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SINGAPORE

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT PRABOWO SUBIANTO

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**H.E. SURYO PRATOMO
INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE**

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE

**VISIT OF PM WONG TO CHINA
TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL
INVESTMENT FORUM 2025**

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2025



A Warm Welcome to His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, on His First Official Visit to Singapore

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EDITOR'S NOTE



New Beginnings in Regional Cooperation

In this edition, we spotlight the deepening ties between Indonesia and Singapore. For over 20 years, Sun Media has had the privilege of engaging with Indonesia, and the warmth and trust in recent years have been remarkable. A reflection of this growing bond came during the recent State Visit of President Prabowo Subianto, when Prime Minister Lawrence Wong personally welcomed him at Changi Airport — a rare and symbolic gesture. We offer exclusive insights from this visit through our interview with H.E. Suryo Pratomo, Indonesia's Ambassador to Singapore.

As Singapore marks its 60th anniversary, Sun Media celebrates over two and a half decades of close collaboration with diplomatic missions. Our work has spanned geographies, sectors, and opportunities — and this year, we are proud to further bridge the worlds of diplomacy and business through a new MoU with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF). This partnership reflects our shared goal to connect global missions with Singaporean enterprises and unlock new possibilities. Trade continues to be a driving force in diplomacy. Through our Trade Talk series, we reached out to various embassies and covered offerings and investment opportunities from Mexico, Egypt, New Zealand, Ukraine, Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Cambodia. This issue presents a glimpse into these evolving trade narratives and showcases the energy behind Singapore's expanding global ties.

This momentum extends to Central Asia, where the IV Tashkent International Investment Forum in Uzbekistan concluded with \$30.5 billion in agreements. With over 8,000 participants, including 3,000 international delegates, the forum signaled a shift from promotional showcases to a functional investment platform. Key projects include the \$5 billion Sea Breeze Uzbekistan resort, thermal and solar energy plants, and the creation of the Central Asian Direct Investment Fund. Uzbekistan is no longer just a resource-rich territory — it is becoming a destination for systematic, sustainable investments. The focus now turns to implementation and impact, with real success measured by delivered infrastructure and created jobs.

We also bring you updates from Prime Minister Wong's official visit to China, commemorating 35 years of diplomatic relations and strengthening cooperation in green finance, digital trade, and capacity-building. Adding to this historic season of diplomacy, Singapore also welcomed the President of the Maldives on his first-ever State Visit to the country. As the nation prepares for SG60 celebrations, with \$600 distributed to citizens and festivities reaching from the Padang to Marina Bay and the heartlands, the Singapore spirit remains one of unity, innovation, and outward-looking progress.

We invite all diplomatic missions to join the celebrations by sharing your messages on www.indiplomacy.com or contacting us at ceooffice@sunmediaonline.com this August.

Thank you for continuing to journey with us as we highlight the partnerships, progress, and people shaping diplomacy in Singapore and beyond.



The warmth and trust between Indonesia and Singapore in recent years have been remarkable — a bond reflected in the rare and symbolic welcome of President Prabowo by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at Changi Airport.

Welcoming New Diplomats and Diplomatic Receptions

IN Diplomacy warmly welcomes the new diplomats who have presented their credentials to Singapore's President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, marking the beginning of their engagement with the host country. This significant occasion signals the start of their vital work in fostering strong relations between their home nations and Singapore. For heads of mission, presenting credentials is a critical milestone, and we extend our best wishes to these distinguished envoys for a successful term in Singapore.



*His Excellency Abdelouahab Osmane Chile
Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic
of Algeria to the Republic of Singapore*



*Her Excellency Tanya Dimitrova
Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria
to Singapore*

Farewell Reception Marks Conclusion of *Rwandan High Commissioner's Tenure in Singapore*

High Commissioner Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye and Mdm Pacifique Mukaseti host a farewell reception at Raffles Place, reflecting on strengthened Rwanda-Singapore ties.



H.E. Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye, Rwanda's High Commissioner to Singapore, and Mdm Pacifique Mukaseti hosted a farewell lunch at Raffles Place to mark the conclusion of his diplomatic mission. The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps and close associates in a warm and memorable gathering. The Dean of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, H.E. Agustin Garcia-Lopez Loaeza, Ambassador of Mexico to Singapore, delivered the farewell speech. He praised High Commissioner Uwihanganye for his role in deepening bilateral cooperation and for advancing key partnerships between Rwanda and Singapore. He noted the similarities between both nations in safety and cleanliness, citing that Singaporeans who have visited Rwanda often speak of its welcoming environment. He commended Rwanda's journey of transformation and reconciliation, framing it as a national strength that the High Commissioner embodied in his diplomatic work.

Canada's High Commissioner Bids Farewell After *Strengthening Ties with Singapore*

A diplomatic farewell was held for H.E. Jean-Dominique Ieraci and Mdm Chantal Chastenay, celebrating Canada-Singapore cooperation across trade, sustainability, and innovation.



Members of the diplomatic corps, diplomats, and close friends of Canada gathered at Raffles Avenue for a farewell reception in honour of H.E. Jean-Dominique Ieraci, Canada's High Commissioner to Singapore, and Mdm Chantal Chastenay. The evening was marked by speeches celebrating the couple's contributions to the growing partnership between Canada and Singapore. Dean of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps in Singapore, H.E. Agustin Garcia-Lopez Loaeza, delivered a heartfelt tribute, reflecting on Ambassador Ieraci's long-standing service and drawing symbolic parallels with the Thunderbird—featured on the totem pole unveiled at Gardens by the Bay just days earlier to mark 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Representing wisdom, transformation, and protection, the Thunderbird was likened to the spirit with which Ambassador Ieraci served during his term.



MUSTAFA WELCOMES PRESIDENT PRABOWO SUBIANTO TO SINGAPORE



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*First State Visit of President of the Republic of Indonesia **Prabowo** Subianto to Singapore*



President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto made a State Visit to Singapore on 15 and 16 June 2025. This was President Prabowo's first State Visit to Singapore.

President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto made a State Visit to Singapore on 15 and 16 June 2025. This was President Prabowo's first State Visit to Singapore.

President Prabowo received a ceremonial welcome at Parliament House and called on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam. President Tharman hosted a State Banquet in honour of President Prabowo.

President Prabowo met Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong for the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat. As the highest-level platform between the two countries, the annual Leaders' Retreat is a testament to the excellent bilateral relations and strong interpersonal ties between our leaders. This will be President Prabowo and Prime Minister Wong's first Leaders' Retreat in their current capacities.

Prime Minister Wong and President Prabowo reviewed the strong and substantive cooperation between Singapore and Indonesia and charted the way forward. Singapore and Indonesia share a longstanding friendship and collaborate closely in key areas such as defence, the green economy, and connectivity.

