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Women's
Conference:
GLOBALISING
Kartini



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POWERING TOWARDS A BALANCED WORLD

The most powerful God-given gift to women is probably our ability to bring life into this world. In that sense, a mother's or an ibu's 'power' is truly awesome. From a societal point of view, the perspective can be somewhat different and limitations have been put in the way of women who now face choices that include not only childbearing and family duties but also fulfilling their ambitions in a career.

As revealed by the lively discussions during the IBU POWER Women's Conference held on Hari Kartini or Kartini Day (21st May) – women still need to tackle issues such as gender bias and restricted opportunities in breaking the glass ceiling at the top echelons of organisations currently dominated by men. Education and knowledge for women, and cooperation between them, are essential in overcoming this. One noteworthy point though I would like to highlight is that among the measures that can be used to confront and solve such problems included an invitation to men to unify with the cause with women, not fight one another...but walk together hand-in-hand for a more balanced and equitable world.

It was our good fortune and a great learning experience, to collectively share from the different perspectives of the panellists drawn from Indonesia, Singapore – and even as far away from Canada and Finland, whose respective High Commissioner and Ambassador – both of whom just happen to be women.

Indonesians – both men and women can be deeply proud of the fact that the idea of the emancipation of women and their rightful place in society was planted long ago thanks to the driving passion of a very young, independent-minded and idealistic woman named Raden Adjeng Kartini.

While Kartini and Malala Yousafzai were the most prominent examples as inspirational figures for women, we asked the speakers at the conference to share with us the guiding light of those others who had inspired them and brought radical transformations in their way of thinking and how that shaped their lives and of those around them.. To our delight we discovered a common trait that transcended geographic and cultural borders—that we owe much to the women who raised us – our mothers and grandmothers – and, for some, such as the Canadian and Finnish diplomats, they included athletes.

Also highly rewarding for us was to share this time the inspirational stories of Adhyanti Sardanarini Wirajuda, First Secretary at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, as well as that of Singaporean entrepreneur-extraordinaire, Claire Chiang. Their stories tell us, collectively, that we can overcome any obstacles that come our way. We can do this through positive changes and achieve our aim of bringing about a balanced world with a woman and a man who are equally empowered to share the pitfalls and successes of life at home or at work.

Nomita Dhar
Editor-in-chief

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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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IBU Kartini's POWER *Transcends Borders*

Contemporary issues facing women are discussed at the IBU POWER Women's Conference by influential Indonesian, regional and international speakers

The year 2017 is a landmark year as Indonesia and Singapore celebrate RISING 50 to commemorate half a century of diplomatic ties, and Sun Media Pte Ltd, publishers of IndoConnect Magazine, marked this auspicious occasion by organising the well-attended IBU POWER Women's Conference. The conference — based on the theme of 'women working together to inspire and empower each other', not only emphasised regional collaborations, but also celebrated the life of a hero from the Asian region — none other than a woman of exceptional vision in her times—Raden Adjeng Kartini — more popularly known as Ibu Kartini amongst her fellow Indonesians. The conference, held on Kartini's birthday, 21st April, highlighted the inspiration she provided to the women's emancipation and empowerment movement throughout the Indonesian archipelago; it also paid homage to the relevance of that movement to women today.

The event presented 16 accomplished panelists, moderators, and speakers, not just from Indonesia and Singapore alone, but from several other countries as well. These speakers, drawn from the varied disciplines of medicine, wellness, diplomacy, social service



and also from the corporate world, came together and spoke about the different ways of understanding women's issues, their strengths and the challenges they faced in their world. The event was supported by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. HE

Ngurah Swajaya, the Indonesian Ambassador in Singapore, welcomed the 300 special invitees from Singapore, Indonesia and other participating countries. The guests included the members of Diplomatic Corps, the heads of institutes and representatives from various women's organisations.

Kartini Life Story

Sharing a brief introduction on Ibu Kartini's life in his opening address, HE Ngurah Swajaya narrated how Kartini came from a wealthy family, but still could not continue schooling after twelve, as she was married early in accordance to the Javanese tradition of the time. However, soon after, she began writing numerous letters that were later compiled into books: *Out of Darkness to Light*, *Women's Life in the Village* and *Letters of a Javanese Princess*. In total, there were about 160 letters, many of which spoke of the importance of education for girls and women, and about how girls should receive the same opportunities for education as boys. In HE Ngurah Swajaya words, "she talked about many other topics, including socio-politics, welfare of the people and was always fighting against inequality". The ambassador highlighted how Ibu Kartini did not agree with the social norms and systems of her time, and continued, "if she was alive today



she would be happy but not satisfied, as there is still a lot to be done.” Linking her story to the day’s event, he further added that the conference celebrates the successes that have already been achieved and it discusses how “we can further advance Kartini’s cause not only in Indonesia and Singapore, but also in the world.”

Nobel Cause

HE also expressed his appreciation to the panel speakers who had taken time to share their perspectives and who continue “working together in this noble cause”. He especially thanked his counterparts from the High Commission of Canada in Singapore, HE Lynn McDonald and Ambassador of Finland in Singapore, HE Paula Parviainen, who participated as panel speakers. The Ambassador also highlighted how the topic of Ibu Power was timely for the region, as the year marked the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. According to him, the issue of women empowerment crossed all borders, and ASEAN was “dedicating a special committee on women empowerment for advancing the role of women in every sphere in society.”

He summed up by saying that he was confident that a “positive inspiration can be developed by our distinguished and influential speakers” and the participants “will give further inspiration to our younger generations.”

The Ambassador ended his speech with a note of thanks to all the sponsors. He also thanked Mrs Nomita Dhar, publisher of IndoConnect Magazine, who had been “very active and creative – adding many ideas” and he further mentioned that without IndoConnect’s support and participation, “this event might not have been possible.” In tribute to Ibu Kartini, the Ambassador lastly thanked his wife, Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya, who also chairs the Dharma Wanita Persatuan (the Indonesian Embassy’s Women’s Association) for co-organising the event.

“If she (Kartini) was alive today she would be happy but not satisfied, as there is still a lot to be done.”

– HE Ngurah Swajaya

Meaning of IBU POWER



“The power of an ibu can be as delicate as a candle or as strong as the sun!”

– Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya

financially independent. It is changing the stereotype of the man being the sole breadwinner of a family. I can also see more married women whose husbands are coming round to support their wives’ careers. Having said that,

I have also seen many women, who are happy to make the choice to leave behind careers and take up traditional roles as homemakers – I am one of them,” she added.

Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya, the wife of the Indonesian Ambassador in Singapore HE Ngurah Swajaya, paid homage to Ibu Kartini by quoting the lyrics of a song dedicated to her. The song spoke of Kartini’s grand ambitions for Indonesia and her belief in the power of education for women for a better world. Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya further explained that the theme ‘IBU POWER’ was chosen to emphasise the influence of women, which encompasses the capacity and energy to influence or form something that can be represented in its simplest form – a candle or fire – to something as big as the sun. “So the power of an ibu can be as delicate as the candle or as strong as the sun,” she said. Ibu Mahaswi, a lawyer by training herself, said she was proud to see how Indonesian women of today are more involved in the community, government and business, and how in many areas things have changed for them.

“It is said we are now more independent and there are more opportunities for us to be

She also said that it was with great pride that the Indonesian women enjoy the luxury and flexibility to have these options and a voice in society. Through the IBU POWER Conference she hoped that the women in Singapore and Indonesia, as well as other countries represented that day would be able to discuss the challenges that they face. “I believe that if we bring together the power of ibu – as what we are doing today – we can bring about a powerful influence and support for bettering the community of our children and future generations.” Finally, she urged all the ibus to, “be strong women” so that “your daughter has a role model and your son will know what to look for in a woman when he becomes a man.” This thought resonated with the audience and the speakers alike, and many subsequent speakers found inspiration in her statement.

Keynote Address: Dr June Goh

SCWO Working Towards Women's Advancement and Welfare

The Keynote address at the Ibu Power Conference was delivered by Dr June Goh, the President of the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO), which is the national body co-ordinating 58 women organisations in Singapore, and represents over 600,000 women. Dr Goh, a Senior Consultant at the Singapore General Hospital and the Director of Neuroanaesthesia and Neurocritical Care, is also involved in teaching both medical students and post-graduate doctors and she Chairs the STAR budding researcher's award and the transplant oversight committee. She also serves on the Dover Park Hospice Governing Council and Co-Chairs Star Shelter. Dr Goh is passionate about women's family and health issues, and has actively participated in dialogues and feedback sessions organised by Ministry of Social and Family Development and the People's Association.

In her address, Dr Goh elaborated on the work done by SCWO, which was founded in 1980. The organisation, she said, aimed to inform, advocate, educate and work towards advancing the status of women and being the voice of women in Singapore. She also mentioned that Singapore is a signatory to the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women - a Human Rights Treaty by the United Nations (UN), and that SCWO prepares joint-reports on the status of women for submission to the UN. Dr Goh also highlighted SCWO's role in empowering women by offering services such as shelters, skills building, counselling, legal services, education and even financial services. According to her, though women in Singapore enjoy active participation in the economy, social and political life as well as have access to higher education, the fight for equality is not over. "There is still discrimination against women," she said. "One of the SCWO's initiatives is the BoardAgender." She added that many women with high education were not finding themselves in high leadership positions and the number of women on boards and in decision making positions was very low in Singapore. Even the salaries of female directors of listed companies in the Singapore Exchange was just over half (56%) of what men earn, she pointed out. According to Dr Goh, SCWO publishes studies and helps in




"One of SCWO's initiatives is the BoardAgender... the number of women on boards and in decision making positions was very low in Singapore. Even salaries of female directors of listed companies in the Singapore Exchange was just over half (56%) of what men earn"

- Dr June Goh

creating greater awareness on these issues. "Moving women into decision-making positions is an uphill battle as men still take up the lion share of leadership roles in Singapore," said Dr Goh. Research, she added, shows that women's representation on boards presently stand at 9.7%. While it has marginally increased from 6.9%, Singapore is still behind many countries in this region. "We are 50% behind the EU, USA and Australia," she said. Dr Goh also welcomed the recent positive news of the government-backed guidelines that have given boards a target to include at least 20% women by the year 2020. Another issue that Dr Goh spoke about was violence against women. "Many women are reluctant to report violence especially when there is a close relationship between

victim and offender," she said. According to a survey in 2009 done amongst 2000 women aged between 18 and 69, 74 per cent did not report the violence even though the injuries were serious, Dr Goh told the audience. She also mentioned an increase in the number of migrant women turning to shelters for help and said that many foreign wives stay silent too.

Dr Goh concluded her speech by bringing up the issue of women and aging, and the social and economic protection that is needed for women as they advance in age. "By 2030, Singapore will have 900,000 residents," she said and emphasised the need to open the dialogue for the needs and requirements of the aging segment of the society. 



Conference Speakers' Highlights & Heroes

The IBU POWER Conference was divided into three panels. The first of these was the Collaborative Segment, where panelists, HE Lynn McDonald, HE Paula Parvianen, Indira Abidin, and Mada Shinta Dewi discussed how women could collaborate to share success and space. The panel was moderated by Adhyanti Sardanarini Wirajuda.

Collaboration Session: Sharing Success & Space

"A personal hero is Canadian Clara Hughes – a six-time Olympic medalist in both cycling and speed-skating. She is the only athlete in history to win multiple medals in both the Summer and Winter Olympic games. Ms Hughes is also a hero to me for her dedicated efforts to help combat the stigma attached to mental health issues, including by openly speaking about her own past struggles with depression, as well as for her other humanitarian work, including with the organization Right to Play".

H.E. Lynn McDonald

High Commissioner of Canada to Singapore

HE Lynn McDonald

HE Lynn McDonald is the current Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Singapore. In 1996 she joined Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). HE has worked in DFAIT's Legal Bureau, the Trade Law Bureau, and the Trade Policy Bureau. Her most recent assignment at DFAIT was as the Director of the Intellectual Property Trade Policy Division (TMI). Her postings overseas included the position of legal advisor at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the WTO, Switzerland (1999-2002) and Counselor and Head of the trade policy section at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. (2005-2009). She has also served as Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao (2014-2016).

Sharing her thoughts on the focus of the Collaborative Segment panel, HE Lynn McDonald said, "I see the matter of collaboration on three different levels—the personal level, the country or national level and the international level. For someone who has had the privilege of growing up in a country



where gender issues were almost taken for granted, we still have a lot more work to do, but also coming from a point of view where many women of the previous generation have made great strides I think on a personal level, it is very important to recognize responsibility to not assume that the work is done or not assume that the privileges we have apply to other people in our country or more generally.”

