

# OPPORTUNITY • Russia

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

*Celebrating 50 Years of Partnership 2018*



- **FIFA WORLD CUP 2018** *Theatres of the Gods*
- **TRANSPORT MINISTER VISIT** *Actively Seeking Cooperation*
- **ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE** *Russia Back in Business*
- **RUSSIA-SINGAPORE COLLABORATION IN EDUCATION**





# THE FULLERTON HOTEL

THE FULLERTON WATERBOAT HOUSE

ONE FULLERTON

THE FULLERTON PAVILION

CLIFFORD PIER

THE FULLERTON BAY HOTEL

CUSTOMS HOUSE

## A CELEBRATION OF LEGACY

In celebration of the 50th anniversary marking the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Russian Federation, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore and The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore extend our heartiest congratulations.

Prominently located in the Central Business District and the vibrant Arts and Cultural precinct, both hotels provide spectacular views of the city and Marina Bay waterfront.

Gazetted as Singapore's 71st National Monument and once home to the General Post Office, The Fullerton Hotel displays a timeless neoclassical grandeur.

Steeped in the heritage of Singapore's illustrious seafaring history, the stylish Fullerton Bay Hotel is built over the water. An intimate ambience and stunning interiors aptly capture Singapore's heritage and modernity.



Join us as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Fullerton Building – in which The Fullerton Hotel Singapore now resides – with a repertoire of events encapsulating the iconic building's rich heritage and the brand's passion for luxury hospitality and lifestyle.



THE FULLERTON HOTEL  
SINGAPORE

1 Fullerton Square Singapore 049178  
Tel: (65) 6733 8388



THE  
FULLERTON BAY  
HOTEL  
SINGAPORE

80 Collyer Quay Singapore 049326  
Tel: (65) 6333 8388



Scan here  
to reserve

[www.fullertonhotels.com](http://www.fullertonhotels.com)

© 2018 The Fullerton Hotels. All rights reserved. FULLERTON® is a registered trademark of The Fullerton Hotels.

# Contents

OPPORTUNITY  
**Russia**

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

*Celebrating 50 Years of Partnership 2018*

## 02 **AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE**

Russia and Singapore 50 Years of Partnership  
& Cooperation

## 04 **HIGHPOINTS & HIGHLIGHTS**

Russia Actively Seeking Cooperation in  
Transport Sector

## 06 **MESSAGES**

Enterprise Singapore - Russia: The Opportunities

## 08 **FEATURE**

FIFA World Cup 2018: Theatres of the Gods

### **ECONOMY**

10 Russia: Back to Business

11 Russia's Recovery Agenda

12 Siberia & Far East Get National Priority

13 Olam Revving Up the Dairy Business in Russia

## 14 **COVER STORY**

Russia-Singapore 50 Years of Partnership Photo Exhibition

15 New Commemorative Stamp Launch

## 16 **TECHNOLOGY**

ROSATOM: R&D in Nuclear Science & Technology Stepping  
Up in the Region

18 Cutting-Edge Nuclear Research & Reactors Offer  
Innovative Solutions

### **EDUCATION**

20 Singapore Education System Goes Globetrotting

22 Educare: Training Teachers for the Future

### **ISLAND LIFE**

25 What We Know and Don't Know about CAVIAR

26 Golden Rus Anniversary Dance in Chingay

## 28 **FACT FILE**



Published in association with  
Embassy of the Russian Federation, Singapore



51 Nassim Road  
Singapore 258439

Tel +65 6235 1832/1834  
Fax +65 6733 4780

[russia-sg@yandex.ru](mailto:russia-sg@yandex.ru)  
[www.singapore.mid.ru](http://www.singapore.mid.ru)

### **PUBLISHER**

Sun Media Pte Ltd

### **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Nomita Dhar

### **EDITORIAL**

Ranee Sahaney  
Syed Jaafar Alkaff

### **ADVERTISING & MARKETING**

Swati Singh

**DESIGN & LAYOUT** Syed Jaafar Alkaff

**PHOTOS** Russian News Agencies, and  
Michael Ozaki

**PRINTING** Stamford Press Pte Ltd

Published by



20 Kramat Lane #01-02  
United House  
Singapore 228773

Tel +65 6735-2972  
Fax +65 6735-3114

[admin@sunmediaonline.com](mailto:admin@sunmediaonline.com)  
[www.sunmediaonline.com](http://www.sunmediaonline.com)

MCI (P) 053/05/2018

© Copyright 2018 by Sun Media Pte Ltd. The opinions, pronouncements or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of the authors or contributors. The aim of this publication is to guide and provide general information. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of all the information contained, the publisher cannot be held responsible for any loss incurred in any way whatsoever by any entity, company, organisation or a person relying on this information.



# RUSSIA and SINGAPORE 50 Years of Partnership & Cooperation



by H.E. Andrey Tatarinov  
*Russian Federation Ambassador to Singapore*

**J**une 1, 2018 is a red-letter day both in Russia's and Singapore's calendar as we celebrate the golden jubilee of diplomatic relations – an important milestone reflecting the five decades of close bilateral friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation.

In fact the links between our two countries go back beyond 1968. As the largest seaport of the Southeast Asia Singapore has always played a significant role in Russia's trade with the region. The 1966 Trade Agreement with the USSR preceding the establishment of diplomatic relations was the first document of this kind signed by Singapore with foreign partners after the proclamation of its independence in 1965.

Over the years our bilateral communication has never been static and has passed through many dynamic shifts. What remained unchanged is the friendly nature of Russia – Singapore ties along with the joint aspiration for further advancing fruitful and broad-based collaboration.

Today our relations are indeed multifaceted and comprehensive. They encompass constructive and trouble-free political dialogue, growing interaction between parliaments and law enforcement agencies, close economic and cultural cooperation. We reached a half-century milestone with a good capital of promising trade and investment projects combined with the forward-looking initiatives in the fields of innovations, science, education and tourism.

## Political Will

The political will to proceed with an extensive bilateral agenda set up in the course of the visit of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to Moscow in May 2016 was once again reconfirmed at his meeting with Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the 12th East Asia Summit in Manila last November. Back in August Foreign Ministers Sergey Lavrov and Vivian Balakrishnan discussed the key priority areas of cooperation on the margins of the ASEAN ministerial meetings in the Philippines.

We are encouraged by the gradual recovery of our bilateral trade influenced by the world economy fluctuations. It jumped from USD 3.3 billion in 2016 to 5.3 billion last year and has a good potential for further growth. The 8th session of the High-Level Intergovernmental Commission held in Moscow in October 2017 updated the ongoing projects and brought up new joint initiatives in various sectors including agriculture, industry, energy, transport and high technologies.

## EAEU-Singapore FTA

Last year we launched the negotiations on the Free Trade Area between Singapore and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Our countries are committed to globalization, economic integration and trade liberalization sharing the idea of the establishment of the EAEU – ASEAN FTA some time in future.

The ongoing modernization of the Russian Far East featuring all-round infrastructure development, construction of new production facilities

and transportation corridors offers a wide range of business opportunities and incentives for Singapore. The annual Eastern Economic Forums in Vladivostok – our main gateway to the Asia Pacific – serve as a good platform to discuss our bilateral cooperation initiatives.

## Russian Arctic Zone

Another area for collaboration is the development of the Russian Arctic Zone. Singapore vast experience in urban planning and seaport infrastructure building would be helpful to make the Northern Sea Route commercially viable. In March Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sam Tan attended the Day of Reindeer Herders Festival in Salekhard of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region and visited the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St Petersburg to discuss the potential areas of cooperation.

Russia and Singapore have similar approaches to many global and regional issues. We firmly stand for the rules-based order governed by the international law. Our efforts are focused on ensuring peace and stability, creating open, inclusive and transparent architecture in the Asia Pacific region. We spare no effort to explore new ways to expand our security ties setting up a legal framework for cooperation in countering international terrorism and transnational crime.

The military contacts are on the rise with the regular visits of the Russian Pacific Fleet ships to the city-state. In May 2017 Guided Missile Cruiser Varyag took part in the celebrations of the Singapore Navy's 50th Anniversary.





Russian Ambassador HE Andrey Tatarinov at the photo exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Russia - Singapore diplomatic ties organised by the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Singapore in May 2018

## Two-Way Street

We have a lot to learn from each other. Last year a group of 30 senior officials from various ministries and agencies attended the round table at the Singapore Civil Service College to exchange the knowledge and experience on the public governance practices. This April the delegation of the Republic of Tatarstan – one of the key partners of the city-state among the Russian regions – paid a study visit to Singapore to find out more about its urban planning and development system.

This is a two-way street as we support

a growing Singapore demand for the Russian law enforcement expertise, especially in the counter-terrorism and cybersecurity fields.

Friendship between the people holds the key to building sound state-to-state relations. Over 80 thousand Russian tourists visited Singapore last year. A major project due to be implemented in the near future is the establishment of the Russian Cultural Centre along with the Orthodox Church in Singapore. Our ultimate goal is to further promote humanitarian cooperation between our two countries, strengthen mutual respect and understanding.

## Singapore ASEAN Chair

We welcome a well-calibrated integration and connectivity agenda of the Singapore chairmanship in ASEAN and stand ready to actively engage into its implementation making a step closer to the establishment of the Russia – ASEAN strategic partnership.

As for the next 50 years I would not put the cart before the horse. But I am confident that the strong foundations of the mutually rewarding cooperation in various fields laid by Russia and Singapore in the past will continue to successfully lead our bilateral relations through the decades serving as a springboard for their continuous development.

# Russia Actively Seeks Cooperation in Transport Sector

*That was the message then Minister of Transport Maksim Sokolov shared in his interview with Mrs Nomita Dhar, Editor-in-Chief of Opportunity Russia in February 2018*

## What are the results of your short visit to Singapore?

I met with Singapore Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Mr Khaw Boon Wan. We discussed the ways to advance Russia-Singapore transport cooperation with particular attention to the development of the intelligent and unmanned transport systems, Russian satellite navigation system GLONASS as well as transport education.

Our delegation also visited the Intelligent Transport Systems Centre to learn about Singapore's best practices in this field.

In addition, the Aviation Leadership Summit I attended was a significant event or I would say "an achievement". It focused on a number of important issues in the aviation sphere which are of genuine interest to Russia.

## Your visit has coincided with the Singapore Air Show. Are there any new initiatives or developments related to legislation, aviation rules, market access or aircraft flights that you plan to announce now or in the near future?

First and foremost, I would like to draw your attention to the Russian satellite navigation system GLONASS. ERA-GLONASS – the state automated information system of emergency response – helps to ease the consequences of the traffic accidents and other incidents by instantly reporting to the emergency services and therefore reducing their arrival time to the scene to provide first aid to the injured.

