

Opportunity Indonesia



**Indonesian President
visits Singapore**

**'Leaders Retreat' 2012
in Bogor, Indonesia**

**PATA Gold for
Ramayana Ballet**

**Lingga: The Islands
of Virgin Beauty**

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» CONTENTS

OPPORTUNITY INDONESIA 2012 ISSUE



02 PUBLISHER'S NOTE

04 PRESIDENT'S VISIT

- › Indonesian President Visits Singapore
- › Dr. Yudhoyono Calls for Regional Cooperation

06 INDONESIA • SINGAPORE

- › Come, Be a Part of Indonesia's Growth Story

08 BILATERAL TIES

- › 'Leaders Retreat' 2012 in Bogor, Indonesia

12 AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW

16 ECONOMY

- › Strengthening Indonesia-Singapore Economic Ties

18 PERSONALITY FOCUS

- › 86 Children Like Their Own

20 NEWSMAKERS

- › Moving Towards One Time Zone
- › Boost for Singapore Start-ups in Indonesia
- › Indonesian Chief of Naval Staff Receives Prestigious Military Award
- › Singapore Medal of Honour for Armed Forces Commander
- › Indonesia Hosts the 4th ASEAN School Games
- › Singapore Defence Chief Receives Indonesia's Highest Military Award
- › Foreign Students in Indonesian Institute of the Arts

24 EMBASSY EVENTS

- › Indonesian Footprints in Singapore

26 CULTURE

- › Indonesia's Ramayana Ballet Wins PATA Gold Award
- › Dancers Across the World Make Senggigi Their Stage
- › The Beauty of Batik

31 TOURISM

- › Lingga: The Islands of Virgin Beauty
- › Visit Medan Year - 2012

42 PHOTO FEATURE

- › The Year in Pictures

44 CUISINE

- › Mi Kocok (Noodles in Shrimp Gravy)

+ SPECIAL FEATURES

37 BINTAN RESORTS: SUSTAINABLE, SCENIC AND RIGHT ACROSS THE SHORE

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

OPPORTUNITY INDONESIA 2012 ISSUE

This year's edition of Opportunity Indonesia brings with it triple joy. First, we celebrate the National Day of Indonesia through this edition of the magazine. Second, it is our immense pleasure to welcome the new Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Andri Hadi, and lastly we announce the launch of our new publication '**IndoConnect** – Connecting Indonesians in Singapore'.

OPPORTUNITY INDONESIA, an annual publication by the Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore, has been, for the last five years, bringing between its covers an overall view of things on the ground: about Singapore-Indonesia relations, economic updates and investment opportunities. It is our pleasure to commemorate Indonesia's Independence Day with this publication and present a capsule of opportunities the country presents as it enters a new year.

The Indonesian economy is in excellent health — a recent statement by the International Monetary Fund has in fact called the Indonesian economy "solid". The interaction between the two countries has been going on at the highest level. Indonesia and Singapore have been cordial bilateral partners for years, and are now on the verge of taking it to another level by collaborating on new fronts and opening multiple opportunities.

We have for you the highlights of the President's visit to Singapore, the Singapore Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia for the Leaders' Retreat, and other important visits that are creating and enhancing opportunities for the two countries.

Investment options are right at the doorstep for Singaporeans to tap — while Indonesia has a large consumer market, Singapore has the technical know-how. The

people-to-people contact between the two nations is on the rise as usual. Domestic workers from Indonesia on the one hand, and architects and other professionals on the other, are contributing to Indonesia's growth and prosperity in their own special way.

We are also happy to present stories on individuals who are making a positive contribution to the society.

Bilateral relationship between the two countries is also about people reaching out to others in need, about cultural collaborations and social gatherings.

We bring you the heroic and inspiring life of Singapore-based Mr. Budi Soehardi and his wife, who have set up an orphanage in Indonesia's Timor region to redeem the lives of more than 86 refugee children. Mr. Soehardi, a pilot by profession, has been a perfect example of how reaching out to others in need can spread happiness all around, beyond borders.

You will also get to read about the cultural aspects of Indonesia that has gained international recognition for its timeless beauty and tradition.

The ethereal Ramayana ballet performed at the Prambanan Temple has won a Heritage Gold Award, while the tourist centre Senggigi was an attractive destination to dancers from across the world.

We also bring you the unexplored tourism



A NEW MAGAZINE FOR INDONESIANS

On the back of the success of Opportunity Indonesia, Sun Media Pte Ltd has launched **IndoConnect** this September, a quarterly magazine that will connect Indonesians in Singapore.

IndoConnect, which is supported by the Embassy of Indonesia, will keep you connected with all things Indonesian. You will get to read about events in Singapore, Indonesian high-fliers, latest fashion, health and beauty tips, favourite tourist spots and also restaurant reviews.

Grab your free copy of **IndoConnect** now! You can also subscribe a copy by writing to indoconnect@live.com

havens of Indonesia through the magazine, as Singapore-based Mr. Valerius R. Boenawan explores Lingga Islands. Another highlight in the magazine is the feature on eco-friendly investment destination Bintan Resorts.

Everything about Indonesia today is promising and inviting. It is the time to tap into Indonesia's steady rise and explore its opportunities. Explore Indonesia and its achievements in *Opportunity Indonesia 2012* and get investing!

Nomita Dhar
Editor-in-Chief



Opportunity Indonesia

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Indonesian President visits Singapore

In a testimony to the strong friendship between Indonesia and Singapore, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was honoured as the keynote speaker at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore this year



"This was the first time I met with the new Singapore President Dr. Tony Tan although he is my old friend. It was a good opportunity for us to renew our commitment to continuously strengthen the friendship and partnership between the two countries"

The President of the Republic Of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and First Lady Mrs. Ani visited Singapore on June 1 and 2, 2012, in conjunction with the 11th Asia Security Summit or the Shangri-La Dialogue. Singapore President His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs. Mary Tan hosted tea for the Indonesian President and the First Lady on the morning of June 2, 2012.

President Tan and President Yudhoyono lauded the strong relationship between Singapore and Indonesia, and agreed that both countries should promote more exchanges at all levels.

President Yudhoyono, Mrs. Ani and their accompanying delegation were also hosted to lunch by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs. Lee.

Prime Minister Lee and President Yudhoyono expressed satisfaction with the positive state of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ties. They also had a general discussion on regional issues and international developments.

President Yudhoyono told the media that Indonesia and Singapore were committed to increasing cooperation between the two countries.

He said Singapore President Dr. Tony Tan was an old friend and that he was very pleased to meet him in Singapore. "This was the first time I met with the new Singapore President Dr. Tony Tan although he is my old friend. It was a good opportunity for us to renew our commitment to continuously strengthen the friendship and partnership between the two countries," he said.

President Yudhoyono also gave the keynote speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue on the issue of security and defence in the Asia Pacific region. The President voiced Indonesia's plans to boost economic development in support of social welfare and to create peace and stability in the region.

Dr. Yudhoyono calls for regional cooperation

The 11th Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, opened in Singapore on June 1, 2012, with participation from senior civilian and military leaders from 28 Asia-Pacific nations

During the three-day event, delegates discussed the modernisation of armed forces, global power balance and regional security structure to combat transnational threats and natural disasters, as well as the East Sea issue.

President of Indonesia Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gave the keynote address of the Summit.

Addressing the session, President Yudhoyono indicated changes in the Asia Pacific, including more cooperation and challenges in regional security. He called for the utilisation of strategic opportunities to develop a solid peace structure for new geopolitical cooperation.

He pointed to the importance of a strong regional architecture, and urged superpowers such as the United States and China to evolve a positive and cooperative relationship.

"If a new pattern of polarisation and rivalry among the major powers emerges, that will be a step backward and will lead regional affairs in the wrong direction," he told the audience that consisted of delegates from 28 countries including ministers, military officials and senior diplomats.

In his speech titled 'An Architecture for Durable Peace in the Asia Pacific', Dr. Yudhoyono proposed strong and dynamic regionalism and cooperation-based diplomacy as fundamentals of world peace.

"Regionalism, of course, is a tricky thing to build. It is about cultivating among governments and peoples a real sense of belonging to a region, and a willingness to work together for it. It is not just a diplomatic undertaking; it is an economic, political and psychological phenomenon," the President said.

Promoting a win-win solution, rather than a win-lose predisposition would also play an important role in creating and

strengthening relations among nations, he added.

"A win-win approach is not easy... where there is a will, there are plenty of ways to

deliver a win-win outcome. In Indonesia, we applied this win-win approach in Aceh, and as a result, we achieved permanent peace based on special autonomy, which ended three decades of separatist rebellion," Dr. Yudhoyono said.

"There are signs that we are heading in this direction. Across the Pacific, there is an important trend in the making: the proliferation of 'partnership diplomacy'. I predict that in the 21st Century, partnership diplomacy will continue to spread. The number of countries involved in new bilateral, trilateral or regional partnerships will continue to grow significantly. The overall impact will be a sweeping change of the geopolitical landscape. The more we promote this geopolitics of cooperation, the closer we will inch to that durable architecture for peace for our region, and for our time," Yudhoyono said at the end of his speech.

Countries represented at this year's Dialogue included Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, UK, US, and Vietnam.



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Come, be a part of Indonesia's growth story

Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Hatta Rajasa invited Singaporean investors to tap into Indonesia's opportunities and reap the abundant benefits



Indonesia aims to be a developed economy by 2025. The country is working towards achieving this goal by developing its infrastructure, investment opportunities and opening up its shores.

Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Hatta Rajasa spoke to *Opportunity Indonesia* and invited Singaporean investors and businesses to take note of the immense opportunities offered by a growing Indonesian economy in the coming years.

"We are encouraging Singaporean investors and the Indonesian diaspora to tap into it. For young investors, we even have the 'Entrepreneurship Programme' to train them to set up a start-up, get access to capital and other aspects," he told *Opportunity Indonesia*.

Speaking at the Singapore Business Federation's 10th anniversary, the Coordinating Minister said Indonesia's economy had expanded considerably over the past decade and this growth was set to continue.

"Our economy has quadrupled over 10 years," Mr. Rajasa told the assembled Singaporean business leaders.

"GDP rose from US\$165 billion in 2000 to US\$850 billion in 2011. We expect the economy to reach US\$ 1 trillion this year making us the 16th largest economy in the world."

"We believe there is sufficient momentum to sustain our growth at 6.4 per cent in 2012, and to continue over 6 per cent in the coming years," he added.

Whilst acknowledging that export growth has slowed in the first half of 2012,



the Coordinating Minister explained that economic growth could be sustained by a continuing high level of domestic consumption and investment.

"Indonesia's per capita income has risen from US\$780 in 2000 to US\$3,540 in 2011 and this is significant in relation to continued growth and could cushion the economy from external shocks.

"Crossing the US\$3,000 per capita threshold is significant, as at this level the population begins to consume more."

The Government has also in place the Master Plan, entitled MP3EI, that the Minister said continues to attract foreign and domestic investment in infrastructural and economic production sectors.

"Statistics reveal a remarkable increase in overall investment in recent years," he said.

"In 2011, we received a record net foreign direct investment total of US\$19 billion, which is nearly a 20 percent increase on 2010," he added.

"In the first half of 2012, FDI grew at 30 per cent over the same period last year.

"Furthermore, we are working on offering tax and other incentives for investors in key economic sectors and regions through Special Economic Zones," he said.

The Coordinating Minister said on a regional scale, ASEAN has identified regional infrastructure projects aimed at promoting closer economic integration as part of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 agenda.

"The Asian Development Bank and World Bank are working with ASEAN member countries on technical, financial and coordination support to realize developments including infrastructure," he said.