President Prabowo was accompanied by Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, Coordinating Minister for People's Empowerment Muhaimin Iskandar, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sugiono, Minister of Home Affairs Tito Karnavian, Minister of Law Supratman Andi Agtas, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Bahlil Lahadalia, Minister of Housing and Settlement Maruarar Sirait, Minister of Agriculture Andi Amran Sulaiman, Minister of Investment and Downstream Industry Rosan Roeslani, and Cabinet Secretary Teddy Indra Wijaya.

A Welcome that Spoke Volumes Diplomatically

IN A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT FOR INDONESIA–SINGAPORE RELATIONS, H.E. SURYO PRATOMO, AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA TO SINGAPORE, SHARED HIS INSIGHTS IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH EDITOR IN CHIEF NOMITA DHAR. THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE FOLLOWING THE STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT PRABOWO SUBIANTO AND THE ANNUAL LEADERS' RETREAT, HIGHLIGHTING KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN THE GROWING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.



President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto arrived in Singapore on Sunday evening, 15 June 2025, (Day first, for a state visit.)



What did you observe about PM Lawrence Wong welcoming President Prabowo at the airport, and what does this gesture mean?

I know a Prime Minister of Singapore has never come to the airport to greet a visiting foreign Leader. So, we are really honoured that Prime Minister Lawrence Wong was willing to come to the airport to welcome President Prabowo. It is really the friendliest gesture of Prime Minister Wong to President Prabowo that showed not only the close relationship between the two leaders, but also between our two countries.

How was the Leaders' Retreat between Indonesia and Singapore prepared, and what role did the Embassy play?

The Embassy is at the front line in the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Singapore. Preparation for the Leaders' Retreat can be divided into two things: substance and proceedings. In any preparation for a visit by the Leader, the Embassy has always led the coordination between officials of the two countries. Preparing a visit, especially the Leaders' Retreat, is not only about the substance, but also the proceedings, which include protocol, agenda, and programme. With the guidelines from our Headquarters in Jakarta, the Embassy communicates all the necessities and requirements for the visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

What issues did President Prabowo and PM Wong focus on during their discussions?

Leaders' Retreat has been held annually, and it is our highest-level mechanism in conducting bilateral relations between the two countries. Issues discussed during the meeting between the two Leaders are ranging political to social and economic aspects of the bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore, emphasising the need to implement all the agreements.

Before leaders retreat, we have a ministerial meeting led by the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia, Airlangga Hartarto and DPM Gan Kim Yong. The two ministers finalised the outcome from six working groups that have been discussing several issues to the development of Batam, Bintan, Karimun, agriculture, investment, manpower, transportation, and tourism. The two leaders also exchanged views on the regional and global issues of our common concern.

What was your observation on "Orchid Diplomacy"?

Orchid diplomacy is Singapore's soft power diplomacy, which is very important in conducting diplomacy globally. Naming a hybrid orchid after a foreign Leader, including President Prabowo, shows and symbolises Singapore's openness for a lasting friendship with other countries. We really respect Singapore's kindest gesture in naming the orchid after the President's mother, Paraphalanthé Dora Sgar Soemitro.



(Left Photo) President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto was greeted with great honour by President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam at Parliament House, Singapore.



(Right Photo) The annual Leaders' Retreat meeting between the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, and the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lawrence Wong.

Were there any notable moments of mutual respect or friendship between the leaders, you observed?

During my almost five-year term as the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, this Leaders' Retreat is the best in terms of how Singapore showed its respect and friendship to Indonesia.

There are moments where the Leaders showed the world what friendship and mutual respect mean. One of them, of course, was when you saw Prime Minister Wong greet President Prabowo at the airport, which is the very first time a Singapore Prime Minister did it. During a two-day visit, President Prabowo met twice with President Tharman and three times with PM Wong.

How challenging was it to agree on 19 strategic outcomes between both countries, and how will they contribute to growing opportunities?

The substance and deliverables of the Leaders' Retreat can be prepared within a year between Retreats. It covers all of the cooperation areas that were agreed upon during the previous Retreat and other proposed areas of cooperation between the meeting. To agree on the 19 strategic outcomes of the meeting, we needed at least one year to negotiate all aspects of the cooperation and then come up with the deals. Two things that make the deals possible are: common interest and friendship between the two Leaders.

How did President Prabowo interact with the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore?

When President Prabowo arrived in Singapore, particularly at the Fullerton Hotel, there were a hundred Indonesian diaspora who greeted him. They enthusiastically waited for the President's arrival. From the short interaction, we can see how happy President Prabowo is interacting with the Indonesian diaspora.

What's the broader significance of this state visit for Indonesia-Singapore relations?

An exchange of visits between Leaders is very important in strengthening bilateral relations between two countries, as I said, it is the highest mechanism of bilateral relations. Interaction between Leaders,



Indonesian Citizens and Students in Singapore Enthusiastically Welcome President Prabowo.

their close relations, significantly contributes to the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

How will this visit impact economic and diplomatic growth for both nations?

Leader's Retreat is the highest mechanism in our bilateral relations where the two Leaders can meet and talk regularly about the progress of our bilateral cooperation and set the goals for the best of our two countries through cooperation. It is also an opportunity for the Leaders to discuss all issues of common concern and to agree on exploring and conducting cooperation in other areas of common interest. We all know that the prosperity of the people is the most important concern for the Leaders. It is within this context that both Leaders' commitments to pursue a closer cooperation in economic and development growth between the countries become the main purpose of the visit.

The two leaders agreed to move forward to the next chapter of the relationship, where we could complement each other. In the last two years, Singapore's investment in Indonesia has grown 50 percent. Total Singapore FDI to Indonesia is one third of Singapore's total FDI to the world and it shows how important Indonesia for Singapore. Indonesia has shown Singapore's confidence in the Indonesian economy.

What progress or continuity do you hope to see in the next Leaders' Retreat, and how will Indonesia-Singapore collaboration address geopolitical uncertainties?

As I said earlier, the Leaders' Retreat is an annual meeting between the Leaders of the two countries. There are so many areas of cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore; however, as you are aware, everything develops fast. It means although we have cooperated in many areas, there will always be new area that needs cooperation. For example, in science and innovation, like AI, machine learning, etc.

Both Indonesia and Singapore champion peace and stability. The two factors contribute to common prosperity and development. In terms of bilateral, we are busy cooperating that we don't have time or even think of fighting. At the least form of addressing geopolitical uncertainties, we share the position of expressing views towards the challenges, especially at the regional level (ASEAN). If we strengthen bilateral relations between Indonesia and Singapore, we reduce potential conflict for ASEAN, thus we contribute to the stability in ASEAN. If we have good regional stability, we can protect ourselves better amidst the geopolitical uncertainties.

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President Prabowo and President Tharman Discuss New Phase of Indonesia–Singapore Relations

President Prabowo Subianto held a courtesy call with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam in Singapore, marking a key moment in strengthening bilateral ties.