GLONASS can be combined with GPS through dual-frequency receivers produced in Russia. In fact it has already helped to improve performance in the aviation sphere in terms of aircraft



## Highlights of Minister Sokolov's visit centered on

- Cooperation in intelligent & unmanned transport systems
- Promoting Russian Satellite Navigation - GLONASS
- Transport Education

accessibility, maintenance continuity and location accuracy. The application of GLONASS in combination with other global navigation satellite systems ensures navigation sustainability when one of the systems fails.

The GLONASS accuracy is from 10 to 20 percent higher than that of GPS in the polar regions.

The efforts of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation to introduce the Global Navigation Satellite Systems are currently focused on the following:

1. integration of GLONASS standards and technologies into the ICAO regulations;
2. introduction of zone navigation on motorways and around the Russian airfields;
3. setting up of the Ground-Based Augmentation System control stations using GLONASS signals for landing.

Another important area is the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) given a high growth of this market. Russia is working on the technical and legal aspects of the establishment of the flexible, dynamic and safe UAV traffic

management system in the urban environment.

The Russian Ministry of Transport with the active support of the research and non-government organizations is looking for the ways to improve air traffic legislation of the Russian Federation, to develop air traffic technologies to manage and control the civil UAVs flights, to set up technical and legal norms of the UAVs use, to formulate UAVs policies based on the criteria of safety, economic efficiency, right to privacy, legitimate airspace use. The Air Code of the Russian Federation has already been updated accordingly.

At the moment the Russian Ministry of Transport following the instruction of the Government of the Russian Federation is working on the concepts of the UAVs development and their safe integration in the civil airspace assessing the technologies needed for the establishment of the UAV traffic management system within the existing air traffic infrastructure. The new system is to identify and track each UAV in the air traffic management system.

## Which areas of Russia-Singapore cooperation do you find promising? How can Russia contribute to Singapore's transport development and vice versa?

At present, Russia-Singapore transport cooperation includes the modernization of the Russian airport infrastructure, air and maritime traffic.

Given the advancement of the modern technologies and Singapore's vast experience in the development of the intelligent and unmanned transport systems Russia is interested in exchanging the best practices with the city-state engaging the relevant industries.

Russia has become the first country in the world to implement the large-scale government project on the use of the satellite navigation to ensure road transport safety introduced in the Russian Federation on January 1, 2015.

We are ready to share with Singapore colleagues our experience in the establishment of the national road accident response system, effective passenger traffic management and heavy transport control systems.

Taking into account the development of the transport industry it is crucial to train highly skilled professionals. Russia has always paid a lot of attention to the transport education. As an example, in 2017 the Government of the Russian Federation established the Russian University of Transport on the platform of the oldest transport university – Moscow State Transport University of Emperor Nicholas II.

***“Russia became the first country in the world to implement a large-scale government project on the use of satellite navigation to ensure road transport safety...”***

In 2015 Russia came up with the initiative to improve cooperation between the APEC economies in the transport capacity building. On February 7-8, 2018 Moscow hosted the Conference on the transport education cooperation for the benefit of APEC connectivity.

A few words about the Northern Sea Route (NSR). It is the shortest route between the Northwest Europe and the Asia Pacific Region. The main point in the NSR and Arctic shipping development is the export of mineral resources along with the investment projects related to their exploration. The potential of the NSR lies not only in the resources extraction but also in their safe shipping to consumers with reasonable time and financial costs.

Singapore's participation in the port infrastructure construction projects along the NSR would give an additional impetus to the development of Russia-Singapore cooperation in the field of transport.

## Russia's Flag Flies High at the Singapore Airshow 2018



**M**ore than 70 representatives from the Russian aerospace industry took part in the Singapore Airshow 2018. Several meetings were organised to promote Russian aerospace industry. They included:

- Working meeting of Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Singapore Andrey Tatarinov with head of Russian Helicopters holding company (part of the State Corporation Rostec) Andrey Boginsky. They had discussed the presence of Russian aviation companies in South-East Asia.

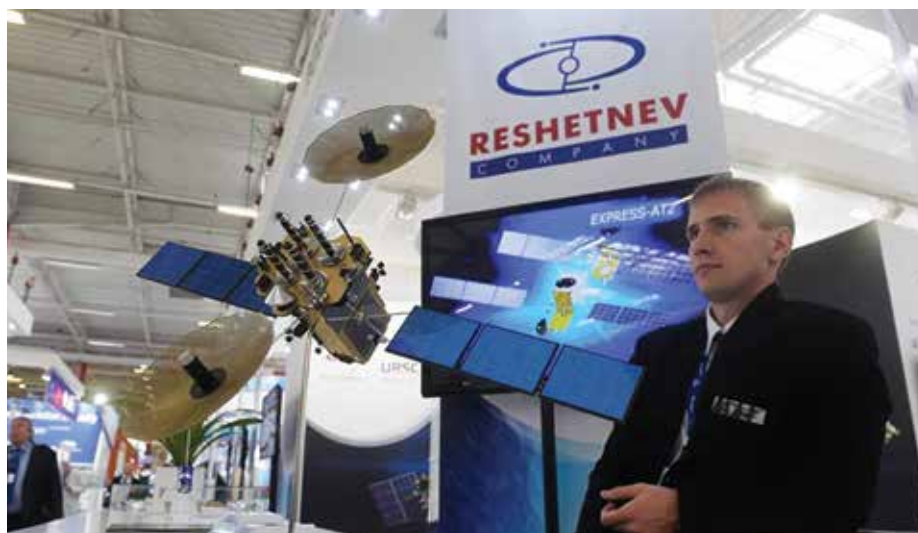
The meeting was also attended by Deputy Director General of Russian Helicopters Alexander Scherbinin, Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Singapore Alexey Dakhnovsky, Director of the State Corporation Rostec for International Cooperation and Regional Policy Victor Kladov, Deputy Chairman of Russia-Singapore Business Council Sergey Pronin and the representatives of the Russian State Transport Leasing company.

The Ambassador and the Trade Representative of the Russian Federation to Singapore expressed their readiness to provide overall support to expand the presence of Russian aviation in the region.

***Opportunities of Russian companies to create research and engineering centers in Singapore in the sphere of additive technologies, composite materials, application of digital production technologies were negotiated.***

- Within the airshow representatives of the Russia-Singapore Business Council and a Singapore-based Center for Foreign Promotion met with Deputy Director of Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre of A\*STAR Alastair Johnson. The opportunities of Russian companies to create research and engineering centers in Singapore in the sphere of additive technologies, composite materials, application of digital production technologies were negotiated.

- The Center for Foreign Promotion also held negotiations with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore on the topic of certification of Russian aviation equipment in Singapore. The parties expressed mutual interest in prompt resolution of the issue.



Introducing latest satellite technology - ISS-Reshetnev Company, a leading Russian manufacturer of satellites, took part in the Singapore Airshow 2018. Photo: © Sputnik / Mikhail Voskresenskiy



# Enterprise Singapore Russia: The Opportunities

*On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Russia-Singapore diplomatic ties, Mr Raheed Akbar Nargund, Regional Group Director, Russia and Kazakhstan, Enterprise Singapore gives an overview of the investment potential of the Russian economy for Singapore companies*

**What is your view of Russia's investment potential for Singapore companies? Is it for big companies, or should SMEs explore as well?**

We see good potential for Singapore companies of all sizes to trade, invest, and do business in Russia. Between 2007 and 2016, bilateral trade between Russia and Singapore grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.4%, from S\$1.88 billion to S\$4.56 billion. Russia is currently Singapore's 24th largest trading partner.

On top of that, the country is making additional efforts to improve the environment for foreign players. Notably, the country's position in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking has risen from 120th in 2011 to 35th in 2017 - an encouraging sign of improving business conditions.

Russia has strong science and technology capabilities and an established research and innovation culture. Singapore companies can collaborate with Russian partners to co-create innovative tech solutions and products, especially in consumer business technologies, e-commerce, digital services and more.

With a growing middle class, the Russian consumer sector is also expanding. Singapore companies can offer their products, services and solutions in consumer goods and food, as well as related areas in manufacturing and medical technology.

**This year, Singapore and Russia celebrate 50 years of bilateral ties. You have had a long association with**



**Russia, what would you term as the high points in the business relationship between the two countries?**

For the past 50 years, Singapore and Russia have enjoyed warm economic relations. Singapore also enjoys an excellent reputation in Russia. Many Russian companies and local government authorities I speak to regard Singapore as a model for Russia regions to learn from. Quite a few Russian companies have already partnered Singapore companies to adopt some of our best practices. For example, Singapore's Educare International Consultancy has been providing professional development training to teachers in Tatarstan since 2011, via training workshops. These efforts have been supported by the Tatarstan government, and have contributed to the improvement of the education standards in the region.

To further strengthen investment and

trade links between the two countries, Enterprise Singapore initiated the annual Russia-Singapore Business Forum (RSBF) in 2006 as a platform for exchange between Russian and Singaporean businessmen.

The Forum has brought together over 4,000 business leaders and government officials from not only Russia and Singapore, but also Central Asia and Eastern Europe, to foster business partnerships. This year, RSBF will be held in Singapore on 26 September. The event will zoom in on opportunities in key sectors: real estate, consumer business, technology, and trade.

**How can Singapore companies leverage Enterprise Singapore's presence in Russia to enter the market?**

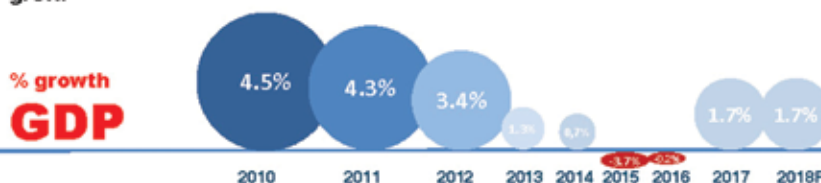
Enterprise Singapore operates an Overseas Centre in Moscow, where I am based. We connect Singapore companies to relevant business partners and point them to potential projects for collaboration in the Russian market. We also share the latest market trends and developments in Russia with Singapore companies through seminars, business missions and other activities. Similarly, Russian companies keen to partner Singapore companies for expansion into Asia can also approach us.

**Do you think the recent sanctions have dipped business sentiment?**

When doing business internationally, companies need to be aware of all factors that can affect their business. We advise companies to take a long-term view when they expand overseas. It is important to look at the market's

## Economic developments in Russia

In 2014, Western sanctions and plunging global oil prices struck a double blow to its already slowing economy. Now on a back of increasing oil prices, higher exports, improved business and consumer confidence Russia's economy will continue to grow.