HE shared how much the present government in Canada under President Trudeau is putting in important changes for women in terms of education and improved opportunities. She recalled how when the President discovered the lady members he had chosen for his cabinet were not getting the same wages as what the male colleagues were receiving at those level, he made the necessary changes to increase their pay packet.

HE Paula Parviainen

H.E. Paula Parviainen is the Ambassador, Embassy of Finland in Singapore. Before being posted here as Ambassador, she was the Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland, Beijing, and Head of Finland Promotion, Department of Communications and Culture, Finnish MFA. HE has also served as the Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, New York and Minister Counselor, Embassy of Finland in Paris. She has also held the post of Second Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Singapore in 1996.

Speaking on women empowerment, H.E. Paula Parviainen said, “it is indeed education which empowers women.” She spoke at length about the equality with males that women of Finland have enjoyed at many levels even when it was under Russian rule. Education, she believes, is the base of Finland society and what it represents today. According to her, it is also emphasised by the fact that women were taking equal part in building the nation after independence from Russia.

She further added, “equal opportunities are very much in the DNA of Finland, and that’s why women have the positions as ambassadors, ministers and parliamentarians.” Answering the moderator’s question on collaboration, HE said that at an international level, women could learn a lot from each other so that they could reach their full potential.

Indira Abidin

Panelist, Indira Abidin is the Chief Happiness Officer of PT Fortune Indonesia Tbk, Indonesia’s leading integrated communication consultant and agency. Ms Abidin is recognised as a thought leader in the communication industry in Indonesia and is a very active public speaker, blogger, writer and trainer in the field of Public Relations, Communication, Leadership and Human Capital. She has also gained recognition as a successful cancer survivor and established the Lavender Ribbon Cancer Support Group. Her journey as a corporate leader and a cancer survivor sets an example of how Indonesian women take the stand to build and transform companies as well as communities.

Indira Abidin is of the strong belief that education, health and wellbeing are all very important for women’s growth. “Remem-



“When I was a teenager I was quite a feminist. My idol and inspiration was Mdm Helvi Sipilä, a Finnish diplomat, lawyer and politician. She was known as a promoter of women’s rights, and was the first-ever female Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Sipilä also held a number of leadership positions in international civic organizations, including in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, Zonta International and the International Council of Women. In 1982, Sipilä became the first woman to run for President of Finland”.

H.E. Paula Parviainen

Ambassador, Embassy of Finland Singapore

ber that we have only 18% female parliamentarians and only 5 percent of women on boards in Indonesia. As CEO’s we are lucky to be here because we represent that 5 percent of board members in Indonesia,” said a smiling Indira. She felt that women have to work together, to go to the villages and speak to the people who still believe that a woman’s role is in the kitchen and she is not deserving of the investment in education. She further added that there is a lot of work to be done at the grass roots level to change this attitude. According to her, it is



"My mom taught me how to be a great communicator and to win people's heart, a skill that has made me who I am... My grandmas taught me about the importance of family, and how we, as working moms, should stand for our husband and kids. It's about the real value of winning as a woman, mother and wife in life."

Indira Abidin

Chief Happiness Officer, Fortune Indonesia Tbk, Indonesia



the education that will empower the young girls in the villages and help them to achieve their full potential as adults.

Mada Shinta Dewi

Mada Shinta Dewi is the Country Manager of PT Mundipharma Healthcare Indonesia and Chief Representative Officer, Mundipharma Laboratories GmbH Indonesia. Her career spans more than 18 years in the pharmaceutical industry and, she is one of the few female leaders in the industry in Indonesia. Previously she was Head of Sales & Marketing, and then General Manager at Janssen Pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson.

On the need for collaboration, Mada Shinta Dewi said, it was very challenging for her to move in a male dominated space in the 18 years of her experiences in the "largely male-dominated field of pharmaceuticals." Women, according to her, can empower and inspire each other. Therefore, she finds it very heartening to nurture her female team in her company as well. Her advice is to "Work with your passion, because when a woman works with her passion then she will make the gender become irrelevant for any achievement she makes."

Mada Shinta Dewi herself was inspired by her grandmother, who was way ahead of her times and though she did not have a job as such, or asked for equal rights, she used her innate wisdom and ability to get people to respect her and she also used these qualities to be an excellent mother and grandmother.

"My role model was my Grandmother, Mrs. Ray Kismirah Notohandojo-Soeroso. She was ahead of her time in grooming herself as a woman, while keeping her feet deeply rooted in Javanese Culture in doing her job as a wife a mother and a grandmother. She never demanded for equality. However, her wisdom and what she did made people respect her."

Mada Shinta Dewi

Country Manager, Mundi Pharma, Indonesia



Corporate Session: Creating More Spaces for the Women in the Boardroom

"My hero is my 92 year old Mum, who has a positive mind-set, a 'can-do' and 'never-say-die' attitude. She had raised me to believe that every woman is important to herself and society, every women is inherently biologically, mentally and emotionally strong and must work alongside and complement men, in helping to build a better world. Mum's love for her family is bountiful and boundless and she encourages the perpetuation of life through love."

Noor Quek

Founder & CEO, NQ International Pte Ltd, Singapore

Noor Quek

Noor Quek is the Founder & CEO of NQ International Pte Ltd, Singapore. She has more than 40 years' experience in a wide range of wealth management services and her previous positions in Singapore include being Director and Head, Business Development (Southeast Asia) Citigroup Private Bank. In October 2007 she founded NQ International, which offers family office advisory services, particularly for Asia and the Middle East, business strategy for international corporations and coaching talent identification search and placement services for senior level executives. She is a frequent speaker at international conferences on global wealth management and family office advisory issues. She is currently, among others, a founding member and president of Breast Cancer Foundation and is also joint co-chairperson of Singapore's BoardAgender, an organisation encouraging women to take on board positions for gender diversity.

Noor added a nice edge to the second panel discussion of the conference by bringing in a male perspective to an otherwise all-woman line-up of speakers. As a moderator, she introduced Shai Ganu and Lim Kexin for the Corporate Session. In addition, Noor, who is considered 'one of the boys,' took objection to the idea of "Space for women." "Why must we have to make space for women," she asked, and insisted that the "space should have been filled long ago by them." For Noor, 1 + 1 did not make 2, "a man and a woman can make it 11," she insisted. "At the end of the day", she said, "there is only so much charm that you can show as a woman, but when you open your mouth and say things and you show that you are firm and fair and that you have a heart, any human being will stand up and listen." She further advised, "that space is there for you women—make that space useful and use it wisely, because you are you and that's what is most important."



Prita Kemal Gani

Prita Kemal Gani is the Founder and Director of London School of Public Relations. She is also the President of ASEAN Public Relations Network, and has her own radio programme called 'PR Corner', and 'Woman on Top Empowering Women Through Leadership', a 60-minute monthly radio programme featuring great women leaders. She has been the Chairperson of PERHUMAS (Public Relations Association in Indonesia), as the only woman Chairperson of the organization and an Executive Board Member Regional Delegate- at-Large (Asia) – Global Alliance For Public Relations & Communication Management.



"My mother is my inspiration and my hero. It's because of her hard work, that I was able to go to a good school and become who I am today. My father died when I was 5 years old and she is the one who raised me and my three brothers by running a small business. I always want to make her proud."

Prita Kemal Gani

Founder/ Director, The London School of Public Relations
— Jakarta, Graduate School of Communication



This soft-spoken educationist believes that women who are smart home managers could also bring the same strengths of prosperity and happiness to the workplace, even as a CEO. She emphasised that any company with a female CEO could make the company 15 percent more profitable than other companies because as a woman, she is flexible (as she has been effortlessly playing the role of mother, a wife, a daughter, an employee etc), she is sensitive, she thinks things through carefully, she uses her intuition in making decisions or develops a concept, and get things done by using her charm if need be, and thus she is able to resolve problems amicably. A woman leader, she said, can also help develop other women in the workplace. The message of change that Ms Gani sent out to women was, 'commitment, discipline, and respect for each other's opinions.' According to her, these are the qualities that women need out there.

Shai Ganu

A partner in global HR consulting firm in Singapore and an associate of the Singapore Institute of Directors, Shai Ganu is articulate and very much on the side of women when it comes to gender bias, so much so, that he prefers giving a female slant to his write ups. This, he said, was in reaction against the propensity for using a male pronoun 'he' (as an automatic mode of reference) by an editor in a story Shai had submitted for a magazine once. According to Shai, "one should not be having a conversation about making space for women in 2017 for it implies that someone is giving up something for you to take." This space, according to him, is the "right of a woman." Warming up to the focus of the event Mr Ganu said that the diversity of thought brought in by women, as well as men, on a listed board provides the "most prudent and balanced decision-making." He further added that diversity of thought is not just based on gender, but on one's experience.



Lim Kexin

Lim Kexin brought to the panel her varied experiences as a young Singaporean who chose to leave home and work at PwC in Indonesia. Speaking at the conference, she said that she still recalled the words of her papi, "Never forget you are a woman!" Kexin shared the interesting response to her in her stint in Indonesia. She said she would often be asked with some



disbelief, "You are a Director?" She laughs it off and according to her, when you are at the table with a lot of men you have to learn to hold your own. "You have to succeed to become the rule," she pointed out. Kexin strongly believed that whether you are a man or a woman, you bring something to the table, so the gender bias is inconsequential. Her message to women was, "Just be brave and go for it."

IBU POWER 360: Nurturing Self & Society

"My personal hero is the unsung woman who quietly astonishes with great acts of courage and faith every day. My personal hero is this very special unsung woman – she has this quiet power that is deafening in its generosity and focus, and a reach that is overarching and all encompassing."

Dr. Lynne Lim

Adjunct Associate Professor & Senior ENT Consultant Surgeon
MBBS (Spore), FRCS (Edinburgh), MPH (Harvard)
Lynne Lim Ear Nose Throat & Hearing Centre (Child & Adult)



Dr Lynne Lim

Dr Lynne Lim is Senior Consultant, Ear Nose Throat - Head & Neck Surgeon at Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre. She is Adjunct Associate Professor to the School of Medicine at National University Singapore (NUS), and a Visiting Consultant to the ENT Department at National University Hospital. She has been on the advisory committees of airway and hearing/ cochlear implant centers in Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Middle East.

Reaching out to the great gathering Dr Lim spoke of what a hard haul it was to reach where she had. However, what she had learned on her long journey, she shared, was her capacity for staying with her goals and for not being afraid to ask for more. She cited her own example when she was offered the post of vice dean at the School of Medicine at National University Singapore, but had pushed herself to ask to become Vice Dean as well as Vice Chairman of the National University National Hospital instead, as she felt she would be in a better position to help integrate the care facilities of the Medical School to the public hospitals in Singapore. "Women do not like to ask for

things for themselves, but they must learn not to be afraid to ask for more," she emphasized. "This is because you can also help to change policies which can help many people and set a new precedence for women in those positions," she said

Elaborating on the topic of Nurturing Self and Others, Dr Lim was of the opinion that to empower women one has to go beyond education to further develop themselves. "I have found that getting all these degrees and climbing the corporate ladder is not as important as being very strong yourself and that comes from a lot of honest reflection in the very quiet moments of your mind. I find that in developing myself and when I have challenged myself and gone beyond the goals I have set to walk on another path. And in developing others I found that what was most enduring was that you created opportunities for others and those who come after them," she added. She spoke of how very early in her career she had faced the challenges of gender bias and realised that it was very hard for women to fight for their space. Her message to women: "You don't have to do heroic deeds every day, you just have to do your bit and in doing so, you can open up paths for those who come after you."



Dr Germaine Xu

Dr Germaine Xu is a Breast and General Surgeon at FEM Surgery. She has also spent time at the Edinburgh Breast Unit, the European Institute of Oncology (IEO) and Paris Breast Centres. She also worked as a Breast and General Surgical Consultant in Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, and contributed greatly in building up the Breast Oncoplastic Unit. Previously a clinical tutor with the YLLS (NUS) and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (NTU), she was an examiner at YLLS and trained residents as part of the General Surgical Residency Faculty. A member of MENSA International, Dr Xu also volunteers for various humanitarian missions.

Speaking at Ibu Power 360, Dr Xu talked about her experience of being a woman working in a highly male dominated society and the challenges she faced during her training days. She spoke about how she worked harder than her male colleagues

"I have always had great respect for Marie Curie, the Polish scientist who overcame many difficulties to discover two new elements polonium and radium. She was awarded two Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry. She also developed the mobile X-ray units that were used during the First World War to treat wounded soldiers and was steadfastly dedicated to her cause."