"This approach will promote the closer integration of member countries to fully benefit from the ASEAN Free Trade Arrangement (AFTA) and progress towards ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

"The successful economic integration of ASEAN holds tremendous economic potential. Investors would be looking at a huge potential ASEAN market of 600 million, anchored by Indonesia's 240 million people."

Mr. Hatta urged Singapore investors and business to look at these broad and exciting opportunities in considering their investment opportunities available in Indonesia. "We are inviting investors including from Singapore to take part and benefit from our growth," he said.

The Minister's message to the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore was: "be professional."





Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong attends 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia

Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong attended the 19th

ASEAN Summit in Bali on November 17, 2011.

The Summit, themed 'ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations', was chaired by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

In the inaugural address, Dr. Yudhoyono expressed sympathy towards the victims of natural disasters in the Southeast Asian region this year and expressed solidarity with the governments of affected countries. "The Summit is convened to solicit cooperation in the Southeast Asian region to reach the ASEAN Community by 2015," Dr. Yudhoyono said.

During the Summit, the ASEAN Leaders affirmed their commitment to ASEAN's 2015 Community building targets and emphasised the need to continue making progress on the implementation of the three Community Blueprints and the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

The leaders discussed the role of ASEAN in the global community and in that regard, the leaders signed the Bali Declaration on an ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III). The leaders also exchanged views on relevant regional and international issues.

Prime Minister Lee announced that Singapore would be extending its support for the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) from 2012 to 2015. The IAI will contribute to ASEAN's Community building and integration efforts, as well as help narrow the development gap in the region. This latest package, valued at SG\$50 million, is Singapore's fourth pledge to the IAI.

The ASEAN includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and

Singapore Minister Mr. Masagos visits Makassar, Jakarta

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs Mr. Masagos Zulkifli visited Makassar, capital of South Sulawesi province, and Jakarta from April 25 to 28, 2012.

He met the Speaker of Indonesia's House of Regional Representatives (DPD) Mr. Irman Gusman and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Wardana for an exchange of views on bilateral and regional developments.



Indonesian Foreign Minister visits Singapore

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mr. Marty Natalegawa visited Singapore on March 7, 2012, in preparation for the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat on March 13, 2012.

Foreign Minister Marty paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, during which he updated PM Lee on the preparations for the Retreat and reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Marty also called on and was hosted to lunch by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. K Shanmugam. The Ministers discussed arrangements for the Retreat, and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. They also discussed regional issues and international developments. Minister Shanmugam congratulated Indonesia on its successful Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2011.



Appointment of Singapore's Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia

The Singapore Government appointed Mr. Anil Kumar Nayar as

Singapore's next Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia. Mr Nayar took up the new post on June 18, 2012.

Mr. Nayar joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in June 1993. His most recent appointment was as Singapore's Ambassador to Belgium with concurrent accreditation to the European Communities, the Netherlands and Luxembourg from November 2006 to April 2012.

Indonesia's Speaker Dr Marzuki Alie calls on PM Lee

The Speaker of Indonesia's House of Representatives and President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Dr. Marzuki Alie, paid a courtesy call on Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on June 26, 2012. PM Lee and Dr. Marzuki had a general discussion on bilateral relations and welcomed the strengthening of ties at all levels.

Dr. Marzuki was accompanied by the members of People's Representative Council (DPR) Mr. Hayono Isman and Mr. Sidarto Danusubroto.



‘Leaders Retreat’ 2012 in Bogor, Indonesia

Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met in Bogor to review bilateral ties and discuss ways to deepen cooperation





The Indonesian city of Bogor hosted the 'Leaders' Retreat 2012' on March 13, 2012, where Indonesia and Singapore renewed their bilateral ties and reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation.

Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met along with their teams of ministers and expressed satisfaction at the positive state of their current bilateral relations.

The leaders agreed that both countries should deepen economic cooperation, leveraging on the strong complementarities between the two countries.

Singapore remains the top foreign investor in Indonesia for the third consecutive year, with investments amounting to US\$5.1 billion in 2011. The leaders noted the strong investment links between the two nations and acknowledged the work done by the Working Group on Investments to facilitate increased investment flows between Indonesia and Singapore.

PM Lee welcomed the relevant Indonesian agencies, to engage Singapore's private sector on Indonesia's Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion

of Indonesia's Economic Development (MP3EI). Thanking them for the warm welcome, PM Lee said, "Indonesia is one of our two nearest partners, we have good relations with them, and we hope that they will prosper and we would like, of course, to participate in that prosperity and that growth, and to benefit from it."

The two leaders noted the creditable progress made by the Working Groups, which were established during the May 2010 Retreat in Singapore. Minister for Trade and Industry for Singapore Mr. Lim Hng Kiang and Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Hatta Rajasa who together oversee the six Economic Working Groups, briefed the leaders on their work.

The Groups agreed to further cooperate in the areas of the long-standing collaboration in Batam, Bintan and Karimun (BBK) and other Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Improved opportunities in these zones, according to PM Lee, would not only give Singapore a chance to expand their economy and generate new projects, but also to revisit the idea of a 'Singapore-Johor-Riau' growth triangle, especially with



the development of Iskandar in Malaysia.

The other areas of consistent work done by the Working Groups have been in the fields of investments, tourism, air-connectivity, manpower, agribusiness and an additional group is working on counter-terrorism cooperation.

The Group on Counter-terrorism Cooperation focuses on sharing of knowledge and best practices to combat terrorism.



Dr. Yudhoyono expressed his hope for increased tourism from Singapore. Keeping this in mind, the leaders encouraged the Working Group to come up with a 'win-win outcome' on the expansion of air services between the two countries. They believe that freeing up more air rights would generate greater economic benefits, trade and tourism for both, and hence hoped for a "more ambitious air services agreement".

President Yodhoyono and PM Lee also agreed on the need for strong people-to-people ties for a healthy bilateral relationship. The leaders, in addition, had a general discussion on regional and international issues, in particular strengthening cooperation in ASEAN.

PM Lee congratulated President Yudhoyono on Indonesia's effective and successful ASEAN Chairmanship in 2011.

The leaders also discussed the outstanding Extradition Treaty and

"Indonesia is one of our two nearest partners, we have good relations with them, and we hope that they will prosper and we would like, of course, to participate in that prosperity and that growth and to benefit from it."

- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Defence Cooperation Agreement, which Indonesia and Singapore had signed as a package in Bali in 2007, but which is yet to be ratified by the Indonesian Parliament.

The leaders witnessed the signing of two new Memoranda of Understanding

(MOU) and a renewal of one more. The first memorandum was signed between Singapore's Civil Service College and Indonesia's National Institute of Public Administration (LAN), aiming to encourage and promote cooperation in the capacity building of public officials through exchanges and other joint activities.

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr. K Shanmugam and Indonesia's Minister for Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Mr. Azwar Abubakar signed the MOU.

The second MOU was signed between Singapore's Ministry of Education and Indonesia's Ministry of Education and Culture for furthering education cooperation, signed by Singapore Minister Mr. Shanmugam and Indonesia's Minister of Education and Culture Mr. Mohammad Nuh. This MOU covers student exchange programmes; aspiring to build stronger bonds between the youth of both the countries and promoting greater understanding of culture, sports, community and languages.

The leaders also witnessed the renewal of a 1988 MOU on youth and sports cooperation by Singapore's Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports and Indonesia's Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs. The renewal is expected to see further exchanges in the fields of training and research.

Dr. Yodhoyono noted that Singapore's founder, Sir Stamford Raffles, once lived in Bogor. This hilly resort on Java Island, was also the place for the 1994 APEC Summit where the Bogor Goals were conceived.

"Hopefully, a similar spirit would spur us to lift cooperation between our two countries," he said.

"In recent years, our economic cooperation has strengthened, and Indonesia hopes that with its development... we can attract investments from Singapore for better bilateral cooperation in the future," he added.



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Committed to Indonesia's progress

Indonesia today is riding on a growth curve. While investors are eyeing to capitalise on Indonesia's surging economy, Indonesia is eager to tap into Singapore's expertise. Managing Editor **Ms. Nomita Dhar** speaks to the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Singapore, His Excellency **Mr. Andri Hadi**, on the Embassy's role and aspirations at a time when relations between the two countries are at its strongest

Your Excellency, what are your impressions of Singapore?

Although Singapore is small in terms of size, Indonesia has never considered it small in its power and capabilities. In today's era, size and numbers do not really matter. It is the quality of the people—their mind and their spirit, their determination and their willingness to sacrifice for the country's future, their loyalty to the nation and their dedication to the cause of progress — that actually matter. And therefore, in my eyes, Singapore is a big and great country.

What are your priority areas in the Singapore-Indonesia relationship?

Indonesia considers Singapore as an important partner. The relationship between Indonesia and Singapore is solid, strong, progressive, and continues to deepen rapidly. We have strong economic relations. Singapore is a strong trading partner of Indonesia; our trade volume is more than US\$44 billion. Singapore is also the largest investor in Indonesia with a total investment of US\$5.1 billion in 2011. In terms of tourism, Singapore has been the biggest tourist source for Indonesia. In 2011, of the total 7.7 million foreign tourists who visited Indonesia, around 1.4 million came from Singapore.

My priority is, of course, to enhance the already existing close co-operation and I am committed to achieving more progress. We are striving to realise the prediction that Indonesia's economy will rank as one of the world's 10 largest economies by 2025. Considering this projection, a robust Singapore-Indonesia relationship is important — not only in terms of

trade and investment, but also in terms of the people-to-people relationship.

What were the highlights of the Leaders' Retreat in Indonesia? What key decisions were taken at the meet?

The leaders agreed to strengthen co-operation between the two countries under the six Economic Working Groups that will work on:

- Strengthening joint promotion efforts for infrastructure development and capacity building of BBK region
- Acting on Singapore's interest in investing in MP3EI projects
- Increasing the export of Indonesian fruits and vegetables to Singapore
- Promoting tourism and tourist exchange between the two countries
- Increasing air transport cooperation to support connectivity
- Exchange of experience and best practices as well as training in terms of labour.

Since the establishment of these Groups, the economic cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore has become stronger, more systematic and structured. The scope of co-operation has widened and its impact has deepened.

Singapore has been the top investor in Indonesia for three years now. What are the favourite investment areas for Singapore investors?

As of the first quarter of 2012, Singapore is still the largest source of foreign investment amounting to US\$1.2 billion (20.2 per



“Singapore has a strategic reference for Indonesia, as it is a global trading hub that is just adjacent to Indonesia. It also has advanced levels of technology, high capabilities in human resources and is a market with high purchasing power.”

Indonesia, as indicated by many credible rating institutions, our comparative attractiveness for our investment will also be upgraded. Fitch Ratings on December 15, 2011, upgraded Indonesia's foreign currency long-term senior debt from BB+ to BBB-, saying it has “strong and resilient” growth and declining public-debt ratios.

Moody's Rating Agency on January 18, 2012, also upgraded Indonesian debt for investment grade from Ba1 to Baa3 with a stable outlook. S&P affirmed on April 12, 2012 Indonesia's sovereign credit rating, at BB+ level for long-term and B level for short-term with positive outlook.

Singapore and Indonesia are very close to each other geographically. Are there any challenges due to this geographical proximity?

The geographical proximity is, in fact, of benefit to us, as it encourages the intensity of co-operation between the two governments as well as the people.

For instance, in the economic field, Singapore is the biggest foreign investor in Indonesia with US\$ 5.1 billion investment in 2011. As for the tourism sector, most foreign tourists coming to Indonesia in 2011 were from Singapore. The proximity of this relationship further encourages the people-to-people contact and will deepen the existing close relations between Indonesia and Singapore.