After oil prices plunged more than 70% from 2014 to 2015 in 2018 they expected to average US\$ 56/bbl

Enterprise Singapore





## BEST WISHES ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA-SINGAPORE DIPLOMATIC TIES

from **Mr MICHAEL TAY**, Singapore's Ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2002 to 2008 and a founder of the Russia-Singapore Business Council. Presently he is the Founder/Director of the Foundation for the Arts and Social Enterprise



"It is an amazing time for Singapore and Russia. For many years, our countries struggled to find common ground on which to build our ties, as we were the most asymmetrical nations. A small young city-state with no resources versus the largest country on earth and blessed with all manner of resources, both natural, human and historical. Now, our two countries are poised to move to greater things, as Singapore taps on the cultural and technological strength of Russia and Russia looks to Singapore to further its interests in Asia. This is truly a milestone year!"

economic fundamentals and be committed as it takes time to build up relations and track record, be it in Russia or other markets.

### What growth can you predict in the next ten years?

Enterprise Singapore will continue to work with Singapore companies across all sectors, but we do see good potential in the areas of consumer business, trade, and technology.

### How has your experience living in Russia as an expatriate been?

Living here, I have experienced Moscow as a modern city with a vibrant fine art, music and theatre scene. For nature lovers, you have access to lush green forests located within 30 minutes of the city center. Eating out has also become more affordable with plenty of choices. Moscow has built a good transport system, including a good and efficient fleet of taxis. It is relatively easy to

get around, which is a plus point for businesses. The resilience of the Russians also shows in their business attitude. They have gone through many economic cycles and adopt an optimistic outlook, constantly looking for new ways to grow their businesses. In terms of language, while conversational Russian goes a long way in facilitating business relationships, most of the Russian businessmen I have interacted with are conversant in English.



VFS Global is proud to be the global distributor for  
**2018 FIFA World Cup FAN IDs**  
on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation

**vfs. VFS.GLOBAL**  
EST. 2001  
Partnering Governments. Providing Solutions.

VFS Global congratulates  
the Embassy of the Russian Federation  
and the Republic of Singapore on

**50 successful years  
of diplomatic relations**



# FIFA WORLD CUP 2018: THEATRES OF THE GODS

by Raneer Sahaney

Soccer diplomacy will be fully showcased when Russia, hosting its first ever FIFA World Cup, will be the stage where emotions run into overdrive at every level for this football-crazy country. Massive infrastructure projects have been undertaken as it readies itself for one of the world's most glamorous and competitive sporting events

Volgograd Arena Stadium under construction and the Motherland Calls monument on Volgograd's Mamayev Kurgan

Photo © Sergei Fadeichev/TASS

**P**ractically all the tickets for the 2018 FIFA World Cup football games are sold out. And for millions of football fans the world over the World Cup is a blockbuster of a blockbuster when it comes to international sporting events. The top 10 nationals who battled to get those coveted tickets were led not surprisingly by the Russians themselves, then the Argentineans, the Mexicans, the Brazilians and Germans. Not far behind were fans from the USA, Peru, Colombia, China, Egypt and India. And for those who can't make it to the 12 stadia in the 11 cities hosting the matches in Russia, a cavalcade of TV networks are going to beam them out to 'foota' fans across the world...

**THE MATCHES WILL KICK OFF ON JUNE 14 AND RUN TO JULY 15 AT 12 STADIUMS LOCATED IN 11 CITIES ACROSS RUSSIA. TWO OF THE STADIUMS ARE LOCATED IN THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL**

The 2018 World Cup will be held from June 14 to July 15, 2018, in stadia located in Russian capital Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sochi, Kazan, Saransk, Kaliningrad, Volgograd, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhny Novgorod, Yekaterinburg and Samara. The opening match will be held in Moscow. The action was kicked off on 1st December 2017, at the State Kremlin Palace in Moscow which hosted the Final Draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup to decide on the opponents in eight different groups made up of 32 national teams, which qualified for the global quadrennial football championship.

As an intrinsic part of the massive infrastructure set in place to host the 32 teams, the games and of course millions of viewers, security's going to be tight at all the venues. All fans attending matches at the 2018 FIFA World Cup need to apply for a Fan-ID - the official identity document issued to fans. The Fan-ID plays an important security arrangement during the World Cup as it allows admittance to the stadiums and also serves as a visa for foreign visitors.

Converging here from all parts of the world football fans are readying to ramp up the support for their favourite teams with flag waving, singing, chanting and even face-painting. "We are expecting about 500,000 foreign tourists in Russia," said Director General of the 2018 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Alexei Sorokin, "Many regions will fulfill their annual plan of hosting tourists from abroad within just one month," he added.



Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium is lit with the white, blue, and red colours of the Russian national flag  
Photo: © Dmitry Serebryakov/TASS





**7 Matches:** Morocco v Iran (June 15); Russia v Egypt (June 19); Brazil v Costa Rica (June 22); Nigeria v Argentina (June 26); Round of 16 (July 3); Semi-final (July 10); Third place play-off (July 14)

### MOSCOW

Luzhniki Stadium and Spartak Stadium will host a total of 12 World Cup matches.

**Highpoints:** The Kremlin, Red Square, Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral, Izmailovsky Market, GUM, department store.

**7 Matches:** Luzhniki Stadium: Russia v Saudi Arabia (14 June); Germany v Mexico (June 17); Portugal v Morocco (June 20); Denmark v France (June 26); Round of 16 (July 1); Semi-final (July 11); Final (July 15)

**5 Matches:** Spartak Stadium: Argentina v Iceland (June 16); Poland v Senegal (June 19); Belgium v Tunisia (June 23); Brazil v Serbia (June 27); Round of 16 (July 3)



## TOURNAMENT HUBS & HIGHLIGHTS

### SOCHI

This summer retreat hit the spotlights when it hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics.

**Highpoints:** Joseph Stalin's dacha (dacha); scuba in the Black Sea; tea plantation visits

**6 Matches:** Portugal v Spain (June 15); Belgium v Panama (June 18); Germany v Sweden (June 23); Australia v Peru (June 26); Round of 16 (June 30); Quarter-final (July 7)

### KALININGRAD

Once a part of the military zone it is nestled between Poland and Lithuania by the shoreline of the Baltic Sea.

**Highpoints:** UNESCO-protected Curonian Spit, a 98km-long, thin strip of sand dune, partly shared by neighboring Lithuania; Königsberg Cathedral and the tomb of famous philosopher Immanuel Kant; shopping for amber.

**4 Matches:** Croatia v Nigeria (June 16); Serbia v Switzerland (June 22); Spain v Morocco (June 25); England v Belgium (June 28)

### ROSTOV-ON-DON

This riverside port with its bustling cafes, bazaars and parks makes for a perfect holiday excursion.

**Highpoints:** Bogoroditsa Cathedral; Rostov's Central Market; various sites dedicated to Maxim Gorky and Alexander Pushkin.

**5 Matches:** Brazil v Switzerland (June 17); Uruguay v Saudi Arabia (June 20); South Korea v Mexico (June 23); Iceland v Croatia (June 26); Round of 16 (July 2)

### SARANSK

Mordovia's First City Saransk is an enriching cultural diversion.

**Highpoints:** Museum of Mordovia Folk Culture, Millennium Square, Victory Square, Soviet Square; cathedrals and mosques

**4 Matches:** Peru v Denmark (June 16); Colombia v Japan (June 19); Iran v Portugal (June 25); Panama v Tunisia (June 28)

### VOLGOGRAD

It was the Stalingrad of yesteryears and famed for the devastating siege during World War II.

**Highpoints:** The Motherland Calls— Europe's tallest statue in memory of those who died at the battle, Lake Elton and Komsomol Park

**4 Matches:** Tunisia v England (June 18); Nigeria v Iceland (June 22); Saudi Arabia v Egypt (June 25); Japan v Poland (June 28)

### ST PETERSBURG

Brimming with palaces, churches and elegant cathedrals it offers a fabulous peek into the city's royal past.

**Highpoints:** The Hermitage Museum, Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, the Kazan Cathedral and Saint Isaac's Cathedral.



(Top left): A sculpture of a Roman gladiator outside Spartak Stadium in Moscow  
Photo: © Sergei Bobylev/TASS

(Above): Aerial view of Fisht Stadium in Sochi  
Photo: © Artyom Korotayev/TASS

(Left): Artificial lighting to grow grass on the pitch at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium  
Photo: © Alexander Ryumin/TASS

### NIZHNY NOVGOROD

Named originally after famous writer Gorky, it was out of bounds for visitors during the Soviet regime.

**Highpoints:** The 16th century Kremlin building, Church of Nativity, the iconic street known as Bolshaya Pokrovskaya,

**6 Matches:** Sweden v South Korea (June 18); Argentina v Croatia (June 21); England v Panama (June 24); Switzerland v Costa Rica (June 27); Round of 16 (July 1); Quarter-final (July 6)

Saint Petersburg Stadium on Krestovsky Island  
Photo: © Peter Kovalev/TASS



# Russia: Back to Business!

Enterprise Singapore's iAdvisory Seminar in April led the way in providing a timely reminder to potential Singapore businesses and investors of the huge potential of the Russian market. Following are highlights of facts, figures and information shared by Singapore trade officials and Singapore companies who are currently operating there



Presenting the case for Russia (clock wise from top left): Mr G. Jayakrishnan; panelists: Mr Aditya Renjen, Mr Federico Vescovi, Mr Sudeep Nair and Mr Raheed Nargund; Mr Raheed Nargund, Ms Chiang Jiayue, Mr Georgy Kolpachev and representatives from the Russian Embassy in Singapore (Trade section)

**R**ussia's economy is recovering steadily with consumer spending increasing 34% in the last 3 years. Growth has been led by the consumer, agri-business and technology sectors.

According to Enterprise Singapore (ES) **e-commerce** is fast becoming a major mode of entry into the market, with its volume growing at over 20% year-on-year for the past three years. Enterprise Singapore also identified new opportunities in food and agriculture that are emerging in the Russian Far East, as Russia's trade flows with China and Northeast Asia grow.

