the “bold woman”, who likes to wear modern dresses but have to follow cultural restrictions. It is now also a well-accepted attire worn by famous Indonesian Government officials, socialites, celebrities and businesswomen.

A Ferry Sunarto dress is not only appreciated by Indonesians but also by international royalty and celebrities. He is getting more and more attention in the international market with successful shows in Europe. “Two of my most memorable breakthrough (and breathtaking) shows were in Germany in 2013 at the Schloss Bückeburg Royal Palace Banquet Hall where we were picked as the exclusive designer for the show whose audience included European royalty



and VIPs who loved it. And the most recent at the Hermitage Garden's Moscow Show in October 2016. We displayed our ready-to-wear deluxe and also haute couture lines for two days. At both events we received an incredible reception from the international audience," said Ferry.

Another show that left an indelible mark was at KBRI Singapore last year where he was invited to stage a fashion show to celebrate Indonesia's 71st Anniversary of the Proclamation of

Independence in 2016. He recalled, "We had a great time collaborating with KBRI Singapore. We have a very receptive ambassador in HE Ngurah Swajaya who is open to contemporary fashion. We were introduced by the previous ambassador and we built up the relationship from there so that KBRI Singapore trusted us for the next fashion show in Singapore after our return from Moscow. We really appreciated the opportunity and thank the Embassy in Singapore."

Barometer for Fashion


After seeing the beautiful fashion line showcased by Ferry displayed at the diplomatic reception, IndoConnect asked Ferry if we can look forward to seeing more of his fashion in Singapore? And also, what is his fashion advice for all the ladies here? Ferry replied that, "We have always felt Singapore to be a 'barometer' for the Asian market. We would love to open a store in Singapore as this can lead to opening a door for sales in Asia. Of course, this is not easy to achieve. It needs much work, collaboration and investment. We really hope we can work towards working with Singapore businesses that are willing to collaborate with our brand."

(From opposite page to left): Ferry Sunarto creations at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore

International exposure for Ferry at the Indonesian Embassy, Singapore Diplomatic Reception (top); at the Bückeberg Royal Palace in Germany (right) and at the Hermitage Garden, Moscow (below)



Fashion Advice

"Singapore to me has chic and dynamic people. It's more like a 9-to-9 fashion look. I believe that Singapore is a business trading country, so it might need a more simple fashion look. My suggestion is that Singapore citizens should have a go at adding a touch of Indonesian culture. Singapore is already a country with culture assimilations with Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei, but functioning at a high economic level. Therefore, it needs something simpler, something that is more easy-going. In choosing the right dress, it is okay to choose a more exotic look. It doesn't have to always be office wear." 

Kebaya Roots & Routes

LATEST: Singapore might just have another chance to see Ferry Sunarto's creations if plans are finalised to arrange a show this September. Watch this space for more info!



LUCAS' PAPAW REMEDIES

Every day, thousands of users of Lucas' Papaw Ointment enjoy the benefits of its ability to relieve and cleanse

The ointment has antibacterial and antimicrobial properties and can be used as a local topical application on the following skin conditions:- gravel rash, cuts and minor open wounds, insect bites, dry and chapped skin and lip, nappy rash, minor burns and scalds, and sunburn. Many users of the ointment also report temporary relief of the symptoms of dermatitis and eczema. With so many uses and applications, it is always great to have a red jar of Lucas' Papaw Ointment handy in the home. Or, carry some with you on the go in the convenient 25g red tube.



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TESTIMONIALS

Amazing Result,
reviewed on Feb 05, 2015

"When my son had oozing eczema just beside his eye I decided to use antibiotics as steroids are not advisable to apply on broken skin. Unfortunately, he is allergic to the antibiotics which were prescribed to him. So I applied Lucas' Papaw ointment 3x in a day (after cleaning the skin with epsom salt in the morning) cause I do not know anymore what else to apply. Of course, I did research its ingredients first and read a lot of reviews before using it. The next day after three applications I noticed a big difference. His eczema is no longer wet and it's less reddish. I could say that it's almost completely healed. I did not realise that the answer to his almost 3-week old oozing eczema's healing is just inside our first aid kit. I am very pleased with the result. :)"

Goats Milk Soap
by Natasha

"I would just like to thank you for creating the beautiful Goats Milk Soap. I have been suffering from a skin condition for years and this is the only product that helps me manage my skin condition and reduce the itch. It leaves my skin feeling, soft, supple and clean and it smells gorgeous too."