At the recently held Leaders' Retreat, Singapore and Indonesia discussed the air connectivity between the two countries. How is the Indonesian government planning to improve the air connectivity? How will it impact the tourism between the two countries?

Indonesia views enhancing of air transport co-operation as highly important. Increased air transport can promote connectivity and people-to-people contact between the two countries.

cent), followed by Japan US\$0.6 billion (11 per cent), South Korea US\$0.5 billion (8.9 per cent), British Virgin Island US\$0.3 billion (5.7 per cent) and the Netherlands US\$0.3 billion (4.8 per cent).

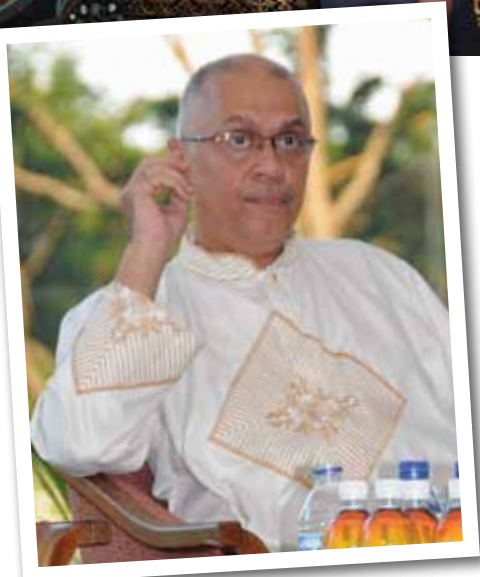
Top 10 Singapore Investments in Indonesia (2011):

- Transportation, Storage and Telecommunication – 24 projects
- Agro-food and Plantation – 88 projects
- Electricity, Gas and Water – 28 projects
- Food Industry – 59 projects
- Mining – 69 projects
- Textile industry – 9 projects
- Trade and Repair – 121 projects
- Basic Chemistry Industry, and Pharmaceutical – 40 projects
- Construction – 9 projects
- Housing, Industrial and Office Estates – 18 projects.

How is the Indonesian government encouraging Singapore investors? What recent reforms have been undertaken to improve the competitiveness of Indonesia?

Singapore currently tops the foreign direct investment inflow into Indonesia, and we hope that Singapore will continue to hold this position. Acknowledging the many challenges that we have, the Indonesian government continues to implement policies that will create better conditions for business and investments in Indonesia.

We hope that with the improving investment conditions in



signed MOU on Educational Cooperation? How will it benefit the students of both countries?

We at the Embassy are excited by the recently-signed MOU on education. Over the years, we have worked to increase the educational opportunities for Indonesians in Singapore. This has been accomplished by establishing the Indonesian School in Singapore, which is catering to Indonesian children and follows the Indonesian educational system. The school also offers courses to domestic workers, who want to further their education while working here.

The MOU has furthered the Embassy's efforts by providing an opportunity for exchange of ideas and experiences, not just for Indonesians in Singapore, but also for all Indonesians. The exchange programmes will expose Indonesian students to the education and culture of Singapore. It will also allow an exchange of teaching methods between the teachers of our countries, which will improve the effectiveness of the educators in teaching the coming generations.

Students of both countries can benefit from their experience of living abroad and learn the indigenous culture. And, of

course, they can make friends with other students that will broaden their knowledge. Teachers can get to know about new teaching methods and improve the quality of education in Indonesia.

How keen are Indonesian business agencies in investing in Singapore? What sectors are they interested in?

Singapore has a strategic importance for Indonesia, as it is a global trading hub that is adjacent to our country. It also has advanced levels of technology, high capabilities in human resources and is a market with a high purchasing power.

Many Indonesians are buying properties, especially high-end properties in Singapore as a form of investment. Indonesians are among the top foreign buyers of property in Singapore.

At what levels are you interacting with the Indonesian community in Singapore? How is the Embassy ensuring that the bonds of the community are strong and united?

Since arriving here, I've had the opportunity to meet with Indonesians at all levels, on both official and social basis.

Both Indonesia and Singapore have put in efforts to converge views on air services expansion. Both sides have also noted the strong growth in air traffic between Indonesia and Singapore, and the need for additional capacity by the carriers of both countries.

In this regard, the officials of both countries shall continue to work closely in enhancing air connectivity between Singapore and major cities in Indonesia through mutually beneficial and comprehensive cooperation.

What are the benefits of the recently

I've spent time with Indonesian domestic workers at events such as their graduation ceremonies and on a daily basis at the Embassy. We are also actively involved with the Indonesian Professional Association. I have attended their events and invited them to Embassy events. The bonds of the Indonesian community are strong and we have ongoing programmes that involve all Indonesians.

We also take time to involve the Singapore community in these events to create better people-to-people relationships and to improve the understanding of different cultures. A closer people-to-people relationship is the foundation for good relations between the two countries.

How are the two countries cooperating on the ASEAN platform, where both the countries are key members? What were the highlights of their interaction at ASEAN Summit in Bali in 2011?

Indonesia has been cooperating closely with Singapore on the ASEAN platform, as the two countries share common ASEAN values.

Leaders of the 19th ASEAN Summit stressed high political determination and allocation of necessary resources to implement the process to build an ASEAN Community by 2015. They also stressed

the complete implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which is important to build a consolidated ASEAN Community, considering it a leading priority in the cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and its partners.

The Bali Summit addressed a broad range of issues impacting the region such as the global economy, G20 Summit, disaster management, climate change, food and energy security, regional integration and adopted several outcome documents, including the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations.

At the 6th East Asian Summit, the EAS countries welcomed the participation of the United States and Russia for the first time. They agreed that in the new context, EAS continues to be a forum for the leaders to exchange opinions on issues of strategic importance relating to peace, security and development in the region, including maritime safety, response to natural disasters and prevention of pirates and transnational crimes. At the end of the Summit, the leaders adopted the EAS Declaration for Mutually Beneficial Relations.

What do you personally admire about the culture of Singapore? Is there

something you would like to implement in Indonesia?

I admire Singapore's culture for the ability of the different races to live harmoniously, and the interactions between the different communities living here. It is encouraging to see the acceptance between the communities to keep their individual differences aside while being a part of the larger community of Singaporeans.

What is your message to the readers of the magazine?

We are currently navigating a world that is rapidly changing. Asia is changing, and so is the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Indonesia is also changing. Indonesia today is a new regional power with a global outreach.

Indonesia has become the world's third largest democracy. Indonesia has grown to be Southeast Asia's largest economy, with the largest middle class in ASEAN. Indonesia has also become a member of the G-20.

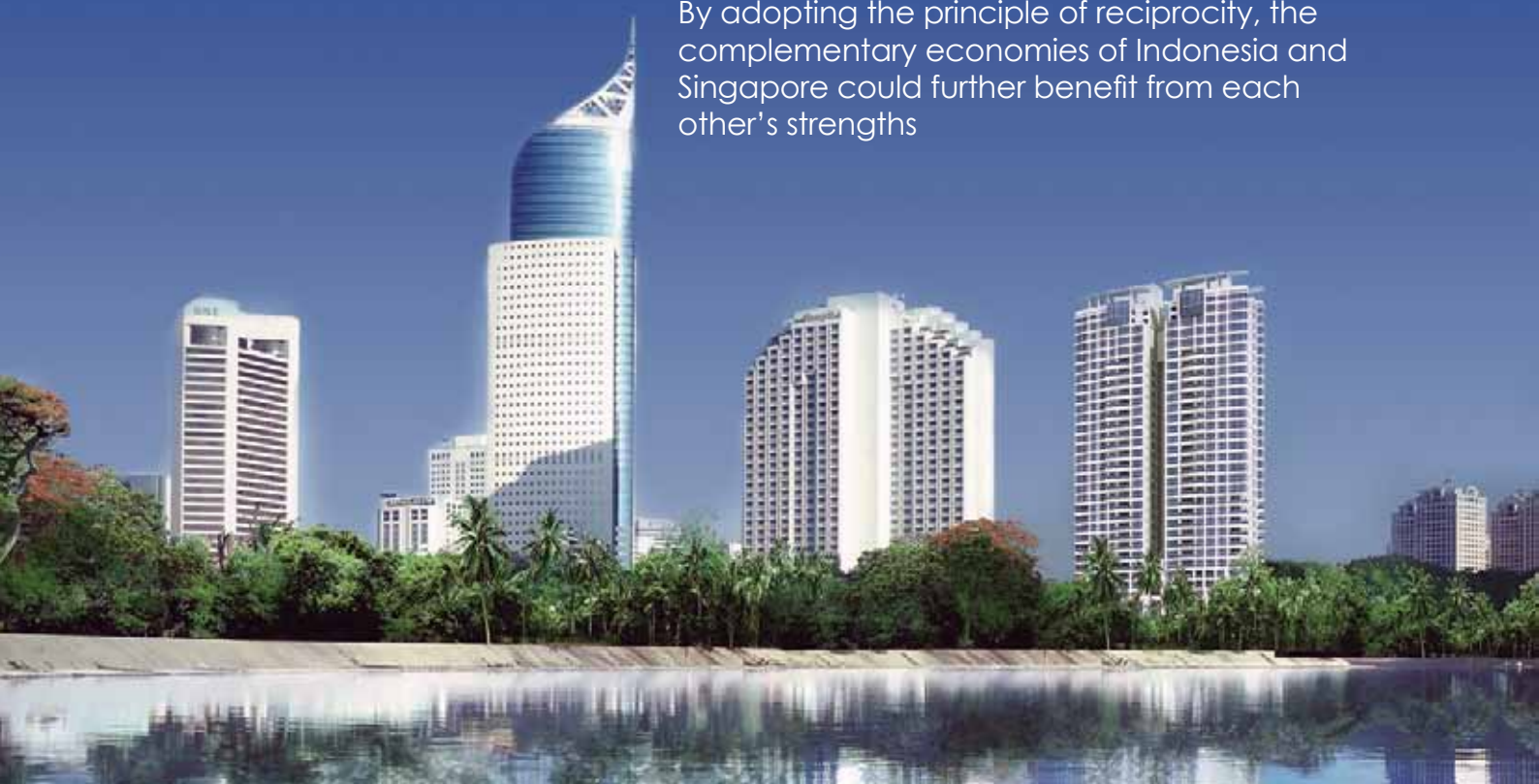
Therefore, there are many opportunities and the potential for investing and opening businesses in Indonesia. For that reason, I especially invite Singapore's investors, to become a part of these great efforts to advance the Indonesian economy.

"One of the things I admire about Singapore's culture is the ability of the different races to live harmoniously, and the interactions between the different communities living here."



Strengthening Indonesia–Singapore economic ties

By adopting the principle of reciprocity, the complementary economies of Indonesia and Singapore could further benefit from each other's strengths



Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Singapore in 1967, and bolstered by the establishment of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the same year, economic ties between the two countries have flourished through the years. Singapore is Indonesia's third largest trading partner, where trade value between the countries reached US\$44bn in 2011 (Chart 1, page 17). With US\$8.1bn foreign direct investments (FDIs) in Indonesia, Singapore was also the biggest foreign direct investor in Indonesia in 2011 (Chart 2, page 17).