The seminar also had a Company Sharing session where Singapore market leaders spoke on their experiences working in this market. The programme for seminar:

## Opening Address

**Mr G. Jayakrishnan**, Global Markets Director, Enterprise Singapore

## Overview on Doing Business in Russia

**Mr Raheed Nargund**, Regional Group Director, Russia & CIS, Enterprise Singapore

## Russian Consumer Business: A Post-Crisis Landscape

**Ms Chiang Jiayue**, Development Partner, Russia & CIS, Enterprise Singapore

## Opportunities in Russia's Far East

**Mr Georgy Kolpachev**, Deputy CEO, Invest Vostok

## COMPANIES SHARING PANEL

### Moderator

**Mr Raheed Nargund**, Regional Group Director, Russia & CIS, Enterprise Singapore

### Panelists

**Mr Aditya Renjen**, Senior Vice President and Head of Treasury & Investor Relations, Olam International, Singapore

**Mr Federico Vescovi**, President (Asia, Australia, Africa), Barilla

**Mr Sudeep Nair**, Group Chief Executive Officer, Food Empire



## OVERVIEW ON DOING BUSINESS IN RUSSIA

# Russia's Recovery Agenda

Though the aftermath of the 2014 Western sanctions and plunging global oil prices proved to be a challenge to Russia's already slowing economy the leadership made a concerted effort to focus on its other assets with a range of progressive plans to move forward on the road to recovery.

Riding on the back of improving oil prices, higher exports, improved business and consumer confidence and foreign direct investments continuing to recover, the Russian Federation today anticipates a more balanced and robust economic development. According to World Bank estimates Russia's GDP is expected to grow 1.7% in 2018 and 1.8% in 2019. Lifting of sanctions would add at least 1% of growth. According to the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2017: Russia climbed 5 positions since last year. The strategic target set out by President Putin is to make it to Top 20 by 2020.

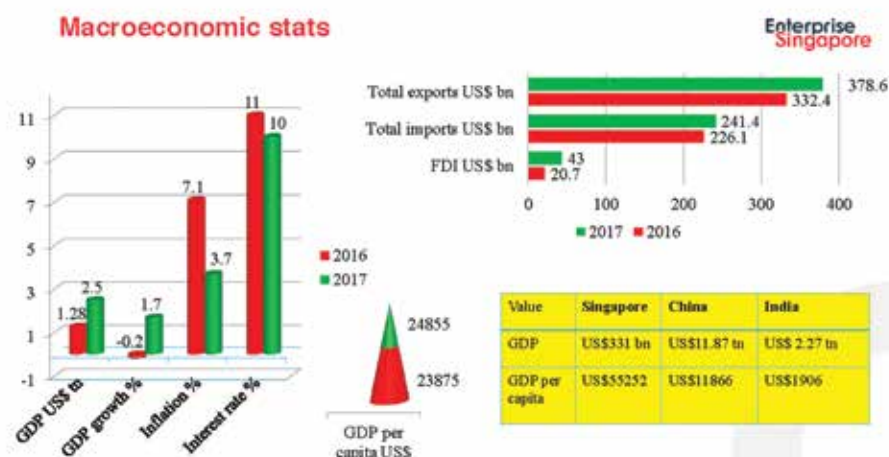
"The volume of direct European investments in Russia amounts over 50% of the total volume of foreign investments. In spite of turbulent times Russia remains the main trading partner for the EU countries," shares Frank Schauf, CEO, Association of European Businesses (AEB). Marc Luet, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Citibank in Russia opines that "Russia remains a big and important business destination... There are still many opportunities in Russia, this market provides excellent return on investments and operational efficiency."

## WHERE THE OPPORTUNITIES LIE...

**CONSUMER** • Retail recovery led by hyperstores • E-commerce: Recession-proof USD20bn market in 2017, driven by growing consumer trust and improving infrastructure • Opportunities in high quality, reasonably priced goods, and e-commerce enablers

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** • Growth of domestic food production driven by self-sufficiency goals following sanctions • Productivity improvements propel Russia to displace U.S. as world's top wheat exporter • Opportunities in food processing, wholesale trade, and GTP prospects

**TECHNOLOGY** • Russia as a source of deep tech, innovation. Strong government support drives development of technology sector • Productivity drive encourages investment in industry, robotics solutions (e.g. in precision engineering) • Opportunities in tech-sourcing and collaborations, and industry 4.0 solutions providers



## BRIGHT SPOTS AND GROWTH DRIVERS

### Government Driven

**AGRICULTURE** Self sufficiency drives growth. A sum of US\$ 4bn invested in 464 projects is aimed at driving import substitution of food over next 5 years. Self sufficiency has been achieved in key meats such as pork, and poultry. The country is also exploring the export market for meat. China is a good potential for this. In 2017 Russia overshot US ranking to become top wheat exporter.

**INFRASTRUCTURE** Connecting Russia is a massive exercise, so an important area of focus is infrastructure, development of road and rail in the Russian Far East, a reimagined growth region. Improved connectivity facilitating business beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg is also on the cards. A sum of \$969 billion is to be invested in infrastructure by 2030.

### Private Sector Driven

#### Engaging with ASIA

As a fallout of Western sanctions Russia's increasing engagement with Asia

balances on several factors including: Asia as a source of investments and export market for Russian products, as investments from Asian businesses into varied sectors: food/agriculture, automotives, hospitality, and e-commerce (including fulfilment infrastructure).

Russian businesses too are increasing their footprint in Asia beyond O&G: FMCG (Skincare/personal health), cyber security and aviation. Some of the global majors investing in Russia include: Toyota which invested over US\$170 million to double the production plant's annual capacity to 100,000 vehicles in 2015; Yokohama set up a US\$85 million tyre factory in Lipetsk in 2012.

In the area of e-commerce the Alibaba Group serves over 20 million monthly users in Russia. In the area of real estate and industrial production the Sumitomo group operates three offices in Russia. It established sales and service dealer for mining equipment in Kemerovo Oblast to support regional work in 2011.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN RUSSIA'S FAR EAST

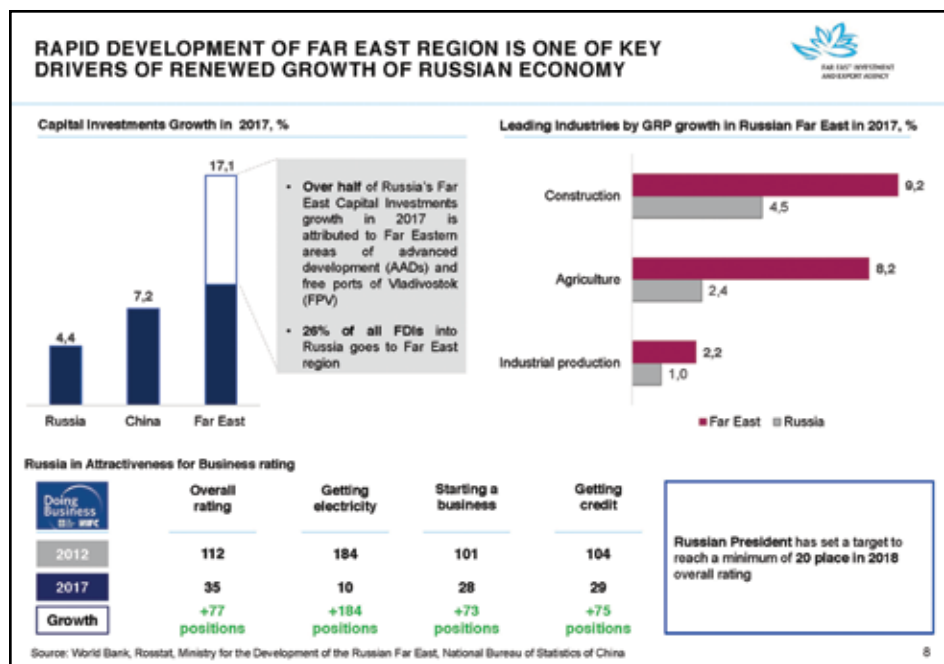
# Siberia & Far East Get National Priority

Surrounded by myths and imbued with a rich history and heritage, Russia's Far Eastern is readying for a surge of development driven by an agenda of government support and alluring opportunities for investment from abroad.

Blessed with a rich bounty of diverse natural resources, Siberia and the Far East are intrinsic to the socio-economic growth plans of Russia in the years to come. For Russian President Vladimir Putin the upswing of Siberia and the Far East is going to be a national priority all through the 21st century. The rapid development of the region is one of the key drivers of renewed growth of the Russian economy with **Construction, Agriculture and Industrial Production** playing a pivotal role. Lending credence to this agenda has been the fact that in 2017 over half of Russia's Far East Capital Investments growth was attributed to the Far Eastern areas of advanced development (AADs) and Free Port of Vladivostok (FPV). At least 26 per cent of all FDIs into Russia have been channeled into the Far East region.

A short recap on the region reveals that the Far East occupies 36% of the total territory of the Russian Federation and has a population of 6.2 million people, which is about 4% of the total population of the Russian Federation. The region holds a significant part of all the natural resources of the AP region including diamonds, timber resources, fresh water, gold, gas and oil.

For investors looking at the region the government has set in place several alluring initiatives to enhance the ease of business. Chief amongst these are factors such as: low level of fiscal burden; simplified administrative procedures; low costs, higher returns on investments; provision of infrastructure, labor resources, concessionary financing. The government's support to this agenda also means it is creating some of the most favourable investment and business conditions in the Asia-Pacific



region in terms of taxes, administration procedures and cost of utility services. The region features highly advanced Special Economic Zones (SEZ) which are critical to this agenda. The Free Port of Vladivostok (FPV) features 21 municipal districts in the coastal regions.

Important projects have been initiated in the areas of Oil & Gas, Petrochemicals,

Metals & Mining, Energy, Agriculture and Fisheries, Infrastructure and Transport, Tourism, Machine Building and Healthcare. Industry leaders who have set up projects in the region include Gazprom, Sibur, Rosneft and Surgutneftegaz, BP, Mitsubishi, Exxon Mobile, Shell, and others. The aggregate investments in projects in the Far East amount to \$50 billion.



## SINGAPORE SUCCESS STORY IN RUSSIA

# Olam Revving Up its Dairy Business in Russia

Singaporean firm Olam International, through its Russian partner Rusmolco has risen to become one of the largest suppliers of premium milk in Russia



(Left & above): Rusmolco has already achieved an average production of over 9 000 kg per cow a year which is two times higher than the national average milk production.

In 2017, Rusmolco expects to generate 2400 Holstein replacements for its herd from its own reproduction centers.

Russia and Singapore have old and very warm trade and business relations that go back many decades. Savvy investors such as Olam have found success with their investments being directly aligned with the objectives of the Russian government.

In a recent move the Singaporean government while recognising Russia as a key country for Singaporean investment potential, has been doing much to encourage private entrepreneurs as well as Singaporean government funds to invest in a country which is on a fast track to recovery from Western sanctions. An important tie-in in this endeavour has been that of the Singaporean firm Olam International, which through its Russian partner Rusmolco has risen to become one of the largest suppliers of premium milk in Russia. The Singaporean company which bought into a majority stake in Penza-based firm is already well known for its contributions to the agricultural sector in Russia's Penza region, and is looking to expand its footprint deeper into Russia's agriculture business.