Dr. Germaine Xu

Breast & General Surgeon, Oncology, FEM Surgery)

but dared not complain, no matter how exhausted she was or how unfair she felt things were, in case they thought she could not take the pressure as a woman. "You just had to bear it and do what you had to, to get through and get to where you wanted to go. I realized that you need determination if you want to work in any male-dominated field," she said. Her message to women was: "You have to prove yourself and you need to put your heart, soul and mind into what you want."

Adelyn Poh

The Co-Founder of Care Singapore, who has a tremendous role in empowering young people, spoke passionately about the involvement of the family unit in nurturing a wholesome home environment for children. This, according to her, ensured that children can discover their full potential as youth. She spoke about the critical responsibility of women in society and the shaping of future generations— "As mothers you are in a very



"My hero is my mom. She never went to school as she lived in an era where school is an exclusive privilege for boys only. Uneducated and illiterate, she taught me many precious lessons that still guide me today. Three lessons I would like to share:

- 1. Always do and give your best.*
- 2. Keep learning, think for yourself, don't just follow the crowd.*
- 3. Be grateful for what you have; don't pine for what's not yours.*

Adelyn Poh

Co-Founder, CARE Singapore



"My late grandmother was, and still is a hero in my eyes. She was the epitome of a fearless woman. She took no nonsense, and was never afraid to speak her mind. She was honest, hardworking, witty, and above all - had the kindest heart and was extremely charitable towards the underprivileged."

Vanessa Lee


Founder of Van Lee Fitness



ing women to be the best versions of them-selves, so they can be strong enough mentally, emotionally and physically. Over the years, she has trained over 1200 women of different ages, backgrounds and nationalities. She believes women need to know that they are fighters: powerful, strong and unbeatable. "Because together, we women can change the world."

Having listened to the women speakers at the panel, Vanessa reflected upon the many aspects of the conflicts and successes that she had herself encountered during her life's journey. She identified with the other women and what they believed in. According to her, "God has made each one of us an individual in our own right and he has given us all tremendous inner strength, whether we are able to discover it in ourselves or not." She urged the audience to inspire the young women of the next generation, and to give them confidence as well as the room to grow. That according to her would be "empowering". However, empowerment, she felt, cannot always be done alone. "We need to work together as one unit, because the differences between us at the end of the day don't matter. We still have to help each other out of a crisis and we have to look out for each other."

Mrs Nomita Dhar: Concluding Remarks

The IBU POWER Conference ended on a note of love and gratitude, and reiterated the power that lies within every Ibu, the spark of which women hope to ignite and share further. Summing up with a gratitude reflection, where the speakers and the audience, both men and women closed their eyes, organizer and publisher of IndoConnect, Nomita Dhar encouraged and guided all to thank and reflect on the role of women in their lives, be it mothers, daughters or anyone else. "Both Indonesian and Singaporean women have contributed to the development of their nations. When Indonesia celebrates Kartini Day, we too can commemorate this historic day and personage by gathering this influential group of women to discuss and delve deeper into the role of women in contemporary society. We hope that IBU POWER Women Conference 2017 will be the starting point of women continuing to inspire and empower each other in the Asia Pacific region and beyond," she concluded. 

important position in shaping the nation," she said. Reflecting on how her mother was the greatest influence in her life, she said she had never forgotten that one phrase, "If you like it, it is good." She believed that instead of seeking affirmation from others, her mother had taught her about independence. "She wanted me to think for myself and not just follow the crowd." She urged women to instill that same mindset in the youth. She added that Care Singapore helps youth to reverse their thinking that they must not give up on them-selves, but rediscover their talents and their "strengths to their full potential as adults."

Vanessa Lee

Vanessa Lee is the founder of Van Lee Fitness - the all-women's Muaythai gym in Singapore. She has been in the martial arts/fitness industry for almost 9 years, and is committed to inspir-



MC Profile: Monique Patricia MM

Activist, Entertainer & Entrepreneur



An entrepreneur, co-founder and currently Advisor of Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Indonesia di Singapura (FKMIS)/IDN Singapore, she is also the co-founder and currently Advisor of Masyarakat Kristiani Indonesia di Singapura (MKIS), Executive Committee of IDN Global, world traveller, promoter/producer of concerts and art performances as well as event organiser. Her multiple talents extend to possessing a great singing voice and she is also an excellent MC. The working wife and proud mother is busy in a myriad of activities that displays a quiet compassion in humanity, high passion in a united Indonesia and the positive development of its people.

Organiser Profile Prionka Ray

Sun Media Pte Ltd



Prionka is a writer, communication consultant, and a trainer. Her qualifications include Post Graduation in Advertising & PR, a degree in Hospitality Management and a second degree in English & Psychology. She also has training certifications in Speech Arts communication and Speech & Drama, and has conducted workshops for over a decade in Singapore, Hong Kong & India. Prionka writes for various magazines and works as a consultant for a media company and social enterprises. Her first book, *Sia* was published in 2012. In addition, Prionka is a volunteer-mentor to teens-at-risk with the Ministry of Social & Family Development, and is the founder of In-Group, Support Group for Youth.

Moderator Profile: Diah Wibisono

Member of Dharma Wanita Persatuan (DWP)



Diah Winisono (pictured above middle) worked at HSBC from 1998 until 2004 as Manager for Treasury Finance to accept the British Chevening Scholarship at the University of Edinburgh.

After graduating with a Master of Science in Finance and Investments in 2006, Diah assisted the diplomatic efforts of the world's then youngest democracy, Timor-Leste, at its Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. As Assistant for Economic Affairs to the Chargé d'Affaires, she served during 2006 as the Timor-Leste delegate to the UN, WTO, WHO, WIPO, ILO, and UNCTAD.

After public service, Diah returned to the private sector in 2007 as Head of Finance and Operations, and subsequently in 2009 as CFO, of ANJ Finance, (subsidiary of the Austindo Group, Indonesia). She resigned in 2010 to become a diplomatic spouse in Brussels and is currently a full-time homemaker and homeschooling educator of the young Wibisono children.

Women Empowerment at BLR



One of the longest established resorts on Bintan for over 20 years, Bintan Lagoon Resort (BLR) is recognised as a popular employer. As the largest integrated resort on the island with a total staff strength of almost 600, staff welfare is very much the core of its business.

BLR's management recognises the importance of the well-being of all its employees as critical to the smooth running of its day-to-day operations and the ultimate bottom line of its business

Female employees form nearly 40% of its total staff strength. Both male and female employees are given housing, transportation to/from their accommodation and duty meals three times a day. They are also provided with medical and social insurance. The Resort's clinic is open to all staff.

Generous maternity benefits are offered to show support for working mothers at Bintan Lagoon Resort. Mothers enjoy 1.5 months of pre-maternity leave and 1.5 months of maternity leave. 1.5 months of leave is given to those who have miscarried. A chapel and a prayer room or surau are located on the premises for their use. Both female and male employees also have

access to the Mohammed Ibrahim Mosque built by Moe Ibrahim, President Director of Bintan Lagoon Resort, near the staff dormitory an hour away from the Resort. In addition to their normal medical leave, female employees are also given two days of menstrual leave should they need it. They are also given training in grooming, beauty and communications so as to ensure a consistent standard in professional appearances.


Indonesians are generally known for their warmth and hospitality. The female staff exemplify the grace and poise that are characteristic of their culture. This is clearly evident when dealing with guests. With their charming, smiling demeanor and even temper, female staff are more often than not, in a vantage position to soothe ruffled feathers of guests on occasion.

Female employees are largely found in the Food & Beverage service areas and the golf courses. In fact, the Resort's caddys are all female and are very much sought after by the golf members for their technical knowledge and familiarity with the greens.

During the annual Kartini Day celebration in April, as a testament to their heritage, all female staff are proudly attired in their

ethnic Indonesian kebaya while the male employees are smartly clad in batik shirts.

"We are proud of our female employees. They bring grace and strength to their role at Bintan Lagoon Resort. They are loyal and work tirelessly, always ready with a smile," remarked Gerald A Hendrick, Senior Vice President for Business Development and Hotel Operations, Bintan Lagoon Resort.

For female guests, Bintan Lagoon Resort offers special packages such as Ladies Golf Day, Mother's Day promotions and spa treatments. Programs are also customized for female spouses of MICE guests. 

About Bintan Lagoon Resort

Located over an hour's ferry ride from Singapore on the Indonesian island of Bintan, Bintan Lagoon Resort is a multi-award-winning 470-room fully-integrated beach, golf and spa resort. The resort has two 18-hole golf courses, the largest convention center in Bintan, a private international ferry terminal and two helipads that enable guests to arrive directly at the resort by either ferry or helicopter. The resort has over 50 land and sea activities for guests.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: LESSONS FROM LIFE

Successful (and powerful) women from all over Asia share their story in Singapore. They included Noni Purnomo of Blue Bird Group Holding of Indonesia. IndoConnect also asked them what they think about Kartini and the fight for fairer representation of women in Asia

Some of Asia's leading women professionals shared their insights during the Women for Women Conference held on 4th March 2017 at Resorts World Sentosa. Organised by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Career Women's Group - (SCCCI-CWG), the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Women's Entrepreneur Network (SICCI-WEN) had also collaborated with the SCCCI to celebrate International Women's Day 2017.

SCCCI-CWG's Chairperson Mrs Koh Soo Boon welcome address spoke on this year's theme 'Women for Women' and also announced the good news that the event helped raised \$100,000 for the Hua Mei Centre (for successful aging) and the CN Children Support Program. Guest of Honour for the event was Mrs Grace Foo, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth

Mrs Koh's counterpart at SICCI-WEN, Ms Helen Campos in her welcome speech noted that there are fewer women at the top of Singapore organisations. Women make up about 50 per cent of middle management and professional positions but when it comes to leadership posts, they account for not even a fifth of that number.



(Top): SICCI-WEN Chairperson Helen Campos. (Above): Invited speakers (from left): Ms Ong Chih Ching, Ms Noni Purnomo, Ms Yang Yanqing, Dr Mary Ann Tsao, Ms Siow Lee Chin, Ms Theresa Goh and moderator Ms Jamie Yeo

Why? Her answer is an emphatic "Not because women are less deserving or incapable." Her advice, "We must be each be responsible for our successes be champions of our ideas and landscapers of our careers. Let's not dwell on differences but collaborate on our strengths." She concluded with three short messages, "First is Choice. Whatever is your choice of a goal in life is, be proud of it. Second is Keep Going. Whatever stage you are towards your goal, don't stop, press on. Third is Step Up to the competition. Compete with yourself; not the men, not with what others are saying what success is. Define yourself. Invest in yourself and in your own version of success."

Can women have it all? Is it possible to work towards the Holy Grail of having both a fulfilling career and a personal life? Her answer is, "Yes! I speak from experience. Just don't give up!" She urged all women to aspire more, towards greater and also called upon men who were at the conference to continue supporting women and help balance out their commitments at home so that they can also be "catalysts for change." Mrs Campos is a management consultant who specialises in setting up business operations for foreign companies in Singapore. 



CLAIRE CHIANG: NEVER GIVE UP IN THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

The award-winning entrepreneur, social activist and author was interviewed by IndoConnect's Editor in Chief, Mrs Nomita Dhar, digging deep into her personal history and family ties, to reveal the pivotal role they play in one's learning curve as an adult, in a world fraught with challenges

The lessons she learned as a child, from her mother and grandmother, living in a two-roomed flat in the multi-ethnic quarter of Race Course in the Singapore of old, have moulded the life of one of island nation's most successful female business entrepreneurs, Claire Chiang the co-founder of Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts. If anything the story of Claire today is a beacon of hope for women across the world who feel mired by their circumstances—not only by those who put up walls around them...blinkered parents, husbands, families...organizations— but even themselves.

Raised by two strongly protective, courageous women, who beat the odds to make a life for those in their charge, Claire wants women to break the walls and get out there—not just for themselves but for generations of young girls who will be born of their line and will carry on the legacy of individuality, independence and empowered responsibility of their own lives and those around them.

Childhood Landscape

It is from her mother that Claire Chiang, as a Tomboy in a family of five elder brothers and five boy cousins, learned the

wisdom and imbibed richness of how to live in an integrated ethnic community with grace and joy and friendship and affection, giving and sharing. It is from her paternal grandmother, her great support and co-conspirator (when she was out on a date) that she learned about womanliness and creativity. These twin fundamentals were to play a very important part in her work area years later when she set up her hospitality business with her husband. With ownership of resorts and hotels across 28 nations Claire put to use her basic skills and comfort level of working with her team drawn from different nationalities around the world. It was her exposure to creativity from her grandmother— and later a friend, who introduced her to local crafting skills which opened up the avenue for the retail business of handicrafts for her company. Look to your personal history (is her common refrain), to remember your genetic history that brought you to where you are today....use it to anchor yourself, find inspiration in things you learned when you were young.