President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, paid a courtesy call on President of Singapore, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, at Parliament House on Monday as part of his state visit to Singapore. The meeting formed one of the key highlights of the President's two-day official agenda.

The courtesy call commenced with the formal introduction of both countries' delegations in front of the Temasek Suite. President Prabowo was accompanied by a high-level Indonesian delegation, including Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, Coordinating Minister for Community Empowerment Muhaimin Iskandar, Foreign Minister Sugiono, Minister of Home Affairs Tito Karnavian, and Minister of Investment and Downstreaming Rosan Roeslani. Also present were Minister of Law Supratman Andi Agtas, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Bahlil Lahadalia, Minister of Agriculture Andi Amran Sulaiman, Minister of Housing and Settlements Maruarar Sirait, Cabinet Secretary Teddy Indra Wijaya, and Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore Suryo Pratomo.

Following the introductions, both Presidents participated in a group photograph at the foyer of the Temasek Suite, symbolising the close and enduring friendship between the two nations. In his opening remarks, President Tharman described the visit as a significant opportunity to discuss a new phase in Indonesia–Singapore relations, highlighting that current cooperation had reached a promising new level.

President Tharman further emphasised the positive trend of Singaporean private sector investment in Indonesia, which he noted had grown substantially in recent years. He expressed particular appreciation for the expanding diversification of investments across strategic sectors such as industrial estates, logistics, connectivity, data centres, and renewable energy.

The meeting took place in a warm and constructive atmosphere, with both leaders reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing regional stability and expanding collaboration across key sectors.

Singapore–Indonesia Leaders’ Retreat 2025: A New Era of Strategic Cooperation and Green Growth

The 2025 Singapore–Indonesia Leaders’ Retreat, held on 16 June at Singapore’s Parliament House, marked a pivotal moment in the evolving bilateral partnership between the two close neighbours. This was the first official retreat between President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia and Singapore’s newly appointed Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, both attending in their current roles. As part of President Prabowo’s inaugural state visit to Singapore since his inauguration in October 2024, the retreat concluded with the signing of 19 wide-ranging agreements across key sectors—highlighting a shared commitment to regional resilience, economic transformation, and a greener, more connected future.



The 2025 edition of the Singapore–Indonesia Leaders’ Retreat was held on 16 June at Parliament House, Singapore. It marked the first time President Prabowo Subianto and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong participated in this annual high-level meeting in their current capacities. For President Prabowo, the retreat was a key event during his inaugural state visit to Singapore, following his swearing-in as President of the Republic of Indonesia in October 2024. The retreat provided both leaders with the opportunity to reaffirm longstanding bilateral ties and outline a roadmap for cooperation across a broad range of sectors—from green energy and defence to food security and manpower development.

The tone of the meeting was constructive, with both sides recognising the changing geopolitical and economic context of the region. As Southeast Asia navigates post-pandemic recovery, climate transition, and shifting trade dynamics, Singapore and Indonesia continue to position



their partnership as a platform for practical, forward-looking collaboration.

Personal Connections and Institutional Continuity

The retreat began with a tête-à-tête session between President Prabowo and Prime Minister Wong, offering space for candid exchanges on strategic priorities and mutual interests. In his opening remarks,

Prime Minister Wong described the retreat as a meaningful milestone. He noted that while the two had met previously in regional forums, this was the first retreat since both assumed office and expressed his desire to build a strong working relationship.

President Prabowo, in turn, acknowledged the warm welcome by the Singapore Government and reflected on his personal familiarity with the country. “As you may know, I spent part of my childhood in Singapore,” he said, pointing to the interpersonal ties that have long characterised the relationship. He also noted that many

Indonesian leaders, past and present, have shared close working relationships with their Singaporean counterparts, contributing to policy continuity and mutual understanding.

Green Economy: Launching Collaborative Projects

A significant segment of the retreat focused on sustainability and climate-related cooperation. The two leaders officiated a Milestone Ceremony for Project Development, marking the implementation of three key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed in Jakarta on 13 June 2025. These included agreements on Cross-Border Electricity Trade (CBET), Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), and the development of a Sustainable Industrial Zone (SIZ).

The ceremony featured the symbolic pressing of a digital button by both leaders, signifying the formal launch of these initiatives. The projects aim to support regional decarbonisation efforts while encouraging long-term economic investment. Singapore's Minister-in-Charge of Energy and Science & Technology, Dr Tan See Leng,

Beyond green economy cooperation, the retreat saw the signing and announcement of a total of 19 agreements. These spanned areas such as defence, food security, connectivity, regulatory alignment, and investment.

The agreements included an updated extradition treaty, continued implementation of the Flight Information Region (FIR) agreement, and a joint update on defence cooperation. A Joint Report to Leaders was submitted by six bilateral economic working groups that have been coordinating efforts in tourism, manpower, transportation, agriculture, and special economic zones.

Agreements were also signed on food security and agricultural technology, emphasising the potential for Singapore's expertise in urban farming and post-harvest logistics to support Indonesia's food system reforms. In the financial sector, regulatory authorities from both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation between Bank Indonesia and the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Additional MoUs covered reciprocal halal certification recognition, maritime training, prosecutorial collaboration, library and information management, and



described the ceremony as a signal of both countries' commitment to advancing the clean energy agenda. He highlighted the potential for these initiatives to generate employment, attract cross-border investment, and contribute to ASEAN-wide energy transition goals.

The three MoUs are expected to serve as blueprints for more detailed technical cooperation and private sector participation in areas such as renewable energy transmission, carbon storage infrastructure, and eco-industrial development.

Comprehensive Agreements Across Key Sectors

institutional partnerships such as the establishment of the Ciputra SMG Curie Cancer Centre.

Manpower, Healthcare, and Education

One of the key discussions revolved around manpower development. Both countries acknowledged the growing demand for skilled personnel in healthcare, particularly in eldercare. President Prabowo expressed interest in exploring Singapore's experience in healthcare training and invited cooperation in building medical and nursing faculties in Indonesia.

The leaders also discussed the movement of skilled professionals and potential frameworks for mutually beneficial workforce mobility. These areas are expected to

become increasingly important as Indonesia embarks on its healthcare reform agenda and as Singapore manages the demographic challenges of an ageing population.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

Improving regional connectivity was another area of focus. New direct flights by Scoot between Singapore and the Indonesian cities of Kertajati and Padang were announced. These routes aim to support not only tourism and business travel but also strengthen people-to-people ties.

On the investment front, Sembcorp announced a solar power plant project in Indonesia's new capital, Nusantara. Additionally, a joint venture between Sembcorp and Panbil Group will develop two low-carbon industrial zones in Batam, contributing to energy diversification and industrial modernisation.

