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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



Singapore-Portugal Innovation Alliance Launched in January 2024

On 5th January 2024, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, João Gomes Cravinho, held a significant meeting to reaffirm the strong bilateral ties between the two nations. A key outcome of the visit was the inauguration of the Singapore-Portugal Innovation Alliance (SPIA) by both Ministers to boost collaboration among startups and tech companies, fostering business networks and facilitating market entries. Discussions also included its capital Lisbon's potential as a startup hub and agreeing to enhance exchanges in innovation, housing, and public service.

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Exploring Opportunities in Hunan Province in China

Senior Minister of State (SMS) for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development, Sim Ann, concluded a three-day visit to Hunan Province, China, on 9th January 2024. The visit aimed at enhancing bilateral relations and exploring potential areas of collaboration between Singapore and Hunan. The discussions focused on the significant presence of Singaporean companies in Hunan, particularly in logistics, infrastructure development, sustainability, and education. Both parties look forward to deepening cooperation, especially in the areas of connectivity, urban development, and the green economy.

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PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, JANUARY 2024

President Tharman Shanmugaratnam received credentials from the new ambassadors of Cuba, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of Djibouti in separate ceremonies. These appointments signify a continued strengthening of diplomatic relations between Singapore and these nations.

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German Federal Minister Of Foreign Affairs Productive Visit To Singapore

German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Annalena Baerbock, conducted a working visit to Singapore, reinforcing the strong diplomatic ties between the two nations. The visit, hosted by Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, included a dinner where both ministers discussed various aspects of the bilateral relationship.

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INDIA



Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

The Summit's theme was "20 Years of Vibrant Gujarat as the Summit of Success" and attracted 34 partner countries and delegates from 130 countries to come together from 10th to 12h January 2024 for international collaborations. Singapore played a significant role as one of the partner countries and a dedicated Singapore Pavilion featured nine Singapore companies operating in diverse sectors such as finance, renewable energy, waste management, and logistics.

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WORLD



The World's Most 'Powerful' Passports

Singapore and Japan have dominated 1st place on the index (which ranks all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa) for the past five years. This year they are joined by four EU member states – France, Germany, Italy, and Spain – to be the most "powerful" passports in the world, with their citizens able to visit 194 destinations out of 227 around the globe visa-free.

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