

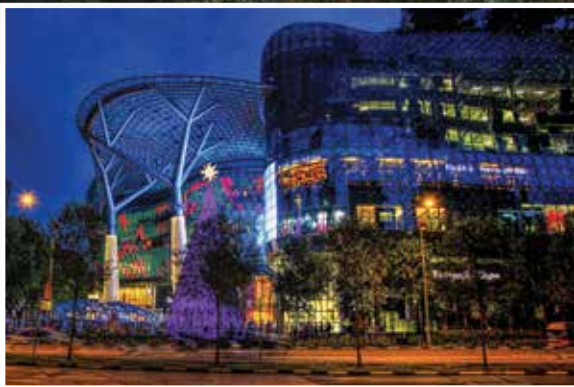
# IndoConnect

VOL.5 NO.2 2017

CONNECTING INDONESIANS IN SINGAPORE

## The Orchard Experience

THE APPLE OF INDONESIAN SHOPPERS' EYES



ALSO INSIDE:

A RISING 50 FIRST: INDONESIA

& SINGAPORE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

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IN TECH ○ FIRST PEEK: IAF 2017 CLASH  
OF TWO WORLDS ○ BESPOKE ART TOUR  
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## BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



For both the Indonesian diaspora and tourists, Orchard Road is a must-see in Singapore. Be it visiting dignitaries, jet-setting celebrities or Singaporeans – it's a magnet for all. The line-up of malls, branded high fashion stores, electronics and home products, movie theatres, and luxury hotels rival with equanimity the world's High Streets. Nestled amidst these allurements are a slew of restaurants and galleries, coffeehouses and upbeat cafés, where you will find crowds of people chatting, people watching and generally loving the atmosphere of Orchard. IndoConnect brings you some glimpse of this much-loved street.

According to the Singapore Tourism Board, nine in every 10 Indonesian visitors shop while in Singapore, and rarely anyone misses a chance to trawl the iconic road. On any given day, we can see *ibu-ibus* and *bapak-bapaks*, strolling, shopping, drinking coffee or just taking it all in on the many benches lining the road. Some even joke that the lingua franca of Orchard Road is Bahasa Indonesia.

Besides the malls, the latest entrant (featured on our cover) is Apple's much-awaited flagship store, the first for the burgeoning Southeast Asian market. Singapore is a gateway to the ASEAN region and an all-year round draw for tourists from around the world. Going by the Singapore Tourism Board statistics, Indonesians alone made up 247,976 visitors to Singapore in April 2017 alone. And while women shoppers are much welcomed, they are also actively participating in the technology revolution that is part of our lives today. In this issue, we cover Jocelyn Teo, who is setting an example as an Advisory Board Member of Girls in Tech, Singapore.

An interesting collaboration between Singapore and Indonesia, the first Indonesia-Singapore Interfaith & Intercultural Dialogue (ISID) highlighted common traits among religions and measures to counter radicalism as well as strengthen relations between the two countries. The idea was initiated by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore as part of the ongoing celebrations between Indonesia and Singapore (a.k.a. RISING 50) to commemorate its 50 years of diplomatic ties.

This year, the Indonesian diaspora made more headlines as former President of the United States Barack Obama delivered the keynote address at the latest Congress of Indonesian Diaspora. He urged the youth of the nation to step up and fight for democracy, applauding the "diverse, multi-ethnic" spirit of the country. It is always our endeavour to shed light on the topical issues and events that change lives and create opportunities. We enjoyed putting the issue together and we hope you enjoy reading it.

August is a month of celebration for many countries around the region, and we would like to wish ASEAN, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia a Happy Birthday!

**Nomita Dhar**  
Editor-in-chief

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Prionka is an author, media consultant, and a facilitator. She holds Post Graduate qualifications in Ad & PR, and degrees in Hospitality Management, as well as in English & Psychology. She is a volunteer-mentor to teens-at-risk, and founder of In-Group, Support Group for Youth. Prionka has lived in Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong & India, and her first book, *Sia* was published in 2012.



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



**NISHKA RAO**  
The University of British Columbia undergraduate whose twin passions dancing and writing saw her being thrown in the deep end this issue writing about Indonesians' number one passion here – shopping! The 20-year old had no problems checking out the highlights of Orchard Road.





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# The ORCHARD Experience

When Apple opened its Asian flagship store fashionable, and hunt for sale bargains the

in May this year. Orchard Road is still the place to be – to find the latest, most place to self-indulge. We pay tribute to the...

By Prionka Ray and  
additional reporting by Nishka Rao

Orchard Road has long been a shoppers' delight. It's on this street that the smaller boutiques and specialty shops compete effortlessly with the space-age departmental stores for an equal share of the customers' attention and affection. This 2.2km of shopping fantasies entices, indulges, and yet maintains its haughty allure. It's not a surprise then that those who finally succumb, never leave empty-handed.

## GROOVY

### Still Hip After All These Years

A shopping experience at Orchard Road therefore, is nothing short of a charming love affair, one that the Indonesian tourists and diaspora have succumbed to as well. So much so, that Bahasa becomes the lingua franca of Orchard Road, especially during the sale season. However, Orchard Road is more than just an enticing shopping destination, it also is a street filled with quaint cafes, top class restaurants, impressive movie theatres, world class medical centres and luxurious hotels. A synonym for Singapore shopping for decades, the road still continues to attract a wide profile of visitors including families. Evolving with time, remaining hip with the young shoppers and still retaining some remnants of its old world charm, Orchard Road has remained one of the most iconic names associated with visiting Singapore.

### Brand Culture

Going by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) statistics, 247,976 Indonesian visitors arrived in Singapore in the month of April 2017 alone. This number is 15% higher than the arrivals from just one year ago. Most of these visitors are frequent travellers to Singapore, and many infact, have lost count of the number of times they have visited the Lion City. Many are first time visitors too, however, whether they are regulars,



or novices, most confess that their trips are incomplete without a retail therapy at Orchard Road. As Sharon, a frequent visitor says, "I love Orchard Road, and especially Ion." She finds the shops, "super functional and easy to get around." Another visitor admits to flying in to Singapore for day trips. According to her, shopping at Orchard is a "pleasant experience" with many good deals, especially during the sale season. The

glittering street wasn't always like this though. 150 years ago, Orchard Road was just a small lane lined with fruit orchards, nutmeg plantations and pepper farms. Few shops sprouted over the years and the first departmental store by CK Tang (now **Tangs**) was established in 1958. The road underwent a \$40 million revamp in 2009, and now boutiques ranging from the younger styles of **Topshop** and **Miss Selfridge** to the sophisticated high-end offerings of **Chanel**

and **Salvatore Ferragamo** line this grand street. The range doesn't just limit to apparels, but it also includes a wider range of goods, from shoes to cosmetics to jewellery, and it further branches out to antiques, oriental carpets, art galleries and book stores, to name a few. From indulgent to affordable, from aesthetic to functional, from the highbrow to the quaint hidden gems ---that's the iconic Orchard allure in a nutshell.





### Shopping @ Orchard

According to STB, 9 in every 10 Indonesian visitors shop while in Singapore and usually Orchard is always one of the shopping spots. Popular items bought are souvenirs and gifts, confectionery and food items and luxury brands of fashions and accessories.

Designers Brand culture shapes most of the Orchard experience with outlets like, **Victoria Secret**, and the newly opened **Apple Store**, with their own stand-alone flagship stores. Though these stores stand independently, they do manage to merge their own individual charm to that of Orchard Road. In contrast to these stand alone outlets, malls like **ION**, **Takashimaya** and **Paragon** offer shoppers more choices under one roof and bring together brands ranging from **Mikimoto**, **Cartier**, **Calvin Klein**, **Armani**, **Chanel**, **Tommy Hilfiger** etc. And then there are the niche brands and the smaller boutiques that house the eclectic and the off-beat. the bespoke and the bejewelled. Malls like **Tanglin** and **Palais Renaissance** also cater to specific fashion and interior design needs. Palais Renaissance's highlights remain the lovely little boutique, **The Lingerie Shop**, as well as the **Strange & Deranged**, the out of the box, yet classy furnishing store.

In addition to international names, Orchard Road is also home to many local Singaporean designers who go on to add the local flavour with some very lovely products to the overall Orchard shopping experience. Some of these names include the women's wear label **Beyond the Vines** and the jewellery label, **Choo Yilin**, both of which are at Mandarin gallery, **In Good Company**, which is at Ion and Citigems, housed at 435 Orchard Road.

And then, there are the young! The



(Above): In the evenings of every first Saturday of the month, Orchard Road is closed to vehicular traffic. The above is on the Pedestrian Night in July. many activities including performances are held

street also caters to the taste of the young and to those young at heart with brands like, **H&M**, **Zara** and **Forever21**. Additionally, there's **Topshop** at ION and **Cotton On** at Wisma that are popular with the younger shoppers. Outlets like **Abercrombie & Fitch**, further entice the shoppers with their signature ambience and marketing campaigns with the presence of topless (male) models and shop interiors flooded with signature scents.

**Sephora** remains another big attraction with busy stores spanning huge spaces in Takashimaya and ION, where Sephora houses major make-up brand and range of accessories to satisfy all cosmetic needs. Health and fitness outlets are also popular. This trend doesn't falter in the layout of the stores either, with brands like **Underarmour**, **Nike** and **Adidas** storming **Orchard Central** and **Paragon** respectively, along with their many other branches spread across the street.



Stores galore (clockwise from above left): In Good Company; Beyond the Vines; Michael Kors, Tangs; Victoria Secret; Robinsons. (Photos: <http://www.visitsingapore.com>)



(Above): No, it is not the famous Orchard Road Christmas Light-up but Fiesta on a Great Street event held last May. (Right): Another was Fashion Splash (2015). These are some of the many events organised by the Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA). For more events visit [www.orchardroad.org](http://www.orchardroad.org)



### Best informational website on Orchard Road



Since 1998, the Orchard Road Business Association has been looking after the welfare and interest of businesses along Orchard Road. Its website is where a visitor can find practically anything that is happening there. It has an events calendar, shopping, eating and hotel guides as well. For updated listings of activities and latest events

organised on Orchard Road visit: <http://www.orchardroad.org>

Another organisation that should be of interest to shoppers is the Singapore Retailers Association who organised the first Great Singapore Sale (GSS). The first GSS was in 1994 that saw a record of 664,000 visitors and was so successful that organisers decided to hold the event annually. We recommend 'GoSpree', the Singapore Retailers Association's mobile app that gives shoppers exclusive offers for more savings from shops, department stores, restaurants, spas and beauty outlets, hotels and attractions all "under one app".