Vivek Verma, MD and Global Head of Dairy, Coffee and Funds, Olam International

One of the sectors in Russia's economy that is seeing considerable transformation in recent years has been the area of dairy farming in which Olam is committed to be more deeply involved by investing in farm upgrades to international standards and the implementation of best practices in farming. This transformation is evident in the replacement of imported western dairy products by locally produced ones (a good move for consumers as well as the

local dairy farming industry) and Olam's partnership with local businessmen has been a rewarding one for both parties involved. The Federal government too is highly supportive of such alliances and that in itself is an excellent incentive for furthering one's involvement in its agenda for recovery of the country's economy. Chairman of the National Dairy Producers Union of Russia (Soyuzmoloko) Andrey Danilenko has said it is a top priority for the Ministry of Agriculture to develop self-sufficiency in food production and that milk is high on the priority list.

The government has also earmarked significant funds to subsidise cost of capital, purchase of agri machinery, import of cows, genetic research and promotion of high quality milk, with subsidies linked to farm size. This bodes favourably for Olam's expansion plans. Rusmolco today is the third largest dairy farm operator in Russia with 13,600 head of livestock, of which 7,300 are milking cows, shares Vivek Verma, Managing Director and Global Head of Dairy, Coffee and Funds, Olam International.



# «RUSSIA-SINGAPORE: 50 years of Partnership»

## PHOTO EXHIBITION



To mark the golden anniversary of Russia-Singapore diplomatic ties, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Singapore organised a photo exhibition of 60 photographs and 15 documents that marked important milestones in the relationship between both nations. The guest of honour for the opening of the exhibition at the National Library Board on the 21st May 2018 was Singapore's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, HE Sam Tan.

On hand to greet the Minister was Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Singapore, HE Andrey Tatarinov. Guests included members of the diplomatic corps, officials from the Singapore ministries, media and the Russian Club representatives.

The Ambassador said the exhibition was akin to travelling back in time to get a glimpse of what took place in the past; Russia and Singapore look forward to next 50 years of partnership and cooperation.



(Top): HE Andrey Tatarinov shows Senior Minister of State HE Sam Tan, the first documents exchanged 50 years ago formalising the establishment of diplomatic ties between Russia and Singapore. (Middle and below): Invited guests from the diplomatic corps, civic and business leaders. (Top left): Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore Sinnathamby Rajaratnam (with camera) on a visit to a collective fishery (kolhoz). Latvia (9 May 1976)



# Selection of Milestones, People & Places...



- **1.** Russian President Vladimir Putin and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong before an official dinner in honour of the leaders of ASEAN member states, Kuala Lumpur (13 December 2005)
- **2.** Meeting of Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin with Minister Mentor of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, Moscow Region (22 September 2009)
- **3.** President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong among other ASEAN leaders during protocol photography at the 1st Russia - ASEAN Summit, Kuala Lumpur (13 December 2005)
- **4.** Negotiations between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in the Kremlin (25 September 1990)
- **5.** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko with Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Sinnathambiy Rajaratnam before the negotiations at the Reception House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Moscow (1 April 1976)
- **6.** Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his spouse near the statue The Motherland Calls on Mamayev Kurgan in Volgograd (20 September 1970)
- **7.** Chair of the Federal Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matviyenko and Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore Halimah Yacob signing a book of honoured guests (16 March 2016)
- **8.** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov with Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan at the sidelines of the ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Manila (7 August 2017)
- **9.** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov meets Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs K Shanmugam at the ASEAN Regional Forum, Kuala Lumpur. (5 August 2015)

## Special Joint Stamp Issue to Mark Golden Anniversary



Russia and Singapore celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2018 and to mark this momentous occasion, both countries are releasing a joint stamp issue with the theme on 'Modern Architecture' on 1st June 2018.



# ROSATOM: R&D in Nuclear Science & Technology Stepping Up in the Region

The benefits of nuclear energy extend beyond power generation. **Rosatom** – Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation – leads the way in global diversification of nuclear technology including its innovative use in non-energy applications

**W**hat is in common between a rice field and nuclear technologies? Even though many countries in Southeast Asia are actively developing non-energy application of nuclear technologies not many would probably give a correct answer to this question. Meanwhile nuclear technologies can resolve many issues related to sustainable development goals including assuring food security.

Scientists use gamma irradiation to induce mutations in seeds and considerably speed up the natural mutation process. After seed irradiation, they test the new mutant plants for various characteristics, and select those displaying useful traits for further breeding and subsequent distribution to farmers.

Also, agriculture is not the only of non-energy applications of nuclear technologies. Nuclear technologies have become an essential element in many areas that are very important for our societies. Radioisotopes are now widely used in medicine, for example for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer and for the sterilization of medical materials.

Last year Kinetics Corporation of Thailand and State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom have agreed on establishing a cyclotron complex with radiochemical laboratories in Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT). The facility in Thailand will produce radiopharmaceuticals for nuclear medicine and other purposes and serve as an instrumental platform for R&D activities in the field of radiation technologies and innovations in this country. The new facility is to be located at Ongkharak Nuclear Research Centre in Nakhon Nayok and its over 5400 m<sup>2</sup> sprawl will accommodate the cyclotron and a number of laboratories for the

production of radiopharmaceuticals for nuclear medicine and other purposes. Rosatom, a global leader in the nuclear industry has more than 70 years of expertise and has worked with companies and nations throughout the world delivering comprehensive nuclear services from uranium enrichment to nuclear power plant construction. But power generation is just one of the main uses of nuclear technology. At least 4.5 per cent of Rosatom's annual revenue is channeled into R&D projects as the organisation has a strong focus on applied research and innovations.

"It is an important step forward in boosting the research and development effort in non-power application of atomic energy in Southeast Asia. I am hopeful that the cyclotron, radiopharmaceutical production laboratories, and more importantly, collaboration with Rosatom will collectively play an important role in developing indigenous competence in Thailand. Moving forward, a successful collaboration between Rosatom and TINT could facilitate furthering the radiation science and technology developments in Southeast Asia in partnership with global leaders", said Dr. Victor NIAN, Research Fellow, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore.

Many newcomer countries make their first steps in nuclear sphere with establishing Center for Nuclear Science and Technology (CNST). It is formed from several elements – Center for Nuclear Medicine, Research Reactor, Research Laboratories and Multipurpose Irradiation Center – which could be established in various modifications.

Rosatom has built 122 research reactors, the core element of the CNST, worldwide. As a world expert in nuclear research and development it offers a complex solution of a research center for educating human resources and

nuclear research, as well as for isotope production, ionizing sterilization and food irradiation.

Such centers are also set to be used to prepare and train personnel for the country's nuclear program development, but also for the specialists coming from the entire region. In general, such research centers are open for students from the relevant University faculties specializing in medicine, engineering, physics, geology, and other adjacent areas of nuclear technologies applications.

CNST has a certain difference from a traditional academic institution, as its purpose is to provide an opportunity for experienced professionals or specialists being trained to gain new skills, obtain an additional or a new qualification in areas of their major studies, and foster scientific interest. It can be used as a platform of interuniversity cooperation and scientific collaboration between local and foreign students and specialists.

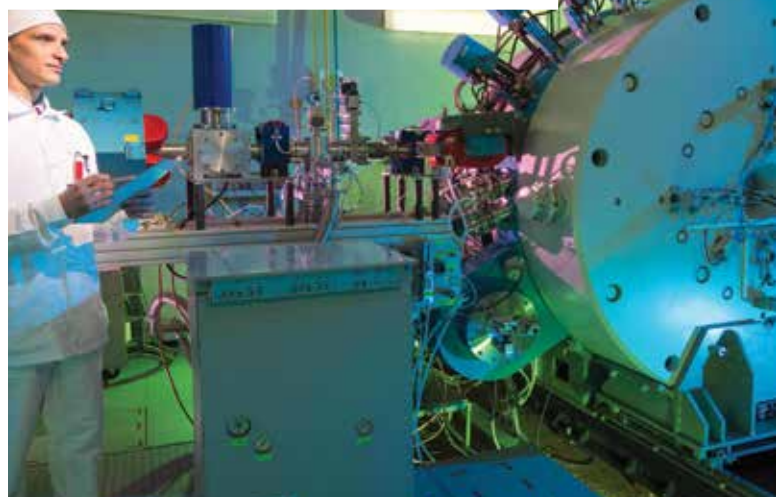
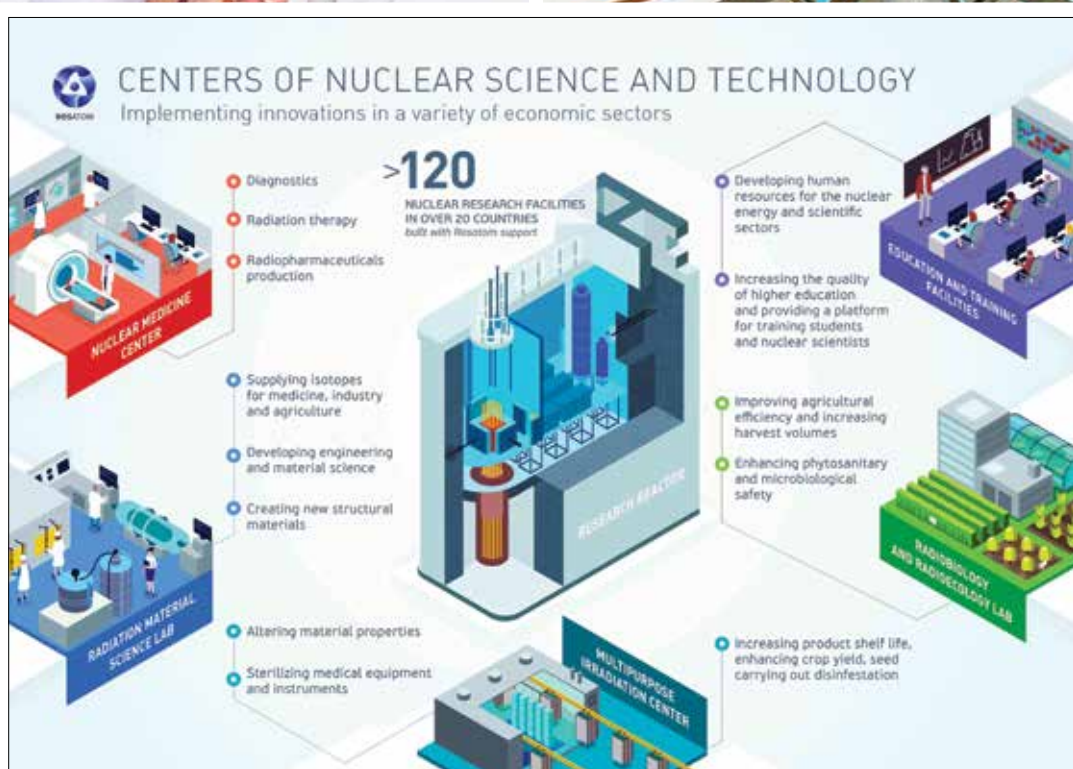


**ROSATOM**

The Rosatom State Corporation Integrated Offer on centres of nuclear research and technology (CNST) is a set of product solutions and services provided by the Russian nuclear industry entities, that ensures comprehensive support for the customer country's national nuclear programme at every stage and provides the customer with the whole range of products and services from a single supplier throughout the CNST lifecycle.