A Broader Regional Context

While the retreat focused on bilateral matters, both sides also acknowledged the importance of ASEAN and regional cooperation. With growing concerns around climate resilience, economic integration, and geopolitical shifts, the agreements reached during the retreat reflect efforts to align national goals with regional frameworks.

For example, the green energy projects complement ASEAN's broader aims of enhancing cross-border power

grids, while initiatives in maritime and aviation safety resonate with ongoing discussions around freedom of navigation and connectivity in the region.

Looking Ahead

At the conclusion of the retreat, President Prabowo described the meeting as productive and expressed his hope for sustained engagement. He formally invited Prime Minister Wong and the Singapore delegation to attend the next Leaders' Retreat in Indonesia in 2026.

Both sides agreed that implementation and follow-up would be key. Ministries and agencies have been tasked with operationalising the signed agreements, with periodic reviews planned to ensure progress. The tone of the retreat indicated a pragmatic approach, grounded in the understanding that long-term partnerships require both high-level commitment and on-the-ground execution.

The 2025 Singapore–Indonesia Leaders' Retreat reflected the evolving nature of bilateral ties between the two close neighbours in Southeast Asia. While rooted in historical cooperation, the meeting addressed contemporary challenges and emerging opportunities. From green energy and sustainable development to health reform and connectivity, the agreements signed aim to support national priorities while contributing to wider regional resilience.

President Prabowo Names Orchid in Honour of Late Mother During Singapore State Visit

As part of his state visit, President Prabowo Subianto named a new orchid hybrid Paraphalante Dora Sigar Soemitro, honouring his mother and strengthening Indonesia–Singapore ties.

A special moment marked the state visit of President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, at Singapore's Parliament House on Monday, as he named a newly cultivated orchid Paraphalante Dora Sigar Soemitro in honour of his late mother. The naming ceremony was held as part of Singapore's long-standing orchid diplomacy tradition and reflected the deepening bilateral ties between the two nations. The solemn and meaningful event was attended by the CEO of Singapore National Parks, Ms Hwang Yu-ning, who personally introduced the orchid's characteristics to President Prabowo. She also presented him with a copy of the book *Singapore's Orchid Diplomacy*, highlighting the cultural and diplomatic significance of the occasion.

Paraphalante Dora Sigar Soemitro is a striking and highly floriferous hybrid. It produces upright flower spikes measuring 30 to 40 cm in length, each bearing 8 to 12 large, outward-facing blooms approximately 7 cm in diameter. The star-shaped petals and sepals are soft pink with delicate rose-pink veins that gradually fade to white at the edges.

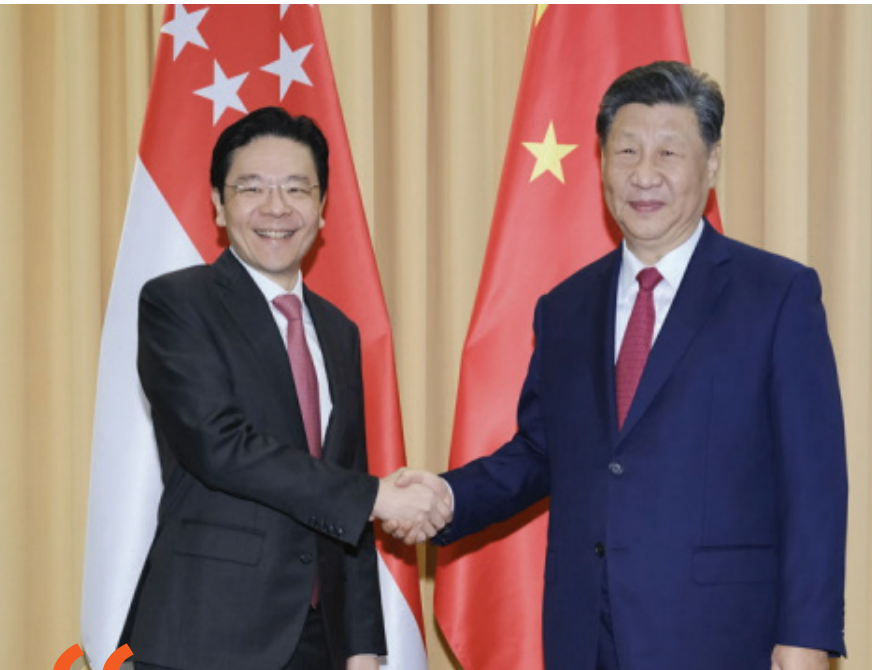
Its standout feature is a bold, forked lip with a golden-yellow base dotted in deep maroon, creating a visually dramatic yet harmonious contrast. The orchid's elegant form and vibrant colouring serve as a tribute to both personal legacy and diplomatic friendship.

The orchid naming not only honoured President Prabowo's beloved mother, Dora Sigar Soemitro, but also symbolised the enduring friendship and growing cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore. Through this floral gesture, both nations reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration amid regional and global challenges.



Singapore and China at 35: PM Wong's Visit Opens New Avenues of Cooperation

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's official visit to China underscores a deepening strategic partnership and shared commitment to regional growth, sustainability, and multilateral cooperation.



the increasing relevance of green and digital economies as key pillars of future cooperation.

Earlier, on 23 June, Premier Li Qiang and Prime Minister Wong met to discuss the future trajectory of the All-Round High-Quality Future-Oriented Partnership. They celebrated the progress of the three flagship Government-to-Government projects in Suzhou, Tianjin, and Chongqing—symbols of decades-long collaboration. The leaders agreed to expand their cooperation further into green finance, digital innovation, and capacity-building for the region through initiatives such as the Singapore-China Third Country Training Programme, designed to benefit ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste.

Prime Minister Wong's visit also had an international dimension. In Tianjin, he attended the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions—also known as Summer Davos—where he participated in a dialogue with WEF President Børge Brende. This year's theme, "Entrepreneurship for a New Era," resonates with both nations' aspirations for economic innovation and sustainable growth.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Environment and Trade Minister Grace Fu, Acting Transport Minister Jeffrey Siow, and Senior Minister of State Sim Ann—signifying the multifaceted scope of the bilateral agenda.

As both nations look to the next chapter, this visit has reaffirmed a shared vision rooted in trust, pragmatism, and mutual benefit. In an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, Singapore and China's evolving partnership stands as a model for strategic cooperation—anchored in history, but boldly future-facing.

P rime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong's official visit to China from 22 to 26 June 2025 marks a significant milestone in Singapore-China relations. Celebrating the 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the visit underscores the enduring strength of bilateral cooperation and signals both nations' commitment to shaping a future-oriented, high-quality partnership.

With stops in Beijing and Tianjin, Prime Minister Wong's itinerary reflects both symbolism and substance. His meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang at the Great Hall of the People were emblematic of the strong mutual respect and strategic alignment between the two countries. These high-level dialogues were not only a commemoration of historic ties forged by leaders like Deng Xiaoping and Lee Kuan Yew but also an affirmation of shared goals in navigating new global challenges.