Goats Milk Hand & Body Cream
by Aimee

"Hi, I just wanted to thank you for your product. I have problem skin on my face and every other moisturiser has reacted with my skin and made it worse! I tried the Goats Milk body cream and the next day my face was already getting better! I've only had this product for 3 days and I'm already in love!"

SKINCARE FOR BABIES THE ECOMU WAY

The maker says it has the first baby care formulation using fermentation, a process favoured by the most premium Korean skincare labels



The company announced this last August and explained how the “3 Steps, 7 Baby Leaves, 21 Days of Waiting” plays a part in the new line of baby skincare called ecomu developed by Agabang & Company, a leading Korean baby product company and distributed by Hey Skin, another Korean founded company that curates the best of Korean skincare to Singapore.

The all-natural ecomu is formulated and manufactured using gentle premium ingredients that take into account what a baby’s new delicate skin needs to stay strong, moisturised, clear and healthy.


Mothers will be happy to note that ecomu is free of parabens, mineral oil, ethanol and colouring agents so there are no unnecessary and potentially allergenic ingredients. Coming back to the “7 Types of Baby Leaves” mentioned earlier, it refers to how seven types of mild baby leaves (Ginkgo, Green Tea, Camellia, Argula, Wheat shoot, Broccoli and Alfafa) are picked within 10 days of sprouting and used in all ecomu products.

These plants are chosen for their ability to moisturise, purify, soothe and strengthen young skin. To minimise nutrient loss, these leaves are extracted at four degrees Celsius across 72 hours.

3-Step Fermentation

The baby leaves are fermented not just once, but three times, undergoing lactic acid fermentation, yeast fermentation and natural fermentation. Active ingredients are broken down through the process into finer particles, and by going through three rounds of fermentation, the formulations become richer. In addition to this, the makers say that the products are more easily absorbed when applied onto skin.

21 Days of Waiting

The adage “good things come to those who wait” certainly comes to mind here as the fermentation process takes a total of 21 days for the products to achieve optimum efficacy. After 21 days, ecomu products are then packaged and are ready to be applied to delicate baby skin. 

Product Range

Lotion (180ml)

Moisturises, purifies, soothes and strengthens sensitive baby skin.

ecomu Serum (50ml)

Concentrated serum helps keep baby’s skin smooth and moisturised all day long.

Shampoo & Bath (320ml)

A gentle tear-free formula that relaxes, refreshes and cleanses without drying the skin.

Corn Powder (80g)

Cornstarch based and talc-free powder

The products are also available at [motherchild1010](http://motherchild1010.com.sg), heyskin.sg and littlebaby.com.sg