For more information visit:  
<http://rosatom-asia.com>





Photos and infographic courtesy of Rosatom

# Cutting-Edge Nuclear Research & Reactors Offer Innovative Solutions

Interview with **Egor Simonov**, Director of Rosatom Southeast Asia

***"...we are interested in maximizing the use of our competencies. Therefore, we do not forget about the huge amount of non-energy competencies that our scientific research institutes accumulated over more than 70 years of our history."***

**Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom has a long history, could you share with our readers broadly your products, services and some recent cutting-edge solutions that you provide?**

As for Rosatom, we are still at the first place in the world for the simultaneous construction of nuclear power plants abroad. Over the past 11 years Rosatom has launched 14 reactors. Speaking about the current projects, we are working on 39 units at different stages of implementation. We are implementing 7 units within Asia: 4 in India, 2 in Bangladesh and 1 in China. In particular, first concrete has been poured last year at Kudankulam-3 (India) and Rooppur-1 (Bangladesh) construction sites.

I would like to highlight that the power unit No. 3 of the Tianwan NPP, the Russian-designed reactor in China, was launched after 6 years from the contract signing - a unique case by the standards of the world nuclear industry.

Rosatom is still one of the world's top three companies for the supply of nuclear fuel. We supply fuel for 72 power reactors in 14 countries, including fuel supplies to all foreign power units of Russian design.

At the same time, we feel confident not only in the traditional NPP market. As a commercial company, we are interested in maximizing the use of our competencies. Therefore, we do not forget about the huge amount of non-energy competencies that our scientific research institutes accumulated over more than 70 years of our history. Russian technologies have been used to build over 120 research reactors globally, with more than 20 of them located in foreign countries.

I can admit that here we also have something to be proud of. In 2017, we signed a contract for the construction of a cyclotron-radiochemical complex for the Institute for Nuclear Research of the Kingdom of Thailand. The implementation of this project will allow Thailand to increase the production of radiopharmaceuticals with a wide range of applications: in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, neurological and heart diseases. This will increase the availability of nuclear medicine

not only for the population of the country, but also for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. In addition, scientific research will be conducted on the basis of the complex.

We feel that there is a growing demand globally for research reactors that have often more than research functions, used for education and training, material testing and modification and for the production of radioisotopes for medical and industrial applications.

**Your power solutions are considered to be cutting edge and most technologically advanced, please share with us the uniqueness of your system.**

Our latest Generation 3+ VVER-1200 reactor is based on the extensive experience of previous exploitation and is designed in compliance with all safety standards to have the capability for stable operation under adverse conditions, such as heavy earthquakes, floods, storm winds, hurricanes, snowfalls, tornadoes, fire, and even aircraft crash. Reactors of this generation feature a balanced mix of active and passive safety systems which do not require the NPP personnel intervention and guarantee reliable operation of the station and its resistance to external and internal influences. It is not only on papers, it's already a real thing: world's first power unit with Russia-designed VVER 3+ reactor was connected to the grid in 2016 at Novovoronezh NPP-2. The project has passed more than 20 special missions of the IAEA. On December we began physical start-up of the world's second unit with VVER 3+ reactor (Unit 1 at Leningrad NPP-2).

**How can you provide your nuclear power solutions to developing countries that face increasing energy demands?**

Our main advantage is our integrated solution, which is especially appreciated by nuclear energy newcomers, the access to the entire line of products and services from a single vendor throughout the whole service life of a nuclear power plant. We are the world's only company that offers the complete nuclear power cycle. Apart from the construction of nuclear power plants, our solutions include creation and development of the nuclear infrastructure, training and requalification of the local labour force, localization of



***“The new cyclotron complex in Thailand will not only allow the country to increase the production of radiopharmaceuticals for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, neurological and heart diseases. This will increase the availability of nuclear medicine for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. Scientific research will also be conducted at the new complex.”***



Signing ceremony on 7th September 2017 in Bangkok to construct a cyclotron facility that will be used to fabricate radiopharmaceuticals for the Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology

manufacturing in the customer country, fuel supply and NPP maintenance, operation support, spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW) treatment.

#### **Any breakthrough or technology advancement regarding nuclear energy?**

We are ready to offer a number of ready-made solutions from our latest Generation 3+ VVER-1200 technology to the new trend in nuclear industry – small nuclear reactors, which attract the attention of government officials, regulators and energy leaders as a potential addition to the nation's energy mix. Our breakthrough solution here is a floating nuclear power plant (FNPP), which is a mobile low-capacity reactor operable in remote areas isolated from the power grid or hard-to-reach by land places. Due to its mobility, FNPP could be of particular interest for archipelago countries such as Singapore, Indonesia or Philippines. This mobile reactor was designed to supply electricity, thermal power, and even desalinated water to coastal or isolated territories, as well as to industrial offshore units. The construction of the 77 MWe “Akademik Lomonosov”, the world's unique FNPP, is now in its final stage in Russia.

#### **How long has your Singapore office been operational and do you also serve South-East Asia from here? What are the solutions that you can provide in the ASEAN region?**

We are in Singapore for 5 years and for sure we operate the whole region from here. Southeast Asia is one of the world's most dynamic region and an important driver of global economic, trade and investment growth. Judging by the pace of development, the region needs energy-intensive and carbon-free energy sources.

At the moment, in Southeast Asia there are no operating nuclear power plants, although most countries of the region are considering the implementation of national nuclear power programs to some extent. These plans are based on the following assumptions: firstly, rapid development of the region economy, which requires a stable base electricity supply at a reasonable and predictable price; secondly, environmental concerns reflected in the requirements to reduce CO2

emissions, particularly after a recent COP21 conference. We believe, therefore, SEA needs a viable source for base-load energy and nuclear power station is the best possible choice to implement country's ambitious plans on electrification with commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Do you have any solutions for non-energy applications like in the fields of agriculture, medicine etc.?**

Russia is among the world's largest isotopes' producers. Our isotope complex includes 13 enterprises that manufacture a wide range of products from radioactive and stable isotopes, to radiopharmaceuticals and sealed sources.

In September 2017, Rosatom signed a general contract for the construction of the Center for Nuclear Research and Technology in Bolivia. The construction projects for nuclear science and technology centers are also being implemented in Vietnam and Zambia. This is a unique solution in the field of non-energy application of atomic technologies for any country, which allows achieving qualitatively new results in science, medicine, geology, industry, agriculture and other vital areas of human activity

Also we offer a broad support in designing and establishing the multifunctional irradiation facilities. Nowadays, an estimated 20-45% of food raw material is lost annually due to pests and limited shelf life of products. Many developing countries faced a problem of food shortages caused by high degrees of crop failure. The amount of people suffering from infections caused by a violation of the sterility regime of medical devices has been increasing as well. Nevertheless, modern irradiation centers enable to address these issues and improve the quality of life. Rosatom undertakes to train and educate personnel, prepare financial solution, produce and supply the required equipment, build and maintain the facility during its full life-cycle in accordance with the highest standards of IAEA. Just in May we signed two agreements to build the network of irradiation facilities in Malaysia and Philippines.

# SINGAPORE EDUCATION SYSTEM GOES GLOBE TROTTING

by Ranee Sahaney



Above: Russian Ambassador to Singapore HE Andrey Tatarinov (in red tie) mingle with students and staff of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) after his talk to commemorate the Russian language course in March 2017 at the University. (Opposite): The Ambassador shown layout of NTU facilities by University officials

From Russia to Saudi Arabia... from the UK to Sweden and beyond, the education market for Singapore's world renowned learning system offers an ocean of export opportunities for the island nation

A highly respected and globally renowned brand name Singapore's educational achievements continue to draw plaudits from international academic circles. Singapore is ranked among the top five countries in the world for international education. National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have consistently been ranked high in global university rankings.

NUS, which improved its scores in almost all areas, picking up extra points for its teaching, research, citation impact and knowledge transfer, was ranked as the top university in Asia by the London-based Times Higher Education magazine three years running. Prof Sing Kong Lee, vice-president of NTU, home also to Singapore's National Institute of Education (NIE), shares that: "Singapore

invested heavily in a quality teaching force - to raise up the prestige and status of teaching and to attract the best graduates."

According to rankings done by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Singapore has the highest achieving students in international education rankings, with its teenagers coming top in tests in maths, reading and science.

## From Pre-School Onwards

From pre-school education to vocational and technical education, to private education institutions and universities, Singapore's educational programmes continue to find favour both at home and overseas.

The estimated number of foreign students in Singapore is around 50,000.

As stated in a BBC report, Singapore has overtaken the wealthiest countries in Europe, North America and Asia to become the number one in education.

## Future Challenges

The rise of Singapore's education system continues to gain global acclaim, but it's not resting on its laurels as it continues to reinvent and realign itself to present-day needs of industry and the job market in a dynamic economic environment. Its education institutes are gearing up to address the critical factor of skill learning and enhanced learning for future challenges for students. This in itself provides global opportunities for them as providers of skills education and upgraded individual learning. Singapore's SkillsFuture initiative is focused on combining education, training, and career progression for a wide array of end-users.





***A priority area in Russia's bilateral cooperation with Singapore is education. While Russian language courses were introduced into the curriculum of the NTU it is also looking at tapping Singapore's teaching systems for some of its Far Eastern schools***

### Russian Language Learning

Singapore is thus also ideally positioned to enter into global collaborations for licensing/ franchising of curricula, training programmes in Singapore and overseas, joint programmes for foreign students, consultancy services and direct investment through joint ventures, branch campuses, and more. A priority area in Russia's bilateral cooperation with Singapore is education. While Russian language courses were introduced into the curriculum of the NTU it is also looking at tapping Singapore's teaching systems for some of its Far Eastern schools.