Economic relations between the two countries are complementary in nature. Given its huge population (241mn people in 2011) and the expanding size of its middle class (131mn or 57 per

cent of total population according to the World Bank), Indonesia is a potential and attractive market for Singaporean investors. Indonesia is also abundant with natural resources and labour supply, two production factors that Singapore is lacking. Singapore, on the other hand, has more capital, better technologies and better infrastructure than Indonesia. As depicted in Chart 3 (page 17), Indonesia's trade value with Singapore has continued to expand. However, Indonesia's trade deficit with Singapore began to widen from 2008. Given the fact that around 92 per cent of Indonesia's imports are in the form of raw material and capital goods (not consumption goods) and since investment grew robustly from 2008 (except in 2009 when the global economy fell into a recession), it is possible that Indonesia's

widening trade deficit is caused by rapid growth of FDIs by Singaporean investors.

Singapore's FDI in Indonesia began to grow rapidly from 2008 (except in 2009). Most of these investments were financed by purchases of Indonesian companies' equities by Singaporean investors or from reinvestment of retained earnings. Indonesia's stable politics, strong macroeconomic fundamentals and growing market size are Indonesia's pull factors for rapid FDI inflows. As shown in Chart 4 (page 17), most of Singapore's FDI to Indonesia go to capital intensive sectors, i.e. manufacturing, financial services, and trade (in particular wholesale trade).

Opportunities and Challenges

There is still room for Indonesia and Singapore to optimise mutual gains from

Graphs Charting Indonesia-Singapore Economic Ties

Chart1: Indonesia's Main Trading Partners in 2011

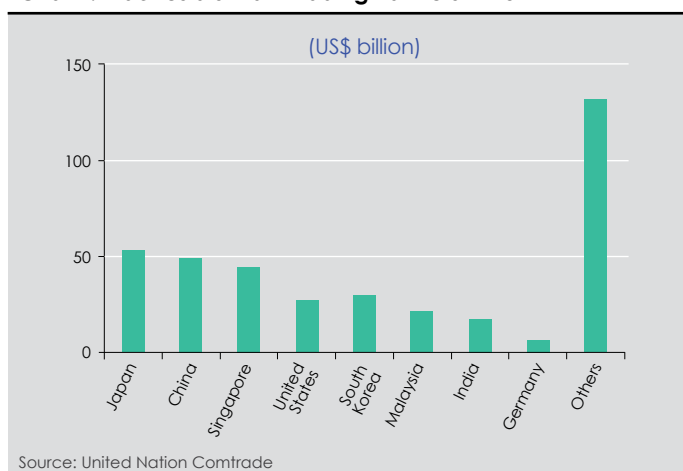


Chart 2: Net FDI to Indonesia in 2011 by Country of Origin

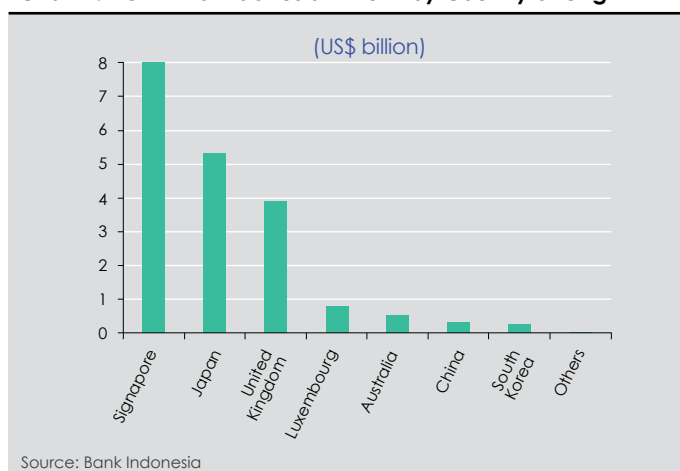


Chart 3: Indonesia's Trade Value with Singapore

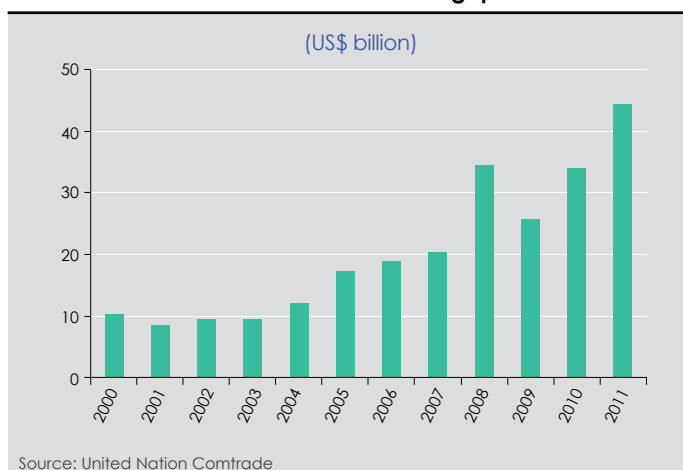
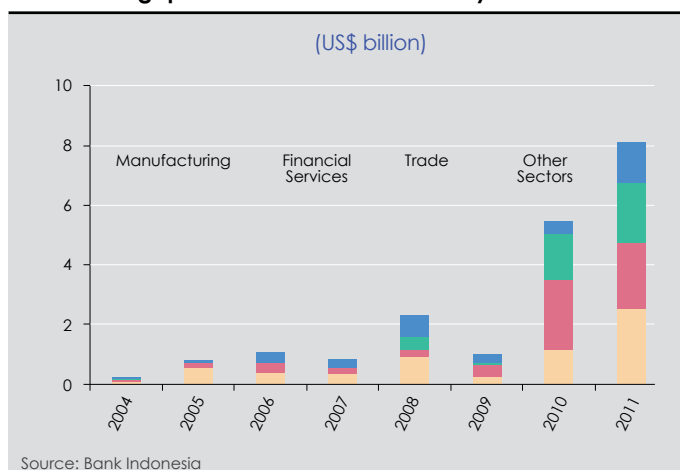


Chart 4: Singapore's Net FDI to Indonesia by Economic Sector



economic cooperation. Indonesia has the scope to further open up its external trade and become more integrated with the global economy through mechanisms like the AFTA and the APEC scheme (both of which Singapore are party to). By adhering to the principle of reciprocity in opening their markets, Indonesian and Singaporean producers and consumers will receive higher benefits from a wider combined market. Indonesian and Singaporean producers will have more market segments to aim for and will be encouraged to increase efficiencies. Consumers in both countries will be given more choice of goods with lower prices and/or better quality.

To attract more FDI investors, Indonesia will need to carry out a number of reforms. Infrastructure is a vital part of these reforms, both as a direct contributor to,

and a facilitator of, economic growth. Bureaucracy and legislative barriers have impeded the implementation of infrastructure projects, which has led to the government under-spending its allocated budget in the past few years. Further improving the quality of the workforce will be vital to the country's economic development. Higher per-capita GDP will need to be supported by higher productivity, which is a function of a better educated and more skilled workforce.

On the other hand, Singapore can help by investing in Indonesia's infrastructure projects and helping the development of Indonesia's downstream industries. Improvement in Indonesia's transport infrastructure (including roads, ports, and airports) will help reduce production and transport costs of goods traded

between the two countries. Meanwhile, as production costs in Singapore (including land rent and wages) are already higher than in Indonesia, and as many Singaporean companies are already targeting the Indonesian market, relocating higher value-added production stages to Indonesia will increase their efficiencies.

In brief, reciprocity is the key to strengthening economic ties between Indonesia and Singapore. Many high-net worth Indonesians invest in Singapore's banking and property sectors and many Singaporean companies run their businesses in Indonesia. As such, a prosperous Indonesian economy will also benefit Singapore's economy.

The article has been contributed by Mr. Fauzi, Senior Economist-Indonesia, Standard Chartered Bank.

86 Children Like Their Own

CNN Hero of 2009 Mr. Budi Soehardi and his wife Mrs. Peggy run the Roslin Orphanage in Timor, Indonesia, where they provide food, shelter, education, and loads of love to displaced children



From a Singapore Airlines pilot to being a father to 86 orphans, 55-year-old Mr. Budi Soehardi has come a long way. A CNN Hero for the year 2009, Mr. Soehardi has proven that one just needs the right intention to make the switch, and the rest follows on its own.

Mr. Budi, a former pilot with Singapore Airlines, and his wife Peggy, a former airline crew with Garuda Airlines, today run the Roslin Orphanage, a home for 86 children who look up to the couple as their parents.

It all began way back in 1999, when Mr. Budi and his wife Mrs. Peggy were watching television during dinner at their home in Singapore. It was a news report on the situation in East Timor. They saw people fleeing East Timor for West Timor in Indonesia, families living in cardboard boxes, and children running naked on the streets.

Majority of East Timor had voted for independence and the anti-independence

militia vented its anger by killing the Timorese and destroying their houses. The clashes had killed thousands of people, orphaned many children and forcibly pushed 250,000 people into West Timor as refugees.

What the Soehardis saw, changed their life. The Soehardis were planning to go on a vacation shortly, but the couple instead decided to take off for West Timor to help the refugees. They had a vacation unlike any other.

They collected funds from their friends and donors, food, clothes and other supplies for the refugees. Friends chipped in, and the couple courageously stepped into the troubled areas and delivered 40 tons of food, medical supplies and toiletries to East Timor refugee camps.

The Soehardis wanted to do more for the children, and decided to set up an orphanage in West Timor.

The Groundwork

Mr. Budi says it was his wife who planned a building to house the orphans. The 11,150-sq metre orphanage was opened in 2002, with four children living in the premises. The couple named it after two elderly Timorese women, Rosalind and Violin, who had inspired Mrs. Peggy as a girl.

As of August 2012, Roslin Orphanage houses 86 children of all ages. Of them, 21 are in high school, 17 in middle school and 31 in primary school. The youngest in the Orphanage is four months old.

Most of the children have been living in the orphanage since they were a few days old.

Twenty-one-year-old Gerson is the oldest who has graduated from the medical school and is doing an internship with a local hospital. Like a proud father, Mr. Budi is thrilled and says, "It is purely because of God's grace that this was possible. Gerson



was once an unwanted child with no mother and father since he was four-years-old. Today, he has all the choices in life in front of him. His achievement is a huge help to us to guide the other children.”

One of the girls has just enrolled into an Information Technology University. Three other girls want to take up nursing training after school, so that they could help others in Timor, where doctors and nurses are in short supply.

Mr. Budi has three children of his own, but he does not treat them any different from the other 86 children at the orphanage, he says.

Packed Schedule

Mr. Budi is assisted by five people: two of them take care of the babies, two drivers and another to oversee the functioning of the orphanage. The older children help the younger ones in their daily routines.

The day begins at 4.30 am for the older ones who help in doing the washing, making breakfast and in arranging the school uniforms. The entire Orphanage eats breakfast together at 6 am, each of them receiving a minimum of one egg and one glass of milk.

Mr. Budi's pick-up van drops the children to school in two shifts and picks them up. Lunch is at 12.30 pm, followed by a short rest. The children spend the remaining hours working, playing or singing songs. On Sundays, the children go to church and also on picnics occasionally along the beach.

The children are taught to be self-

reliant and help to run the orphanage. While some help in cooking and washing, some tend to the younger children, and others help in farming and other outdoor activities.

Self-reliance

A loyal list of patrons, mainly the Fellowship of Christian Airlines Personnel, help to run the orphanage. Besides, Mr. Budi and Mrs. Peggy are also growing rice and banana on their farms.

In 2008, Mr. Budi took up the challenge of planting rice. Using two pumps and a generator to get water for irrigation, he and Peggy worked hard on the land despite not having any prior experience or knowledge about farming. After three months of hard work, they saw the first rice harvest. Since then, the Orphanage has been self-reliant for rice and this has also helped to cut costs.

The rice fields are spread across five acres of land while the banana farms cover six acres. The children help Mr. Budi with the farming. Mr. Budi says he has been doing all the farming jobs manually, but finds it difficult. Having a small bulldozer would make the job easier, he says.