### Cafes & Eateries @ Orchard

No shopping trip is ever complete without a refuelling break at a café, and Orchard provides the tired shopper an endless list of cafés, some of which boast ambience and character so perfect, that it comes with the feeling of a guilty pleasure, un péché mignon. One such place is **TWG Tea** (pictured above right), a tea salon that is gorgeous no matter which location you visit, whether at ION or Takashimaya. There's also the **Dazzling Cafe** located on the first floor of **Orchard Gateway**, with stunning chandeliers and even more stunning food. Not

more than a few metres away is the gorgeous **Lady M** in Orchard Central, with a phenomenal seating pattern across two floors and a view of Orchard's shopping street. There's also **Bengawan Solo**, that is a Singaporean household name for kueh, cakes and local cookies, considered a favourite with the overseas visitors looking for a truly unique and authentic Singaporean premium food gift. Apart from the ubiquitous **Starbucks** and **Coffee Bean and Tea Leaves**, there is also the local favourite, the bubble tea.

Two names that often come up are **Koi** and **LiHo**. Koi has a mini express branch at 313@somerset. Our recommendation is the basic yet highly desired milk tea LiHo (originally called Gong Cha) at Paragon has a new spin on its drink (hint: it includes cheese) while it continues to stay true to its original flavours.

In addition to cafés, Orchard Road also offers an impressive list of eateries that include listings by Michelin Guide. The list includes the



contemporary French fine dining, **Les Amis** at Shaw Centre, **Sushi Ichi**, a sushi bar, **Tsuta**, the world's first and only Michelin-starred ramen shop (pictured above), **Crystal Jade Golden Palace**, that specialises in Teochew cuisine and **Shisen Hanten** by Chen Kentaro, among many others. In addition, there are countless bars along Orchard, such as the **Brotzeit German Bier Bar & Restaurant** at 313@somerset that is known for its German beers and Bavarian food. Orchard is also home to international culinary delights with restaurant like **Dancing Crab**

that is backed by one of Singapore's oldest seafood restaurant leaders, the TungLok Group,

### Medical centres @ Orchard

Singapore is well recognized medically, and Bloomberg ranked it first out of 51 countries for most efficient healthcare system in 2014. This reputation draws medical tourists to Singapore and since the latest trend in medicine is preventive care, a sizeable number of medical tourism comes in the form of people who fly in for regular check ups. This ensures a steady flow of medical tourists to Singapore, and to Orchard Road as well. Though hospitals are not the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of Orchard, the road is indeed an established medical destination for many international travellers, including Indonesians. In fact, STB statistics puts Indonesian visitors' spending on healthcare or medicines as higher than that of an average visitor. Catering to this segment are the medical names

like Mount Elizabeth Hospital and the Paragon Medical centres on Orchard.

### Before we say goodbye...

Covering the stretch of Orchard road, one gets the distinct feeling of having seen it all. And looking back at the buzzing street that has withstood the passage of time, there's this one lasting thought: a certain kind of charm and style never goes out of fashion.

Beyond its sprawling malls, the concept stores, the efficient corridors of the medical centres, the luxurious suites of the hotels and the aromatic steaming cups of tea that are served in dainty cups at the road-side cafes, there's a warm soul and a fiesty spirit somewhere. Orchard Road is more than just form, functionality and modern world efficacy. It is class, nostalgia and oodles of charm, all rolled in to one. And as I said, a certain kind of charm and style never goes out of fashion. ☐

### Hotels and Spas @ Orchard

Most Indonesians visiting Singapore come to Singapore for leisure, for family holidays or to meet relatives, and Orchard Road provides them with more than 20 staying options that are both conveniently located as well as comfortable.

Some of these names are: **Royal Plaza on Scotts**, **Shangri-La**, **St Regis S'pore**, **Hilton**, etc. Out of these, the **Mandarin Orchard** and the **Grand Park Orchard** are the two hotels popular with Indonesian visitors. Both hotels (pictured above)



are a stone's throw away from each other and the latter is also targeted at the business traveller.

Orchard Road won't be the diva that it is without catering to the beauty and wellness needs of its visitors, and it does so with style and panache. The road is well served with many salons and spas,

including many renowned options such as the award-winning **Touch Elite** and **Passion Hair Salon**, home to celebrity stylist David Gan and spa such as **Adeva**.



### Art Around Orchard

IndoConnect's Art Correspondent Henny Scott also shared that one can visit several places in or near Orchard Road to appreciate wonderful works of contemporary art. She put forth some alluring examples, "One place I really like to go to see great art is found just below the Hard Rock Cafe on Cuscaden Road. **iPreciation Art Gallery**

is a very established fine art gallery that showcases some of the best modern and contemporary works by Asian artists such as Sri Astari Rasjid (who happens to also be the Indonesian Ambassador to Bulgaria), Jumaldi Alfi, Gu Wenda, Kumari Nahappan, Ju Ming and many others. **iPreciation** also came up with the

Portable Art scheme responding to collectors' issues of "lack of wall spaces" to display paintings.

Another favourite gallery of hers are the expanded **Pearl Lam Galleries** on Dempsey Hill. These represent internationally celebrated contemporary artists including Malang based Gatot Pujiarto who has developed the use

of collage, thread and textile in his works. Along Orchard Road itself are many public art installations. One recommendation from Henny is found outside **Paragon Shopping Centre** (pictured left), "It is the **Noeud Rouge** (Red Knot) by French Artist, Jean-Michel Othoniel. His works are highly distinctive and for Noeud Rouge, he uses blown mirror glass. This specially commissioned work is surprisingly smaller in scale compared to his other iconic works."

Another of her favourites is the **Sense Surround** series by the late Anthony Poon, a local artist who is known as Pioneer of Singapore Abstraction. Specially commissioned in 2006, this painted red aluminium work is prominently displayed in front of the **St Regis Hotel**.



# ISID Stresses Common Values, Promote Harmony & Fight Radicalism

The first Indonesia-Singapore Interfaith & Intercultural Dialogue (ISID) highlights common traits among religions and measures to counter radicalism as well as strengthen relations between Singapore and Indonesia



HE Ngurah Swajaya welcomes members of the ISID group to the Indonesian Embassy

The idea was initiated by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore as part of the ongoing celebrations between Indonesia and Singapore to commemorate its 50 years of diplomatic ties or RISING 50. Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya welcomed the religious leaders to Singapore on 10th July 2017 at the Indonesian Embassy. The Ambassador expressed the hope that this first Interfaith dialogue exchange will not

be the last, and that, "more of such exchanges will continue so that we can learn from each other as we both have multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic communities in our countries." The participants engaged in open discussions and public dialogues and also visited Singapore's Hindu Endowments Board, the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, the Mahakaruna Buddhist Society and the Church of St. Mary of the Angels.

IndoConnect talked to three members of the ISID group (see accompanying story) for some insights on the issues discussed during their visit from 10th to 14th July 2017.

## Religious Extremism

The issue of religious extremism and conflict were also raised by Indonesian Religious Affairs Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin,

*Minister Lukman also spoke of the challenges faced by religious leaders and heads of states to revive the essence of all religions: to honour and respect all human beings. "Many people now try to use religions to help them come up as victors in a conflict. Then they use religion again to justify their victory."*

who in his keynote speech at the inaugural ISID session on Tuesday 11th July 2017 laid out the challenges coming from fast-paced globalization and digitalization and how they can affect religious values.

According to a statement released by the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Lukman said in spite of the great progress brought about by technology and digitalization, they could also potentially cause a shift in the way people understand or learn religions. "Digitalization should support educational efforts to help the public understand the values taught by religions," Lukman said.

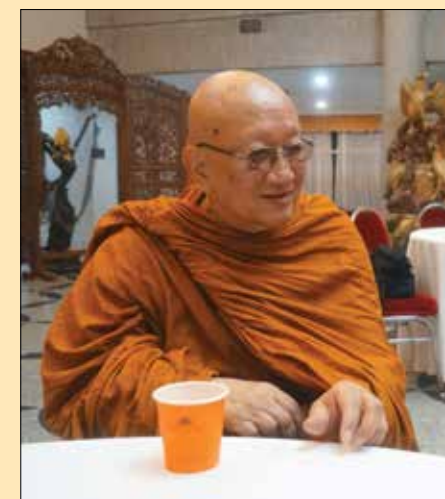
He also spoke of the challenges faced by religious leaders and heads of states to revive the essence of all religions: to honour and respect all human beings.

"Many people now try to use religions to help them come up as victors in a conflict. Then they use religions again to justify their victory," Lukman added.

The Singaporean Social and Family Development Minister Tan Chuan-jin also gave a speech at the start of the four-day interfaith exchange programme where he urged individuals to engage with each

other. "Religions or cultures don't enter into dialogue – people do. Governments can support dialogue, morally and financially, but in the end it's up to individuals to engage each other," said Mr Tan. He added that those who do not affiliate themselves to any religion should also be included in such dialogues.

ISID officially ended on Friday 14th July 2017 in a closing reception attended by Indonesian Deputy Foreign Minister A.M. Fachir and Singaporean Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan. 



Bhante Jayamedho  
Dhammadipa Arama Center

*Seeing as there can be turbulence between sections of religious groups today, Mrs Nomita asked Bhante Jayamedho about his thoughts on this. He responded humbly saying,*

*"Communication is very important. One should not live in isolation, but work together as one. Religion is like a river, there are many rivers in Indonesia itself. But in the end, they all meet at one ocean. We do not know its depth, nor its borders."*

*He cited some examples demonstrating the religious harmony that exists in Indonesia saying, "The interfaith community in Surabaya celebrated Eid al-Fitr in a Buddhist temple last week!"*

*"I think all people can cooperate as the essence of any religion is love, compassion, forgiveness and helping each other."*



(Above left): At the first ISID session on 11 July 2017: Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin welcomed by Senior Minister of State Dr Maliki Osman.