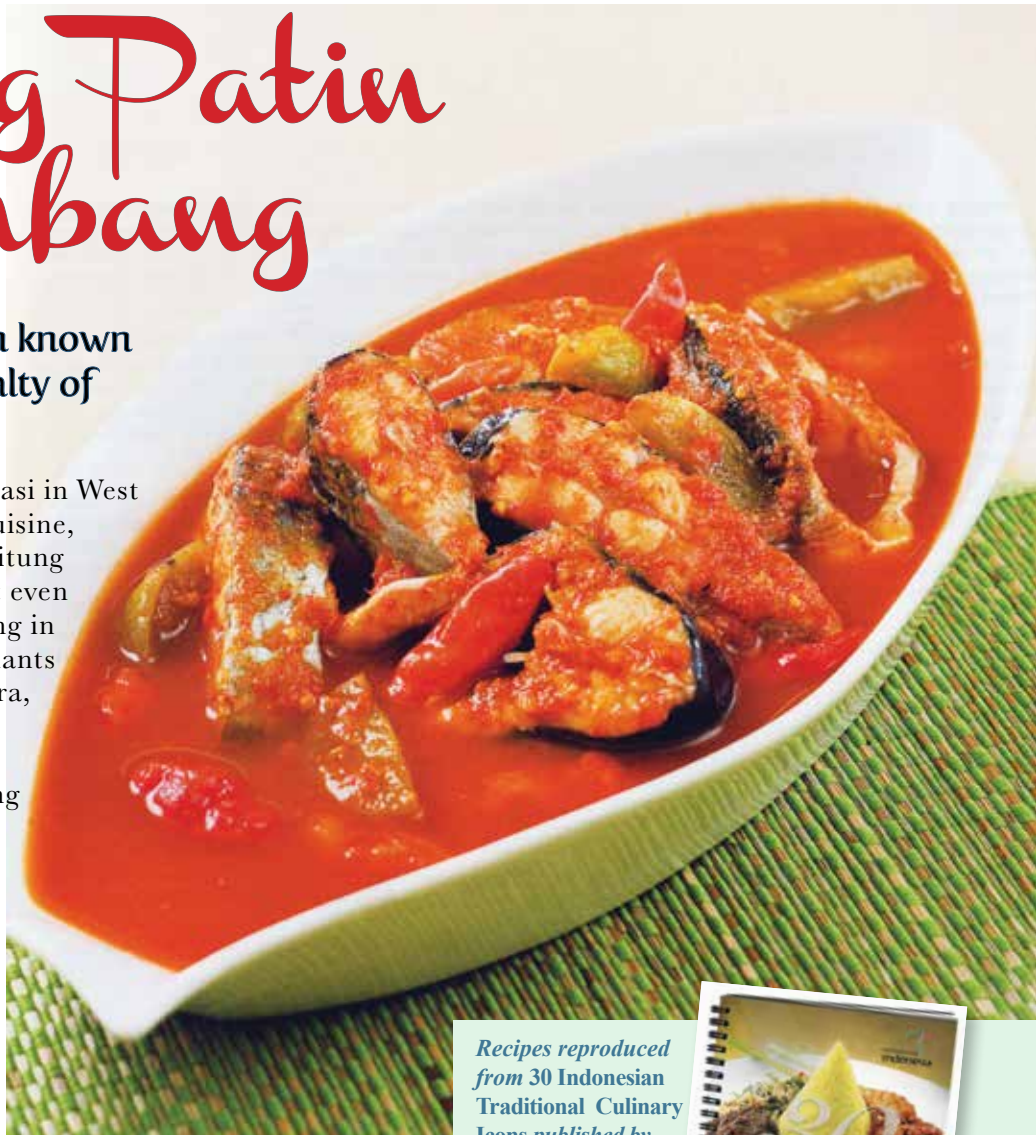
Pindang Patin Palembang

Pindang Ikan is a soupy dish known as the iconic culinary specialty of South Sumatra

It bears resemblance to pangek masi in West Sumatra, asam pedas in Malay cuisine, gangan or lempah in Bangka-Belitung cuisine or pindang serani in Java. It even poses similarities with tom yam kung in Thai cuisine. There are several variants of pindang cooking in South Sumatra, such as pindang meranjat, pindang musu rawas, pindang pegagan, and pindang Palembang. Each has strong regional characters.

Fans of intense spices may prefer pindang meranjat for its flavorful kick of shrimp paste and spiciness; whereas pindang pegagan features a softer aftertaste of shrimp paste. Pindang dishes from the Meranjat region often use ikan salai (smoked fish) to enhance their flavors. Pindang dishes from Palembang and Musi Rawas stay clear of the use of shrimp paste. Instead, they come out stronger on the acidity levels and are not too spicy. Lending the tartness to the dish are cing kediyo (cherry tomatoes) and tamarind. Pindang Palembang also counts on the use of kemangi (Indonesian basil leaves) to enhance its aroma.

In South Sumatra, almost all pindang dishes are made with fish, the most popular of which are ikan patin (Pangasius Sutchi) and ikan baung (Mystus spp.). At some point, before its price skyrocketed, ikan belida (Chitala lopis) was also widely used. Current popular taste calls for a variant of pindang to use beef ribs or tempoyak (fermented durian).



Recipes reproduced from 30 Indonesian Traditional Culinary Icons published by Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy



INGREDIENTS

(makes around 10 pieces)

1500 cc water

5 gr 4-5 pcs Indonesian bay leaves

36 gr 3 pcs lemon grass stalks, crushed

35 gr 5 cm ginger, crushed

40 gr 4 cm galangal, crushed

80 gr 4 pcs red chilies, diagonally sliced

900 gr (1- 2 fish) patin fish (silver catfish or Pangasius sutchi), washed and cut into pieces

100 gr 2 pcs red tomatoes, cut into pieces

100 gr 5 pcs green tomatoes, cut into pieces

30 gr 15 pcs bird's eye chilies, remove the stalk

3 tablespoons tamarind juice

sweet soy sauce

1 1/2 teaspoon sugar

25-50 gr Indonesian basil leaves

GROUND SPICES

60 gr 6 pcs shallots
 100 gr 5 pcs red chilies
 15 gr 3 cm turmeric, roasted
 1 teaspoon dark shrimp paste, roasted
 2 - 2 1/2 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

Boil water over medium heat, add ground spices, Indonesian bay leaves, lemongrass, ginger, galangal and red chilies. Add fish.