True Grit

Invaluable for a woman are heroes who mentor her in honing her own skills to deal with the trials and tribulations in the

journey of life. What sustained her, Chiang says, is the spirit of resilience she absorbed from her grandmothers and mother. Her maternal grandmother – for folding up her tent and quitting Malacca with her daughter - and uneducated though she was, to have the guts to make a new life for them in Singapore. And her mother, despite being abandoned as a child, by her father, and raised by a single parent, the breast cancer (Claire was only 17 at the time), or the stroke (when Claire was in her 20s) her mind was razor sharp as was her determination that all her six children got a good education and solid moral values at home to take them forward.

Getting over it... the hard lesson life teaches you when things go so completely wrong and learning to just move on and survive, has been one of the most precious lessons she wants to share with women who are too frozen to act when terrible things are done to their body and spirit. Never give up. Get up and get on with living life, for life gives no quarter to anyone, she urges.

Parenting and the Legacy for your Children

Children are the hope for future generations, and time and again the



women speakers at the IBU POWER Conference could not stress this strongly enough. For Ms Chiang the most important legacy she would leave her three children was the power of choice as individuals—driven by two fundamentals of life. No matter the wealthier circumstances they grew up than she did as a child, true success is not God-given or something one can buy. It is something you can only achieve by your own hard efforts. It's about how much work, and the quality of that work, you put into it to get there. The other fundamental—don't whine—it's not going to get you that school programme or that award. You made the effort sure...but you did not perform. So move on—work harder and perform better next year.

Privilege, clearly, has never been the driver for achievement, for the Chiang children. Happy about their development (no drugs...no getting into trouble) she believes their academic achievements and what they are today are rooted in these teachings she inculcated in them as a mother. 'They can do whatever they like now, they have integrity and the qualities that I respect, and this is something I am grateful for. As to what they will become—this is their own destiny. They have to create their own dreams and destinies and then the credit is entirely theirs. I am besides them to pick them up should they fall. I am there should they need counseling. I am there to assist—but they have to walk this journey on their own,' says Claire.

She feels women should not spend so much time pushing their children to be competitive. 'We must teach, coach, demonstrate, explain and communicate the value of things—the value of household sharing, the value of marriage and family, of gender equality, of friendship of sports of water conservation...' she points out.

We are Family


The deep reserves to cope with life evolve from recognizing the fact that nothing can take away from the collective family history and memory you have built together—and this is one of the most important binding forces to keep a family unit together. You cry together...you fight with each other; you laugh together you share precious memories together, says Claire—and that is what one has to cherish—and what one cherishes one defends. It is the best foundation for tackling the troubles we are beset with on life's journey

Girl Power

Many speakers at the IBU Conference talked of the painful reality of the terrible things that some women all over the world face...the physical and mental abuse...the neglect and how overcome they feel by their circumstances to improve their lot. Ms Chiang is saddened by it but also is of the firm belief that one can overcome any

brutality and bullying by the other—it could be a husband... a father... a mother ...a boss or even a friend... with the nurturing of one's mental health to overcome these horrors. This is where women such as these need the sisterhood support to help them maintain and sustain a positive mental health, which is so vulnerable in this modern world. Education, support and counseling are the most important engines that will drive change in the lives of these women. It will also give back the control over their lives and their circumstances. Claire is of the opinion that it will take another generation for this change to kick in—a time when the tipping point will be reached and then it will be irreversible.

Because education amongst women has gone up by 50 %, they are now increasingly exposed to the Internet and related IT and they are better positioned to control things in their lives. 'When my grandmother came to Singapore it was for survival, my mother was looking at progress during Singapore's nation-building years. I am looking at equality and my daughter has 'choices'—and for her daughter, it will be about exercising choices and personal control. It's a journey of life and you need to not lose the vision and the courage to life in a purposeful manner, for which we women need to continue to work collectively together,' she shares.

But, she quickly adds, we must take the men along with us...after all we don't need to create another level of inequality in our quest for women empowerment.—there's nothing like men and women working together to achieve great things. 



**Adhyanti Sardanarini
Wirajuda**



SOFT POWER IS NOT THE SOLE PREROGATIVE OF DIPLOMACY

First Secretary at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore Ms Adhyanti Sardanarini Wirajuda is one of the diplomats tasked with maintaining close bilateral relations and cooperation between the Republic of Indonesia and Singapore, primarily in political issues.

In a conversation with Ms Nomita Dhar, Editor-in-Chief Sun Media, Ms Wirajuda, shares her world view of women empowerment with readers of the Hari Kartini issue.

You have been working at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore for some time now, please share something about your experiences here...

Yes, I have been here for two years in Singapore now and I like it a lot. It's been a very good experience... different from my previous post at the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York where I mainly dealt with multilateral issues. I find that Singaporean people are very kind and I have developed a lot of friendships over these years and it's truly been a pleasure for me and my family— both workwise and socially.

Why did you choose diplomacy as a career choice?

I had a passion for international law and international relations and I couldn't think of a better field as a profession to pursue this — and I really like the fact that I am able to contribute to the country and represent it on various important issues.

What about your family— are they here?

I'm here with my husband Aldi and my three beautiful children. The oldest is a boy, who is ten ... the second is also a boy and he's going to be eight in May. The youngest one is a girl and she will be five this April. So that's two boys and a girl. It's wonderful to have three kids though I must admit that it can be difficult to juggle work and motherhood. Nevertheless, it is a truly rewarding experience.

What aspect of the work are you handling at the embassy?

I deal mainly with political issues, as well as security and legal issues. But given the nature of my work as a diplomat, I do not solely deal with those issues.

Women are normally considered to be part of soft power matters and less so with political issues. Is it a challenge for you to handle this particular portfolio?

I must admit that some issues, particularly those related to security, are mostly masculine matters where you deal with the military and the police. But I think in Indonesia, in Singapore and in the world in general today, they are accommodating towards the involvement of women in these issues, so I haven't felt any obstacles as such. As a matter of fact, I believe that as a woman, we can actually take advantage of our feminine charm.

In your line of work do you meet more of your kind of women?

When I first entered the foreign ministry back in 2003, of the 98 people in my batch there were forty eight women and fifty men. That's incredible! That doesn't happen in many countries. So I'd say Indonesia has done well in balancing the gender factor. Yes! As a matter of fact, in the batches that followed after 2003 sometimes women outnumbered the men. So it goes to show that the foreign ministry and many other ministries in Indonesia don't discriminate against women. Women have been treated equally— by being accepted entry in different ministries in Indonesia.

While you were growing up in Indonesia what was the state of women in the country and have you noticed any changes in their status since?

I think after Raden Adjeng Kartini, who empowered women — and up to the present day — women in Indonesia have always played a big role in Indonesian history and Indonesian society. They include President Megawati (Soekarnoputri), Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Susi Pudjiastuti as well as Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani. We have a lot of women who are taking key roles in the Indonesian government and society.



Adhyanti at work: Even in matters related to security men are now accommodating towards involvement of women in these areas

Ever since the Kartini-era, women have played an intrinsic role in the nation's life and contributed to development in many arenas.

In your opinion are there any issues—not for those at the helm, but those at a lower level for women in Indonesia — that need tackling?

I think maybe in terms of opportunities... In bigger towns and cities women have easier access to education etc. In smaller communities and in the less developed regions, there is also the traditional perception that a woman's place is in the home and there's not much need seen to for a higher education. But I think that is changing, as I happen to have a lot of acquaintances in the provinces looking for higher education just as the men are. So the perception that women don't need to continue their education is becoming a dying trend.

In your opinion what defines an Indonesian woman.

We have so much ethnic diversity.... 33 provinces... with women from many different backgrounds and ethnic groups. I would describe Indonesian woman as gentle, kind, rarely rude and aggressive and upholding culture... But I would also say this of her — despite her outside appearance, on the inside she is very strong and resilient.

What about culture... the music and dance etc—all of this seems intrinsic to shaping the character of Indonesian women.

Yes! I myself have learned many Indonesian traditional dances, particularly Javanese and Sumatran.

My father was a diplomat as well and during his assignments I got these opportunities to learn and perform different forms of dance. Eventually, performing on stage became natural to me. I like promoting Indonesian culture through dance etc, and as a little girl I believed that in all walks of life you can promote Indonesia culturally without having to be a diplomat.

Today the world is looking at Indonesia in a different light. They think it's a land of opportunity. Its GDP is growing and the government is very aggressive in wooing investors. What is your take on this scenario?

I see it as a very good thing. Indonesia continues playing its leadership and constructive roles in various international organizations and initiatives. Indonesia is also committed to ensure that we have strong economic growth and development, a stable political condition and a vibrant democratic society. Our GDP is growing despite the global economic situation, and I think that the leadership under President Widodo is helping us move in the right direction.

Talking of soft power— you are also a fashion designer in your own right. Please share this other passion of yours with us.

My passion for designing clothes started from my hobby of collecting Indonesia's traditional fabrics. As home to thousands of ethnic subgroups, Indonesia has a rich variety of textiles and boasts a vast range of traditional fabrics. Each highlight unique patterns and colours, as well as

“...the Indonesian woman is soft, gentle, kind, rarely rude and aggressive... But I would also say this of her — inside she is very strong and resilient”

various methods of weaving and dyeing fabrics. While most people only know Batik as the traditional Indonesian fabric, in fact, there are many kinds of traditional fabrics from various provinces such as tenun ikat, songket etc, each with a different motifs. I simply love these different textiles. Hence my passion for designing clothes started from my eagerness to be able to wear these traditional fabrics on a daily basis. Even what I am wearing now has been designed by me. I would like to develop this side of mine someday. It's a work in progress as you say. My label is called Anuraga—after the middle name of my daughter.

You are into sports also in a big way...

Yes. It's a passion I share with my husband. It also gives us quality time together. We go cycling, hiking, kayaking etc and Singapore has many places where one can enjoy all this. For example we can do an 80km/4hr cycling trip that takes us across many nice parts of the city and even the coastal belt.

How do you find time to fit this all into a 24 hour day?

By trying to live a balanced life where there's work, time with the family but also me time... And one can only do so much in 24 hours. Luckily I'm able to do this with the support from my husband, friends, and colleagues. ☺

CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

by Henny Scott

ARTJOG 2017



Aka as the YOGYA ART FAIR, this year it re-opens on 19th May and goes on till 19th June 2017 with the theme 'Changing Perspective.' What you can expect and **if you would like to go....**

ArtJog is held in Indonesia's City of Artists, Yogyakarta. Organised by Heri Pemas Art Management (HPAM) this will be the 10th edition of the leading contemporary arts showcase. Past editions have been great successes and attracted not only local art lovers but also a large crowd of international art collectors and enthusiasts.

What makes ArtJog different from other art fairs is there is NO involvement of galleries. That's why it has often described as The Artist's Fair. Artists are invited to respond for open call submission of art works based on the theme, which this year is Changing Perspective.

For many international art collectors the trip to ArtJog is like a breath of fresh air that is uniquely ArtJog. It is surely one of the best places to keep an eye on Indonesian art. So due to its unique setting, quantity of artworks on display, the social and cultural experience that is ArtJog is quite difficult to find anywhere else.

Indo Connect Art Correspondent, Henny Scott is a regular visitor of the Fair and she makes it a point to go every year with a group of like-minded art enthusiasts, some from Singapore, Jakarta and Dubai. This year Henny will conduct a Bespoke Art Tour for New Art Collectors that includes a preview of ArtJog ahead of the public viewing, and some 'extracurricular' programmes that involve artists' studios visits, attending the opening reception of OHD museum in Magelang and a visit to the Sakato Art Community, a collective of artists from West Sumatra whose more than 200 members live, practice and study art in Yogyakarta.

To support ArtJog 2017 and join the tour on from May 18 to 21, you can contact Henny Scott for enquiries at: ghjscott@gmail.com.



