



SUN MEDIA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Sun Media Singapore weekly e-newsletter! Your go-to source for the latest news and insights on key markets that include Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. In this edition, we'll be taking a closer look at the latest bilateral developments in Singapore, India, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Malaysia with a focus on the economy, and business. So whether you're a business professional, investor, or just interested in keeping up with the latest news from these dynamic regions, this newsletter is for you. Let's dive straight in!

SINGAPORE



State Visit by Sultan of Oman Focus on Economic and Cultural Exchanges

The three-day visit which started on 14th December 2023 saw H.M. Haitham Bin Tarik call on Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Two MoUs were signed that focussed on cooperation in culture and youth, as well as economic development.

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ASEAN



ASEAN and Japan Mark 50 Years of Collaboration

Japan is now ASEAN's latest comprehensive Strategic Partner when it celebrated the Golden Jubilee that marked when the country became the first external partner of the regional grouping in 1973. This was the highlight of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held in Tokyo on 20th December 2023.

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INDIA



Three New Green Programmes Launched for MSME

India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) received a boost through three programmes that was launched on 20th December 2023 that will advance the Green agenda and technology adoption. They are the: MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme), MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE) and Support for Commercialisation of IP Programme (MSME – SCIP Programme).

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SAUDI ARABIA



World Arabic Language Day by Royal Embassy of the KSA

The Royal Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Singapore hosted a celebration in honour of World Arabic Language Day at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Singapore. The event which was aimed at promoting cross-cultural understanding also highlighted recent moves by the Kingdom to ease visa processes for Saudi subjects visiting Singapore and efforts to encourage tourism in both countries.

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THAILAND



Thai Air Chief Marshal Introductory Visit

Singapore-Thailand defence relations were strengthened by the visit of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Punpakdee Pattanakul, who commenced his introductory visit to Singapore on 19th December 2023. He co-officiated the opening ceremony of Exercise Cope Tiger 2024 – the annual trilateral event involving the air forces of Thailand, Singapore, and the US.

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VIETNAM



HCM City Seek to Remove Obstacles for Singaporean Investors

Singapore businesses were able to seek clarifications and provide feedback in a dialogue session to seek improvements that involved Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City authorities, Vietnamese government agencies and Singapore Consulate. Singapore is one of the largest foreign investors in Vietnam with 1,821 projects there as of the end of November.

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**Sun Media Wishes All Our
Readers a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**