Add tomatoes, bird's eye chilies, tamarind juice, sweet soy sauce and sugar. Bring to boil. Add the basil leaves once the fish is cooked through. Let it stand for 4-5 hours to allow the spices to soak through the fish. Then serve.

Nutrient	Nutrient Per 100 Grams	Nutrient Per Portion
Fat	4g	4g
Protein	8 g	8 g
Carbohydrate	3 g	3 g
Calorie	80 kcal	80 kcal

Nasi Liwet Solo

Nasi Liwet is a dish that originates from Solo, Central Java. Individual platters of the rice dish are usually served on banana leaves.

The rice is cooked in coconut milk and an array of spices, resulting in a soft, savoury and aromatic rice. It is usually served with lodeh labu siam (chayote cooked with coconut milk), opor ayam (chicken cooked and braised in coconut milk served in cuts or shredded), telur pindang (eggs slow-boiled with spices) or omelet, as well as aréh (thick, coalesced coconut milk). Other side dishes include beef skin crackers, tempe or tahu bacem (tempe or tofu cooked in spices before being fried).

A Semarang variant of the dish is called sego ayam, whose fanatics claim that the difference between the two dishes lies in the amount of lodeh labu siam sauce poured over the rice. Semarang natives like an overflow of sauce; whereas Solo natives prefer a smaller amount, just enough to soften the nasi liwet.


INGREDIENTS
 (serves 8-10)

800 gr rice
 800 gr free-range chicken, cut into 6 pieces
 400 cc thick coconut milk (use 1 1/2 mature coconut; keep the remains to produce light coconut milk)
 15 gr 12-15 sheet Indonesian bay leaves
 sdt 3 teaspoons salt 1.600 cc light coconut milk
 40 gr 4 pcs shallots, finely sliced
 165 gr 3 pcs eggs

Nutrient	Nutrient Per 100 Grams	Nutrient Per Portion
Fat	9 g	32 g
Protein	7 g	24 g
Carbohydrate	21 g	73 g
Calorie	200 kcal	680 kcal

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat the thick coconut milk in a pot along with 3 Indonesian bay leaves and one teaspoon of salt. Turn down the heat; continue cooking until the coconut milk surface separates. Remove the thick paste forming on top of the coconut milk. Continue doing it until there's no more thick paste left. Remove the remaining, clear coconut milk, mix it with 1.600 light coconut milk, and use it to boil chicken. This coalesced, thick coconut milk is called *Areh*.

2. Shredded chicken: Take 1.000 cc light coconut milk, use it to boil chicken. Add 5 Indonesian bay leaves, 1 teaspoon of salt and finely sliced shallots. After the chicken is tender and cooked through, remove and shred into small pieces. Combine the remaining liquid with the remaining light coconut milk, to be used in making *nasi gurih* (fragrant rice).

3. Nasi gurih: Soak rice for one hour, wash and drain. Steam for 15-20 minutes until half-cooked, remove into a pot. Pour ± 8001.000 cc of the remaining coconut milk (depending on rice type), add one teaspoon of salt and 4-7 Indonesian bay leaves. Cook until the rice absorbs all the coconut milk, then remove into a steamer to finish off cooking. Serve with side dishes.

4. Steamed egg: Whisk eggs with 3 tablespoons of coconut milk (use what is left), add 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Steam for ±15-20 minutes, remove. cut in the size of 1x3x4 cm..

INGREDIENTS LODEH LABU SIAM (CAYOTE)

3 tablespoons cooking oil
60 gr 3 pcs red chili
4 gr 4 sheet Indonesian bay leaves
20 gr 1 cm galangal
500 gr 2 pcs cayote
12 - 12 pcs Petai (stingky beans)
800 cc coconut milk (350 gr) coconut

Ground spices

60 gr 2-3 pcs red chili
60 gr 5-6 pcs shallot
8 gr 2 pcs garlic
1 teaspoon shrimp paste
20 gr sugar
1 teaspoon shrimp paste

Method

1. Cut cayote as like
2. Sauteed the spice until fragrance, add red chili slice, bay leaves, galangal and cayote, petai
3. Mix well, add coconut milk, cooked until boiled and take a side.