He plans to set up a water source within the orphanage soon, so that they could also grow their own vegetables on the farms.

The Orphanage has four buildings inside the premises. A new dormitory for girls has been recently built, and Mr. Budi now plans to take in more children. The Orphanage will also start its own kindergarten soon.



Plan a Visit

Anybody who wishes to visit Roslin Orphanage for a school project or for a social responsibility programme can contact Mrs. Peggy at +62 81319616551 or log onto:

<http://www.roslinorphanage.org>

The Orphanage facilitates programmes such as working in the orphanage and doing activities with the children. The volunteers can also take part in activities such as farming, mechanical building, educating the villagers, health enhancement for the villagers and educating villagers on sanitation and other topics.

Moving Towards One Time Zone

With the establishment of a single time zone of GMT +8 across the country from October 2012, Indonesia will be in the same time zone as Singapore and Malaysia



If time zones had to be paid for a country 3,275 miles across in length and spread over 13,000 islands, it would have been considered an indulgence, especially to have three time zones! However, it is free and countries have the luxury of increasing or decreasing the number of time zones on which they operate. The world is divided into 24 time zones, and each is referred to as + or – the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), the time at Greenwich, UK.

Indonesia, at present, operates on three times zones; Western Indonesia Time (Waktu Indonesia Barat/WIB – GMT + 7), Indonesian Central Time (Waktu Indonesia Tengah/WITA – GMT + 8) and Eastern Indonesian Time (Waktu Indonesia Timur/WIT – GMT + 9). The Committee for the Expansion and Acceleration of Indonesian Economic Growth (KP3EI) has proposed to unify the three zones to a single one, which is GMT +8. The Government is seriously considering the proposal, to unify the entire nation from Sabang to Merauke, and if all goes well, the date set for this is October 28, 2012, which is a Sunday. Serious debates and discussions have started with the various stakeholders, and Mr. Hatta Rajasa, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, aims to find out all the potential effects, of implementing the policy. This report will

then be given to the President for the final decision.

At GMT + 7, Java, Sumatra, Jakarta - the capital city, all open up two hours later than the eastern parts of Maluku, northern Maluku, Papua and others. The time pegged at GMT + 8 will see the country matched to the leading economies of Southeast Asia, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and western Australia, among others. The direct external benefit will be for the Indonesian Stock Exchange, which now opens an hour later than the markets in these countries. Internally, businesses and government would be the greatest beneficiaries, starting and ending work hours at the same time.

Indonesia has changed times zones before. During the Japanese occupation, the country operated on GMT + 9, same as Japan. In 1987, Bali shifted from GMT +7 to GMT + 8, so that foreign tourists, who stopped at Bali, would not be wasting time, when they wanted to proceed to destinations on GMT + 8. Adjustment of time zones is a country's internal decision and as long as the country adjusts to it and it, makes economic sense and promotes business efficiencies, the change is welcome.

In a recent interview to *Radio Australia*, Mr. Luky Eko Wuryanto, Secretary, Indonesian Economic Development

Committee, explained the problems that the country faced with different time zones. The bureaucracy, at present, has about three hours of common working time. So, decisions reached in any late afternoon meeting at Jakarta, reaches Eastern Indonesia next morning. With a single time zone, work will be speeded up. Externally also, aligning the time zone will help the country to operate on identical real time platforms with neighbouring economies such as Singapore and Hong Kong and not lose out on the window of opportunity for the stock market. He agreed that it would involve adjustments in everyday life and Indonesians would be adjusting to different work hours. But the committee sees it as the right step towards holistic development of the country.

Though the transformation will involve huge costs, the KP3EI estimates economic efficiencies worth 500 billion Indonesian Rupiah or US\$53 million a day – substantial amount to merit a change! However, there is also lot of skepticism related to this proposed change. Speaking to *Jakarta Globe*, Mr. Anton Gunawan, Chief Economist at Bank Danamon, Indonesia, mentioned that though this move would definitely be helpful to the economy, there would be a huge cost impact, apart from disorder and extra work, at least in the initial months. Though economic benefits look good on paper, it was not yet evident.

Slated to coincide with the anniversary of the Youth Pledge (Sumpah Pemuda), October 28, the one time zone move will usher in a major era in the history of Indonesia; one that will have to be accompanied with economic development of the more real kind, infrastructure, health, education, to achieve the phenomenal leap that the planners are envisioning.

Boost for Singapore Start-ups in Indonesia

The Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, IDA, has launched the iSTART@Indonesia programme, as part of its initiative to provide support to Singapore companies for market access in Indonesia. This IDA programme is in collaboration with incubators or accelerators based in Indonesia. Companies based in Singapore with an annual sales turnover of not more than SG\$100 million or employees not exceeding 200, marketing products such as games, mobiles, e-commerce, web and social media, and having the financial and manpower ability to expand internationally, will qualify for this programme. However, the final screening is being done by the Indonesian

accelerators or incubators.

IDA is helping the start-ups to understand the market dynamics in Indonesia, connect with potential customers, investors and partners through targeted events, workshops and meetings. The start-ups are taking care of their individual expenses on travel, hotel and incidental, while IDA is bearing the consultant's fee.

The programme started with a briefing for the start-ups in the third week of April this year. The first delegation of startup companies was in Indonesia from June 4 to 15, 2012, when they were matched and assigned to suitable mentors, had meetings with potential customers and investors,



were updated about the country's finance, tax and legal requirements and made aware of the various IT verticals. The companies went on a second trip to Indonesia from August 21 to 31, 2012, having had enough time to refine their product and business models. This trip also saw more customer engagements, networking events, and follow-up meetings.

Indonesian Chief of Naval Staff Receives Prestigious Military Award



Admiral (ADM) Soeparno, the Chief of Naval Staff of the Indonesian Navy, was conferred the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera), Singapore's prestigious military award. Minister for Defence, Dr. Ng Eng Hen, awarded Admiral Soeparno with the Meritorious Service Medal (Military),

on May 22, 2012, at an investiture ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence. Admiral Soeparno was instrumental in fostering close ties between the navies of the two countries.

It was under his leadership that bilateral cooperation between the Indonesian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy grew. Both navies co-operated in carrying out operations to counter piracy threats in the Gulf of Aden. For these anti-piracy operations, Indonesian officers were attached to the Singapore Armed Forces' Combined Task Force 151 Command Team, which was a first in the history of the two nations. Indonesian liaison officers were deployed at the Information Fusion Centre at Changi Naval Base in Singapore on Admiral Soeparno's initiative. On May 11,

2012, the Indonesia-Singapore Coordinated Patrol celebrated its 20th anniversary; SURPIC II, a state-of-the-art information sharing portal was launched during this celebration and this too was an effort spearheaded by Admiral Soeparno.

The Admiral was in Singapore for a three-day visit and met the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Neo Kian Hong, and the Chief of Navy, Rear-Admiral Ng Chee Peng. The bilateral exercises and exchange programmes, between the personnel of the two navies has enhanced professionalism and fostered friendship between the officers and men of the two naval forces, according to a statement released by the Singapore's Defence Ministry.

Singapore Medal of Honour for Armed Forces Commander

Indonesian Armed Forces Commander, Admiral Agus Suhartono, received the Medal of Honour, Darjah Utama Bhakti Cemerlang (Tentera) — the Distinguished Service Order (military) in a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Singapore, on May 9, 2012.

The Medal of Honour was given by the President of Singapore Tony Tan, and witnessed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Singapore's Minister of Defence, Indonesian military officials and SAF officers.

According to the Defence Attache, Indonesian Embassy, Col. (Pnb) Mochamad Fajar Sumaridjadj, this honour is the highest award for military

personnel who have very close military ties with Singapore.

Since Admiral Agus Suhartono's inauguration in September 2010, he has been active and played a crucial role in the effort to improve the long-term relationships and has done good for TNI and the Singapore Armed Forces, a release said.

Admiral Agus Suhartono's policy initiatives have made the relations between the two armed forces grow stronger, the release said. It was on the initiative of Admiral Agus Suhartono that HADR (Asean Human Assistance Disaster Relief Militaries-Table Top Exercise) was carried out in July 2011 co-hosted by Indonesia



and Singapore.

The growing bilateral relations between the two countries have enabled the implementation of joint exercises such as Eagle Indopura and the Joint Fighter Weapon Course in August-November 2011.

Foreign Students in Indonesian Institute of the Arts



An estimated 573 foreign students, from over 35 countries across the world, are enrolled at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts at Denpasar, Bali. According to a college official, most of the foreign students are from Japan. Almost 207 Japanese students learn percussion and

Balinese dances at the Institute.

The Institute's Rector, Mr. I Wayan Rai, while speaking to *ANTARA News*, noted that most of these students go for short-term courses that get over in two to four semesters. The students, while doing their courses, experiment a lot. For example, they would mix Balinese dancing and gamelan orchestra with western music, to create a totally different form of art. Once they go back to their country, many of them open their own schools and teach the different forms of art that they have learned at ISI. Balinese dancing is very popular and many of these students teach Balinese dancing in their home country.

The Indonesian Institute of the Arts, Denpasar, is accredited by the Ministry of National Education. Directly responsible

to the Minister of National Education, the college has become extremely popular with foreign students. Darmasiswa or scholarship programmes are provided by the Indonesian government. In 2012, 58 foreign students received scholarships. However, students mostly self-finance their study.

Students from various countries come to ISI attracted by local art forms particularly Balinese dance. Students have come from the US, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, among others. A very interesting fallout is the promotion of Bali to the world. Foreign students put up with local people as paying guests and participate in the local cultural activities. They return with a rich cultural experience.

Singapore Defence Chief Receives Indonesia's Highest Military Award

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia presented the Bintang Yudha Dharma Utama (Grand Meritorious Military Order), Indonesia's highest military award, to Singapore's Chief of Defence Force (CDF) Lieutenant-General (LG) Neo Kian Hong, to reflect the long-standing and strong defence relations between Singapore and Indonesia.

The ceremony took place at the Defence Ministry in Jakarta on May 2, 2012.

According to the Defence Attache of the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, Col (Pnb) Mochamad Fajar Sumarjadji, the armed forces of both countries interact regularly in a range of activities, including visits, professional exchanges, and bilateral exercises. "These interactions have enhanced the mutual understanding and close ties between the two armed forces" said Col (Pnb) Fajar.

As part of his official programme, LG Neo also visited the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre.



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Indonesian Footprints in Singapore

The Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore organised several events through the year to promote bilateral relations between the two countries through culture, education, charity and diplomacy

Signing of MoA to Encourage Populist Economics of Batam



The Batam Chamber of Commerce and the Majlis Pusat - Pertubuhan Pertubuhan Budaya Melayu signed a Memorandum of Agreement to encourage populist economics, especially in Batam, on June 5, 2012. The Chairman of the Batam Chamber of Commerce Mr. Nada Faza Soraya, and the President of Majlis Pusat Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed signed the agreement in Singapore, while the Ambassador of

Indonesia to Singapore, Mr. Andri Hadi and Assistant Mayor of Batam, Mr. Sahir Ibrahim witnessed the signing.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Majlis Batam Center also made plans for the 'Bazaar Ramadhan' during Ramadan this year. The Ramadhan Bazaar, held at Geylang Serai, featured the products of SMEs assisted by the Batam Chamber of Commerce.

Ambassador Andri Hadi stated in his speech that the signing of the MoA will encourage people-to-people contact, which will in turn strengthen bilateral relations between Indonesia and Singapore. The Ambassador further said that the bazaar held would promote cultural relations. "When we talk about culture,

it means a universal language, there is no boundary, so that we know each other," the Ambassador said.