In his meeting with President Xi on 24 June, Prime Minister Wong reiterated Singapore's "One China" policy and opposition to Taiwan independence—underscoring Singapore's longstanding, principled approach to regional stability. Both leaders exchanged views on global economic headwinds, the importance of open and inclusive trade, and the strengthening of a rules-based multilateral trading system. They also acknowledged

The meeting concluded with the signing of a number of forward-looking agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs), including:

An MOU on Legal Talent Development between the Singapore Ministry of Law and China's Ministry of Justice.

Letters of Intent (LOIs) to explore a Singapore-China Senior Officials Exchange Programme and to jointly develop the Third Country Training Programme.

A Data Exchange Agreement between the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and China's National Intellectual Property Administration.

The announcement of a China-Singapore over-the-counter (OTC) bond market initiative that will enhance access to China's RMB bond market through Singapore.

*President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda's **State Visit to Singapore***

The State Visit of President Andrzej Duda of the Republic of Poland to Singapore from 11 to 13 June 2025 has underscored the deepening bilateral relations and mutual interest in expanding cooperation across a wide spectrum — from trade and logistics to research, education, and digital innovation. The high-level engagements held during the visit reaffirmed the strategic significance both nations place on strengthening people-to-people, economic, and diplomatic linkages.

President Duda's three-day State Visit, accompanied by First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda and a high-level delegation, marked an important milestone in the steadily growing ties between Singapore and Poland. His arrival was met with a ceremonial welcome at Parliament House on 12 June 2025, where he called on Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

During their bilateral meeting, the two Heads of State reviewed the progress of relations and identified new areas for cooperation. Discussions were wide-ranging, encompassing opportunities in port and logistics development, agri-food exports, sustainable energy, digital trade, and research and development. Both leaders emphasised the importance of educational exchanges and innovation-driven partnerships as the world navigates the twin challenges of global instability and technological transformation. President Tharman hosted a State Banquet in honour of President Duda and First Lady Kornhauser-Duda, celebrating the enduring friendship and shared aspirations between the two countries. The banquet served not only as a symbol of diplomatic warmth but also as a platform to reinforce mutual trust and goodwill.

A symbolic highlight of the visit was the naming of a new orchid hybrid — *Dendrobium Andrzej* and *Agata Duda* — at the National Orchid Garden. This tradition, reserved for visiting dignitaries, represents Singapore's floral tribute and diplomatic welcome to distinguished guests, and further enriches the cultural tone of the visit. On 13 June, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong also called on President Duda, continuing the dialogue at the highest levels of government. Their meeting provided further momentum to the economic and strategic aspects of the bilateral relationship, with a



strong focus on expanding investment and innovation cooperation.

The economic dimension of the visit was brought to the fore at the Singapore-Poland Business Forum, co-organised by the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH), the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and the Singapore Business Federation. The forum convened business leaders, policymakers, and investors from both nations to explore collaborative ventures in emerging industries and markets. The presence of President Duda and his senior officials gave a clear signal of Poland's commitment to strengthening its economic footprint in Southeast Asia, with Singapore as a key gateway.

President Muizzu's State Visit to Singapore Marks 50 Years of Bilateral Relations

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of the Republic of Maldives undertook a state visit to Singapore from 30 June to 2 July 2025, at the invitation of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam. The visit marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and aimed to strengthen cooperation across several strategic sectors.

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of the Republic of Maldives conducted a state visit to Singapore from 30 June to 2 July 2025, upon the invitation of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam. The visit marked 50 years of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries and focused on expanding collaboration in areas of shared interest, including climate action, economic development, education, and governance.

During the visit, President Muizzu held bilateral meetings with both President Tharman and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong. The discussions highlighted the mutual challenges faced by small island nations, particularly in climate vulnerability and sustainable urban development. Leaders also explored opportunities for enhancing trade, vocational skills training, and public sector cooperation.

The two sides signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). One focuses on civil service capacity building under the Singapore Cooperation Programme. Another supports joint initiatives in environmental sustainability, with an emphasis on waste management and climate resilience. The third MOU promotes collaboration in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), enabling



institutional linkages between Singapore's Institute of Technical Education and Maldivian educational bodies. The visit underscored the enduring relationship and commitment to future cooperation between the two nations.

Minister Vivian Balakrishnan's Diplomatic Engagements *in the U.S. and France*

From Washington to Paris, Singapore's Foreign Minister reinforces key bilateral partnerships and multilateral commitments in security, innovation, and sustainability.

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, recently concluded working visits to the United States and France, underscoring Singapore's commitment to strengthening bilateral partnerships and contributing to global discussions on security, innovation, and sustainability.

In Washington D.C., from 4 to 7 June 2025, Dr Balakrishnan held a series of meetings with senior U.S. administration officials, Members of Congress, and think tank leaders. The visit marked the first high-level exchange following leadership transitions in both countries and reaffirmed the strong bipartisan support for U.S.-Singapore relations.

Discussions covered a broad range of topics, including defence cooperation, economic resilience, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and energy transition. Both sides reiterated their support for a rules-based international order and the importance of collaboration to address global challenges. At the Hudson Institute, Dr Balakrishnan also shared Singapore's perspective on the Indo-Pacific region and ASEAN's role in ensuring regional stability.

Dr Balakrishnan then travelled to France, where he attended the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice as one of its Vice-Presidents. He delivered Singapore's national statement and participated in panels on marine conservation and coastal resilience, representing both the Alliance of Small Island States and ASEAN.

In Paris, Dr Balakrishnan commemorated the 60th anniversary of Singapore-France diplomatic relations as Guest-of-Honour at a reception hosted by the Singapore Embassy. The visit reflected the



strong and growing partnership between both countries, particularly in areas such as climate action, digital innovation, and sustainable development.

Through these visits, Singapore reinforced its diplomatic priorities of active multilateralism and strong bilateral engagement—aligning with global efforts to address shared challenges while deepening collaboration with key partners.

Kazakhstan Senate Chairman *Maulen Ashimbayev Visits Singapore*

Official visit underscores growing cooperation between Singapore and Kazakhstan in governance, trade, and interfaith dialogue.

Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Maulen Ashimbayev, is on an official visit to Singapore at the invitation of Speaker of Parliament Seah Kian Peng. The visit reciprocates Speaker Seah's official trip to Kazakhstan in April 2024 and further strengthens parliamentary exchanges between the two nations.

On 24 June, Chairman Ashimbayev was hosted to lunch by Speaker Seah, where both leaders discussed initiatives to deepen inter-parliamentary cooperation. He also called on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, where discussions centred on enhancing bilateral ties, with a focus on interfaith dialogue, economic collaboration, and trade connectivity—building on the momentum from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's state visit in May 2024.