(Above right): One of the stops for the Indonesian religious leaders - tour of Baalwie Mosque





**Abdul Mu'ti**  
Muhammadiyah Indonesia

Pak Abdul Mu'ti, Secretary General of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah spoke with great pride of his organization being a modernist movement established first in 1912 in Jakarta, with a sister organisation in Singapore, both having been recognised by United Nation's ECOSOC. "The main goals of the organisation," he mentions, "remains education and networking between Indonesians of different faiths." When asked about the impact he wished to see following the visit of the Indonesian Interfaithgroup to Singapore, he says:

*"Indonesia and Singapore are very important neighbouring countries and partners. We share a lot of similarities as Southeast Asian countries, and in terms of culture, religion, education and economy. The (Interfaith) programme could strengthen not only networking, but more importantly, the relations between both countries."*

*As for the acts of radicalism and terrorism, that takes place round the world, such acts are inhuman and despite their small numbers, they are not to be taken lightly in terms of what they are capable of doing. The motivation for such people doing such acts is beyond religion, and instead we should focus on the motivation for such acts of terrorism being driven by social, economic and political reasons. It is also, I think, their lack of understanding of the religion combined with their psychological and spiritual problems. My understanding of where Indonesia stands at the moment regarding the matter of terrorism is one that is fairly positive and optimistic, although countermeasures should be seriously taken into consideration on three levels: the military, the economic and the social level.*

*Issues of terrorism rise when people deliberately use, misuse and abuse religion for the sake of their political agenda. From an Islamic point of view, they are contradictory to the teachings of Islam; Islam is a religion of peace."*



**Umi Waheeda**  
Nurul Iman

Singapore-born Umi Waheeda narrated to Mrs Nomita Dhar the story of her Islamic boarding school, Al-Ashriyyah Nurul Iman Boarding School, coming about in 1998 as a result of her and her husband's compassion towards helping poor and orphaned children who were victims of disasters and have no family, and their desire to provide access to free and quality education, shelter and food. However, in 2010 when her husband died, she was left with the school to her name:

*"I couldn't take it. I wanted to run back to Singapore but if I left Nurul Iman, everything would be lost. I met with the Indonesian authorities, who told me they would have to close the school if I left. I decided to hold on although I felt then I was not fit to run it because I had not much work experience. However, one strength I had throughout the next seven years was my children standing beside me, supporting me to help develop the school to be self-sufficient."*

*"We currently produce everything ourselves with our bread factory, our fisheries, our soya.. I hope, Inshallah, that we can be independent and sustainable. I pray that my children and students will learn how to work hard and earn an honest living. In our culture, if you're a learned man, people will come to you for doa (supplication). When it is answered, they will donate to you. That was the basis of the school's previous financial foundation under my late husband. Today, I can share the story of Nurul Iman with others."*

*"Last October, I was invited to Taipei to speak at an inter-religious cooperation forum attended by professors from Oxford, Harvard and UCLA, and I was the only woman. We spoke about independence and sustainability, and how all religions can work together as we all share one planet."*



# Obama Opens 4th CID

Probably the most famous member of the Indonesian diaspora, Obama says the world can learn more about tolerance from Indonesia

Report compiled by Ayushee Roy



(From left): President Commissioner of Elang Mahkota Technology Eddy Kusnadi Sariaatmadja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Indonesian Diaspora Network Global Dino Patti Djalal, Barack Obama and participants of the Fourth CID



The Congress of Indonesian Diaspora- the fourth of its kind- saw a massive turnout, with over nine thousand attendees flying in from 55 countries across the globe. With prominent global citizens such as Anggun, Tania Gunadi and Ridwan Kamil in attendance, the conference proved to be a huge success.

However, one of the major highlights of the event was, undoubtedly, a truly moving speech by none other than Barack Obama, the former president of the United States, who had spent four years in Indonesia as a child. In his 30-minute

long keynote speech, he urged the youth of the nation to step up and fight for democracy, applauding the “diverse, multi-ethnic” spirit of the country.

He preached religious tolerance and unity, in the light of the recent surge in Islamic radicalism which has plagued the country. He denounced sectarian politics, and its hand in increasing “resentment towards minority groups”, expressing his appreciation of the way Buddhist and Hindu places of worship are “protected and cherished” in this predominantly Muslim nation.

In his first speech on Asian soil since he left office as the 44th president of America, Obama encouraged the audience to embrace globalisation and technology, for the two play a vital role in unifying people from all four corners of the world, despite their religious and racial differences.

His heartfelt utterance of the Indonesian motto - “Bhinneka Tuggal Ika” meaning “unity in diversity”, was met with enthusiastic applause from the audience. Obama fondly recalled his childhood memories of growing up in this beloved nation, excitedly mentioning his favourite local dishes and haunts.

## After Bali, Bogor Visit



Source: Adi Wedal Pool photo via AP

Before arriving in Jakarta to open the Congress, Obama paid a visit to President Jokowi at his official residence in Bogor (picture left) on 1st July 2017 where Obama met the President, his wife Ibu Iriana and youngest son Kaesang Pangarep.

Indonesia, in particular Bali, was also in the world’s media spotlight when Obama, along with his wife and two daughters started their visit to the archipelago going to Bali as tourists for a six-day vacation from 23 to 28 June 2017. The media attention gave rise to the following remarks from Bali’s Governor Made Mangku Pastika who said, “Obama’s visit is Bali’s tourism victory in the international stage. The American people never regarded their previous president as a ‘former president’, they still refer to previous presidents as ‘Mr. President’. Such is the case with Obama, who is currently vacationing in Bali, and this is why his visit is as big as any other head of state visit,” Pastika said. During their visit, the family toured the Agung Rai Art Museum, Pengosekan Village, Ubud and Jatiluwih rice terraces in Tabanan regency, amongst other attractions. They next visited Yogyakarta and touring the sites at Borobudur. 📍

*“When you look at Borobudur, this amazing Buddhist temple in the middle of a Muslim country... then Prambanan one of the great Hindu monuments in the world that is protected and cherished in a Muslim country... and Wayang Kulit’s telling of the story of Ramayana which is part of the basic fabric of culture in Indonesia... the spirit of this country has to be one of tolerance. It is enshrined in Indonesia’s constitution, it is symbolized by mosques, temples and churches beside each other and people living alongside each other in peace, respect and harmony.”*

*- Barack Obama, 44th President of the USA at the 4th Congress of Indonesian Diaspora*



# Learning the Art of Adapting from Prita

by Prionka Ray

The Founder-Director of London School of Public Relations (Jakarta) gives an insight in to her life as an educator, PR professional, mother, and wife, and talks of her love for 'all things beautiful.' She also talks about how challenges and disruptive technologies make life more dynamic.

What stands out the most about Prita Kemal Gani is the calm and composed way with which she handles life even when things don't go as planned. In fact, this award winning PR professional and the Founder-Director of London School of Public Relations (LSPR) Jakarta, thrives on the very challenges that life throws at her, turning them in to beautiful stories with happy endings instead. As we catch her on her milestone year, where she celebrates silver anniversaries of both her institute and her marriage, one thing is evident. Prita Kemal Gani has perfected the act of adapting to her circumstances. In a world of uncertainties, she seems poised to ride the tide and enjoy the process.

Life has not always been easy but Prita has learnt the art of resilience with a smile, perhaps a trait, learnt in her childhood. Having lost her father at the tender age of five, she had seen her mother, a woman, widowed and seven months pregnant, fight against all odds to raise her four kids and educate them well. The perseverance was handed down it seems, from one generation to the other. There's another trait that young Prita seemed to have inherited: her love of people. Her natural amiability combined with her love of "all good things, including good food," prompted Prita towards an education in the hospitality industry with the initial idea of helping her mother in

their family hotel business. However, job training in the Public Relations (PR) section of a hotel fascinated her enough to embark on a new journey as a PR professional. In over two decades that followed, the little girl who had risen from a humble background and chanced upon PR profession only by the turn of events, had won multiple awards (like the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurial Winning Women by Ernst & Young and Man of The Year award by Rakyat Merdeka), and was also running a PR institute that enrolled 5,000 students and boasted of an alumni strength of 20,000.

According to Prita, the nature of PR has changed over time and its importance has increased with globalization. "With an increased access to information, the pitfall of false information has increased too", she says, and so, "it has become imperative for organisations to have Public Relation professionals who can dispense the correct information to people." Speaking on the importance of adapting, she says, "Disruptive technology continues to make the world more dynamic. Under these circumstances, the ability to adapt quickly is a must." She further adds that though previously Indonesians used to look at the west to learn about PR,

"the world now looks at each other for learning." Emphasising the collaborative stance of the current times, Prita tells us that LSPR is talking to Singapore Polytechnic for collaborations on maritime study, and with MDIS for student exchanges. "We partner with over 50 institutes for students, courses and lecturer collaborations," she adds, and these collaborations, ensure that "we become citizens of the world."

The need of the hour, she says, is to understand people in context, through the study of anthropology, sociology and through cultural exchanges. "At LSPR, we have academic and non academic courses for multiple religions as well. This is in line with Indonesia's stance of 'united in diversity' and 'Pancasila',



(Previous facing page): Prita on her visit to Singapore for a break and (above) at home

the foundational philosophical theory. It does not matter, which God we follow, she says, what is more important is that "we believe in God." A proud Indonesian, who herself belongs to a family where many extended family members are of different faiths living in harmony with each other, Prita invites the international community to visit her country. Indonesia is a "safe" country of "kind people," she says, and it is a place where the visitors can see "many wonders of the world." In addition, "many Indonesians speak English these days," she adds, and this ease of communication makes Indonesia more accessible and inviting.

Communication is one of Prita's favourite topics. Like in most parts of the world, she says, women are more drawn to communication and to courses that involve communication. LSPR intake reveals a similar trend of a higher ratio of women joining PR and communication courses, however, Prita assures that the nation is fast moving towards gender equality. Communication is a requirement for everyone, and emphasising its role at a personal level, she speaks of her family's ritual of communicating at the dinner table everyday. "Even if the children have eaten dinner separately, they all gather at the table for a light meal of *gado-gado* or *tempeh*," just so that they can join her and her husband for a meal. The communication with her husband of 25 years extends beyond the table though. "We talk in the car, in the room, and everywhere," she says. "He's like my best friend," she says with a smile, suggesting an easy camaraderie. In fact, even when she reveals that she

likes cooking but "he doesn't like her cooking," she is unperturbed, and in her trademark ability to turn a situation around, she informs that her new hobby is arranging tableware, carpets, and furniture around the house. Her ability to adapt remains unfazed.

Interestingly, this was the same "hobby" that she had wanted to pursue as a career once, but couldn't, since it was "too expensive" for her mother to finance. Life seems to have come to a full circle for Prita Kemal Gani. As she gathers her various interests and passions in life, she gives it her all and moves with the time. Whether as a speaker at IndoConnect's Ibu Power Conference last April, as a respected PR professional, an educator or through her PR related and women empowerment radio programmes, Prita inspires people with her resilience and her ability to make the best of what comes her way. Perhaps, her mother was right when she had said to find a job that will allow Prita to get the "good things" in life. "I like all beautiful things," Prita says with a smile. It's the same smile with which she had turned all the challenges in her life in to stories with beautiful endings. For example, in addition to establishing the academic credentials of her school, she also appreciated that first impressions count. She has ensured a stylish comfortable and professional atmosphere at LSPR that has contributed to its reputation and attraction as one of Indonesia's leading institutions of learning (see photos on this page). ☐

"We partner with over 50 institutes for student exchanges, courses and lecturer collaborations (latest with Singapore Polytechnic and MDIS). These collaborations, ensure that we become citizens of the world."