Mr. Sahir Ibrahim said the initiative would encourage populist economics in Batam. "Cooperation relating to the populist economics hopefully could provide positive effects for Batam society to catch up with Singapore society," Mr. Ibrahim said.

Mr. Soraya said he was hoping full support from the Embassy and the Batam Government to implement the plan. "We want to make Batam a showcase for Singapore society," he said.

Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed stated that this MoA signing was an attempt to build a pluralistic Muslim Malay community.

Indonesian Students Stun Audiences with Traditional Dances

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore took part in the Bukit Batok Family Day and ASEAN Festival, on April 29, 2012, to introduce the arts and culture of Indonesia to the Singapore society. Students of the Indonesian School in Singapore (SIS) amazed the audiences with their Saman dance and Jimbe percussion performances.

Member of Parliament, Mr. David Ong, and people from Bukit Batok attended the event, which was initiated by the Bukit Batok Community Club.

The Bukit Batok Family Day and ASEAN Festival is an annual event held to strengthen relations among the Bukit Batok community consisting of diverse ethnic groups such as Malay, Chinese,



and Indians. The event also strives to introduce cultures of other countries to Singaporeans. Besides Indonesia, groups from Thailand and Myanmar also participated in this event.

Coordinator of Information, Social and Cultural Department of the Indonesian Embassy Mr. Simon D.I. Soekarno, expressed his appreciation for organising this event. "Cultural exchange we believe

will create mutual respect among nations, so that it will build a close relationship even better."

Mr. Simon added that Indonesia, through the Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore, has always tried to participate in all cultural activities in Singapore, as part of soft diplomacy to further strengthen the relationship between Indonesia and Singapore.

Embassy's Online System to Safeguard Domestic Workers



As an initial step to safeguard Indonesian domestic workers (PLRT), the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore on May 30, 2012, launched the online system for legalising the Job Order and Work Contract of workers to be placed in Singapore.

The system will regulate the placement process of Indonesian PLRTs in Singapore. Over 200 Singapore agencies accredited by the Embassy attended the event.

Mr. Sukmo Yuwono, Counsellor of Protocol and Consular Affairs, said this would help the Embassy to collect all data on first-time PLRTs coming to Singapore. So far, the Embassy was unable to help when first-time workers faced any problems as it had no data on them.

"The data would be very useful, especially when we must immediately inform the

workers' conditions to the family or related parties in Indonesia," Mr. Sukmo said.

The online system will also help Indonesian PLRTs to connect with their employers in Singapore. The Indonesian Embassy requires all agencies in Singapore to obtain accreditation, he added.

"We appeal to the all agencies to always abide by the Embassy's prohibitions to not allow the workers to do risky tasks like cleaning the exterior of windows," the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Singapore Mr. Andri Hadi said.

Cultivating the Spirit of Entrepreneurship among Youth

M-Brother International Institute held the International Technopreneurs Conference 2012 on May 8, 2012, in Singapore to educate entrepreneurial-spirited youth become globally more competent.

The event was officially opened by the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Singapore Mr. Andri Hadi, and was attended by heads of the Department of Forestry, Mining, and Energy, and the Department of Tourism, Youth and Sports, of Paser District, and members of the Indonesia Mengajar, a non-profit teacher training programme.

Mr. Andri Hadi said that the youth who come to Singapore should use the Conference as an opportunity to learn about Singapore. "One of the positive values of Singaporeans

is that they are pragmatic and result-oriented, and this should be emulated by the younger Indonesian generation," said the Ambassador.

The Coordinator of International Technopreneurs Conference 2012, Mr. Dymas Tunggal Panujo, stated that the conference was intended to enhance the competitive value of Indonesian youth. "By understanding the global issues, the participants are expected to represent Indonesia in the international arena," he said.

M-Brother International Institute is a social institution that fosters entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial leadership among the youth. For the International Technopreneurs Conference 2012, M-Brother International Institute



invited students from across Indonesia including Universitas Sebelas Maret (Solo), Universitas Udayana (Bali), Universitas Airlangga (Surabaya), Universitas Brawijaya (Malang), Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (Surabaya), Universitas Muhammadiyah (Malang), Universitas Muhammadiyah (Solo) and Universitas Islam Lamongan (Lamongan).

Ambassador Meets Indonesian Communities in Singapore



To further engage the Indonesian community and Indonesian descendants in Singapore, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore Mr. Andri Hadi conducted a series of meetings

with the Indonesian Christian Community in Singapore (MKIS) and the Singapore Minangkabau Association (SMA) on April 13 and April 15, 2012.

In separate meetings, Ambassador Hadi appreciated the MKIS and the SMA for their activities and for cooperating with the Embassy. He praised the MKIS for organising courses for Indonesian domestic workers. He also stressed the importance of mutual respect and respect among religions. "Let's work together

regardless of race, religion, occupation or position in order to provide benefits to Indonesian people in Singapore, and also for Indonesia."

The Ambassador requested the SMA to introduce Indonesian culture, especially Minang culture, to Singaporeans. "We expect SMA's support by participating in cultural diplomacy to promote not only the Minang culture, but also Indonesian culture to Singaporeans" said Ambassador Hadi.



Prambanan's Ramayana Ballet Wins PATA Gold Award

The timeless and grand Ramayana ballet of Prambanan temple in Yogyakarta has captured the hearts of audiences across the world

The atmosphere at the Hindu Prambanan temple in Yogyakarta on a full-moon night is ethereal. With the moonlight shining over the domes of the temple, audiences watch spellbound, the delicate and graceful movements of the dancers performing the Ramayana ballet – the story of victory of truth over evil and of a divine romance.

This traditional Indonesian dance form has charmed the hearts of people across the world.

The Ramayana ballet performed at the Hindu Prambanan temple in the province of Yogyakarta has won the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award for 2012 in the Heritage category.

The long-running traditional ballet beat 180 contestants from 79 countries to win the Award.

The Award was handed over to PT Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, Prambanan, dan Ratu Boko (TWCBPRB), producers and organisers of the Ramayana ballet, on April 21, 2012, at the Annual PATA Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The organisers of the dance opera won similar awards in the years 1994 and 2011 as well.

The Award is a proud achievement for the organisers as the Prambanan Ramayana ballet, which completed 51 years, since it was first performed on July 28, 1961. The ballet is performed on full-moon nights only.

The Ramayana ballet was first performed in the open stage south of the Prambanan temple at the initiative of Lt. General GPH Djati Kusumo, who wanted to promote the arts of Indonesia at an international level. In 1989, the then President of Indonesia Mr. Soeharto built a large open stage made of stone with a strategic backdrop of the Prambanan Temple. President Soeharto stated in an inscription on August 25, 1961, that the Prambanan Ramayana Ballet is an attempt to bring the performing arts of Indonesia to a higher level.

The Ramayana ballet is a visualisation of the epic 'Ramayana' originally written by Indian sage Valmiki in Sanskrit language. The magnificent performance combines traditional Javanese dance, drama, and music. The audience is carried on a journey into one of the world's most renowned romantic stories expressed in beautifully choreographed dance movements, accompanied by the grand and elegant music score of the gamelan orchestra.



The Ramayana epic itself is carved in relief on the walls enclosing the Prambanan temple, just as the original version in India. The fascinating story is presented in four acts, which are: The Kidnapping of Princess Sita, Hanuman's Mission to the Kingdom of Alengka, The Death of the giant King Rawana, and the reunion of Prince Rama and Princess Sita.

Aside from the elegant dance movements of the performers, the show also features several acrobatic actions by the troupe of monkeys who burn Alengka, depicted in real conflagration.

Aside from Prambanan temple, the Ramayana ballet is also performed regularly at Purawisata Yogyakarta, at Brigjen Katamso Street, east of the Yogyakarta Palace. Since April 2012, the famed Ramayana ballet is also being performed at the Balekambang Park, in the neighbouring city of Solo or Surakarta, by the city's finest traditional 'wayang orang' performers of Sriwedari Theatre.

The traditional dance ballet of Ramayana is timeless, just as the epic itself. The grace and grandeur of the Prambanan Ramayana ballet continues to charm the audiences just as it did 51 years ago!

Dancers across the World Make Senggigi Their Stage

Senggigi on Indonesia's Lombok Island hosted the International Dance Championship 2012, where over 400 dancers from 18 countries participated in the three-day event

Dancers from across the world assembled at Senggigi, the central tourist spot on the Indonesian island of Lombok, to compete in the International Dance Championship 2012 from June 20 to July 1, 2012.

There were 420 participants in all, comprising 91 world-class dance pairs from the 18 countries. The dancers came from Australia, Italy, France, Germany, Thailand, China, Philippines, the Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, Poland, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Korea, Myanmar, Japan and Indonesia.

The competition's organiser, Mr. Marcel De Rijk, who owns the Puri Mas Boutique Resort and Spa and Mangsit Beach Senggigi, is one of the international dance judges, and he has won 22 international dance competition championships.

For this achievement, Mr. Marcel has been awarded the honorary titles of the 'Vice President of the World Dance Council' and the 'President of the League of World Council Asia Amateur.'

The international dance competition was divided into two categories: traditional dances from the Lombok and Sumbawa islands, and the modern international and Latin ballroom dance styles such as the waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, foxtrot and quickstep.

The traditional dances were performed by dancers from Indonesia, including Lombok and Sumbawa, while the international categories involved talented professional and amateur dancers from various countries.

Mr. Marcel said that last year, they had 14 countries participating in the ballroom and Latin dance categories. However, this year, dancers from four more countries: Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar had also joined in.

The competition has also spurred the interest of tourists towards the West Nusa Tenggara region.

The efforts to increase tourist arrivals can be undertaken through sport and cultural activities, and the international dance competition is one such real effort, said Mr. Marcel.





The international dance competition in Lombok was organised by the World Dance Council (WDC), in collaboration with the Indonesian Council of Ballroom Dancing (ICBD) based in Jakarta. However, conducting the international dance competitions is usually entrusted to the event organizer PT International Dance Indonesia (IDI).

The dance competition was also supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the provincial Culture and Tourism Office, in addition to the Indonesian National Sports Committee (KONI) of West Nusa Tenggara and other members of the tourism business in the province.

The Lombok International Dance Championship 2012 is the eighth such competition; the event has been held every year since 2004 and is included in the West Nusa Tenggara tourism calendar schedule.

The international dance event is part of WDC's activities, in addition to a dance sports activity entitled 'International Holiday and Dance', which is held to attract tourists to Lombok.



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The Beauty of Batik

Drape yourself with international fashion brand Alleira's stunning dresses, and stand out in the crowd this winter

Alleira's batik designs are a symbol of the Indonesian heritage and have won the hearts of women in Singapore since it opened its first flagship boutique at the prestigious Marina Bay Sands in April 2011.

The Alleira International collection has turned into a sensation with women who know what they want and how to impress. The collection has recreated traditional batik outfits into contemporary dresses, skirts and tops, with latest cuts and international appeal. They are stylish and distinct at the same time, and easily adaptable for formal and casual occasions.

Started in 2005 by Indonesian Mr. Suherman Mihardja to preserve Indonesia's batik treasure, Alleira blends the traditional prints with international and modern cuts.

After a huge success in Indonesia and in the international markets, Mr. Mihardja is considering expansion of Alleira's scope to distribution, franchising and licensing of products.

Alleira's Autumn/Winter collection features billowing tops, knee-length dresses, and high-waisted flowing dresses that are perfect for evenings. Each outfit of Alleira is a product of exquisite craftsmanship. Traditional batik motifs are printed on luxurious fabrics such as silks and chiffons and shaped into elegant designs that makes the wearer look chic and trendy every time.