Singapore's National Institute of Education (NIE) offers an excellent teacher education service which has been training school principals and teachers from overseas since 2003. Singapore's leadership in education, being one of the finest in the world for its quality and consistently producing students rated among the best in literacy, reading, mathematics and science, will continue to attract tie-ins with global entities, as it continues to realign itself with market realities.

### TIMSS & PIRLS TRENDS

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) in 2010 to 2011 - showed improvement over all subjects:

#### PRIMARY LEVEL (P4)

MATH	SCIENCE	READING
<b>Singapore</b>	Rep. of Korea	HongKong
Rep. of Korea	<b>Singapore</b>	Russia
HongKong	Finland	Finland
Chinese Taipei	Japan	<b>Singapore</b>
Japan	Russia	N. Ireland

#### SECONDARY LEVEL (S2)

MATH	SCIENCE
Rep. of Korea	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>Singapore</b>	Chinese Taipei
Chinese Taipei	Rep. of Korea
HongKong	Japan
Japan	Finland

### SINGAPORE VS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Singapore performing below the 'Low' benchmark of competence compared to the national average:



1% - 4%



12% - 27%

Singapore is among the largest proportions of highly competent students compared to international peers:



24% - 48%



Less than  
10%

Source: Ministry of Education Singapore

# EDUCARE: Training Teachers for the Future

Educare International Consultancy Pte Ltd's Mike Thiruman shares his enthusiasm with Editor-in-Chief Ms Nomita Dhar, about the progress of Educare's inroads into Russia's educational system and bringing it up to speed on the new normal for graduates of 2030



Mike Thiruman representing Educare - visiting delegation to Russia with Singapore's Deputy PM and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam (1st photo above extreme left) and in a meeting with President of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov (2nd photo above 2nd from left) and (below) with Mrs Nomita Dhar with numerous awards in the background recognising Educare's contributions

**This year is very special for Singapore-Russia relations. Educare has been playing its part enhancing educational ties between the two countries. Tell us about Educare in this context.**

Educare's journey with Russia started in 2010, when the Education Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan (which falls within ambit of the Russian Federation) visited Singapore and through IE Singapore (now known as Enterprise Singapore) came to Educare to talk about Singapore's education system which has a very solid reputation, maintaining high international benchmarks. They wanted to know more about how we achieve this. We shared how one of the key areas for Singapore's Ministry of Education (MOE) is the professional development of teachers. They were quite keen for us start a pilot project back in Tatarstan in its capital, Kazan, which we did in 2011. We trained 240 teachers. There was quite a buzz - the novelty of being trained in Singapore-style education by Singaporeans in Kazan.

This expanded steadily and by 2012 the President of Tatarstan said he wanted such training to be extended to *all* their teachers and educators and gave us the necessary funding. We set up a small office there which has been operating for about four years now. During this period Educare has trained over 38,000 Russian teachers, school leaders, pedagogical college lecturers, district education and Ministry of Education and Science officials.

## What are the subjects taught?

General pedagogical training was given to



**“During this period Educare has trained over 38,000 Russian teachers, school leaders, pedagogical college lecturers, district education and Ministry of Education and Science officials”**

the teachers, with special focus on 21st century education skills such as creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking. These are important skills and it takes time to do this with so much content to be covered. Russia is very good in content teaching but the area of concern is how to get the teachers to teach critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills in the classrooms. This is where Singapore's know-how came into play. We started on strategies that essentially focused on student engagement to encourage student-to-content as well as student-to-

student interactions. This would be pretty evident to anyone walking into the classroom where we have trained a teacher. When the teacher is implementing our methodology, one can clearly see the difference. We have gone even further with facilitating accreditation process of the teachers; developing school leaders and schools of excellence.

**You must have left an indelible mark on the minds of the young and the teaching faculty there...**

We hope so. The bottom-line is it's a globalized world. Singapore's kids are going to compete and even collaborate with their kids someday. Together we can do more. Being there is also quite an eye opener as there are things about the Russians, whom we think of as being part of the West, but there is a significant part of them that is also eastern. This is reflected in the ways they think and in some of their traditions that are quite Eastern in many ways. They are

very much in sync with us. Even if you go to a Russian Orthodox Church and close your eyes when you listen to the chant you get the impression you are in a Buddhist Monastery or even a Hindu temple. Russians share this Eurasian concept. Don't forget 75% or so of their land is in Asia, so their thinking and traditions are pretty close to ours. They are hugely patriotic (as we are here in Singapore) they are fairly family-centric as we are, they value education and teaching as we do. There is definitely a common thread in their thinking and ours. This helped greatly when discussing education issues. As you might guess, to bring





### INSIGHT INTO THE RUSSIAN EDUCARE PROGRAMME

Initially there is a 2-day workshop to get teachers familiar with the idea of encouraging students to integrate amongst themselves. Literally getting students to talk, a concept that is alien in most classrooms. Generally students do not talk in the classroom as at least 70 to 80 per cent of the talking in class is done by the teachers. "Unless students talk, articulate and write down their ideas, a teacher will never know what they are processing in their minds. The common questions the teacher will ask are "Do you understand?" or "Do you have any questions?" More often than not, the student is going to say yes. So teachers will assume they have done their job. But when the test results come out, "Oops, they didn't understand it!", said Mike Thiruman.

The aim is make the students the most hardworking people in the class as they are the ones who are supposed to be receiving and processing the knowledge.

The objective of the two-day workshop is to instill that mindset shift - give the teachers enough tools to excite them in the classroom and the students as well. He said, "Once they see the initial stages of the passion for learning among the students, the desire amongst the students to talk and engage with the content, then they (teachers) see the value and go even deeper into the experience. We have four to five programmes that we do, which usually entail just a two-day workshop."

an outsider into a classroom to influence young minds requires a lot of trust.

#### Was the training carried out in English?

Yes, with the first group that we trained. Then as the number of teachers grew, we now have a pool of Russian trainers that we can tap. We also translated all our training materials into Russian. We also have an online portal in Russian to facilitate teachers accessing our information.

#### How many Singapore trainers have gone there to teach?

We have several batches of Singaporean trainers totaling 15-20. Our idea is that eventually the country will build up its own capacity. It's not a retail concept, that whatever your needs are you have to come to us. It should not be so, especially when it comes to education... it must be adaptive and become organic thereafter. What we have done is the initial up-scaling, from there on it's up to them... We have seen that happen in the other places we have been - Bhutan, Libya and now Russia.

#### What are your targets for growth? Russia would seem to offer a huge potential, so what are the areas Educare is currently involved in?

We have worked in Tatarstan, heavily, deeply and very broadly as well as in Tyumen. We have worked along the lines of a franchise model of sort with Moscow city. In the first two months of 2018 we have worked with Moscow Region which is huge and important for Educare because whatever the Russian Federation wants to implement... at the state level or the provincial level, it will always test it in Moscow Region, because it is close to Moscow city...and if it works it gets expanded. So we hope our work is seen by others.

Our engagement with the Russian education community is very strong and actually I am surprised because I was there in February on an invitation from the Federal Agency for Education Supervision and Evaluation to be part of the panel with their Minister for Education and deputy ministers to talk about the profile



***"Russians don't just copy and paste. They don't adopt foreign ideas so easily until they know it works for them and till they trust you"***

of the 2030 graduate. It's quite closely tied to Singapore's own education perspective, not quite in terms of terminology, so I talked about the 6Ps: Purpose, Passion, Process, People, Performance and Patriotism (because it's important to know where we come from).

#### What are your expansion plans?

We are going about it slowly, steadily, because Russians don't just copy and paste. They don't adopt foreign ideas so easily until they know it works for them and till they trust you. So the germination takes time. The gestation period is long.

#### It has been seven years, has the germination process happened?

Only in certain parts. We need to build up more capacity. If it is too low, it will not work. One other thing that is not so easy to duplicate there as Singapore has a whole systemic level of support, which is very uniquely Singaporean. I have been to different parts of the world talking about education, but what we have here in Singapore is truly unique: the way our education system is organized, the level of support given by the MOE to schools, from

the degree of autonomy given to schools (while still enjoying central support) to decentralized autonomy in certain decision-making processes. I've not seen this happen anywhere else that I have been. So we are moving slowly, but every step is a real step. We have worked in Tyumen (near the frontier of Siberia), Chelyabinsk, Stavropol and we have done some work in Kaliningrad. These are small pockets, we consider them as seeds for future growth that will need constant tending and engagement.

#### While finding this all satisfying, was the transfer of this knowledge rewarding as well and do you consider Educare to be one of Singapore's most significant exports to Russia?

It has been hugely rewarding. As Singaporeans we should not have a parochial mindset. We are a global city state and in that sense you have to think like a global citizen. There are a lot of intangible rewards as well. Probably yes as a basic education intellectual export. We have made a great positive impact as our work is recognized here as well as in the top circles of Russian education.

#### Anniversaries are not only a good time to celebrate but also take stock as to how to move forward. In your view, what's in store for Singapore - Russia relations?

We have looked at this closely and realized there's great potential for exponential growth in many areas. Russia has vast resources and the people are somewhat like us and easy to work with. Beyond that, I think it is a preferred candidate if we are to establish a closer relationship with any so-called Western or European country. The opportunities are there and while the sanctions have dented the Russian economy a bit, it has also given Russia the impetus to look elsewhere. As a result, Russia has started to look East and is developing its eastern frontier to start working with the Asia-Pacific region. They know it's a growth region and Singapore can be a catalyst for growth - both ways within each other's countries and the region.



# SEVEN REWARDING YEARS HELPING EDUCATORS IN RUSSIA NURTURE LIFE-LONG LEARNERS READY TO FACE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHALLENGES

SHAPING DESTINIES through Capacity Building | Cascading Approach | Engaging School Leaders

## EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY IN 2017 - 2018



### Republic of Tatarstan

Teacher Professional Growth Model:  
Selection, Training, Support, and Evaluation for  
Expert, Mentor, Master, and Senior Teacher Grants

Seminars for Vice Principals on Establishing  
Professional Growth Communities in Their Schools

Certification of Beginning Teachers

Winter and Summer Camps for Student Teachers

Training Workshops and Instructional Coaching  
for Pre-School Educators



### Moscow Oblast

Intensive Seminars for School Leaders  
on the Laws of Leadership,  
Dynamic Leadership, Instructional  
Leadership, and Managing Change

Training Workshops and Instructional Coaching on  
Effective Methods to Teach 21st Century Skills for Teachers

Intensive Train-the-Trainer Programme  
to Select a Cohort of Certified Trainers  
to Help Teachers Infuse 21st Century Skills  
in Their Classroom Instruction



Training Workshops and Seminars on Transforming Learning for the 21st Century for School Leaders and Teachers in



**educare**  
international consultancy  
shaping destinies  
Building Capacity • Transforming Future



🏠 : 583 Serangoon Road, Singapore 218197

☎ : +7 906 113 6 114

☎ : (65) 6296 0563

✉ : programmes@educare.sg

✉ : liliia.mukhametshina@educare.sg

## BEST WISHES TO RUSSIA ON NATIONAL DAY!



# What We Know and Don't Know about CAVIAR

The story behind the delicacy that's fit for a Tsar!