First impressions count - the London PR touch: the Penthouse office (top), Students' Lounge (middle) and the Trocadero Lounge (above)





*By invitation only*

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## The Girl in Tech – New Frontiers for Women

by Prionka Ray

Jocelyn Teo, Advisory Board Member of Girls in Tech Singapore, wants more women to take a closer look at education, training, work and careers in technology



*“Stereotypes and unconscious bias, cultural perceptions and societal attitudes all play a part in the setting of barriers for women in tech.”*

1. What is the current status of women in tech fields, are they well represented in terms of numbers compared to men? We believe they are not as many as men. Is this true? Why should it not be a ‘natural fit’ for women and what are the reasons you think stopping more women from joining the tech industry?

JT: I believe that the concept of “natural fit” is mostly attributed to the cultural perceptions and norms rather than the gender differences bestowed to us by Mother Nature. Stereotypes and unconscious bias, cultural perceptions and societal attitudes all play a part in the setting of barriers for women in tech.

2. What is the range of jobs available in tech. Are there any positions that would give women an edge or advantage over men or that would be a disadvantage for women compared to men?

JT: Today, tech jobs are no longer confined to the usual computer programming IT-based job profiles. There are a multitude of job options in the tech world today that utilizes a diverse range of skillsets, from programme management, pre-sales, product development to data scientist, graphic designer for user experience. Even non-tech industries are getting a tech overhaul these days. As conventional industries move towards the Industrial 4.0 era, the need to innovate, create and enhance productivity is paramount to the profitability of the company, and companies will be pushed towards having a workforce that is geared towards tech in order to continue growing.

I strongly believe in 50/50. A well-crafted solution, a profitable product or a customer-oriented service can only be so if it is supported, created and decided by a diverse set of minds. Studies have shown repeatedly that companies that are inclined to a 50/50 representation in their decision-making process are more profitable. So I do not subscribe to the belief that a woman or a man is more suited for a job. Both genders bring something worthy for consideration to the table.



Girls in Tech (GIT) is a global non-profit organization focused on the engagement, education and empowerment of influential women in technology.

For more info:

<http://singapore.girlsintech.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/GirlsInTech/>



**A well-crafted solution, a profitable product or a customer-oriented service can only be so if it is supported, created and decided by a diverse set of minds. Studies have shown repeatedly that companies that are inclined to a 50/50 representation in their decision-making process are more profitable.**

**3. You have worked in the US, in Silicon Valley itself. How did you end up there, doing what and what did you learn there about women in tech field that can be applied in Singapore?**

JT: Long story short, I started off in R&D in a very niche field in semiconductors. Opportunity came knocking for me one day to join the world's largest foundry in Taiwan as a R&D engineer. I grabbed that opportunity as I had (and still have) a huge passion in the advanced technology that drives our world. I then moved on to other roles in the same company like product engineering and was then relocated by the same company to their North America office in Silicon Valley. I was managing the account of one of the company's largest customers, helping them with their advanced technology roadmap and supporting their product and business needs.

One thing that I learnt when I was there was to never be afraid to "sit at the table". Many a time, we Asian women unconsciously choose to be at the sidelines. Women cannot expect to be heard or be taken seriously if we self-relegate ourselves to the sidelines and not speak out. Of course it may not be that easy or simple as often an "assertive" woman is seen as "aggressive" and viewed in a negative light. So there is a balance we need to be mindful of here.

**4. Tech and IT is very specialised in terms of education / training and expertise so is it a field that one must choose very early on in life or can women after leaving school or university switch professions to join? Is there a certain 'type' of personality or character traits that make them more suitable for jobs in tech?**

JT: IT is a specialized field. Tech however, may not be as specialized as we think. As mentioned earlier on, there are different skillsets needed in tech. I also believe in choosing a field that one has passion or



interest in. That spark will be what keeps you going when the going is tough. And also be prepared to adapt to the changes in the macro environment. We need to play to our strengths, leverage our talents, and exploit that passion we have in tech. There must also be open-mindedness to changing our paths along the way and not be afraid of steep learning curves. Again, I am of the firm belief that gender has nothing to do with what one can or cannot do. Passion and talent combined with opportunities play a more significant role in one's suitability for jobs in tech (as opposed with personality or character or traits). I once read an article by a female race car driver with a headline that says "The car doesn't know if I'm a man or a woman, and it doesn't care".

**5. In the Singapore context what is the work currently in demand in the field of tech and are the skills also highly in demand in overseas markets and where are the best jobs found?**

JT: Jobs related to tech trends like Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, big data, user experience are widely in demand these days both in Singapore and internationally as the world gears towards Industrial revolution 4.0 where changes are fast occurring in how people connect, live and work together. Conventional fields

like engineering and manufacturing has always been a stronghold in Singapore and is in demand to drive growth in those areas. Software is still popular these days and so are social media platforms. But remember that these can change rapidly based on the demands of humankind, hence it is vital to stay nimble and mindful of the changes and adapt accordingly.

**6. In September SLUSH will be staged in Singapore and how will Girls in Tech be taking part? In what fields or areas of business you think women can participate in SLUSH or benefit from attending it?**

JT: SLUSH is a well-established event to showcase startups to potential investors and is a great place for like-minded entrepreneurs to meet and network. Girls in Tech Singapore has no current plans to take part in SLUSH this year, but we wish this event a great success as it contributes to the vibrant startup scene we have in Singapore! I think any woman who is currently running her own business and wants to take it to greater heights or someone who has an idea or solution or product that she wants to bring to market successfully should definitely consider events like SLUSH.

**7. Is SLUSH suitable for women business owners to tap into for a technological edge e.g. if you are a beauty salon owner or run a food stall and have ideas how tech can be employed to raise productivity etc. Is this the place to go?**

JT: I believe a setting like SLUSH could be a space for people to exchange ideas for their current business whatever their product/services may be.

**8. For Tech entrepreneurs, who are the women who lead or own their own compa-**

**I think any woman who is currently running her own business and wants to take it to greater heights or someone who has an idea or solution or product that she wants to bring to market successfully should definitely consider events like SLUSH.**

**nies (probably SMEs)? Are there many here and can you quote success stories and the women behind them to illustrate what is possible in the tech field?**

JT: Being a board member of Girls in Tech Singapore has enabled me to get to know many awesome women founders and industry leaders in Singapore. In June this year, we are collaborating with Facebook on a Startup Success Factor Bootcamp where participants will get to take away tangible skills from leadership, ideation, crafting a business model, and pitching it to raise capital funds. Participants will be closely mentored by mentors who are founders, entrepreneurs and leaders in their own respective fields so that they can share their own experiences during the bootcamp. We hope to inspire aspiring or current women entrepreneurs! Some of our mentors in this bootcamp are featured in our blog, and their success stories can also be found here: <https://singapore.girlsintech.org/#blog>

We are constantly inspired by these ladies such as Janice Chia, she is the Founder & Managing Director, Ageing Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore - Asia's



first ageing market consultancy social enterprise; Tegan Watson is the Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of Senescence Life Sciences which is a biotechnology leader in brain health, its mission is to leverage the latest advances in neuroscience to create innovative products designed to protect and preserve brain function.

Some members of GIT in the recent Startup Success Factor Bootcamp in Facebook Singapore (pictured above) and you can also read and be inspired about Jacqueline & Melissa



(pictured above left and right resp) from Delegate at <https://singapore.girlsintech.org/2017/06/12/be-inspired-by-delegate-co-founders-melissa-lou-and-jacqueline-ye/>

## Forbe's List of Wealthiest American Women in Tech

In May this year Forbes staff writer Kate Vinton compiled 11 of the richest self-made women in tech in the magazine's third annual list which showed seven are CEOs, five founded their own companies and three are billionaires (some hold two of these titles). Together, Vinton wrote these 11 women are worth a combined US\$10.3 billion. The richest was Meg Whitman who is HP Enterprise CEO, who has a \$2.5 billion fortune. The bulk of her fortune came from her stint as CEO of eBay. Before eBay, she was an executive at Walt Disney and Hasbro. She is the richest self-made woman in America who is not the founder of her own company.

Next two are female tech billionaires, Facebook Chief Operating Office Sheryl Sandberg and SHI International CEO Thai Lee, each have a \$1.6 billion fortune. Miss Vinton pointed out

that Whitman, Lee, Sandberg and the other women in the tech list are "a rarity in the technology sector, which has produced a tremendous amount of wealth - but mainly for men."

Others in the list includes YouTube's CEO Susan Wojcicki, with an estimated \$410 million fortune, who had published an article in Vanity Fair titled "How to Break Up the Silicon Valley Boy's Club," discussing sexism in tech and steps companies can take to support women. Wojcicki said the number of women at YouTube had increased from 24% to 30% since she became CEO in 2014. Then there is Yahoo's CEO Marissa Mayer. Mayer, Sandberg and Wojcicki all had worked together at Google early in their careers. Mayer has a \$540 million fortune, the bulk of which comes from her time at Google. Next is Oracle's co-CEO Safra Catz who is

an 18-year Oracle veteran with an estimated fortune of \$670 million.

More than half of these women made their fortunes as executives at companies they didn't start, only five founded their own tech companies. Lee is the only billionaire female founder in tech. The other four founders are Weili Dai (net worth: \$770 million), cofounder of Marvell Technology Group; Neerja Sethi (net worth \$750 million), cofounder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel; Adi Tatarko (net worth: \$300 million), co-founder of home design startup Houzz; and Lynda Weinman (net worth \$280 million), founder of online education platform Lynda.com. To read the full article visit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/katevinton/2017/05/17/meet-americas-richest-self-made-women-in-tech/#4dd7e1ae5a94>