A wide range of tops and dresses are available at the Alleira store at Marina Bay Sands that appeal to the Singaporean woman's high fashion sense.



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Alleira delivers elegance through unique and meaningful prints inspired from Batik Motifs. ALLEIRA clothes are adorned by modern women with exquisite and discerning tastes. ALLEIRA has multiple thematic collections launched every month. Our designs are graciously carried off by Ms Annisa Pohan, the daughter-in-law of Indonesia's current President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

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Lingga: *The Islands of Virgin Beauty*

Valerius R. Boenawan, an Indonesian working in Singapore, went on a three-day trip to the unexplored islands of Lingga and returned amazed

“ I had the opportunity to visit Kepulauan Lingga (Lingga Islands), located at Kepulauan Riau in Indonesia in April this year. Kepulauan Lingga consists of 700 islands, of which only 92 are currently inhabited. Of these, the two largest islands are Lingga Island and Singkep Island.

Believe it or not, though Kepulauan Lingga is in Indonesia, I had never heard of it until two weeks before the trip. Indonesia is a vast country with over 17,000 islands and I've just only been to some of them. I can even count the islands I have visited on my fingers!

So when I got the chance to explore my home country better, I jumped at it. It was a familiarisation trip for media persons and travel agents, combined with a photo competition. This three-day-two-night trip was hosted by the Regional Government, and I got invited as media. A total of 172 people from Malaysia, Singapore and mostly from Indonesia joined the trip.

Here is the itinerary from Friday to Sunday. I will use the local time in Kepulauan Lingga, which is an hour behind Singapore, in my narrative.



FRIDAY, 27 APRIL 2012

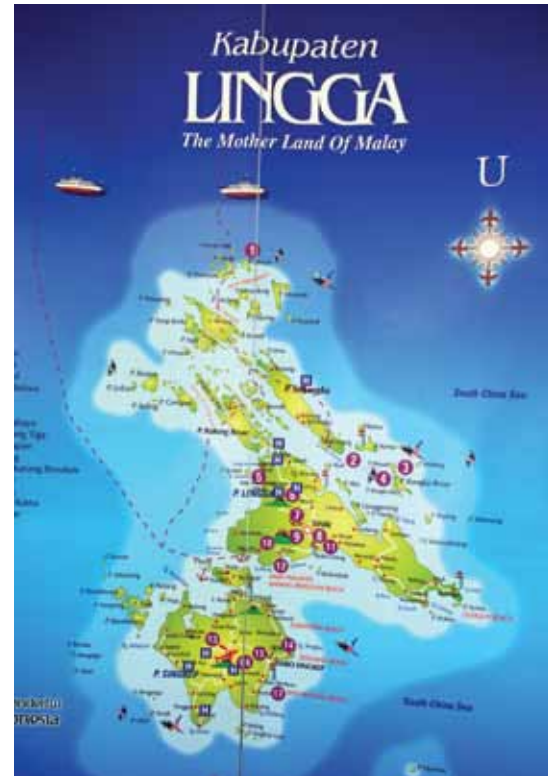
On Friday early morning, we gathered at Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal to board a ferry from Singapore to Tanjung Pinang. We departed Singapore at 7.50 am and after a 1.5 hour-boat journey, we reached Sri Bintan Pura Tanjungpinang ferry terminal. At 10.15 am, we hopped on to another ferry to continue our journey to Pulau Benan, one of the islands on Kepulauan Lingga.

On arriving at Pulau Benan at 11.30 am, the locals welcomed us at the dock and we had lunch by the beach. The beach was awesome and untouched, as Kepulauan Lingga opened its tourism sector just three years ago.

At 1.45 pm, we left Pulau Benan to move on to Penaah Island. The local community welcomed us here too and even played kendang, a local musical instrument, as they escorted us into the village.

Arriving at Pancur Village at 5.40 pm, we hopped on to the waiting minivans, which took us to the jetty. Thirty minutes later, we boarded a Pancung boat to see a mangrove plantation at Resun Village. From here, we took a minivan to go to Daik city, the capital of Lingga Islands, where we stayed for the night. We had an awesome dinner at the Daik Public Square, where the villagers normally organise cultural and social events.





SATURDAY, 28 APRIL 2012

Instead of joining the group to see the sunrise at the beach, I got up at around 6 am and went to the nearby market to take some photographs.

After the group returned from their sunrise tour, we drove to the first destination of the day: Situs Istana Damnah (Damnah Palace Site). It is said that a long time ago, when Lingga, Pahang, Johor and Temasek (now Singapore) were still united as one region, Istana Damnah was the centre of power for the King.

But the Kingdom fell to the Dutch, and Pahang, Johor and Temasek were separated from Lingga. I cannot vouch for this story, as it is the version that the guide told us.

Just around the corner of Situs Istana Damnah, there was a public bath called Pemandian Lubuk Papan. We had our breakfast here before continuing our

visit to Lingga Cahaya Museum and the Grand Mosque.

At about 10 am, we went to Tanjung Button jetty to board a ferry to Dabo Singkep. We had our lunch by a beach called Pantai Batu Berdaun, which literally translated as 'leaved-stone beach'. After lunch, we travelled around the city. We went to the Grand Mosque Azzulfa, Cetiya Dharma Ratna Temple, and a factory where they used to produce tin. According to our guide, Dabo had been famous for mining of tin during the Dutch settlement in Indonesia. Unfortunately, the mine has now perished.

Our last stop of the trip was Mepar Island. Here, the locals greeted us and played kendang with us. They also served us some local food and drinks.

At 6.30 pm, we returned to Daik City, where we had our dinner at the public square again and took rest for the night.



SATURDAY, 29 APRIL 2012

I woke up at 7.00 am, and got ready for the long journey back to Singapore. Until the next vacation, Lingga and its untouched beauty will be on my mind's postcards...



Visit Medan Year 2012

The Indonesian government is promoting Medan as a top destination in 2012, and is organising a string of events for tourists



Medan in North Sumatra, Indonesia, is in a carnival mood this year.

With the aim of promoting tourism in the provincial capital city, the Government of Indonesia and the Medan City Administration have initiated the 'Visit Medan Year 2012' campaign and organised a number of cultural and social events to attract tourists.

The fourth largest city in Indonesia, Medan is the gateway to other tourist attractions in North Sumatra. The city has magnificent historical sites and many interesting places for tourists to visit.

Medan Culture and Tourism Office spokesman Agus Suriono said six countries would take part in the Barongsai (lion dance) Festival. The six countries who have confirmed so far are Malaysia, Singapore, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Indonesia.

The Culture and Tourism Office of Medan will be sponsoring the Bakcang festival, Melayu Agung cultural festival, Nusantara King Gathering, Ramadan Fair, Malay Cultural Festival, Medan Siombak Lake Festival, and the antique vehicle show.

Art and cultural attractions from eight ethnic groups in North Sumatra will also be showcased along with the traditional dances of Malay, Batak, Mandailing, Simalungun, and Nias.

On June 23 and 24, 2012, the city administration organised a Barongsai (lion dance) Festival at Sera Guna stadium in Medan that saw a good response from tourists.

Barongsai is a large dragon-like puppet measuring between four and six metres, which is manned by three or four dancers. The dancer who controls the head of the Barongsai must be well trained in kung fu, because the dance steps are similar to kung fu movements.

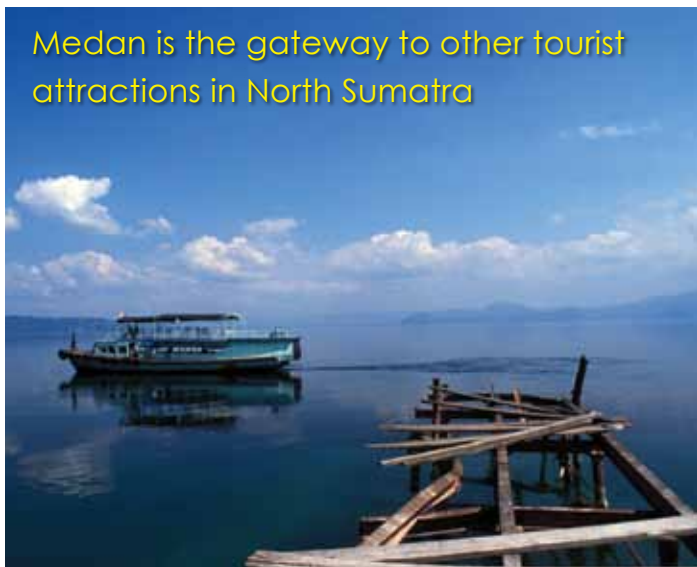
Performers must have great strength and endurance when using the larger dragons, because the massive puppets can weigh up to several hundred kilogrammes.

Other events on the scheduled for the year include the Indonesia Mice Corporate Travel Mart, Medan's Prince and Princess Contests, Mega Medan Fair, Sumatra Green Festival, Asia Pacific Paint Ball Competition, Carnival Culture and Vehicle Antique, Ecotourism Business and Mart, Celebration of Hindu Religion, Medan Tourism Awards Contest, Season Christmas and the New Year's Celebration 2013.

Figuring it out

- The Medan City Administration is optimistic that many foreign tourists would make Medan their favourite tourist destination and has set itself a target to attract at least 200,000 tourists in 2012.
- The North Sumatra Provincial Culture and Tourism Office feels the number of foreign tourists could be even higher, going up to 365,000. There has been an upward trend in the visit of foreign tourists to the province in 2012, according to the Office.
- In January 2012, 18,139 foreign tourists visited North Sumatra, while in February the numbers dropped to 17,540. Then, in March, there was a significant increase in the number of tourists, with 22,123 visitors to the province.
- In addition to increasing the number of tourists, the Medan City Administration also aims at maintaining and preserving the local art and culture.

Medan is the gateway to other tourist attractions in North Sumatra





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Bintan Resorts refers to the entire northern coast of Bintan Island; the largest of the enchanting Riau Islands in the South

China Sea. The development is master-planned and managed by PT Bintan Resorts Cakrawala and its associates. Subsidiaries of Gallant Venture Ltd, a listed company on Singapore Stock Exchange, they have unique expertise in destination and resort development, infrastructure creation and management, and investment marketing.

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Lagoi Bay and Lagoi Beach Village – It's Raining Options!

There are a range of sites available for development at Lagoi Bay. From residential villas to boutique hotels, from big to small resorts, from recreational facilities to food and beverage outlets— the choice suits every interest and capacity. The sites also have direct access to connecting roads and are equipped with facilities such as power, potable water, telecommunication lines and waste management services.

There are 11 beachfront sites and each has panoramic views of the ocean and is very close to the Lagoi Beach Village, an upcoming lifestyle hub. The location and spectacular views make these sites ideal for integrated resort accommodations such as beachfront holiday villas, suites and guest rooms.

There are a few lakeside sites located inland and on the southern bank of the freshwater lake. Nestled amongst the mature rainforests of Lagoi Bay, these sites are perfect for over-water villas. Villa guests can easily access the Lagoi Beach Village via small boats or water-taxis across the lake.

The new heart of Bintan Resorts is the Lagoi Beach Village. Visualised as a shopping and entertainment hub, this lifestyle concept is destined to be the signature landmark at Bintan Resorts. Lagoi Bay residents and all resort guests can enjoy various activities at this place. Says Mr. Chia Tek Yew, Executive Director, Strategy and Marketing, Bintan Resorts International, "Our Lagoi Beach Village Mall will be a gathering point for tourists and residents alike and will breathe a

new life into Bintan."