During his visit, Chairman Ashimbayev participated in the International Conference on Cohesive Societies and toured the Punggol Digital District to learn about Singapore's Smart City efforts.

Chairman Ashimbayev is accompanied by a delegation of four senators and senior officials from Kazakhstan.



International Yoga Day Celebrated in Singapore

The High Commission of India celebrates yoga's global message of unity and well-being at Gardens by the Bay.



The 11th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the Supertree Lawn, Gardens by the Bay, with over 300 yoga enthusiasts participating in a vibrant morning of unity and wellness. Organised by the High Commission of India in partnership with Gardens by the Bay, the event highlighted yoga's role in promoting holistic health and fostering cultural connections.

The yoga session was led by instructors from Vyasa Yoga, who guided participants through asanas and pranayama techniques, ensuring an invigorating and rejuvenating experience for all. The event also paid tribute to the United Nations' recognition of the International Day of Yoga in 2014.

The High Commission of India extended gratitude to the Minister, participants, Gardens by the Bay, and all involved in the success of the event. Beyond health benefits, the celebration served to reinforce cultural understanding and people-to-people ties between India and Singapore.

Guest of Honour Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Manpower, joined the occasion alongside the High Commissioner of India. In his welcome address, the High Commissioner reflected on this year's global theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," and praised Singapore's inclusive approach to yoga, emphasising its presence in schools, parks, and community spaces across the island.

Minister Dinesh Vasu Dash underscored yoga's ability to transcend borders, stating that yoga is accessible to people of all ages, genders, and physical abilities, while also marking the event as a symbol of strong bilateral ties between India and Singapore in this milestone year of 60 years of diplomatic relations.

"Yoga for One Earth, One Health reflects a universal vision, and Singapore's inclusive embrace of yoga in schools, parks, and communities truly exemplifies its spirit."

**— Dr. Shilpak Ambule,
High Commissioner of India to
Singapore**

Tashkent International Investment Forum 2025: A Platform for Dialogue and Economic Exchange

by Nomita Dhar



The Tashkent International Investment Forum (TIIF) returned for its 2025 edition from 9 to 12 June, drawing thousands of participants from across the globe. Among the attendees was IN Diplomacy Editor-in-Chief, Ms. Nomita Dhar, who was present to cover the event alongside government officials, business leaders and investors in a packed four-day agenda aimed at fostering economic cooperation, promoting Uzbekistan's investment potential, and showcasing industrial capabilities.



The Forum's main features was its series of 36 panel sessions. These dialogues gathered over 150 speakers — comprising investors, financial experts, policymakers, and representatives of multilateral institutions — to discuss key investment trends, economic forecasts, and cooperation opportunities.

TASHKENT — Held over four days across multiple venues in the capital of Uzbekistan, the 2025 Tashkent International Investment Forum brought together more than 8,000 delegates, with around 3,000 international participants from 97 countries. The event continues to evolve as a regional economic platform, reflecting increasing international attention toward Central Asia's economic development.

The Forum's opening day welcomed a wide range of stakeholders from government, business, and media. A total of 450 high-level delegates were in attendance, including 312 government representatives, signalling robust intergovernmental interest. The presence of international media — 114 accredited journalists from 31 countries — helped amplify the Forum's reach, with major outlets such as CNN, The Guardian, Euronews, Al Jazeera, and ZDF covering the proceedings.

One of the Forum's main features was its series of 36 panel sessions. These dialogues gathered over 150 speakers — comprising investors, financial experts, policymakers, and representatives of multilateral institutions — to discuss key investment trends, economic forecasts, and cooperation opportunities. Sessions explored topics ranging from green

transition and infrastructure development to digitalisation and regional connectivity. Many panellists stressed the importance of maintaining transparency and sustainability in foreign direct investment flows, particularly in emerging markets like Uzbekistan.

A notable innovation this year was the large-scale industrial exhibition, organised alongside the main forum. Covering 12,000 square meters, the exhibit showcased Uzbekistan's diverse industrial sectors, from traditional industries such as textiles and construction materials to more specialised areas like pharmaceuticals, mining, and information technology. Over 100 Uzbek manufacturers took part, presenting their goods and investment proposals to an international audience.

The exhibition reportedly attracted more than 2,000 visitors daily. It also provided a platform for more than 500 structured meetings between business entities and government stakeholders — known as B2B and B2G meetings — which served to deepen commercial engagement and clarify investment terms.

Significant commercial outcomes were also reported. Over the course of the Forum,



investment contracts and trade agreements totalling USD 30.5 billion were signed. While the details of many of these deals were not publicly disclosed, they are understood to span infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, and services — sectors that remain high priorities for Uzbekistan's long-term economic diversification strategy.

Uzbekistan has been working in recent years to improve its investment climate through regulatory reforms, infrastructure upgrades, and trade facilitation efforts. Events like the TIIF are positioned as part of this broader national strategy to attract investment and integrate more deeply into global supply chains.

In his concluding remarks, Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Laziz Kudratov, provided an overview of the Forum's outcomes. "All these important events brought together leading international investors, government officials, financial institutions, and business leaders. We look forward to meeting again in Tashkent next year — with new ideas, bold initiatives, and innovative formats."

While the long-term impact of the agreements signed will depend on implementation and follow-up, the 2025 edition of the TIIF succeeded in reinforcing Uzbekistan's aspirations to be a dynamic economic player in the region. The Forum highlighted the country's growing openness to external partnerships, its evolving industrial capacity, and its willingness to engage on equal terms with global stakeholders.

As the region navigates shifting geopolitical and economic landscapes, forums like TIIF serve not only as investment showcases, but also as meeting grounds where practical cooperation can be forged. The level of participation in 2025 suggests that Uzbekistan's message is resonating — at least among those seeking new and emerging markets for investment and collaboration.



Trade Talks with IN Diplomacy

Connecting Economies, Exploring New Opportunities

Trade is a vital pillar of diplomacy, serving not only as a bridge between governments but also as a channel for long-term partnerships and shared growth. As global trade continues to evolve amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics, countries are adapting their strategies to foster economic cooperation, diversify markets, and build resilience.

In this ongoing series, IN Diplomacy spotlights opportunities that Singapore-based businesses and investors can explore across diverse regions. Through bilateral dialogues and embassy-led briefings, we feature perspectives and priorities from partner nations looking to deepen trade engagement with Singapore and Southeast Asia.

This edition includes updates from Cambodia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and Ukraine—each presenting

distinct pathways for collaboration in areas such as infrastructure, innovation, energy, digital trade, and investment facilitation.

As regional integration and global partnerships take center stage, these insights offer a valuable reference for businesses, trade professionals, and policymakers navigating the next phase of international cooperation.