# IAF 2017: CLASH OF TWO WORLDS

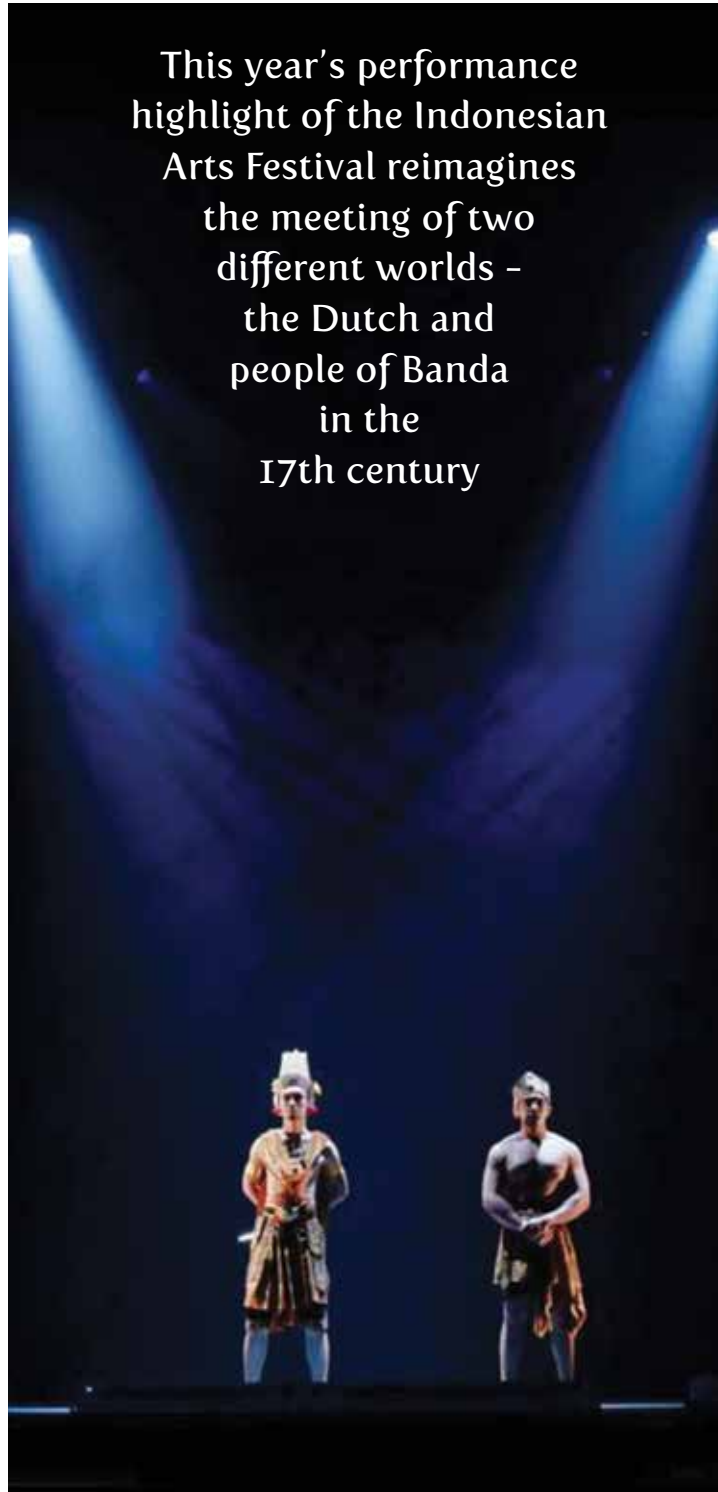
**T**he Indonesian Arts Festival (IAF) is never one to turn down a challenge to present Indonesian culture and history from a youthful perspective. After presenting its modern twist on Wayang back in February 2015, the IAF takes on a new frontier for this year's edition. They will present a reimagined account of the early Dutch explorers in the faraway Islands of Banda, located in the present-day Indonesian province of Maluku.

## Major Theme

Like many other countries in Asia, Indonesia was a mystery to the European explorers and sailors back in the 17th century. The IAF crew believe the first encounters between the native islanders with the Europeans may have been an interesting one. Both groups originated from opposing edges of the world complete with different culture, technology, and most importantly, the way each side views the other. The clash of these seemingly opposing facets of both societies at that time will be the major theme of this year's IAF presentation titled Clash of Two Worlds.

In this campaign, the producers of the festival hoped to inspire younger generations, especially here in South-East Asia, to stand up for friendship and mutual understanding between people from many nations, regardless of race, creed, and beliefs. As such, the IAF does not limit itself to only Indonesian participants in this production.

This year's performance highlight of the Indonesian Arts Festival reimagines the meeting of two different worlds – the Dutch and people of Banda in the 17th century



(Above): At IAF 2013 the story of Majapahit's infamous Perang Bubat, leading to the falling out of the compact duo of King and War Minister, Hayam Wuruk and Gajah Mada. Performed at the prestigious Esplanade Theatre

it has opened its doors for other universities' co-curricular clubs to collaborate. Such examples are, but not limited to, Singapore Institute of Management's String Ensemble and Nanyang Technological University's Symphonic Band.

IAF's team of performers also received training from established professionals in the field. The actors were coached by well-known actors in the Singapore theatre scene, such as Benjamin Chow, the 2015 Best Supporting Actor by Life! Theatre Awards, and Cheryl Tan, whose works include Shakespeare in the Park and appearing in MediaCorp dramas.

## Educational Charity

As the IAF crew looked back into Indonesia's early history, they also looked back into their own organisation's history (see accompanying story). When the IAF was founded, one of its secondary purposes was to donate funds for charity from its events, specifically to various educational initiatives in Indonesia. The IAF intends to donate this year's proceeds and preferably to NGOs with a focus of educating the children of Maluku.

The organisers of the festival has invited anyone who is interested in being involved in any way with the festival to please contact them by email at: [contact@indoartsfest.org](mailto:contact@indoartsfest.org).

The producers of the festival hoped to inspire younger generations, especially here in South-East Asia, to stand up for friendship and mutual understanding between people from many nations, regardless of race, creed, and beliefs. As such, the IAF does not limit itself to only Indonesian participants in this production. It has opened its doors for other universities' co-curricular clubs to collaborate.



(Top row panel): IAF's group of passionate, hardworking actors, promise a unique way of storytelling. (Above): IAF 2017 may be about a clash of civilisations, but IAF's music team promotes a story of collaboration between students from different universities and nationalities.

(Right): IAF 2015 reimagined the intricate art of Wayang, with the addition of contemporary dance and music



## CLASH of TWO WORLDS

Performance Dates:  
27 & 28 October 2017

Venue:  
The Singapore Airlines Theatre  
LASALLE College of the Arts

## About IAF Origins

The Indonesian Arts Festival (IAF) was established in 2003 by a group of students studying in Singapore. The IAF has been held semi-annually with a purpose to promote Indonesian traditional arts as part of the South-East Asian heritage and keep telling and at the same time remembering our own culture. Back then, the IAF offered a series of short theatrical performances. The IAF started to turn its attention into musical theatre in its 2010 edition.

IAF is a platform which encourages arts students, emerging arts professionals, and anyone that has a passion in arts to interact and grow together. To that end, the IAF opens its doors for both Indonesian and local Singaporeans for our community to grow together as one in arts.



# BESPOKE ART TOUR TO BALI

by Henny Scott

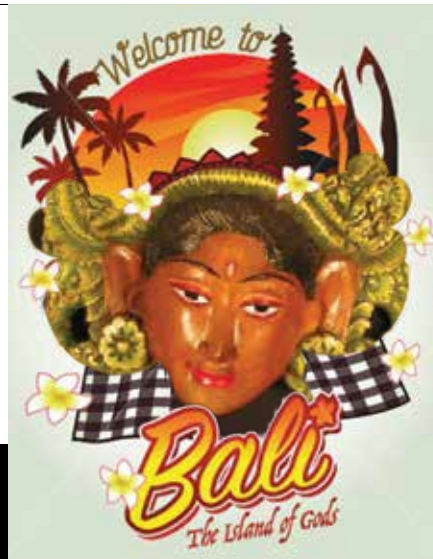
The Singapore school term holidays in April provided a great opportunity for me to organise the Bespoke Art Tour to Bali where participants not only were able to appreciate Indonesian art but also be welcomed warmly by artists - who already enjoy successful careers - into their homes or studios and art centres.

Many people visit Bali but don't always have the opportunity to step into the studio of Balinese artists. Many might want to do it but don't know where to start and don't feel comfortable exploring the unknown. So I regularly organise these Bespoke Art Tours for art lovers looking for a peek through the windows of the art world and wanting an immersive cultural experience.

With so many artists to visit and so little time, I have to narrow down the list of artists to visit each trip. That is why every tour is unique and refreshing. This time we visited some very celebrated artists there such as **Mangu Putra**, **Made Bayak**, **Made Djirna** and **Nyoman Sujana Kenyem** over a cup of tea, Bubur Sumsum or a full spread of home cooked Balinese delicacies!

*(Above right): Bapak & Ibu Agung Mangu Putra with his painting depicting a Japanese soldier who has reluctantly surrendered*

*(Opposite page): Made Djirna art installation / Singapore Art Museum*



## Agung Mangu Putra

Born in Bali in 1963. Mangu Putra finished his education in Visual Communication Design at Institut Seni Indonesia Yogyakarta (Indonesia Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta) in 1990. After graduation, he worked as Graphic Designer for 7 years and eventually decided to engage in full time career as a painter in 1998.

Obviously it was the right decision to visit Pak Mangu Putra who is regarded as one of Indonesia's most respected painters. In the early stage of his career, the works created were primarily focused on nature and environmental issues of Bali where he lives. However, recently, he has been conducting a lengthy investigation on Balinese history and the experiences of his own family. Through his paintings, he expresses his feelings and thoughts, following lengthy interviews he has conducted with people who informed him of their past personal stories which have never been documented before!

Mangu Putra's home and studio is in Denpasar, a fabulous space with separated quarters of residence, art studio and viewing gallery, and family temple. It was a treat for everyone to discover this hidden gem, which is not open to the public. The works by this multiple award winning artist have been featured at Jeju Museum of Contemporary Art (Korea), Ho Chi Minh City Fine Art Museum (Vietnam), Seoul Museum of Art (Korea), Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Shanghai (China), and Haus der Weltkulturen, Berlin (Germany) and most recently at Art Stage Singapore, Art Fair Philippines and the inaugural Art Stage Jakarta (2016). Our group enjoyed a lively conversation and a delicious afternoon tea spread prepared by Ibu Agung.

IndoConnect Art Correspondent, Henny Scott recently led a group of artists, collectors, gallerists and art enthusiasts from Singapore and the USA on a Bespoke Art Tour to Bali meeting luminaries in the art world, some in their homes and inner work sanctums!



## Made Djirna

Fresh from viewing his significant works of different mediums including vintage boat, thousands of ceramic figurines and found object entitled 'Beyond Border' or Melampau Batas at 2016 Singapore Biennale, discerning art lovers eagerly visited the studio of Made Djirna in Ubud.

A highly versatile artist whose works range from abstraction to figure inspired by Balinese primitive art. His works have been exhibited widely in Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Malta, Switzerland, United States and other countries.

Made Djirna's home is located opposite Kedewatan cemetery and the moment you enter, you know that you have arrived in a house of a Balinese Artist who is clearly fascinated by depiction of good and evil spirits, highly spiritual and primitive.

The absence of bright light added the drama. However, the friendly artist soon emerged and comforted us. Oom Djirna, as we call him, was born in 1957, started painting from a very early age and grew up in a world of Balinese spirit and mythology.

Like most of his celebrated fellow artists, Made Djirna also attended Institut Seni Rupa in Yogyakarta and graduated in 1985. The participants enjoyed the debate and discussions that ensued on the works created by Oom Djirna. The artist has received numerous awards and it is not surprising that his works have been collected by important institutions such as the Singapore Art Museum, The Northern Territory Museum of Art & Science (Darwin, Australia) and many other institutional collectors.