Serving Nasi Liwet

Place banana leaves on a plate. Put rice, then add the shredded chicken and steamed tofu, pouring *Areh* coconut milk on top of them. Add chayote squash stew, *kerupuk kulit* (crackers made from dried cattle skin) and *samba terasi*.



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Do you have a favorite recipe you can't live without or a new approach to cooking traditional dishes? Enter our recipe contest and take this wonderful opportunity to share your favorite recipe with other food lovers. The selected recipes will be published in the next issue of IndoConnect magazine.

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- Create a publically viewable post on your FB page or blog featuring your recipe with step-by-step instructions and a photo from now till 1st Dec 2016.
- Include the phrase "IndoConnect Share your Recipe" in your FB or blog post with a link to this Facebook page.
- Leave a comment on this Facebook page with the title of your recipe and a link to your FB or blog.

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Serving bite-sized news and reviews

Garuda in Top 10 for In-Flight Food

Indonesia's flagship airline is keeping the nation's flag (pun intended) flying high. According to Skytrax, in 2016 its passenger satisfaction surveys showed Garuda is in the top 10 positions for Best Airline Catering ranking 9th for First Class, 5th for Business Class, and 7th for Economy. Who scored the highest? It was Etihad Airways for First Class, Turkish Airlines for Business and Asiana Airways for Economy.



Which Came First... the Chicken or the Egg?

To celebrate the year of the Rooster, the Singapore Philatelic Museum is holding an exhibition "tracing the roots of the chicken from prehistory, across numerous civilisations, to its position today." Called 'Chicken & Egg: A Fowl Tale' it features more than 200 stamps dating from 1962, looking at the chicken as a partner in faith, entertainment, medical aid and recreation. Visitors are promised they can discover interesting facts about chickens and eggs used in different forms and cultures. The exhibition will run from 20 January to 25 June 2017.

An App for Last Minute Entertainment – Shakapass.com

ShakaPass is a last-minute entertainment app, providing discovery and booking to events and activities that are reviewed and curated through an approval process. ShakaPass is intuitively designed and acts as a personal concierge to make going out hassle-free when the user is feeling spontaneous – a few taps and go. The app can be installed in both iOS and Android handphones. But it's relatively new so we look forward to it building up more choices in future. For more info visit: www.shakapass.com

Community Classified Ads

Dear Readers of IndoConnect, Beginning from the next issue, we will be inviting Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and charities to list their services in this brand new section. We believe in corporate social responsibility and we think this section is a great opportunity to link up NGOs and charities to our readers who want to give back to society. Do contact us for more information. We will also be running stories on NGOs and charities as well.



Email details to:
admin@sunmediaonline.com

Photo Competition

Dear Readers of IndoConnect, Starting from the next issue to November, we will be running a photo contest on all things Indonesia. Submit your most colourful and exciting photos that you think best represent the Indonesian way of life and stand a chance to win fabulous prizes. Winners will be notified via email or phone. So grab your camera and start shooting away!

Email your image to:
admin@sunmediaonline.com



INDONESIA - SINGAPORE LEADERS RETREAT
13 - 14 November 2016, Semarang, Indonesia



VISIT BY MINISTER OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES
22 November 2016, Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore



ASEAN GALA NIGHT 2016
23 November 2016, Shangri-la Hotel Singapore



DHARMA WANITA PERSATUAN KBRI SINGAPURA VISIT
27 November 2016, Batam



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2016
28 November 2016, Shaw Lido Cinema Singapore



BUSINESS & INVESTMENT IN INDONESIA SEMINAR
29 November 2016, Fullerton Hotel Singapore



SECOND TALK ON TAX AMNESTY
12 December 2016, Indonesian Embassy, Singapore



**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WITH
INDONESIAN DOMESTIC WORKERS**
4 December 2016, Sekolah Indonesia Singapura



**KPIS (INDONESIAN DOMESTIC WORKER)
CARD LAUNCH**
4 December 2016, Indonesian Embassy, Singapore



ANNIVERSARY DWP KBRI SINGAPURA
12 December 2016, Indonesian Embassy, Singapore



LAUNCH OF PHINISI LUXURY CHARTER CRAFT 'RASCAL'
13 December 2016, Indonesian Embassy, Singapore



CHRISTMAS WITH THE INDOONESIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN SINGAPORE

7 January 2017, Indonesian Embassy, Singapore



50th ANNIVERSARY INDONESIA - SINGAPORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

17 January 2017, Mandarin Orchard Hotel, Singapore



DHARMA WANITA KBRI SINGAPURA COFFEE MORNING

19 January 2017, Indonesian Embassy, Singapore



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Top events, attractions and activities in Singapore
with the spotlight on the

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL 2017

MARINA BAY SANDS
31ST MARCH TO 2ND APRIL

This is the fourth year the Singapore International Jazz Festival (SING JAZZ) is returning to Singapore and it promises to be bigger – with top artists performing at the Event Plaza at Marina Bay Sands from 31st March to 2nd April 2017.