(Above):
ARTJOG 2013
Papermoon Puppet Theatre
by Iwan Effendi

(Right):
ARTJOG 2015
Taman Budaya
by Indieguerillas



(Below):
ARTJOG 2014
Centre of Attention:
Goni Cabinet
by Samsul Arifin



*Art work and
installations at Taman
Budaya Yogyakarta
from past
ARTJOG Fairs*

Photos by ARTJOG



*ART/JOG 2015
Green flux
initisl concept by
Indieguerillas*

*(Below):
ARTJOG 2012
Taman Budaya Yogyakarta
covered by bamboo
installation by Joko Avianto.
In front of it, a giant elephant
flopped on a mound of
coconuts by I Made Widya
Diputra.*



18-21 May
in conjunction with ArtJog 2017

YOGYAKARTA & MAGELANG

a curated bespoke art and cultural tour with Henny Scott

- Artist's studio visits
- Preview & Opening Reception of ArtJog2017
- Viewing of the largest collection of Indonesian art
- Preview to BAKABA #6 exhibition by the largest artists collectives
- rural Javanese boutique accommodation
- memorable and immersive art and cultural experience
- Borobudur at sunrise (optional)

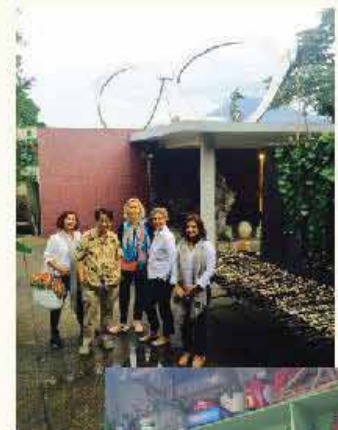


Image Credit: Indah Brown

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED
Enquiry: ghjscott@gmail.com

IN SUPPORT OF:

**ART
JOG**

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d'Omah
yogya
hotel



AYKE AGUS IN SINGAPORE

**A special Tribute Concert to her
mentor, Jascha Heifetz**

IndoConnect is proud to be the Media Partner of Dr Ayke Agus Tribute Concert to her mentor, Violin Master, Jascha Heifetz. It was held in a unique venue, at the historic Black & White House, Adam Park on 29th April 2017. The performance was graced by the presence of Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya, wife of HE Ngurah Swajaya Republic Indonesia Ambassador in Singapore.

It was organised in conjunction with Geraldene's Tours, a tour and travel company specialising in 'off the beaten track' tours for Singapore residents and independent travellers, with an emphasis on the heritage, history and culture of Singapore.

Born in 1949 in the city of Artists, Yogyakarta, Ayke Agus is a classical Violinist and Pianist known primarily through her longtime collaboration with renowned Violin Master, Jascha Heifetz. As the oldest of 9 children in the family, Ayke's father worked as a Builder of churches, schools and hospitals for the Catholic missionary. Her mother, where she inherited her talent from, was a piano teacher and started Ayke musical instrument training on both violin and piano.

Growing up in Yogya

Growing up in a big family, Ayke did not have a normal childhood as she had to help her parents bringing up her siblings, assisted them with daily practice of musical instrument, in addition to mastering her own musical instrument practice.

By the age of seven, Ayke was invited to do a musical performance at the Sultan (Royal) Palace in Solo with her mother as her accompanist to celebrate the Sultan's birthday. After that successful debut, Ayke was bombarded with opportunities to perform in many concerts, primarily to raise funds for building projects in aid of the Catholic missionary.

As a child, Ayke was eligible to receive full scholarship from a great number of organizations to further develop her study in violin and piano performance. Unfortunately her parents thought Ayke was too young to live on her own, and later because she was unable to obtain an exit visa. A missionary, Sister Brigid Conboy, who was following Agus's career was able to arrange for a scholarship at Rosary Hill College near Buffalo, New York, United States. After her first paid concert in May 1969, Governor Ali Sadikin granted her the exit visa.



Following the death of her music mentor, Ayke wrote the book on the Maestro, "Heifetz, As I Knew Him", which was published in 2001 and is still in circulation. The book, unexpectedly opened many doors to Ayke where she was invited to give lectures, Master classes and perform concerts worldwide



(Above): Ibu Ayke Agus performing in the lush grounds of the historic colonial Black & White House

After achieving success in local competitions, she became the youngest member of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. This was followed by two full scholarship offers: Juilliard School of Music, recommended by violin pedagogue Ivan Galamian and the University of Southern California. With her acceptance into the Jascha Heifetz Master Class at University of Southern California, Ayke became his best student and eventually became his Accompanist, a lasting association with him that lasted until his death in 1987.

Following the death of her music mentor, Ayke wrote the book on the Maestro, "Heifetz, As I Knew Him", which was published in 2001 and still in circulation. The book, unexpectedly opened many doors to Ayke where she was invited to give lectures, Master classes and concert worldwide including at the International Music Institutes, The Juilliard School of Music, New England Conservatory, Yong Siew Toh (YST) Conservatory of NUS Singapore and many others.

Ayke's long time mission after the passing of Jascha Heifetz has been to continue the Heifetz Musical and Teaching Traditions. In her spare time, Ayke is a Music-for-Healing-Volunteer, where she plays for the sick and help raising funds for the needy.

Ibu Ayke, as fellow Indonesians called her, lives in USA with her husband, Matthew Mallen, an English Professor who is a loyal companion to achieve her mission.


Ayke loves to make music and speaks about her life with Jascha



Ibu Ayke (3rd from left) with some of the guests at the special tribute concert who included Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya (front row 4th from right)

Heifetz and will welcome the opportunity to show the film documentary called "God's Fiddler" directed by the renowned film Director, Peter Rosen.

This documentary portrays an artist for whom only perfection would do through vintage performances, master classes and Heifetz' previously unseen home movies. Interviewees include Itzhak Perlman, Ivry Gitlis and Ida Haendel, and former student, accompanist and longtime companion Ayke Agus.

If you are interested in any similar programmes organised in the future please do drop a line with your expression of interest to Henny Scott at ghjsscott@gmail.com 



SULLIVAN + STRUMPF PRESENT INDO & AUST ARTISTS

By Henny Scott

The Australian gallery presents a joint exhibition between Tony Albert and Timoteus Anggawan Kusno


This show is a result from their residency program “KERJASAMA” or “COLLABORATE”, a reciprocal visual art residency program supported by the Australian Government through the aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander program at Cemeti Art House and Alice Spring, Northern Territory back in 2016.

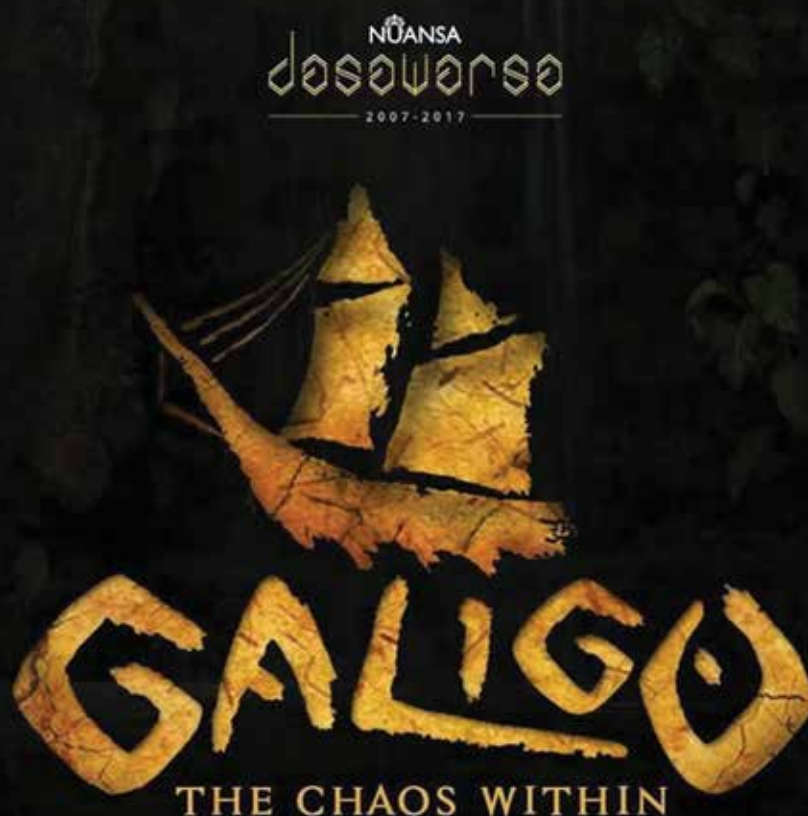
In their personal invitation to IndoConnect, the lovely Megan Arlin, Associate at The Gallery, proudly highlighted this is the first time Sullivan + Strumpf is showing an Indonesian artist in their gallery. at Gillman Barracks. This IndoConnect Art Correspondent was impressed with the fabulous works shown by both artists.

Tony Albert presented a new series called Crop Circles of Yogya and appropriates local farmer's iconic hats into wearable UFOs, takes portraits of Yogyakarta locals wearing the hats, which are then embellished in the subsequent photographic prints with stickers of familiar pop culture symbolism. Situating himself as a visitor during his Cemeti residency programme, Albert engages local tradition, personal narrative, and collectively relatable symbolism, to ask – who is the Alien here?

Born in 1989, Timoteus Anggawan Kusno (Angga) studied social and political science at Gadjah Mada University and continued

on to cultural studies at Sanata Dharma University. Practicing as a research-based artist who developed an ongoing project in 2013, which resulted in a fictional institution named Centre for Tanah Runcuk Studies (CTRS). This investigation challenges the dominant discourse in the context of post-colonial Indonesia. Using the medium of storytelling in his work, Angga blurs the fictional narrative in the texts and artifacts of an unknown land in Dutch East Indies called Tanah Runcuk.

In this exhibition, the series Tropika Selekt: Echoes from Terra Incognita reimagines and captures the incomplete archive collection of the CTRS. Archives of narrated stories owned by CTRS have never been published and had mysteriously disappeared. This colossal scene full of amok and intrigue is celebrated by the imagined community and facilitated by a number of compradors, with support of VOC guns from the early 17th century. Angga works are presented in a multiple of medium including collage, drawing and photography works. The visitors who attended the opening reception enthusiastically received this joint exhibition. Many took videos, photographed and posed with the artists. Angga is anticipating a busy year ahead participating in Equator Biennale 2017 (Yogyakarta) and representing Indonesia at Europalia Bozar (Brussel) and Artraker Biennale Prize in Valetta (Malta) as well as art residency programme in Museo du Oriente, Portugal. We wish you every success, Mas Angga! 



An ambitious production that is based on an extract from Bugis mythology – the *Sureq Galigo* is the world's oldest and longest work of literature! Nevertheless NUANSA students and alumni have quite cleverly captured the essence of the ferocity of the people of Bugis as well as the beauty and touching aspects of their proud culture

By Syed Jaafar Alkaff

This is the 10th anniversary of NUANSA - Indonesian students in the National University of Singapore Association. Their mission is to provide audiences here a fresh insight, create interest and some understanding of Indonesian culture. As usual, expectations are high as the students, this time with the active participation of past members, explore a story from land of the Bugis, South Sulawesi. The performances on 26 March 2017 at

the Drama Centre showed that NUANSA was still able to fulfil its mission as the almost 1,000 members of the audience were treated to the matinee and gala performances of this wholly original musical (in English). This time the NUANSA touch was reflected in the songs and sparse dialogue delivered in an almost semi-operatic style!

The production was also fortunate to have the



participation and talent of M. Gentile Andilolo who has played Galigo in Robert Wilson's production of 'I La Galigo' that toured the world for 12 years. What was his opinion of NUANSA's production? "One thing that strikes me is the members' passion and love for the performing arts and Indonesian culture," he replied.

One extension of this passion was to setup a mini-exhibition of Bugis history, crafts, jewellery, trading items etc in the lobby of the Drama Centre, as another learning experience for the audience. Many of the exhibits were flown in from Indonesia (not replicas). The Bugis were known as traders, scholars, priests and rulers, but more than anything else they were known as fearless sailors, travelling to other kingdoms such as Sriwijaya and Majapahit in their famous Phinisi ships. The Bugis were among the first people to arrive in Singapore after the British established a trading settlement here in 1819. The exhibition also had plenty of information and images displaying what went on "behind the scenes" in the production of *Galigo The Chaos Within*.

Galigo Origins

The story of Galigo was passed down through the ages via the oral story-telling tradition. The first written versions appeared around the 18th Century but there is no complete edition preserved. And it is so long (6,000 pages or 300,000 lines of text) that it's said no Bugis has ever possessed or even read the work in its entirety and complete reading it in one lifetime! Whole cyclical episodes focus on the adventures of six generations of characters who are descendants of six divine parents - three from the upper world and three from the underworld. The six divine couples are in turn descendants of higher divinities. The Singapore

production focused on the prophecy which foretold the birth of golden twins. If one day they were to fall in love with each other, their passion would unleash chaos!