*Made Djirna's home is located opposite Kedewatan cemetery and the moment you enter, you know that you have arrived in a house of a Balinese artist who is clearly fascinated by depiction of good and evil spirits, highly spiritual and primitive. The absence of bright light added to the drama....*





(Above right): At the ribbon-cutting opening ceremony of the exhibition at Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa (Image courtesy of Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa)

(Below right): Made Bayak with UWCSEA Dover students and Children from Widhya Asih Orphanages. Widhya Asih is a Bali Children Foundation, and a Non-Profit Organization working to eliminate poverty through education, charity, sponsor projects. UWCSEA has been supporting the centres for 11 years.

### Made Bayak

Made Bayak has called himself a Seniman Gadungan or fake artist. Born in 1980 in Tampaksiring, Gianyar, he showed promising artistic and musical talent from an early age. He went on to study at the Indonesian Art Institute (ISI) Denpasar, where he spent seven years to complete his studies and it was there he also met his future wife, Komang Kartika Dewi on campus. They have one son, Damar Langit Timur, another gifted artist who began creating figurative representations on his own when he was just two years old.

The family collaborative art works were shown in a unique art exhibition proudly presented by Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa from 22 March to 22 June 2017 entitled 'Arm our Family.'

In this exhibition he and his wife emphasized the importance of parents and adults being positive role models to children and to impart to them the tools of knowledge and holistic education to inspire their budding creativity and imagination.

Made Bayak is also an active environmentalist who raises awareness about the need for plastic waste management through his art works and workshops. He has also created a series of art projects themed "Plasticology," a concept that fuses the words "plastic" and "ecology." It is an ongoing project as he plans to exhibit other works within the "Plasticology" series, in other exhibit settings in the future. Recently, I invited him to conduct workshops for students at Widhya Asih orphanages and UWCSEA Dover during the school's annual Bali Bridges visit.

Made Bayak exhibits his works regularly in Bali and recently exhibited in Germany and Poland and was one of the distinguished nominees of Singapore's prestigious 2013 Sovereign Art Prize.




### Nyoman Sujana Kenyem

Born and living in Sayan, Nyoman Sujana Kenyem is very popular with art lovers visiting Ubud. No visit is complete without visiting Bli Kenyem Studio a stone throw away from the Four Season Resort.

He pursued study in the local art school in Denpasar and progressively moved on to abstraction in which he develops a discourse about the place of humans that begins in nature. His works are highly distinctive as he created repetitive patterns. Bli Kenyem as he is better known, enjoys a successful career and many art lovers who follow his works in Instagram are becoming more familiar with his works without even visited his works in the studio or an exhibition.

Bli Kenyem has exhibited his works in China, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Sweden.

He is one of the many artists who taken advantage of social media platforms to promote his art and engage with international art lovers. 

(Above left): Mr. & Mrs. Nyoman Sujana Kenyem with Henny Scott and Peter Tow, an architect from Tow Studio, New York

To join a **Bespoke Art Tour**, please contact Henny Scott IndoConnect's Art Correspondent for the upcoming trips to Bali, Bandung, Jakarta and Yogyakarta email at [ghjscott@gmail.com](mailto:ghjscott@gmail.com)



# AFTERNOON TEA WITH MADE WIANTA *by Henny Scott*

The Bespoke Art Tour began by meeting Made Wianta a veteran contemporary artist from Bali, at his birthplace and second home in Desa Apuan, Tabanan

Away from their city home of Denpasar, Desa Apuan is a mountainside village with wonderful fresh air where Pak Wianta was born in 1949 and grew up. Home is a beautiful wooden house fully decorated with artworks of different series and periods of his artistic career with a beautiful garden nurtured by his landscape architect wife, Ibu Intan Kirana. Adjacent to his house is a large Hindu temple, Pura Luhur Natar Sari. Even as regular visitors to Bali, this visit provided participants with an immersive experience of Bali from art, cultural and recreational perspectives as we visited off the beaten tracks not always frequented by other tourists.

*(Top right): The Wianta family  
(Photo by Ibadallah Bajumi)*

*(Middle): Greeted by gracious host and invitation to Afternoon Tea  
(Photo by Sara Fuller):*

*(Bottom): Gamelan music performance  
(Photo by James Wilkins)*

A spread of Balinese delicacies including Ayam Betutu, fingers sandwiches and assorted pastries were served for the guests. More food like Italian pasta was prepared for the more picky eaters - junior guests who tagged along with their art loving parents. Red rice tea, a specialty tea from the neighboring Jatiluwih rice terrace, a UNESCO World Heritage and kopi Bali were served to compliment the delicious spread. As if it wouldn't be a uniquely Bali experience, two boys from the village performed Gamelan music in the sprawling garden to complete the fabulous afternoon. The Wianta family is truly hospitable.

Pak Wianta met Ibu Intan, the grand daughter of Ki Hajar Dewantara, a pioneer in education from the Dutch colonial times and a National Hero, during his time in Yogyakarta whilst attending Yogya Premier art school, Institut Seni Rupa Indonesia.

Blessed with two daughters, Buratwangi Wianta and Sanjiwani who completed their higher education in United States and Europe, they have returned to Bali to be closer to the family. Sanji has added the Wianta family from her marriage with Jonathan Nauleau, a grand daughter Louise whom Pak Wianta adored dearly. As you can

see from the family picture, the Wiantas are a beautiful and gracious family.

Without a doubt, Made Wianta is one of the most prolific and successful artists in Indonesia whose works are clearly not limited to oil on canvas painting but across multi disciplines and mediums including sharp items like razors, nail, shard of glass, kris daggers and hoes. Visiting his home and studios was a joy and privilege to participants, which led to a further discovery of the extensive achievements of this artist despite having seen his works in major platforms internationally.

Unfortunately, Pak Wianta has not been well in the past couple of years following a motorbike collision. A long

road to a complete recovery but thanks to ardent supporters such as Singapore Art Museum, Mizuma Gallery Singapore, Sofitel Nusa Dua Bali, Wesleyan University in New York, Consulate General RI in New York and private collectors, the family continues to manage his artistic career with shows happening in selected platforms in Bali, Surabaya, Jakarta, Singapore and New York during his illness.

In his presence, our group gained insight into his artistic processes, ideas, range of mediums



*(Top left): Henny Scott with renowned art collectors, Kim Camacho and Chiara Rosenblum in front of Air Pollution, a monumental sculpture created from motorcycles exhaust pipes to address pollution issue in Made's hometown of Bali. The work is part of the Singapore Art Museum collection*


*(Above): Close-up - Made Wianta*

*(Left): The visiting Bespoke Art Group  
(Photo taken by the Wianta family)*

and material through explanation by his Management team, none other than his wife, Ibu Intan and daughter Buratwangi. Selected recent shows were part of the commemoration of 350th Anniversary of Breda Treaty in which the Dutch ceded Manhattan to the English in exchange for the tiny island of Run in Indonesia. The Consulate General of Republic of Indonesia in New York and Wesleyan University holds the show on April 2017. Worth noting is also the 2016 Singapore Biennale, an Atlas of Mirror where his work Treasure Island gained admiration from art lovers.

Last year, Made Wianta was awarded Bali Mandara Parama Nugraha 2016 from Bali Governor, I Made Mangku Pastika for his dedication in promoting Bali

through contemporary art. This award completes many other awards he received including Dharma Kusuma Award by the Bali Provincial Government (1999) for his strong sense of environmental awareness and social responsibility reflected in several art installations/happenings he created. The Most Admired Man of Decade from American Biographical Institute (ABI), Raleigh, North Carolina, USA was presented to him in 1997.

It was a memorable and pleasant afternoon for all attending this event, which was held especially to welcome our group. We will never forget the gracious and generous hospitality by the Wianta family and wish Pak Wianta a full recovery soon. 



## SINGAPORE PROPERTY WATCH

SOL ACRES EC & PARC RIVIERA  
TOP THE CHARTS

The above Executive Condominium (EC) and Private Property respectively are the bestselling developments in the first five months of this year. Propnex Realty expects private home sales to breach 15,000 mark by the end of 2017

**A**ltogether there was a 61% increase in units sold by developers in the first five months of 2017. The figures released in June showed a total of 1,394 units (including ECs) and 1,024 units (excluding ECs) transacted in May 2017. According to Propnex Realty even though the figure in May might have taken a dip compared to the previous month due to the lack of new major launches, it still reflects the positive market sentiments in the first half of 2017. Comparing Year-on-Year, the total number of transactions in the first five months of 2017 reflected a significant increase of about 61% as compared to the same period in 2016.


Sol Acres EC and Parc Riviera developments were the best sellers for the past five months of this year with a total of 116 units of Sol Acres EC sold in the month of May, making it the top-seller for the EC sector. Thus far, a total of 507 units of Sol Acres EC were snapped up by buyers this year. Parc Riviera leads the Private residential segment with 83 units sold in May.

CEO PropNex Realty, Mr Ismail Gafoor commented, "Like what we witnessed in April, consumers are continuing to pick up units nearing TOP dates. This is evident in the results of the five best performing projects of this month. Especially for Parc Riviera and Sol Acres EC which have continued to sell well in the first five months of 2017."

**Most in Demand – OCR**

Properties in the Outside Central Region (OCR) continues to be the most sought after, accounting for 60.3 per cent of new private home sales (excluding ECs), while Rest of Central (RCR) and Core Central Region (CCR) accounted for 33.3 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively.



Mr Ismail expects the trend of strong demand will continue throughout 2017 and is optimistic that his prediction of private homes transactions crossing the 15,000 mark (Including ECs) and 10,000 units (Excluding ECs) by the end of this year will materialise. He commented, "More consumers will come to realisation that the market have bottomed out and prices are likely to inch upwards with the strong land bid prices we are currently witnessing. This might it turn propel them to make the move in their property purchases." 

Property	Region	Units Sold	Median Price
Sol Acres EC	OCR	116	S\$794 psf
Parc Riviera	OCR	83	S\$1,246 psf
The Santorini	OCR	64	S\$1,022 psf
Commonwealth Tower	OCR	53	S\$1,841 psf
Kingsford Waterbay	OCR	51	S\$1,162 psf
Sims Urban Oasis	OCR	51	S\$1,387 psf

Source: URA / PropNex Research

## ENGLAND CALLING...

UK is still a top choice for a university education. Arjun Dhar shares what you will face when going there for studies



University College London's Quadrant

**I**t's that time of year when students stand ready once again to scale the mountain of examinations and university applications. For the millennial applicant, international options abound, and the United States, United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Australia have remained top choices in recent years.

The numbers show that Singaporeans and Indonesians continue to invest in the UK's reputation for academic quality and excellence. On record, in 2016, over 7,500 Singaporean students were studying in the UK. That year, British Ambassador to Indonesia, Moazzam Malik, revealed that the number of Indonesian students in the UK had reached 3,000, with steady increases of 20-30% in recent years.