Music lovers from Singapore and the region can expect three nights of extraordinary music from multiple Grammy Award winners including, Corinne Bailey Rae and David Foster. Other music stars featuring in the show: Nik West, Youssou Ndour and Le Super Etoile de Dakar, Raúl Midón Trio along with regional favourites Dira Sugandi and Saxx In The City.

There will be exhilarating jazz under the stars. David Smith, Artistic Director of SINGJAZZ promised, “The weekend is slated to be the biggest and most spectacular 30 hours of music ever staged in Singapore, with Coldplay also performing over two nights at the National Stadium. The wealth of talent converging in Singapore on this music bonanza weekend reinforces Singapore’s position as a key destination for music and the arts.”

The Late Show

In addition to the international line-up of music luminaries on Main Stage, organisers are expanding the Festival to include The Late Show. Starting at 10pm, The Late Show, held indoors at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, will go on till 4am and is perfect for music lovers who would like to continue their musical experience – from The Main Stage or the National Stadium. Curated by the founder of Singapore’s largest, most exhilarating and celebrity-driven Grand Prix



Season after-parties, Robbie Hoyes-Cock, The Late Show merges VIP table service, worldclass ‘live’ acts, DJs and improvisation performances. For example, Friday night (31 March 2017) highlights include Al McKay’s Earth, Wind & Fire Experience & Basement Jaxx and the next night fans will see acid jazz band Incognito and the Singapore debut of drum and bass legends Rudimental.

Mr. George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands, said: “The new addition of The Late Show at Sands Expo & Convention Centre will also heighten the festival experience to provide a new dimension for music fans.



Star-studded Line-up

Kicking-off the Festival on Friday night (31 March) is Corinne Bailey Rae who shot to fame with her self-titled debut album in February 2006. Her album received critical acclaim and she became the fourth female British act in history to have her first album debut at number one on the UK Album Charts. The “Put Your Records On” singer has since won two Grammy Awards for her EP “Is This Love” and her work on Herbie Hancock’s album ‘The River’.

The second night of the Festival sees an eclectic mix of heart-thumping beats from funk bassist & vocalist Nik West and Senegalese Grammy Award winner Youssou Ndour & Le Super Etoile de Dakar. West, who partnered Fender in developing the Dimension Bass line



(Clockwise from top left): David 'Hitman' Foster, Nik West, Basement Jaxx, Yousou Ndour & Le Super Etoile de Dakar Al McKay's Earth, Wind & Fire Experience and Corinne Bailey Rae

of basses, is credited for collaborating with famed artists such as Dave Stewart of Eurythmics, Prince, and George Clinton/ Parliament Funkadelic. She brings to the stage exhilarating energy before multi-hyphenate Ndour one of the most well-known African musicians, tops off the evening with Le Super Etoile de Dakar, bringing music inspired by Cuban rumba, hip hop, jazz and soul.

Closing the Festival on Sunday is the Raúl Midón Trio, and fan-favourite, the "Hitman" himself, David Foster. Midón defies categories by incorporating a myriad of genres - Jazz, Flamenco, Classical and R&B - into his guitar handiwork, and tops it up by improvising with his 'vocal trumpet'. A man who needs no introduction, 16-time Grammy award-winning "super-producer" and songwriter David Foster will perform with a soon-to-be-announced

star-studded line-up of "Friends" including Brian McKnight in what promises to be a spectacular finale for the fourth Singapore International Jazz Festival weekend at Marina Bay Sands.

Check out the SingJazz website for the latest info as more artists confirm coming in the following weeks and for tickets, VIP Tables & VIP Passes at www.sing-jazz.com

In addition to the international line-up of music stars on the Main Stage, organisers are expanding the Festival to include The Late Show. Starting at 10pm, The Late Show, held indoors at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, will go on till 4am



BIRD OF CHINGAY



A preview of the beautiful plumage costumes worn by performers from the Indonesian Art Institute, Denpasar at Chingay Parade 2017

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