IndoConnect talked to Steven Liman who is the Artistic Head of the production. "My vision for the project was to try and bring that part of the Bugis cultural element on stage, that part that people may not be able to connect with in modern times. We try to do it in such a way that it comes across as natural for contemporary audiences while still observing the feel of the original culture. We hope the audience will learn as well as enjoy it at the same time," said Liman.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Liman revealed that one of the biggest challenges facing the producers was which parts to choose from out of one of the largest works of literature in the world as well as how to adapt it in a convincing way; "So we preserved as much as possible as well as adding our own imagination in telling the story. Galigo has been staged professionally in the Robert Wilson production so we as students approached it from





Photos of performances courtesy of NUANSA Dasawarsa Cultural Production

a different angle so that it is not replicated and feels fresh.”

This production took almost two years to complete and there were many tribulations and roadblocks the artistic team had to overcome,” said Liman. Also, after 10 years of being in existence, “I really want us to improve on the past productions and pulling together so many of us from the past to be involved in Galigo did result in a very satisfying production,” said the director.

Unrelenting

For example, the pace of the story telling was unrelenting, “Yes, it was non-stop as we have very smooth transitions from one scene to another with many dances, original music and lyrics as well as a lot of coordination among a great number of the cast and crew.”

It was not a straightforward, linear presentation of a story with music and dances. Several genres of story telling were mixed including restrained but effective use of lights, with sound effects ala *wayang kulit* style.

The dancing pace was energetic throughout by the students and we were treated to a moving and dreamlike virtuoso performance by Gentile Andilolo at the end in an Epilogue section titled ‘Pakarena’ that left many leaving the Drama Centre theatre in the spell of Galigo.

Galigo proved that NUANSA is able to mount an epic-scale production and remain true to its mission to promote Indonesian culture. It maxed out the involvement of many Indonesian students in NUS, allowing them to participate in one annual production. It has shown again that it is able to bring its own ‘touch’ and ‘nuances’ to create and adapt works from Indonesia. This sets the stage for a new decade ahead that we hope its student members and alumni can explore, perhaps doing performances in a different scale - more intimate, closer or more personal intensity of interaction. The level of student participation can still be high if it is presented as a group of smaller plays. This is something for NUANSA members to consider as only they can best gauge the way forward in building up the group’s future. ¹⁰



SINGAPORE PROPERTY WATCH

SIGNS & INDICATORS OF REVIVAL

Over the last two years, a large number of Singaporeans have been chafing at the galloping rise in property prices

Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore Ravi Menon, late last year had pointed out that, “High property prices is unhealthy for our economy. That signals to us that even if property prices were to appreciate, it would have to be at a sustainable place.”

The first round of property cooling measures and loan curbs were brought in by the Singapore government to rein in the red hot market, from 2009; a significant move was the introduction of the Additional Buyer's Stamp Duty (ABSD) and in 2013, the 8th and toughest round, brought in the new Total Debt Servicing Ratio (TDSR) framework.

The intent was to ensure there is a ‘meaningful correction’ and a ‘soft landing’ of the property market. A pre-mature lifting of the measures would undo the government’s efforts to make home prices affordable. The government would monitor the market and adjust when necessary.

In a press release jointly issued by Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Finance and Monetary Authority of Singapore on March 10 2017, it announced its call to make adjustments to the Seller's Stamp Duty (SSD) and Total Debt Servicing Ratio (TDSR) framework. Translated—Singapore will lower the seller's stamp duty (SSD) by four percentage points for each tier and shorten its holding period and the Total Debt Servicing Ratio (TDSR) will also no longer apply to mortgage equity withdrawal loans with loan-to-value ratios of 50 per cent and below. Market response to these measures, which came into immediate effect on March 11, was quick off the bat.

The FTSE ST Real Estate Holding and Development Index was up 3.8 per cent at the day's high of 838.24 at 12.39 pm. Even as the market reacted positively to the new easing measures, the government moved swiftly to plug the loopholes in residential property transactions with a new stamp duty—the Additional Conveyance Duties (ACD).

The DBS market outlook for Singapore's real estate this February had opined that, “While Singapore's property price index (PPI) and retail rent index (RRI) continued to decline in the 2016 fourth quarter; we noted some positive data points: i) improved prices in landed and Core Central Region (CCR) non-landed homes; ii) strong growth in residential home transactions; and iii) marginal improvement in vacancy rates for two consecutive quarters. We believe the property market may have stabilised at these low levels in the near-term, with potential downside risk from a deterioration in Singapore's economic outlook. The bright spots are the luxury and central market segments have likely bottomed out.” According to Dr Chua Yang Liang, head of research at South-east Asia at JLL, depending on economic growth and other macroeconomic factors, “The potential recovery range is likely to be in line with GDP growth, and driven largely by a pickup in the prime residential market.”

New property measures

They come into effect on Mar 11, 2017.

Seller's Stamp Duty

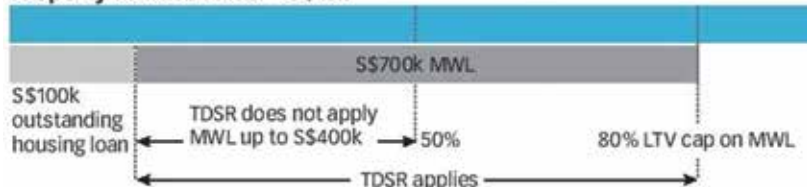
HOLDING PERIOD	JAN 14, 2011 TO MAR 10, 2017 INCLUSIVE* (%)	MAR 11, 2017 ONWARDS* (%)
Up to 1 year	16	12
More than 1 year and up to 2 years	12	8
More than 2 years and up to 3 years	8	4
More than 3 years and up to 4 years	4	No SSD payable

* For actual price or market value based on date of purchase or change in zoning

Total Debt Servicing Ratio

Will not apply to mortgage equity withdrawal loans (MWL) with loan-to-value (LTV) ratio of 50% and below.

Property market value = S\$1m



* Assuming borrower: (a) only has 1 property and 1 outstanding housing loan secured on same property; (b) did not use CPF monies to purchase property; (c) meets credit assessment; (d) applicable LTV limit to take a MWL is 80%.

Additional Conveyance Duties



Source: MOF, MND, MAS

In October last year Knight Frank and Property Club Singapore brought together industry experts and investors to the Property Investor Roundtable Luncheon, which highlighted some of salient points of market trends in Singapore's retail, residential and office property market—which, though recovering slightly since early 2017, have been going through a prolonged slump.

The rental market has been affected by a lot of MNCs moving staff out of Singapore because it's too costly. Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) reports put the vacancy rate of private residential properties between 10 to 12 percent. Tay Kah Poh, Executive Director & Head of Residential Services at Knight Frank's observations were that: 'Rentals between \$8,000 and \$10,000 are most competitive. High-end projects in prime districts suffer the most these few years because of a lot of supply, cutback of expatriate housing budget, tightening of immigration, etc.'

The decline in demand for office space has also emanated from the new supply of 7 million square feet of office space coming up in the next four

years. Prime office rents in Singapore's financial district dropped by more than 10 per cent in the past two years due to oversupply. Analysts expect things to start looking up with limited new developments until 2021 after some constructions this year. According to Frank Knight, who sees the situation as akin to musical chairs, 'Tenants are moving from older offices to newer ones. And everyone is taking a very cautious stand in expanding their office footprint.'

Marking the slight recovery in the market (trending with the adjustment of cooling measures by the government in the beginning of March 2017) Asia-Pacific head John Saunders of BlackRock Real Estate speaking to Reuters said: 'the worst is over for Singapore's office property market with supply tapering off... We are starting to see it become more of a landlord's market and we are starting to see rents move again and that makes it very attractive,' he said, adding that the firm is mulling investments in malls and industrial assets in Singapore.

Sigrid Zialcita, Managing Director, Asia Pacific Research, at Cushman & Wakefield, pointed out to the government's recent move to ease some of its curbs on the sector as the reason for the market's changing fortunes to CNBC's "The Rundown". 'That actually boosted sentiment in the market. We've seen an increase in foot traffic and it's incentivizing a lot of buyers,' she shared.

Frank Knight, however, sees the commercial property sector bound for a hard slog for some time still. The culprit again appears to be oversupply in the industrial market, with 5 million square feet of current supply in industrial space. In 2017, there will be another 15 million square feet added to the market. Agents, it noted, could barely rent out at \$2 psf.

The housing market in Singapore is reflecting the trend of the younger generation today, who are increasingly opting to rent rather than buy and get stuck with 30-year mortgages—so it's not just the foreigners who are renting. According to Debbie Lam, Consultancy & Research Manager at Knight Frank, there are presently over 21,000 unsold units. Even if buyers clear about 7,000 homes a year, it would take about three years for the market to absorb all the unsold units. 'Every year Singapore takes in 20,000 to 30,000 non-residents. There are 30,000 vacant units next year. The average household size in Singapore is 3.4. We need 100,000 people to occupy these units. Let's assume the locals are staying in HDBs flats. We need another three years for 100,000 PMETs and their families to come here,' she pointed out to the gathering at the luncheon.

For the Rich

And the rich...they are holding on to their money right now.' The UHNWI (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) buy companies and businesses. They invest offshore,' Tay said, because of better yields ... or ... 'For the vast majority, they are holding cash and are not jumping in yet. But some are still buying. They will bargain hunt for something they like and give an offer on the low side,' he shared. Lam puts it thus: 'In a high risk market, people are hunting for safe assets. Investors are still buying high-end condos and offices. They know that prices are high now. They can tolerate low yields in the short to mid-term and bet for capital appreciation in the long term.'

According to Knight the hottest areas for buyers would be properties close to MRT stations — more resilient good options are the mid-tier market near Redhill, Commonwealth and Paya Lebar MRT because the two-bedroom units are quantum-friendly and very rentable, according to Lam. Director & Head of Consultancy and Research at Knight Frank Alice Tan's research revealed that: 'Prices in Jurong Lake District are likely to rally beyond 2020 after the High Speed Rail is ready in 2025. But during the construction period, prices are likely to fall because of the noise and dust.'

Developer Frasers Centrepoint Singapore shared that the highly-anticipated Seaside Residences condominium at Siglap Link attracted strong buyer interest at its preview over the weekend (8 and 9 April), with close to 5,000 people visiting the show suite over two days. Analysts noted that one indication of better sentiment is the strong interest seen at the 429-unit Park Place Residences, which sold 50 percent of its units in just one day, reports Romesh Navaratnarajah, Senior Editor at PropertyGuru. 

Singapore Residential Property Index



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Bahasa Speaking

CULIVATING RESPONSIBILITY AND A SENSE OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH



At ISS International School, community service projects are part of the 'Creativity, Action, Service' (CAS) requirement in the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme. The underlying philosophy is that education should extend beyond the intellectual to include the development of socially responsible attitudes as well as thoughtful and appropriate actions.

In addition to the 'Rainbow Chair-ity' project (see accompanying story), a number of other community organisations have benefitted from the school's CAS projects. ISS International School students have built a basketball court for

an orphanage in Indonesia, constructed boats for children to go to school in the Philippines and taught drama skills to children in Cambodia. They have also provided tuition for domestic workers and worked with animal welfare groups locally. Students have also performed for elderly and ill patients at various local hospitals, to bring joy and laughter, thus combining both the creativity and service aspects of CAS. Starting with supporting local causes, students have taken their CAS commitments global and have participated in projects where they can demonstrate how young people can make a difference and help address world concerns.



(Left): Telunas 1 (Right & above):
Borneo 1 & 2 resp. (Above right):
Climb for Rainbows 2016

From a young age, at elementary school, students are already immersed in a wide variety of meaningful projects designed to help them meet their IB learning objectives, while developing their social and civic conscience. By high school, their personal and interpersonal growth through service learning projects, as recorded in their reflections, help support their applications to Higher Education.

According to Schezin, an Asian student, her participation in the Rainbow Chair-ity project was also a journey of self-discovery. She said, "This project is going to benefit my thought process as a human being in general. While interacting with the children at the 'Rainbow Chair-ty' project, each of us observed a change in our behaviour as we found ways to overcome communication barriers with the children."


Emillia, another student from Europe, added, "It's something I never really thought I would have a chance to do. I

Some of the CAS projects
ISIS students undertake
(Left): Breast Cancer Walk
2016. (Below): Telunas 2



benefitted from this experience because working with kids with disabilities showed me that anything is possible.”

While supporting good causes, CAS projects have also provided life-changing experiences for some students. Mao, an alumnus, was

so moved by her service experience teaching swimming to children that she is now pursuing a degree in education in the hope that she can inspire others to pursue service learning to make a difference in the lives of others. 

CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE



Standing Up for Service. With a Chair

ISS International School students collaborated with the Rainbow Centre on their ‘Rainbow Chair-ity’ project, to exercise their creativity and contribute to society by designing chairs that expressed abstract ideas of awareness, inclusion and empowerment for children with disabilities.