Given the interest in the UK, we de-mystify various elements of the enrolment process for you. If done right, the process can be simple and straightforward. Most university students face the same challenges: choosing the right universities to apply, condensing one's most important experiences onto the Personal Statement (PS) and making a positive impression at the interview. Indeed, every candidate should apply with confidence, with their eye set on the most important thing: persuading the admissions officer to accept them to their dream university.

**Choosing Schools**

The UK education system is known for its clear focus on academic ability. Most UK universities want to ensure that a potential student can handle the intellectual rigour of their chosen course. Aside from grades, ways to convince an admissions officer include highlighting learning points from internships or other experiences relevant to the course in which they are applying. For professional courses like law and medicine, work experience and keeping up-to-date about news in the industry can make a difference.

Each university has its own definition of the ideal candidate. For example, University College London places heavy focus on academic ability and potential, whereas King's College London values students who have made the most of opportunities available to them in school. Fortunately, that means that an applicant can tailor their application to their target university. A discerning candidate should examine their chosen uni-

versities' ideals carefully and choose those that best match their goals, and which would value them as students.

**Personal Statement**

As the first personal interface between you and your admissions officer, the PS provides the best opportunity to set yourself apart. The challenge in writing a winning PS is in connecting the applicant's background, interests and achievements with their chosen universities and course of study. Research and reflect, and take advice on your drafts from friends and family. Be prepared to have several drafts before you arrive at a PS that you are happy with.

It is rightly said that good writing is clear thinking made visible. The open secret to a compelling PS is a clear and persuasive justification for the applicant's aptitude and understanding of their course. Keep writing free of jargon, and focus on telling the story of how your key achievements make you the ideal candidate.

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Wenny Shi, B, Acc (NTU)  
Chartered Accountant (SG)






The library at the University of Cambridge

### The Interview

Interviews are often the final obstacle separating an applicant from their letter of acceptance. Given their unpredictability, a prepared candidate stands a much higher chance of acing the interview. A candidate should be ready to field questions such as why they chose their course and university, and to explain points they may have made in their PS.

A well-prepared candidate should also keep themselves knowledgeable about the university, and about developments in their field of study. When all is said and done, the UK application process is a hurdle-

filled journey. There are a few ways to keep this journey stress-free such as getting a head start and planning deadlines effectively from the beginning. These will keep your confidence levels high and put you on track to overcoming each hurdle with poise. Eventually, the journey should be an enriching one, and one that is worth it in the end. 

### About the Author

Arjun Dhar is Founding Partner at Admitted University Mentors. He is from the Cambridge University Class of 2020, reading Law on a Jardine Scholarship.



Admitted offers university applications mentoring services by student mentors accepted to applicants' dream universities for their chosen course. It enables honest, affordable, and targeted support to students who require an extra push in their university applications to the UK.

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**Upcoming events/interactions**  
Email to [enquiries@admitted.com.sg](mailto:enquiries@admitted.com.sg) for a FREE link to an online UK applications information session on 26 Aug 2017 at 11am, hosted by Admitted's resident mentors.



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# BALI SHARKS!

Learning and adventure go hand-in-hand for UWCSEA's primary school students as they learn about the role of sharks in marine ecosystems

Bali Sharks is an organisation dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sharks into protected waters off Bali and in the Gili islands. Since 2016, the Bali-based NGO has been a partner with UWCSEA's East Campus Primary School to help raise awareness and educate its students on aspects of marine biology and how important it is to maintain the fragile balance of the marine ecosystem and shark conservation.

With their focus upon conservation and marine biology, the opportunity to witness first hand and be directly involved in its activities is a wonderfully exciting addition to the the school's Grade 2 curriculum.

All students in Grade 2 learn about ecosystems and the importance of protecting the fragile balances that they hold in order to ensure the long term health of the environment. Part of this learning involves looking at human practices that can affect the balance in ecosystems, and there are natural links to their Field to Table Unit of Study, as students look at the link between food chains and eating sustainable foods. Many students also join a lunch-time Service activity to find out more about this great project and how they can support it.

This leads up to a visit to Bali in Term 2 of each school year, when a group of students travel with their parents and teachers to visit Bali Sharks, based at Serangan, Southern Bali and the surrounding marine and mangrove ecosystems. This enables them to learn more and participate in conservation work first hand. When the students return to Singapore, they then share this knowledge with their classmates through presentations and posters.



yet effective shark rescue programme, which rescues sharks doomed for consumer markets by intercepting and relocating them to Marine Protected Areas. The nursery was hatched in 2011, after plans for a shark cage tourism activity failed due to unsustainable fishing practices, as the location was continually poached.


And so, this led to the idea of a building the world's first shark rescue nursery.

With no grants or financial

backing, the programme educated nearshore fishing communities and offered alternative solutions to killing by catch. Fishermen were hired away from the ocean depletion equation by becoming care takers, boat drivers and guides in eco-tourism. It was the first time they had been given the choice not to kill all catch by being offered an alternative lifestyle.

### Mortality Rates

Rescues include but are not limited to sharks that have been saved from netting, long lines, fishing boats, fish markets, restaurants, fish tanks, and even bar aquariums. The rescue, rehab, transfer, and release protocols achieve survival rates in the high 90% as opposed to the aquarium trade which has a mortality rate above 50%.

As a result of their work, Bali Sharks have also been able to contribute to scientific understanding of the dominance between and within shark species. This has enabled them to improve and outline protocols that not only benefit Bali's fishing practices but shark researchers around the world - as well as providing the students from UWCSEA a fascinating insight and understanding of the subject of marine conservation. 



### Sharks in Peril

Indonesia has an estimated 250 species of sharks; this represents more than half of all known species. Unfortunately it is also the leading country in the killing of sharks and the 'harvesting' of their fins, exporting 316 tonnes of fins in 2011. It is estimated that shark numbers in some areas have declined by more than 90 per cent in the last 10 years, resulting in a hugely negative impact on marine ecosystems.

Paul Friese, originally from Hawaii, teamed up with Balinese fisherman Wayan Jalan to introduce a simple



# A SUMMER OF DISCOVERY @ ISS

Spending summer in Singapore? ISS Summer School Discovery 2017 has lined up a series of fun-filled and enriching programmes for students of all ages to explore, discover and learn.

ISS Summer School allows kids aged 4-18 years (K1 to G12) to explore the fields of language, arts, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and adventure sports.

Each day's programme has been designed as a learning journey for you to uncover new ideas and experiences. Begin the mornings with Language Discovery and transition to afternoons filled with hands-on experiences in stimulating STEM Discovery, creative Arts (arts, crafts, drama, music) Discovery, and athletic Discovery Adventures.



## STEM Discovery

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are brought to life in the STEM Discovery programme. You can live the life of an astronaut by launching a space adventure; build your own robot or laser game; pilot a mini-drone; write code to create the music of the future in Sonic Pi; and travel back in time to the Jurassic world to meet the dinosaurs.

**Excitement surrounds the Language Discovery programme. Fast-track learning English as a second language, or explore new ways to read, communicate and express ideas. Or try creative writing, interactive play and story-telling.**



## Arts Discovery

In the Arts Discovery programme, you can become a budding artist and hone your skills in music, art or drama. It's time to play, experiment and discover your hidden talents. Learn about photography and sculpture. Compose your own musical score using Sonic Pi. Become a rock-star, or join in a drama performance to bring the house down.

## Language Discovery

Excitement surrounds the Language Discovery programme. Fast-track learning English as a second language, or explore new ways to read, communicate and express your ideas. Or try your hand at creative writing, interactive play and story-telling. By the end of Summer, you will certainly become a better English language speaker.



## Adventure Sports

Unleash that energy and action with Discovery Adventures. Develop your physical abilities in a range of adventure sports such as archery, rock climbing, water fun and martial arts, coached by specialists in the field. It's all about fitness, agility, body control, spatial awareness and fun.

The four weeks at ISS Summer School Discovery 2017 will offer a variety of courses. You will find the lessons, activities and challenges **changing each week for the same course**. Each day holds a new adventure waiting to be discovered!



## Feedback

*...from 2016 participants*

**"The ISS Summer School was a great experience for me. I would be happy to come back here next year."**

**"I improved my English skills like listening, speaking and writing. I made new friends and enjoyed myself."**

*...from 2016 teacher*

**"The most rewarding part of it was to see students leaving with a contented heart, also feeling sad that it had to end."**



## ISS Summer School: Discovery

### At a glance:

- Week 1: 3-7 July 2017,
- Week 2: 10-14 July 2017
- Week 3: 17-21 July 2017
- Week 4: 24-28 July 2017

Daily programmes at 9am to 4pm. Half-day programmes also available.

### Age Groups

- Young Explorers (4-6 years old)
- Brave Pathfinders (7-10 years old)
- Courageous Adventurers (11-13 years old)
- Bold Pioneers (14-18 years old)

### Discovery Programmes

- Language Discovery
- Arts Discovery
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Discovery
- Discovery Adventures

Programme Fees can be found n [www.isssummer.edu.sg](http://www.isssummer.edu.sg)

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# TRANSFORM YOUR SMILE: YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD FOR BRACES

Dr Reuben How shares how he ended up as an orthodontist and the common ailments facing his Indonesian patients

**A**s a child I had a pronounced underbite, which is when the lower jaw grows forward beyond the upper jaw. When I smiled you couldn't see my front teeth as they were hidden behind my lower teeth. The transformation achieved by my orthodontist was simply amazing; it really changed my face and profile. From that time forward I only ever wanted to be an orthodontist myself.

I went to Edinburgh to study orthodontics because the Scottish capital was the home of innovations in healthcare, and in particular, the home of dental inventiveness. In fact my supervisor during my studies, Prof William Clarke, invented the twin block, an incredibly successful technique for treating underbite malocclusions. He remains a firm friend.

I have been an orthodontist for 17 years, working mainly in Malaysia and now Singapore. I have treated many Indonesians and noticed a common trait is a protrusive face with very complex malocclusions (an imperfect positioning of the teeth when the jaws are closed), and usually missing multiple teeth, this latter I think generally has arisen in areas where there is a lack of water fluoridation. Modern orthodontic techniques can achieve remarkable transformations for these patients and I joined my current practice at Smilefocus because the dentists here share my outlook. Like me they are passionate about dental health and like me, they keep learning and growing professionally.

## Adult Orthodontics

My special interest in orthodontics is in adult orthodontics. Most often adults think they are too old for braces, but that's not the case. Orthodontics is usually easier and quicker in children because there remains growth potential, but adult teeth can still be moved very successfully. Recent



Dr How working with 3D tech for more aesthetic options for more mature patients

*"Many studies have shown poor dental health can lead to poor general health with sometimes quite severe consequences. If you have difficulty cleaning around and between your teeth, your dental health may be compromised."*

surveys by the American Association of Orthodontists show that almost 20 per cent of patients accessing orthodontic care are adults.