Traditional caviar service featuring Siberian Black River Osetra caviar

**Today Russia's ossetra caviar, sourced from a particular variety of sturgeon, is the most popular in the world, capturing a market share of 63 per cent**

**P**eople may like caviar or be absolutely indifferent to its peculiar salty taste but it goes without saying that caviar is associated with luxury and wealth. In Russia and other European countries, though very expensive, caviar is commonly served at holiday feasts, weddings and other festive occasions.

Sturgeon is one of the ancient representatives of the animal kingdom that's still preserved to this day. This fish, being of the same age as the extinct dinosaurs, appeared some 100 to 200 million years ago.

The first literary references to sturgeons can be found in the works of Homer, Herodotus and Aristotle. Alexander the Great had feasts where caviar was served on the dishes decorated with garlands and accompanied by the sounds of trumpets!

Russian fishermen learned to produce caviar in the 12th century and sturgeons were supplied to the Tsar's throne since the reign of Ivan the Terrible (from 16th century). In the Middle Ages caviar was very popular in Italy but not in Germany. As for the French, they preferred the sturgeon meat.

## Black Caviar Banned

Recently, the amount of wild sturgeons allowed to be harvested has been reduced, consequently increasing caviar prices. The harvesting and sale of black caviar have been banned in Russia since 1st August 2007 to protect

the endangered Beluga sturgeon. The ban extends for 10 years but scientific research and artificial breeding of black caviar fish are exempted.

## Beluga

Scientists recognize 28 species of sturgeon and several varieties are found in Russia. The most expensive is beluga or white sturgeon. The biggest beluga weighs about 1,600 kg and may be more than 100 years old!

Beluga's female spawns up to five million eggs and can take up to a quarter of the fish weight. Beluga's caviar is characterized by grains up to 2.5 mm diameter, more light-coloured shades, silver grey to black. Grains have a prominent dark spot called an "eye". Grains have a creamy, almost buttery, more "pure" taste. In expensive restaurants 100 g of beluga's caviar may cost US\$2,000 and packed in 1, 2 or 4 oz glass jars with a blue lid. The similarity of caviar and gold is seen in the way they are both measured in ounces!

Today Russia's ossetra caviar, sourced from a particular variety of sturgeon, is the most popular in the world, capturing a market share of 63 per cent. The fish grows up to 2.2-2.4 meters and can weigh between 65 to 115 kg. The greatest age of ossetra which was recorded was 48 years. Its grains are about 2 mm in diameter. They are firm juicy grains with a distinctive nutty taste. Their colour varies and can be greenish, yellowish and brownish with golden highlights. Ossetra with light, nearly white caviar is

rarely caught. Such caviar is called "Tsar's caviar" or "Golden caviar." Although its taste doesn't differ from ordinary caviar, the ossetra's caviar is packed in glass jars with yellow lids.

## Sevruga

Sevruga is the second most sought after specimen. The fish has a very long stretched snout in a form of a sword and can grow over 2 meters and up to 54 kg. It can live up to 35 years and its caviar is 1.5 to 1.8 mm in diameter; its grains are grey or dark grey with brown highlights. It has a strong taste, and the pronounced flavour is appreciated by many chefs and it is the least expensive as the sevruga sturgeon is found in greater numbers. Sevruga caviar is packed in glass jars with red lids.

## Cinderella of the Caviar World?

And what about the so called red caviar or salmon roe? Can we call it the Cinderella of the caviar world? It is not as prestigious as the black one, of course. But it has unforgettable taste and gives us very special gustatory, tactile and visual sensations. Grains of Keta salmon are 4 to 6 mm in diameter and of orange colour. Grains of Humpback salmon are 3-5 mm and of deep orange colour. Grains of Blue-backed and Silver salmon are 3 mm and of bright red colour. The true gourmards consider the level of salt in caviar with certain trepidation. To check if it's right, they use a silver ball which they put on the surface of caviar. If it sinks immediately, caviar is too salty for them.



# Golden Rus Anniversary Dance in Chingay

by Syed Jaafar Alkaff

Chingay is Singapore's biggest street festival. It was also a fitting showcase for the Rovesniki Choreographic Ensemble to celebrate 50 Years of Russia - Singapore ties in their performance!

**T**he award winning Rovesniki Choreographic Ensemble is a leading dance school from Blagoveschensk City in the Russia's Amur region of the Russia's Far East. They thrilled the Singapore crowds and viewers as well as an international TV audience with their high tempo and energetic performance at the annual Singapore Chingay Street Parade in February. The 55-strong delegation presented its high energy 'Golden Rus' routine. The group celebrated the 50th anniversary of their formation in 2017 and the golden theme was carried over to Chingay as this year marks the golden anniversary of diplomatic ties between Russia and Singapore.

Their performances were also warmly received by many VIPs who included President of the Republic of Singapore HE Mdm Halimah Yacob and Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The popular Russian cultural 'ambassadors' were also invited to visit the Russian Embassy in Singapore during their tour in the island.

(Top 2 rows): Chingay preview performances for the press. (Right): Visit to the Russian Embassy where performers posed with Ambassador HE Andrey Tatarinov and received heartfelt thanks for a brilliant performance at Chingay. (Opposite page + inset and below): Electrifying atmosphere at the F1 Pit in front of the grandstand.









# RUSSIA



City of Vladivostok. Source: PhotoValdivostok.ru

## OFFICIAL NAME

Russian Federation

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

41° and 82° North, 19° East and 169° West

## AREA & POPULATION

17,098.2 thousand km<sup>2</sup> & 146,880,000 people

## CAPITAL

Moscow

## FEDERAL DISTRICTS (ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE)

Eight federal districts: Central (Moscow); Southern (Rostov-on-Don), Northwestern (St Petersburg), Far Eastern (Khabarovsk), Siberian (Novosibirsk), Ural (Yekaterinburg), Volga (Nizhny Novgorod) and North Caucasian (Pyatigorsk).

## MAJOR CITIES (& POPULATION)

Moscow (12.5m), St Petersburg (5.3m), Novosibirsk (1.6m), Yekaterinburg (1.4m) and Nizhny Novgorod (1.2m)

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Russian

## RELIGION

Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism

## CLIMATE

Humid continental climate dominates most of Russia. Northern European Russia and Siberia have a subarctic climate, with extremely severe winters. There are only two distinct seasons in most of the territories in Russia—winter and summer; the coldest month is January and the warmest usually is July.

## ECONOMY

Unit of Currency: Russian Ruble

1USD – Approx. 62.28 Russian Rubles

The Russian economy is the world's ninth largest by nominal GDP per capita - US\$10,608 (end 2017)

Foreign currency reserves – US\$459,884.00 million (end 2017)

## EDUCATION

Russia has a free education system guaranteed for all citizens by the Constitution. There is a great emphasis on science and technology in education. Russian medical, mathematical, scientific and aerospace research is generally of a high order. The oldest and largest Russian universities are Moscow State University and St Petersburg State University.

## CULTURE

Over 160 different ethnic groups and indigenous peoples. Ethnic Russians with their Slavic Orthodox traditions, Tatars and Bashkirs with their Turkic Muslim culture, Buddhist nomadic Buryats and Kalmyks; shamanistic peoples of the Extreme North and Siberia, highlanders of the Northern Caucasus, Finno-Ugric peoples of the Russian North West and Volga Region contribute to the country's rich cultural diversity.

## PLACES OF INTEREST

Major tourist routes in Russia include a journey around the Golden Ring of ancient cities, cruises on the big rivers like the Volga, and long journeys on the famous Trans-Siberian Railway. The most visited destinations in Russia are Moscow and St Petersburg, the current and the former capitals of the country.

## Embassy of Russia in Singapore Consular Services

The Consular Section of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Singapore is open for visitors on weekdays from 10 am to 12 pm at 51 Nassim Road.

Essential information on Russian visa application procedures, requirements and fees, as well as on legalisation of

documents and notary services provided by the Embassy can be found at [www.singapore.mid.ru/consular\\_selection.htm](http://www.singapore.mid.ru/consular_selection.htm)

Singapore nationals require visas for travel to Russia. For more information on visa eligibility and requirements, visit: [www.singapore.mid.ru/Visa\\_Information.htm](http://www.singapore.mid.ru/Visa_Information.htm)



# Singapore's Leading Provider of Educational Solutions

## Marshall Cavendish Education

Marshall Cavendish Education is the leading provider of K-12 educational solutions in Singapore. With over 60 years of experience, our holistic blend of pedagogically sound curriculum, digital technology and teacher professional development has been specially developed to meet the needs of teachers and students. Beyond Singapore, our materials have also been adopted in more than 60 countries and are available in over 11 languages.



### EXPERT EDUCATION CONSULTANCY

Encourage learners to think critically and creatively through a comprehensive range of materials.



### DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

Acquire knowledge and skills anytime and anywhere.




### ROBUST AND WELL-STRUCTURED CURRICULUM

Develop content knowledge and improve classroom practice.


© 2018 Marshall Cavendish Education Pte. Ltd.

**Marshall Cavendish Education Pte. Ltd.**

Times Centre, 1 New Industrial Road, Singapore 536196

 MCEducation.com

 marketing@mceducation.com

 +65 6213 9444



A member of the  
**Times Publishing Group**



## Olam is re-imagining global agriculture

Established in 1989, Olam is today a leading global agri-business operating from seed to shelf, supplying food and industrial raw materials to over 22,000 customers worldwide.



### Opportunity Russia

Olam Russia has transcended boundaries in Russian agriculture, with extensive operations scanning the Penza, Rostov and Moscow regions. The Russian Dairy Company, or RUSMOLCO is Olam's largest investment in an integrated agriculture business in the Penza region where they are the largest milk producer. With its own specialised herd reproduction centre it is able to consistently replace its own herd without having to rely on Imports. This is one example of how Olam is re-imagining global agriculture by putting sustainability at the heart of our business.

Other businesses in the Olam Russia portfolio include; grain trading located at Azov in the Rostov region, one of the biggest Olam businesses in Russia; one of the Top 5 coffee packaging companies in the country; and a market-leading position in Russia's cocoa sector as a preferred supplier of cocoa liquor, butter, and powder.