This is just one example of the many ‘Creativity, Action, Service’ projects that students can select and engage in, to help identify their core strengths, while supporting community causes.

These chairs started off as four classic Louis XV armchairs. By the end of about nine months of collaborative work, ISS International School Students and beneficiaries from Rainbow Centre had transformed them into limited-edition works of art that provided creative interpretations of the disabilities that some children in society have to live with.

One chair has wings representing the empowerment of children to break free from their disabilities. Another chair has been completely transformed into a whimsical forest land, like a child’s mind waiting to be explored.

Along with works from other organisations, the four chair creations were displayed at Ion Shopping Centre, where members of the public could pledge their donations for a new extension wing for Rainbow Charity at its Margaret Drive School. The charity serves children and young people with a diverse range of moderate to severe special needs, including autism, physical, visual and hearing disabilities.

If you would like to find out more about our IB School (K1 to G12) curriculum, please write to: admissions@iss.edu.sg or call 6653 2973. Click [here](#) to visit ISS’s official website.



BEHIND THE SCENES

SMILEFOCUS LOOKS BACK ON 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS

The Camden Medical Centre-based dental practice hits a momentous milestone in March. Founder Dr Marcus Cooney shares some of the reasons behind its achievements

The Churchill Room at the Tanglin Club was packed with more than 150 guests and well-wishers who came to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Smilefocus. They were welcomed by Dr Marcus Cooney whose journey here started in 1994 when he closed his Australian clinics and moved to Singapore from Adelaide with his wife, Angela, and two young children. On arrival he joined a dental practice as an associate. In three years he opened his first clinic, Dental Excellence, at Tanglin Shopping Centre. It doubled in size and opened as Smilefocus in 2001 before doubling again with an additional office in the Camden Medical Centre in 2004. All operation was consolidated at Camden with further expansions in the next few years so that today it currently employs 15 dentists with 40 support staff.

Statistics

In his welcome address, Dr Cooney shared with guests some statistics that highlighted the success the practice has achieved to date: "It's a wonderful thing to say thank you to so many people - firstly to our clientele. We have invited them today and, in fact, we did a little



Dr Marcus Cooney

calculation. At times, Smilefocus has met 400 new clients a month. That obviously is not from day one and it fluctuates of course, but as a rough estimate, taking an average of 3,000 patients annually over 20 years, we have seen over 60,000 new clients! Unfortunately we couldn't invite everybody!"

"One thing that I envisaged for our business was to set up a practice where we could form relationships with people, reach out and deal with them in a human way rather than

a process-driven way, and from that create some success. Fortunately I was right, I think, and that's the essence of Smartfocus."

He also paid tribute to Smilefocus dentists, "I think we have a wonderful team. It is especially difficult to source talent here but we have done it. I work with them, I know them and I know they believe in what they do and they love what they do, and it shows through."

Two of its longest serving dentists are Dr Patricia Hancock and Dr Brendan Gin who shared with IndoConnect their thoughts about the longevity and success of Smilefocus (see stories below).

Specific Expertise

Smilefocus has a team of experienced and overseas qualified expatriate dentists, including dentists with specific expertise in braces, children's dentistry and implant dentistry. Supported by dental assistants and administration personnel from around the world, Smilefocus offers the full range of dental care.

Smilefocus' success has evolved from Dr Cooney's focus on the expatriate market in Singapore. As he explained,



Dr Brendan Gin BDS (Melbourne) has been a dentist for 26 years with the last 16 of them spent at Smilefocus. He has a particular interest in crown, implant crown, bridgework as well as aesthetic dentistry. He thinks the reason for the longevity and success is, "It's definitely the environment that has been created by Dr Marcus Cooney. He is quite a good leader of the practice and puts quite a lot of confidence in his staff to create the right environment for the patients and other staff too. It's a friendly environment with a lot of warmth and caring. The friendly work environment is matched with modern equipment that include touches such as television monitors in the treatment room that can help ease a patient's anxiety."



Being positioned in the expatriate market means communication is key. Smilefocus can provide translations in Indonesian, Malay, Mandarin French, and Russian for those patients who prefer to communicate in these languages.

the business has been built on personal relationships between professionals and clientele, and within the clinic itself. He said, "Expats are often looking for dialogue and trust in what is often a situation in which they feel vulnerable. It is palpable when goodwill and morale is running high and it is always a pleasure working in such an environment. One of the great things about business in Singapore is that the Expat clientele is demanding of high standards, and if you can deliver, success follows. My clinics in Australia were successful, but Singapore is a completely different level."


His successful efforts in establishing Smilefocus' niche in the Singapore dental health sector was also recognised by an award - the Austcham Singapore Entrepreneur Award in 2007.

Services & Facilities

Being positioned in the expatriate market means communication is key. Smilefocus can provide translations in Indonesian, Malay, Mandarin French, and Russian for those patients who prefer to communicate in these languages.

Another useful service Smilefocus offers is Insurance Direct Billing. Insurance claims are submitted on the patient's behalf, with arrangements pre-made for credit card payments of any shortfall, so no additional visits are required. Whether you live, work or travel in Singapore, having insurance cover for both medical and dental can help make life easier. Expat Insurance is a broker with many years' experience assisting people source the right insurance for their needs.

Located in two clinics at Camden Medical Centre, the waiting areas at Smilefocus have been designed for comfort. Apart from the usual reading materials in its lounge, children have their own waiting area equipped with toys, books and video entertainment.

Nervous patients can be very confident that the dentists and customer services staff at Smilefocus will make their visit comfortable and as stress-free as possible. For particularly phobic patients, a trained counsellor can be on hand to help overcome the nervousness. All part of the Smilefocus human touch in dentistry. 

For more information

SmileFocus is at Camden Medical Centre, 1 Orchard Boulevard, Singapore 248649.

Email: enquiries@smilefocus.com.sg

Website: <http://smilefocus.com.sg>

Orthodontics & Children's Dentistry (#14-02). Tel: 6834 0877

Email: family@smilefocus.com.sg

Family Dentistry (#14-02).

Tel: 6834 0877

Email: family@smilefocus.com.sg

Cosmetic Dentistry (#08-02).

Tel: 6733 9882

Email: cosmetic@smilefocus.com.sg

Implant & Restorative Dentistry (#08-02).

Tel: 6733 9882

Email: cosmetic@smilefocus.com.sg



smilefocus

Dr Patricia Hancock BDS (London) has been a dentist since 1982 working in London, Hong Kong, Geneva and Singapore. She also lectured for many years in Hong Kong on Oral Radiology, Periodontology and Conservative Dentistry. and the first to be recruited by Dr Marcus almost 20 years ago! "To me, Smilefocus is like a family. Everybody works together as a family not for ourselves but for the betterment of the patient. We offer a 'bespoke' standard of quality care that caters to an individual, not a mass approach. We spend time on developing a relationship with a patient."



KEZIA WAROUW GLITTERS AT MISS UNIVERSE

...with the glory of the Garuda-inspired national costume at the 2017 pageant. The fully handmade gold-coloured costume was created by East-Java-based designer Dynand Fariz, representing Indonesia's national philosophy of 'bhinneka tunggal ika' (unity in diversity)



Behind the veneer of glitz and the starry-eyed wonder, it's also the world's most fiercely competed beauty contests. Little wonder then designers pull out all the stops for contestant's at the most prestigious event in the world of glamour and beauty. Indonesia's very own Kezia Warouw does the nation proud with her inspirational costume at the Miss Universe 2017 pageant in Manila.

The Miss Universe contest, once owned by a luminary no less than the new President of the USA, Mr Donald Trump, was held on 30th January 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The US\$300,000 Miss Universe Crown, the cynosure of attention of over 86 contestants this year was won by Iris Mittenaeere of France.

In the run-up to the grand finale - of the crowning on the new Miss Universe - millions of viewers, tuning in from around the globe, were treated to a sumptuous display of high octane glamour, creativity and some poignant moments. The Mall of Asia Arena in the Filipino capital was swamped by masses of viewers as each contestant preened and pirouetted in front of the judges clad in swimsuits to evening gowns and finally in a fabulous confection representing their national costumes at this 65th Miss Universe pageant.

Amongst the dazzle and the delight of the grand pageantry of the national costume segment of the show was Indonesia's very own Kezia Warouw, Puteri Indonesia 2016, whose fabulous



(Above left): Kezia beautifully complements the elegant and stunning clothes designed for her at the pageant. (Above right): Keiza first won the Puteri Indonesia pageant in February 2016. Guest Miss Universe International 2015 Edymar Martínez of Venezuela (2nd from left) and all the finalists wore kebayas designed by Anne Avantie


rendition of the national costume was a glittering extravaganza of gilded beauty representing the mythical bird, the Garuda—legendary vehicle of the Hindu god Vishnu in Indian Vedic tradition. Layered in mythical splendour and nationalist fervour this awesome costume which also twinned as a representation of Indonesia's national philosophy —“Bhinneka Tunggal Ika” —or Unity in Diversity, as well as the fact that Garuda also represents the sovereignty of Indonesia as the largest archipelago country, was the brainchild of East Java-based designer Dynand Fariz, who worked on the costume, with his team, for over two months. Fariz, one may recall is the designer behind the iconic Jember Fashion Carnival launched set up in East Java in 2003 and continues to wow the home crowd with its stylish and inspirational offerings each year.

Hand-crafted Garuda Costume

The exquisite hand-crafted Garuda costume, representing the golden mythical bird with outspread wings as if ready to fly, weighs about 20 kg. The astonishing creative energy behind this exotic costume, the superb eye for detail, the innovation and the seamless merging of materials have all conspired to create a work of art that surely deserves all the praise bestowed on it. Crystals and led lights scattered on the massive wings radiated their own magical energy as they caught the spotlight. Copper plates and stone ornaments set upon mat fabric sparkled and glittered at each movement of Kezia—or Keke' as she's also known. The ensemble was packaged with a glittery bejewelled golden crown and matching pants. Ornamental eagles (Indonesia national bird) and Garuda bird also represents the sovereignty of Indonesia as the largest archipelago country adorned the abdomen plate and the rear wings of the Garuda. In her hands Keke' held the red and white flag fluttering from a gilded staff.

The local designers, who contributed to the assemblage of Kezia's clothing etc for the duration of the Miss Universe jamboree, included the likes of Ivan Gunawan, Anee Avantie, Aditya Dwicahya, Ansoe, Yosep Sinudarsono, Arturo, Poise 24, and Reves dan Batik Sephora. Gunawan who made six gowns

for the gorgeous 25 year old beauty queen, added a piquant flavour to his contribution with 'one representing the theme tenun Toraja, a traditional woven fabric from Toraja, South Sulawesi. Gunawan thinks that the gown's terracotta color will make Warouw's beautifully tanned skin stand out more' as reported by Jakartainformer. Gunawan's star-strewn Kejora dress, weighing 10kg was a 'weighty affair' for the sylph like Keke, but was a real crowd pleaser.

Though the winner of the National Costume Show segment, held on January 27, 2016, was Miss Myanmar, Htet Htet Htun (costume was even heavier—weighing a whopping 40 kg and showcased the Shwedagon pagoda and the temples of Bagan), Kezia in her gorgeous Garuda outfit held her own. 

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LUXE IN THE FAST LANE

by Foo Yong Han

Cruising down the highway in a rush of adrenaline is one of the joys of motoring. And to do it in a sleek, yet muscular motor marvel is a bonus. IndoConnect recommends four luxury sports cars available in Singapore that can burn some rubber. It's time to put the pedal to the metal.



Speed Demon: Bentley Continental Supersports

The Continental Supersports is a supercar by design endowed with bold body styling features such as a clean new front and rear bumper design with carbon-fibre accents, while distinctive carbon-fibre bonnet vents and side skirts enhance the supercar style even further.

Full exterior blackware gives the car a strikingly aggressive look, as do the glossy black exhaust tailpipe finishers and wing vents. There is also a large carbon-fibre rear spoiler to give the car high-performance characteristics and agile handling. The interior also delivers with a race-inspired design in the form of a uniquely bold chequered carbon-fibre finish to the fascia plates, and a completely new three-tone interior colour split.

New torque-vectoring technology, developed by Bentley Motorsport, works alongside Bentley All-Wheel drive to give to the Supersports agility and performance control. This is also the most powerful Bentley to date, producing an astonishing 710 PS (700.3 bhp). It also provides the fastest acceleration of any Bentley, going from 0-100 km/h in just 3.5 seconds. The Supersports is also the fastest Bentley ever made at the time of print, with a blistering top speed of 336 km/h.