After more than a decade, I still always enjoy seeing the changes that can be achieved in any age, not just in the smile, but in the self-esteem and confidence of my patients, the eldest of whom is 70 years old!!

Orthodontics fixes many dental and facial irregularities, and we see the results in an improved smile and profile. But really the most important types of problems orthodontics fixes, and the main goal of orthodontics, is to fix the functional limitations of the jaw and teeth to ensure good oral health. Many studies have shown poor dental health can lead to poor general health with sometimes quite

severe consequences. If you have difficulty cleaning around and between your teeth, your dental health may be compromised.

## Crooked Teeth

If you have lived with crooked teeth for most of your life you might have other, related problems such as wear caused by badly positioned teeth. This can easily be treated in collaboration with other specialists.

Recently great strides have been made in techniques focusing on *fast results*, but with limited treatment objectives. The intention is to improve the smile only without giving emphasis to the bite and function. So before your treatment starts you should be completely clear about what can and cannot be achieved. It's important to understand

*"Traditionally, 'train track' braces were the only style available to adult patients, but these days we have more aesthetic and comfortable alternatives that suit a variety of budgets and treatment aims, in a multitude of shapes, materials and sizes... Computer aided design and 3D technology have extended more aesthetic options for more mature patients."*

how your bite may be affected if the treatment concentrates on your smile only. Patients should be wary of quick solutions to potentially complex problems and risks should be explained. This, as I mentioned earlier, may mean working with an orthodontist who will work with other practitioners to provide a range of choices for treatment. There are always treatment options available to put a great smile on everyone's face!

## About the Author

Dr Reuben How, BDS (Otago), M Clin Dent (Orthodontics) (Edinburgh) Dr How has treated more than 1,500 orthodontic cases over the past decade and has taught under- and postgraduate students at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and has ongoing research projects investigating the limits of non-surgical orthodontics.

## For more information

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## Types of Braces

Traditionally, 'train track' braces were the only style available to adult patients, but these days we have more aesthetic and comfortable alternatives that suit a variety of budgets and treatment aims, in a multitude of shapes, materials and sizes. In general, no brace is superior to another in terms of treatment efficiency, but each category has its own pros and cons. Computer aided design and 3D technology have extended more aesthetic options for more mature patients.



■ **Metal (self-ligating braces)** are the most common in use today; they are economical and have been traditionally used to correct a wide variety of issues. Contemporary self-ligating appliances securely position the wire in place during treatment



■ **Ceramic (clear brackets)** are more discreet than metal appliances



■ **Lingual braces** are traditional 'train track' like braces placed behind the teeth, virtually concealing the appliance from view



■ **Combination type braces** consist of mainly one appliance type in the upper teeth and another in the lower teeth; they provide a good compromise between comfort, price and aesthetics



■ **Removable clear aligners**, such as Invisalign®, are clear plastic trays, individually made for the teeth. You are given a set of trays every few weeks to gradually align your teeth.



# PLATARAN L'HARMONIE THE GETAWAY PLANET, NATURE UNLEASHED

by Raneer Sahaney

**An environmentally and socially friendly recreational resort destination Plataran L'Harmonie is Bali's most alluring holiday hot spot**

Its deep commitment to the conservation of nature, wildlife and natural landscape of its gorgeous environs in the West Bali National Park has ranked Plataran L'Harmonie amongst the world's top eco-friendly resorts. Designated as a National Centre for Ecotourism by Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism in October 2016 Plataran L'Harmonie was recognized as one of the Top 100 Sustainable Destinations on World Tourism Day and Green Destination Day at Ljubljana, Slovenia, earlier in September 2016. Accepting the award on behalf of PT Trimbawan Swastama Sejati, on the occasion David Makes, who is also the Chairman of the Tourism Ministry's Ecotourism Acceleration Team, said, "The nomination of Indonesia as an eco-tourism destination is a testament of Indonesia's role in the global tourism landscape. The development of Indonesia's eco-tourism is the way forward and concretely implements the motto of the Ministry of Tourism: More Conservation, More Prosperity".

This idyllic nature- meets- luxury leisure resort open up a world of thrilling experiences which totally ask for many repeats. The master planner behind it is Kenyan-born Hitesh Mehta, one of the world's leading authorities, researchers and practitioners of sustainable tourism and ecotourism planning and design. What's also unique about the property is that it has lined up a range of nature conservation programs which involve different stakeholders and also provides environmental education to its employees as well as to the community and the public. Highly recognized for its conservation activities, which include tree planting and conservation of marine and terrestrial activities, Plataran is a holder of the Nature Utilization Business License and a recipient of Best National Park Management from the Environment and Forestry Ministry

Bali National Park's rich biodiversity is home to many ecosystems, ranging from primary monsoon, mangrove and lowland rain forests, to savanna and seagrass landscapes, as well as shallow and deep-sea waters with sandy beaches and coral reefs. This glorious setting offers visitors a fabulous array of eco-friendly adventure experiences.

## Treks in the West Bali National Park

A beautiful pristine world of intense natural beauty is truly evocative of an untouched paradise. Little wonder it's easy to sign up for a leisurely trek along one of the designated tourist trails which open up a window to the rich botanical wealth and avifaunal variety which dwell amongst this canopy of verdant delight. A good choice for 2hr runs is the trail leading off from the park's ranger post in Teluk Terima (Terima Bay), leading through the lowland of tropical bush and forest along the small river of the bay. Keep your eyes peeled for sightings of monkeys, deer, wild boar, giant lizards, and some gorgeously plumed tropical avifauna. Extend this trek by another hour and you will encounter the tropical beauty of the highland forests mantling Mount Ulu (242 m) which offers splendid views of the bay. All treks are accompanied by a park ranger.



cheering holiday moment.

Sign up for tour of the Lovina Beach most notable for this aqua-wilderness experience. The calm waters are a magnet for these loveable and charming sea creatures, seen most closely by the shoreline around sunrise. Set off around 3.00 am in a traditional jukung boat that will take you to the open sea for up-close and personal encounters with these friendly and highly intelligent sea folk.

## Pearl Farming

A unique tour on offer is a visit to the pearl farm at Penyabangan Village, about 25 km/1/2 hr from the resort. Learn all about the hatchery - to -harvest of pearl making. You can also shop for these exquisite items of jewellery at the source.

## Aqua Delights

Guests at Plataran L'Harmonie can also avail of the phinisi and yacht operations for memorable cruise or diving experiences under professional guidance.

## Enquiries & Bookings:

Plataran L'Harmonie, West Bali National Park  
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Indonesia. Tel +62 8133 8044 224  
Email infodesk@palran.com  
Website plataranlharminie.com

# QUICK BITES

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## Are You an Aspiring Foodpreneur?

A global food startup reality TV show featuring Singapore as a destination will be launched on Youtube in October 2017. 'Meallions' is a first-of-its-kind Youtube reality show where 30 real food start-uppers from all over the globe battle it out for a chance at turning their food ideas turn into gourmet materializations ready to take the world by storm!



From now till 10 August, Meallions is opening the invitation to be part of the show to aspiring foodpreneurs. To find out more and register your chance to be part of this pioneering concept visit on facebook - meallions.show



## Little India Beryani in Michelin Guide Singapore

Bismillah Beryani Restaurant attained a Bib Gourmand in the Michelin Guide Singapore for the quality of its food at affordable prices. The restaurant was the Guide's Inspectors' "favourite for good value under S\$45." Unlike the Michelin Star or Comfort & Quality rating, the Bib Gourmand highlights restaurants that offer exceptional good food at moderate prices. Beryani lovers here as well as other guides (such as *Lonely Planet*, and chef Anthony Bourdain) have attested to the quality of the food, but newcomers should be prepared that the ambience is a little basic. Bismillah Beryani Restaurant is at 50 Dunlop Street, Singapore 209379. Open from 11.30am to 9.30pm everyday except Tuesday.

*Michelin trivia: Bib is short for Bibendum which is the nickname for the Michelin Man, its corporate logo. The symbol was modified in 1997 to show him licking his lips!*

Source: Bismillah Beryani Facebook page



**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AWARDS**  
21 April 2017, Marina Mandarin Singapore



**BUSINESS & INVESTMENT FORUM REGENCY OF KARIMUN**  
27 April 2017, Pan Pacific Singapore



**VISIT OF INDONESIA MINISTER OF TRANSPORT HE IGNASIUS JONAN**  
16 May 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



**PENGAJIAN BY DWP KBRI SINGAPURA**  
17 May 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



**SEWING CLUB DINNER**  
9 May 2017, Indonesian Embassy



**OPENING OF ASEAN FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S CONTENT**  
16 May 2017, National Library



**ASEAN FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S CONTENT @ NLB**  
19 May 2017, National Library



**BEAUTIFUL INDONESIA FOOD & FASHION**  
12 May 2017, Indonesian Embassy





**VISIT OF INDONESIA MINISTER OF TRADE HE ENGGARTIASTO LUKITA**  
23 May 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



**BIRTH OF PANCASILA**  
1 June 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



**PANCASILA WEEK**  
3 June 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore

**IFTAR**  
9 June 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore



**HALAL BI HALA**  
25 June 2017, Indonesian Embassy Singapore





## BOGOR BREAK



*The former President of the United States was welcomed modestly but warmly by President Jokowi Widodo when he stopped over at the Presidential Palace in Bogor before proceeding with his journey to the 4th Congress of Indonesian Diaspora in Jakarta*

*Photo by Agus Suparto, Official Presidential Photographer*

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## Overseas Family School



ACADEMIC	DIVERSITY	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OFS maintains the highest academic standards</li> <li>Rigorous implementation of International Primary Curriculum (IPC), IB and IGCSE Curricula</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Around 3000 students from more than 70 countries - no dominant culture</li> <li>Student-life is a rich cultural experience, unique among international schools in Singapore</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OFS offers a very wide range of languages to learn, from Pre-Kindergarten through to IB Diploma in Grade 12</li> <li>The OFS Study Preparation Program (SPP) allows rapid acquisition of English for students who need to learn or improve their English</li> <li>SPP is an intensive, highly successful and widely acclaimed program</li> </ul>
CAMPUS	SPORTS & ECAs	MOTHER TONGUE SUPPORT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of our four schools, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High School, are located on the same campus</li> <li>Since August 2015, all four schools operate from a stunning new campus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OFS promotes a huge array of sporting interests for all ages</li> <li>Our prime focus is to promote full involvement - all students, all ages</li> <li>There is a huge range of ECA clubs and activities at all levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We offer Mother Tongue classes in 14 different languages from Pre-K through to Grade 8, for 4 periods per week. Some are offered from Pre-K to Grade 12</li> <li>Mother Tongue classes are integrated into the curriculum, and do not involve an extra fee</li> <li>The Mother Tongue languages that we offered are Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish and Swedish</li> </ul>



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You may also visit us at <http://www.ofs.edu.sg>