For more information regarding available sites, please log on to:

<http://www.lagoibaybintan.com/landinvestment-opportunities.asp>

According to Mr. Asad Shiraz, Director Marketing, Bintan Resorts International, the global slowdown has not in any way deterred the development plans at Bintan Resorts. Rather, the developers are going full steam and getting ready to take

advantage of the next growth cycle. "We are working closely with our investors, current stakeholders and the tourism industry in developing Bintan Resorts into a world-class tropical island resort destination. The economic benefits that come with accelerated infrastructure development are undeniable," he points out. Bintan Resorts plans to capitalize on the natural wonder that is Bintan, with sustainable development work that will have both commercial and ecological benefits.





Investors Already at Bintan

– Straight Talk

Renowned developers have already started with some of the major site development works at Bintan Resorts. Work is progressing in full swing - the Lagoi Beach Village Mall, the pedestrian walk, the lake-side landscaping – all this is getting into shape. As Mr. Chia says, “You can see the physical transformation at Lagoi Bay: the two-storey Lagoi Beach Mall, the ongoing construction work at the Pantai Indah beachfront villas, the excavation of land for the lake, the beachside and lake-front landscaping are all taking shape.”

Here we bring you excerpts from what some of the investors at Bintan Resorts have said.

INVESTOR SPEAK

PT Stareast Sejahtera Group

Bintan a whole new playground for us

Mr. Edwin W. Ng, CEO and President, PT Stareast Sejahtera Group, which is developing the Grand Lagoi Swiss-Bel on Bintan, is ecstatic talking about Bintan Resorts. “We were amazed by the seamless and transparent bureaucracy. We had support from the local government as well as the master developer,” said Mr. Ng. “As a local real estate developer, Bintan is a great experience. Grand Lagoi Swiss-Belhotel is the first Condominium Hotel (Condotel) in Bintan. With its strategic location, we hope the Condotel will play a significant role in the success of Lagoi Bay.”

BBH Investment

In Bintan at the Right Time

Michael B. Gaehler, General Manager,

BBH Investment, Bintan, said of his Bintan experience, “BBH Investment has signed up a 9.3 ha beachfront property at Lagoi Bay and plans to build one of the most amazing new estates that will open by 2014. By the end of August, we will announce our brand and launch our site. Bintan will change rapidly over the next five years and it is the perfect time to be a part of the success. Bintan is only 45 minutes from Singapore and 60% of the visitors to Bintan Resorts are Singaporean or expatriates from Asia Pacific. This in itself is a great opportunity for investment at Bintan Resorts. We think that the free trade zone agreement will be an important selling point for many new investors, who will soon come on board.”

BTB Corporate Services Sdn Bhd

The Long Term Player

Mr. Paul Leong, Chief Operating

Officer, Treasure Bay, Bintan, speaking to *Opportunity Indonesia*, said, “Bintan is our first foreign investment, and we have been going through a learning curve of doing business in Indonesia. It has been a very positive experience. The local government has been responsive to our issues and we believe that over the coming years, and with more development activities taking place, we will have better cost benefits. Bintan is going to be popular with savvy tourism and property investors. Lagoi Bay and Treasure Bay are exciting opportunities for entrepreneurs interested in F&B, retail and supporting services to the growing number of hotels and visitors in Bintan. We have procured over 338 ha of land and it is going to be middle-to-long term investment. We are very optimistic of positive yield, as well as capital appreciation returns.”

Investments Made Easy

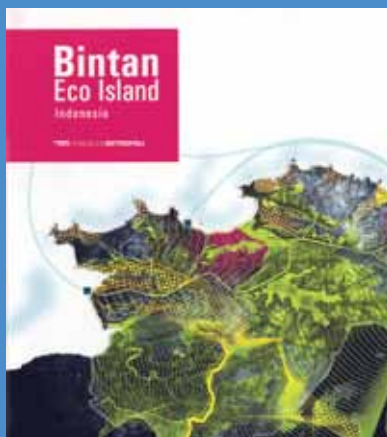
Mr. Asad Shiraz, Director Marketing, Bintan Resorts International, says, “Given that we are not just the landowners but also the master-planners, infrastructure builders operators, and managers of the entire resort area, it is in our interest to see that investments in projects at Lagoi Bay succeed. We are here to advise and assist the investors through the whole process of land title transfer, building and design approvals and preparations for operations.”

Access Made Easy

On the infrastructural development Mr. Shiraz says, “Easy and efficient accessibility to any destination is key to its success. We have proactively ensured that the lack of accessibility does not become a drag on the development of Bintan Resorts. Since embarking on the Lagoi Bay project, we have added two new high-speed catamarans, plying between Singapore and Bintan Resorts. With Indonesia’s first privately-owned and operated international airport coming up, just 35 minutes from the Resorts area, accessibility will be further enhanced.”

Bintan Resorts Showcases at World Cities Summit 2012

Bintan Eco Island Book – a Sustainable Approach



Rapid urbanisation is forcing 21st century to look at development with a different perspective. Developers across the world are looking at sustainable urban solutions. The Bintan Eco Island publication is the result of extensive study, by Fundación Metrópoli, of the existing complex ecosystem found on Bintan Island. It promotes an innovative use of eco technologies and sustainable processes for the transformation of Bintan Resorts. Capitalising on the inherent economic and demographic strengths of the territory, the study proposes to combine aspects of productive and recreational activity with contextual economic viability and integrate it into the existing ecosystem of Bintan.



The World Cities Summit 2012 was held in Singapore from the July 1 to 5, in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore. The World Cities Summit is an annual global platform for industry and government leaders, and focusses on the urban challenges of sustainability. The theme this year was 'Liveable and Sustainable Cities – Integrated Urban Solutions', and Bintan Resorts International joined the band of conscientious private players, who are keen to share and learn the synergies that can be explored in urban development with environmental safekeeping. The event was attended by over 3000 government leaders, policy makers and industry experts from around the world. Bintan Resorts was highly appreciated for its development strategies and project planning and management.

Opportunity Indonesia met with Mr. Asad Shiraz, Director Marketing, Bintan Resorts International, to know how it all started, the present and the future plans.

Opportunity Indonesia: Bintan Resorts is often cited as a symbol of exemplary collaboration between Indonesia and Singapore. How did it all start?

Mr. Shiraz: It all started when an agreement was signed between Indonesia and Singapore to develop Riau islands with an intention of complementing each other's strengths. A natural advantage that has added to the success of this story is the proximity of Bintan to Singapore. It is an excellent opportunity for sustainable development through strategic collaboration of these two countries.

Opportunity Indonesia: Bintan has a fragile ecosystem; in that context how has Bintan Resorts planned the developmental activities?

Mr. Shiraz: With the help of our knowledge

partner, Fundación Metrópoli, we launched the Bintan Eco Island publication in April this year. This, if you see, is the result of extensive research and gives us the perfect development strategy for Bintan. It is based on a sustainable balance between ecological preservation and vibrant economic growth. It preserves Bintan's complex ecosystem, while developing the 'mixed-use' urban clusters at four locations along the coast.

Opportunity Indonesia: Would this be an improvement over the current resort development models and in what way?

Mr. Shiraz: Development has always been considered as a standalone concept without taking care of the indigenous place and the inhabitants. At Bintan Eco Island, and with Bintan Resorts as a whole, we have made a dramatic departure from this model of development. Our objective is to maintain a stable, harmonious and healthy relationship with the local community living in the vicinity of our resorts. In fact, through our Community Development Programme, we are collaborating with the local government and volunteer organisations, to provide assistance and support to the local community. It is an integrated development concept, which is a 'win-win' situation both for the investor and the local community.

Opportunity Indonesia: How different is Bintan Resorts from other resort development projects?

Mr. Shiraz: Bintan Eco Island, is based on the Mediterranean concept of 'tourist village', and is totally new in Southeast Asia. We used the natural qualities of the island as the framework for development. Throughout the landscape, developmental strategies illustrate a symbiotic co-existence between nature and corresponding urban components. We have tried to incorporate sustainable concepts that are imperative in 21st century urban planning.



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The Year In Pictures

It has been an eventful time for both Indonesia and Singapore, and their bilateral relations. Here are some pictorial highlights of the past 12 months



1. Embassy officials welcoming the new Ambassador Mr. Andri Hadi to Singapore on January 4, 2012.
2. Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on June 2, 2012.
3. Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa at the Shangri-La Dialogue on June 2, 2012.
4. Students play a traditional Indonesian instrument on Friendship Day at Serangoon Library, Singapore, on April 15, 2012.
5. The ASEAN Summit in Bali in November 2011.
6. Ambassador Mr. Andri Hadi at the Education Centre for Indonesian domestic workers in Singapore.
7. Ambassador Mr. Andri Hadi on a duty trip to Tanjung Pinang on July 1-3, 2012.
8. A dancer teaches steps of a traditional Indonesian dance at the Woodlands Regional Library, Singapore on May 27, 2012.
9. Ambassador Mr. Andri Hadi at the domestic workers' graduation ceremony on April 22, 2012.
10. Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa giving the keynote address at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore on March 7, 2012.



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11. ASEAN Ambassador Event in NUS on September 22, 2011.

12. ASEAN Community Dialogue in ISEAS on December 2, 2011.

13. 'Panggung Gembira' event at the Indonesian Embassy Singapore on September 18, 2011.

14. Breast Cancer Protect Seminar by the Dharma Wanita Persatuan KBRI Singapura in 2011.

15. Career Day at Indonesian School in Singapore on December 17, 2011.

16. The Indonesian contingent at Chingay Festival on February 3-4, 2012.

17. Maulid Prophet Mohammad Celebration 2012.

18. Hari Raya Charity Ride by Riders' Aid on August 12, 2012.

19. Halal Food Exhibition on March 16-18, 2012.

20. Mothers' Day Celebration on December 22, 2011.

21. Idul Fitri prayer on August 30, 2011.

22. Indonesian speaker of Parliament Mr. Marzuki Ali and team's visit to Singapore on June 26-27, 2012.

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TAKEN FROM

Book Title
The Best of Indonesian Cooking
Author
Yasa Boga
Publisher
Marshall Cavendish



Mi Kocok (Noodles in Shrimp Gravy)

Ingredients

- 200 grams small shrimps, shelled, set aside the shells
- 300 cc water
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 cloves garlic, ground
- 5 shallots, ground
- 250 cc chicken stock
- ½ nutmeg, bruised
- 2 cloves
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped ginger, ground
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- salt and sugar
- 75 grams rice flour, mixed with a little water
- ¼ chicken, boiled until tender, cut into ½ cm cubes
- 250 grams dried noodles, blanched until tender, drained
- 100 grams bean sprouts, blanched, drained
- 1 piece Chinese bean curd (tofu), fried until golden brown, cut into 1 cm cubes
- 2 sprigs Chinese parsley, chopped
- 3 eggs, boiled, peeled, quartered
- fried shallots
- tapioca crackers
- lime, sliced

Shrimp Stock

Wash shrimp shells and fry in a dry pan until the colour changes. Pour in 300 cc water and simmer over low heat for 30 minutes until the water has reduced to 250 cc. Strain the stock. Heat the oil and sauté garlic and shallots until golden brown. Pour in both chicken stock and shrimp stock. Add nutmeg, cloves, ginger, pepper, salt, sugar and shrimps. Add rice flour paste to thicken the gravy.

Sambal

Grind 5 red chillies and 10 bird's eye chillies with 50 cc water.

How to Serve

Arrange chicken, noodles, bean sprouts, tofu, Chinese parsley and eggs in a bowl. Pour the hot gravy over and sprinkle with fried shallots and crackers. Serve hot with sambal and lime slices.



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