The Supersports features a three-tone interior - the first time it has been available on this generation of Continentals. You can choose from a wide variety of coloured hides and, to maximise the sporting look, select perforated black Alcantara. In addition Supersports emblems are stitched onto the headrests, while seat centres and side panels feature a new diamond quilting design. The Supersports come in two configurations – convertible and coupe (see photo above).



Note: Specifications, levels of equipment and trim might vary for models imported into the Singapore market.

Space Age: McLaren 570S

The McLaren 570S introduces the McLaren design language to the sports car segment for the first time with tense, 'shrinkwrapped', body lines, making it stand out from the competition. Immediately identifiable as a McLaren, the 570S includes features such as elegant flying buttresses, dihedral doors and a concave rear window to bring a new, unique and exciting look to the sports car market.

The 'shrinkwrapped' design mentioned earlier refers to how the marque seeks to maximise efficiency of the airflow over, under and through the bodywork. Its dynamic styling provides visual presence and is based around functional elements, combining fluid surfaces and strong features to deliver a design that optimises air flow management. Weight is minimised through the layering of panels, which are designed to float above aerodynamic surfaces along with suspended members, supporting the potency of this compact sports car. The use of aluminum for the majority of body panels keeps weight to a minimum.

The interior of the 570S has been created with a focus on space



and ergonomics in mind, offering great outward visibility and interior space for occupants and their belongings. Organic curves carried inside from the exterior design bring delicate tension without aggression to ensure the cabin remains a welcoming environment.

The steering in the 570S has been designed with refinement and feel as the key parameters. A fast steering rack ratio allows quick changes of direction and improves ease of control when driving at the limit – pivotal to a great sports car. The system used for the 570S is electro-hydraulic ensuring a natural feel that cannot be replicated with a fully electric setup. The electro-hydraulic pump also powers the optional front lift system – which allows the ride height to be increased by 40mm at speeds of up to 60km/h (37mph).

The V8 Twin Turbo engine develops a maximum output of 570PS (562 bhp) reaching a top speed of 328km/h; 0 to 100km/h takes 3.2 secs.

A cleaner look over previous designs that maximises airflow "over, under and through" the body work

McLaren has also sharpened its branding and image with premium merchandise. You can deck yourself out in smart and sporty McLaren polo tees (for both sexes) and the ladies can also accessorise with great looking handbags.



The Elegant & Exclusive Porsche



The special edition Cayenne, Cayenne Diesel and Cayenne S E-Hybrid are easily recognisable at first glance by their distinctive sporty appearance. The vehicles' large 20-inch wheels in the RS Spyder design are housed in wider wheel arches. The interior is dominated by leather sport seats with electric eight-way adjustment, Alcantara centre panels and the Porsche crest on all head rests (*above inset photo left*).

The models' expanded features improve comfort and safety in particular. For example, standard equipment in the Cayenne Platinum Edition includes Bi-xenon headlights with the Porsche Dynamic Light System (PDLS), and Power Steering Plus. The exterior mirrors and rear-view mirror are equipped with an automatic anti-glare feature as standard, while dark-tinted privacy glass (also standard) provides additional privacy for rear passengers.

For anyone entering the vehicles, they are greeted by stainless steel door sills with "Platinum Edition" lettering (*above inset photo right*), and illuminated door sills that light up the model name in the Cayenne S E-Hybrid Platinum Edition. As an additional high-end standard

feature, the Platinum Edition models come with the latest generation Porsche Communication Management (PCM) system that includes the Connect Plus module and a BOSE® Surround Sound system. The dashboard is adorned with a stylish analogue clock, and the Cayenne S E-Hybrid also comes with a stationary air conditioning system.

The 3-litre V6 engine for the Diesel Platinum model puts out 193kW (262 hp) while the combined output of the Cayenne S E-Hybrid engine+motor is 306 kW (416 hp). The Diesel Platinum's top speed is 212 km/h and the Hybrid if you are using ONLY its electric motor can attain a maximum speed of 125 kmh.

The Cayenne Platinum Edition sells for SGD 330,988, Cayenne Diesel Platinum Edition sells for SGD 323,088, while the Cayenne S E-Hybrid Platinum Edition has a sticker price of SGD 420,688. The prices include a 5-year free maintenance warranty programme. Currently there is a 1.99% Porsche Financial Services interest rate on offer for the Cayenne Platinum Edition models for a limited period (T&C apply). ^{1C}

REALITY CHECK!



The 4.4 litres V8 engine has two twin-scroll turbochargers producing an output of 340 kW (462 bhp) with 0 to 100 km/h in 4.0 seconds. Electronically limited top speed of 250 km/h (155 mph)

Posh Performer: BMW M550i xDrive

We thought we applied the brakes here as for some of us the joys of motoring might have to be checked against the size of our bank accounts. We could not resist adding at least one practical consideration as BMW recently launched a sporty BMW M Performance version of the world's most successful business sedan

The BMW M550i xDrive boasts a robust M Performance TwinPower Turbo engine, an intelligent all-wheel drive with rear-wheel bias and a bespoke M Performance chassis set-up and can be classed as both a four-door sports car AND a dynamic business sedan. With its abundant torque reserves and high-revving characteristics, the M550i's V8 power unit serves up a blend of performance, precise driving dynamics and uncompromised everyday usability. This all helps the new BMW M550i to set the pace in its segment and turn each and every drive into an exhilarating experience.

The exterior of the M550i xDrive boldly expresses the sedan's dynamic performance capabilities, while also underlining its status as the flagship model in the BMW 5 Series range. The M aerodynamic package, including an M rear spoiler with Gurney flap on the boot lid, accentuates the sporty, dynamic lines of the BMW 5 Series, at the same time as optimising the airflow around and over the car.

Illuminated door sills bearing the inscription "M550i xDrive" beckon passengers into the interior, where M sports seats upholstered in Black Dakota leather with blue contrast stitching, the latest version of the M sports steering wheel, M design floor mats and special interior trim strips and pedals made from aluminum combine to create the aura of sporting exclusivity that is a hallmark of all BMW M Performance Automobiles.

The M550i xDrive enables close-knit connectivity between the driver, vehicle and outside world thanks to BMW Connected. This new system links up devices such as smartphones, smartwatches, computers and tablets, as well as the vehicle's navigation system, via the BMW servers. This is an intelligent system capable of identifying movement patterns as well as personal preferences, turning it into a de facto personal mobility manager that helps users to overcome with ease the increasingly complex challenges of day-to-day mobility.



SLICE OF INDONESIA IN HEART OF ORCHARD ROAD

by Foo Yong Han

Sari Ratu attracts a cosmopolitan crowd in Singapore's premier shopping belt



(Above & top right): The Sari Ratu Lucky Plaza branch attracts a diverse crowd.
(Right): Ronald serves authentic cuisine that is filled to the brim with delightful Indonesian flavours

Sari Ratu Restaurant is an institution among those who are part of *nasi padang* culinary circle that is known for its authentic Nasi Padang fare. Its flagship outlet at No. 20 Pahang Street in Singapore plays host to huge crowds (office workers and the general public of all stripes) throughout the week. It has proven to be so successful that its owner Mohamed Ali decided to open a second outlet at the famous shopping mall in the heart of Singapore's premier retail district, Orchard Road.

Opened in June 2014, the second Sari Ratu restaurant with a homely sitting capacity of 60, ambient lighting and simple Indonesian-themed décor is just as much a hit as the flagship store, pulling in big

crowds too. "We are filled to the brim on weekends, especially on Sundays. The diners at the Lucky Plaza outlet are more diverse, with mostly tourists from Indonesia, Americans and Africans.

Regulars

"Regular customers include Singapore office workers and Filipino expatriates. There are similarities between Indonesian food and Filipino fare such as sambal chicken and mutton curry. Even the Filipino sweet dish, Halo Halo, an ice dessert consisting of various fruits and jelly beans, is nearly identical to its Indonesian counterpart, Es Teler (fruit cocktail). Also, Lucky Plaza is a popular haunt for Filipinos working and living in Singapore, and their

patronage certainly helped boost the popularity of this relatively new branch," explains Ronald, outlet manager of Sari Ratu's Lucky Plaza branch and the only Filipino among the Sari Ratu staff in Singapore. He has been with the group for four years. He was originally from the Pahang Street eatery before being posted to take charge of the Lucky Plaza branch.

Signature Dishes

The main draws of Sari Ratu restaurant are the beef rendang, chicken rendang, beef tendon, beef curry, mutton curry and chicken curry. The meat, be it beef, mutton or chicken are prepared with the utmost care to have the right balance of juicy taste without being overly oily, and melt-in-the-mouth



Some of the signature dishes and desserts at Sari Ratu

tenderness to please the taste buds. The curries and gravies used for the different aforementioned meat dishes have the sufficient amount of spiciness, saltiness or sourness to bring you to gastronomic heaven that makes you crave for the next mouthful, rather than making you numb and want to cease eating after a few scoops. The pure taste of Sari Ratu's dishes can only come from the restaurant's cooks and chefs, who are all Indonesian.

Other Must-try Dishes

Other must-try dishes include the Ayam Bakar (grilled chicken), Ikan Asam Pedas (sour and spicy fish), Ayam Goreng Kampung (spiced fried chicken), Ikan Bakar (grilled fish) and Cumi Gulai (cuttlefish in gravy). All the dishes mentioned thus far are best paired with steamed rice and red or green sambal (chili paste). The combo is guaranteed to send your entire being soaring with delight.

Every meal at Sari Ratu must be accompanied by its signature avocado juice, a rich concoction of avocado fruit and a drizzle of chocolate sauce. Sweet without overpowering, it is a refreshing breather between dishes. Round off your hearty meal with Sari Ratu's signature desert, Es Teler (fruit cocktail), comprising jackfruit, coconut, sago, avocado and attap chee (sweet, translucent, gelatinous balls). Bathed in condensed milk and shaved ice, it is a invigorating finish to your day at Sari Ratu. ☺

Sari Ratu Restaurant & Catering Pte Ltd

Address: 304, Orchard Road,
Lucky Plaza, #02-107
Singapore 238863
Tel: +65 6836 9983

Opening Hours:
Everyday, 11am – 9pm except
Hari Raya Puasa & Haji

QUICK BITES

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Gurame Now at Civil Service Club @ Changi

Pondok Gurame Indonesian Restaurant has moved earlier this year from its beachfront site at the National Service Country Club to the Changi Civil Service Club, No. 2 Netheravon Rd #04-03, S'pore 508503. The near-beach atmosphere is matched this time with ballroom facilities, wedding banquets and possibilities for beachfront solemnisation ceremonies. The restaurant was founded by Mdm Chan Sui Yen in 1991 and serves many Indonesian favourites. For the latest menu visit: <http://pondokgurame.com.sg>



Jakarta Street Food @ 313 Somerset

Head down to Basement 3 to sample simple but hearty fare at Tok Tok Indonesian Soup House which opened this year. The signature dishes include: Soto Mie, Sop Buntut, Soto Madura, Soto Ayam and Soto Betawi. The combination of Jakarta street food in an aircon food court environment works very well as prices are also reasonable (for the location). Apart from soups and noodles, there are also rice sets such as Tahu Tempe Penyet and Ayam Penyet. Check out the food at 313 Orchard Road #B3-10 313@ Somerset S'pore 238895.



Thank You & Congratulations!

...to Ms Armi Cindy for sharing her recipe on Pasta Agrodolce and winning a prize from IndoConnect Magazine. We will be posting the recipe soon on our Facebook page and hopefully be able to include it in the next issue of the magazine. ☺



LAUNCH OF RISING 50 CELEBRATIONS
10 February 2017, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore



**RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE BY
FOREIGN MINISTER HE RETNO L. MARSUDI**
10 February 2017, Pan Pacific Singapore Hotel



**PENGAJIAN DHARMA WANITA PERSATUAN
KBRI SINGAPURA**
01 February 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



**Dharma Wanita Persatuan Visit
to NEWater**
17 February 2017, NEWater
Visitor Centre



**PENYULUHAN ALAT REPRODUKSI
DHARMA WANITA PERSATUAN KBRI SINGAPURA**
18 February 2017, Indonesian Embassy



RISING 50 SYMPOSIUM
28 February 2017



DISCOVER INDONESIA
10 March 2017, Changi Airport Terminal 3



YEE HAI SINGAPORE - COUNTRY LINE DANCE FESTIVAL
17 March 2017, The Pavilion at Far East Square



BOXER DAUD CINO YORDAN VISIT EMBASSY
23 March 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



FESTIVAL RISING 50
26 March 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



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