Mexico



Dear Importers

Mexican Embassy in
Singapore invites
you to buy from
Mexico

To all

Traders and Importers
in Singapore

Egypt



Dear Importers

Egypt Embassy in
Singapore invites
you to buy from
Egypt

To all

Traders and Importers
in Singapore

New Zealand



Dear Importers

Mexican Embassy in
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Ukraine



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Thailand



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Indonesia



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Kazakhstan



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in Singapore

Cambodia



Dear Importers

Cambodia Embassy
in Singapore invites
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Cambodia

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Traders and Importers
in Singapore

TRADE TALKS WITH CAMBODIA

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Singapore outlines regulatory frameworks, economic potential, and collaborative opportunities for Singaporean businesses.

THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA
IN SINGAPORE



Are there any particular regulations or compliance requirements for importing or exporting to and from your country?

Of course, Cambodia has specific regulations and compliance requirements for importing and exporting goods, governed primarily by the Law on Customs, the Law on Management of Quality and Safety of Products and Services, and related sub-decrees and prakas (ministerial decisions). All imported goods must be declared to the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), under the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Importers are subject to duties and taxes ranging from 0% to 35%, along with 10% VAT and special taxes for goods such as alcohol, tobacco, and fuel. In some cases, import licences or authorisations from line ministries are required, such as from the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

To ensure product quality and safety, goods must meet standards overseen by the Institute of Standards of Cambodia (ISC), and some require pre-shipment inspection and laboratory testing. Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures apply

to food and agriculture imports. Exporters must register with the Ministry of Commerce, and depending on the goods, obtain necessary export licences and Certificates of Origin (COs) for preferential access under FTAs like ASEAN-China and RCEP.



TRADE TALKS WITH EGYPT

Egypt's growing export capacity – reaching a record USD 41 billion in non-oil exports in 2024 – offers strong opportunities in agri-food, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and building materials.

THE EMBASSY OF THE ARAB
REPUBLIC OF EGYPT IN SINGAPORE

What are the most promising sectors for foreign trade and investment in your country?

Egypt has many opportunities in trade and investment that cover many domains. As Egypt has made very big achievements in terms of promoting foreign trade in the last few years, Egypt has reached an unprecedented figure of 41 billion Dollars of non-oil exports in 2024. This figure reflected the growing export capabilities of the country. Trade in agri-food products like fruits and vegetables, fertilizers, cement, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, furniture, and leather

products is one of the main products that Egypt has been very successful in exporting in the last few years. On the other hand, investment in infrastructure and urban development, electronics and IT, Renewable energy projects, and agri-food industries have also been very attractive to foreign investments in Egypt and are still open for more FDI.

What types of partnerships are you currently seeking — investment, innovation, education, etc.?

Egypt is a fast-growing economy and society, with current partnerships

with tens of countries around the World, including Singapore, covering many areas with many other areas to explore, including IT, Education, capacity building, industry, energy, and renewable Energy etc.



TRADE TALKS WITH INDONESIA

The Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore shares insights on bilateral trade, product availability, regulatory frameworks, and areas for deeper economic partnership.

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA IN SINGAPORE

What are the main products traded between Indonesia and its international partners?

For the past decade, Indonesia has stood as one of the best emerging economies and a commodities powerhouse in global trade. Indonesia's top exports are dominated by manufacturing goods and natural resources. Indonesia's exports of manufacturing goods serve as the backbone of its export structure. Some of the notable products include electronic and electrical products, appliances and machinery, steel and stainless-steel products,

automotive products, footwear, apparel and clothing products, and rubber products. These exports are complemented by a prominent share of commodities. Mineral fuels such as coal and petroleum accounted for 21% of Indonesia's export value last year. Palm oil products, another staple export, represented more than 11% of Indonesia's total exports.

Other emerging commodities include metal products such as iron, copper, and nickel. The export of these products aligns with Indonesia's key policy of downstreaming in the mineral sector and the effort to

integrate strategically into the global manufacturing value chain. In turn, Indonesia's key imports reflect its development needs. Machinery and equipment, electronics, and refined oil for domestic industries together account for over a quarter of total imports.



What are the top traded items between Kazakhstan and other countries?

Kazakhstan's main exports include crude oil, natural gas, ferrous metals, uranium, copper, wheat, and oilseeds, primarily destined for China, the EU, Russia, and Central Asian nations. Imports comprise machinery, vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods from countries such as Russia, China, Germany, and South Korea. The government is actively promoting diversification, especially in agriculture, to reduce reliance on extractives. Kazakhstan also plays a key logistical role in Eurasia, with

around 80% of Asia-Europe overland transit crossing its territory. The Middle Corridor (Trans-Caspian International Transport Route) reduces freight time significantly compared to maritime routes. Infrastructure investments under China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's Global Gateway enhance Kazakhstan's standing as a critical trade and transit hub.

What are the positives and bottlenecks of trading with Kazakhstan?

Kazakhstan's geographic position at the heart of Eurasia, its substantial natural resources, and its membership

in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) offer exporters and investors preferential access to a market of over 180 million people. Additional incentives include investment-friendly legislation, designated Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and customs digitisation to streamline procedures.



TRADE TALKS WITH KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan offers Singapore opportunities in energy, metals, agriculture, and logistics, supported by the 2025 S&I Agreement and business facilitation platforms like KSBC and Kazakh Invest.

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN IN SINGAPORE

TRADE TALKS WITH MEXICO

Mexico offers Singapore growing opportunities in agri-food, medical devices, energy, and advanced manufacturing, supported by the CPTPP and active facilitation from the Embassy and business chambers.

THE EMBASSY OF MEXICO IN
SINGAPORE



How does your country rank in terms of ease of doing business or trade?

Mexico has historically ranked in the upper half globally for ease of doing business. In the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report, Mexico ranked 60th out of 190 economies. It was the best-ranked country in Latin America. Mexico offers relatively straightforward procedures for starting a business, registering property, and trading across borders, although challenges remain in areas like enforcing contracts and dealing with construction permits.

What steps can foreign companies take to better understand or adapt to your country's regulatory environment?

Foreign companies should consider engaging local legal and accounting experts to navigate tax, labor, and business regulations. Mexico offers special frameworks for contract manufacturing and temporary imports that may be attractive to different operations. It is also advisable to consult with the Embassy of Mexico, the Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, and local government authorities or chambers of commerce

for insights on investments and regulations. Each local government in Mexico has a dedicated agency for the economic promotion and attraction of Foreign Direct Investment, providing unique insights on the location of clusters, availability of services, and local talent.



How can your country support or encourage exporters to place products on Singaporean (or other international) shelves?

New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) is New Zealand's trade promotional agency with the purpose of "Growing companies internationally – bigger, better, faster – for the good of New Zealand (and Singapore!). In collaboration with other New Zealand government agencies we inform, educate and inspire companies on the opportunities of entering and doing business in Singapore and more broadly into ASEAN. This approach

is amplified by our Prime Minister and Ministers who have travelled extensively through Southeast and East Asia with PM/Ministerial Missions and Trade Delegations into Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam and India over the last 18 months. This drives awareness of New Zealand in Asia but also highlights the regional opportunities in New Zealand. In addition, New Zealand has numerous FTAs with Singapore, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement which reduces tariffs and trade barriers, making it easier for exporters to access international markets – during the

TRADE TALKS WITH NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand and Singapore share robust trade ties worth NZD\$5.45 billion, anchored by dairy, energy, and transport services, and strengthened by multiple FTAs including the CPTPP.

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF
NEW ZEALAND IN SINGAPORE

2024 Mission a new "Supply Chains and Connectivity" pillar was added to the agreement and negotiations are underway to develop an "Agreement on Trade in Essential Supplies."



TRADE TALKS WITH PHILIPPINES

The Philippines offers strong investment potential in renewable energy, digital infrastructure, semiconductors, and healthcare manufacturing, backed by major reforms like the CREATE MORE Act and a USD 26 billion infrastructure push.

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES IN SINGAPORE



Which sectors in the Philippines offer the greatest potential for trade and investment opportunities?

At the 2025 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, the Philippines highlighted its economic resilience, sustainable development agenda, and inclusive growth strategy. Ambassador to the WTO Manuel Teehankee underscored the nation's strong fundamentals and active global engagement. Alongside House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who stressed Asia's rising global influence and the Philippines' leadership ahead of its ASEAN 2026

chairmanship, the delegation engaged with international CEOs on growth sectors including digital finance, infrastructure, renewable energy, technology, and MSME development.

At the Pulse of Asia Conference 2025 in Singapore, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick D. Go spotlighted the Philippines' robust investment potential under the Marcos Jr. administration. He outlined priority sectors such as renewable energy, semiconductors, digital infrastructure, critical minerals, and healthcare manufacturing—areas aligned with

global trends and backed by strong policy reforms. With initiatives including a 35% renewable energy target by 2030, a growing data centre market, and over USD 26 billion in infrastructure investment for 2025, the Philippines is positioning itself as a strategic investment destination in Asia.



What kind of partnerships is your country seeking — investment, technology transfer, education, etc.?

Thailand is open to diverse forms of partnerships, particularly in investment, digital transformation, clean and green technologies, innovation, human capital development, and education. We also encourage collaborations that contribute to sustainable growth and align with Thailand's Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model.

In 2024, Thailand saw a significant increase in investment applications, reaching a 10-year high with a total

of 1.14 trillion baht (approximately US\$32.8 billion), marking a 35% rise from the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by foreign investments in data centers and cloud services. Thailand values partnerships that enhance skills and knowledge, supporting initiatives in vocational training, higher education exchanges, and research collaborations. Aligning with the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model, Thailand seeks partnerships promoting sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and environmental conservation.

Are there any trade agreements or initiatives that can facilitate trade between Singapore and Thailand?

TRADE TALKS WITH THAILAND

Thailand's top exports include electronics, vehicles, processed food, and rubber, with 2024 exports totaling US\$300.76 billion. The country seeks diverse partnerships in investment, innovation, green technology, and education to drive its Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model forward.

THE ROYAL THAI EMBASSY
IN SINGAPORE

Singapore traders are encouraged to explore a new wave of modern Thai products that reflect innovation, creativity, and sustainability. These include future food solutions such as plant-based protein, functional beverages, and smart packaging, driven by Thailand's growing agri-tech and food innovation ecosystem.



TRADE TALKS WITH UKRAINE

Despite ongoing challenges, Ukraine ranks moderately (61/190) in ease of doing business, driven by reforms like digital services and investor protection. The country offers strong trade potential, particularly in agri-food, metals, and IT, with expanding markets in the EU, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

THE EMBASSY OF UKRAINE IN SINGAPORE

How does your country rank in terms of ease of doing business and trade?

The current landscape of Ukraine reflects a nation in transformation, driven by the ongoing reforms and resilience amidst challenges. Despite the backdrop of the conflict, Ukraine's economy continues to evolve, with notable advancements in sectors like agriculture and IT. The export success in grain, sunflower oil, along with innovative services underscore Ukraine's growing role in global markets. Moreover, improvements in business indicators such as ease of starting a business as well as investor

protection mechanisms, signal a positive trajectory for entrepreneurship and foreign investment. As Ukraine navigates its path towards the EU membership, these developments lay a promising foundation for future economic growth and prosperity.

A rank of 61 out of 190 suggests that Ukraine offers a moderately favorable environment for entrepreneurs to initiate new business ventures. Factors influencing this ranking could include time, procedures, and costs involved in registering a business, obtaining necessary permits, and complying with regulatory requirements. To a

large extent, this was facilitated by the launch of the digital Diia service, which simplified many procedures for filing documents.



SMF and Sun Media MOU- A new partnership aims to boost media visibility and public engagement in Singapore's manufacturing landscape.

The Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and Sun Media Singapore have formally entered into a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), setting the stage for enhanced communications and outreach across the nation's manufacturing sector. Signed at a ceremony attended by industry and diplomatic representatives, the MOU designates Sun Media as SMF's preferred communications partner for select TGIF@SMF sessions and other key industry events. The collaboration seeks to promote storytelling, increase editorial exposure, and raise the profile of manufacturing excellence in Singapore.

The agreement was signed by Mr Dennis Mark, Chief Executive Officer of SMF, and Ms Nomita Dhar, Founding Editor of Sun Media. It was witnessed by Mr Melvin Tan, Vice President and Honorary Secretary of SMF, and Mr Umid Khojikhonov, Third Secretary at the Embassy of Uzbekistan. Joining with Ms. Nomita at the event special guests including Mr Ciro Pérez Silva, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Mexico, and Ms Susie Wong, Director of RPA AGENCY PTE LTD.

Key objectives of the partnership include joint promotion of key industry initiatives, increase editorial and media coverage for SMF members via Sun Media, enable co-branded storytelling and thought leadership content, and expand cross-sector visibility through diplomatic and business networks.

This initiative underscores the shared vision of SMF and Sun Media to champion the evolving narrative of Singapore's manufacturing sector, fostering greater engagement both locally and on the global stage.



National Day Receptions

Timor-Leste Marks 23 Years of Independence with Diplomatic Reception in Singapore

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Singapore held a commemorative reception on Monday evening at Voco Orchard, marking the 23rd Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence Day. The event was led by H.E. Ambassador Alexandre Tilman and Mrs. Antonieta Chung, and attended by esteemed diplomats, officials, and business leaders. Guest-of-Honour Indranee Thurai Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore, delivered the keynote address. The evening was marked by reflection on Timor-Leste's post-independence progress and its imminent accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), anticipated by the 47th ASEAN Summit. The event highlighted not only national pride but also the evolving bilateral relations between Timor-Leste and Singapore.

Ambassador Alexandre Tilman, speaking on behalf of President José Ramos Horta, shared heartfelt sentiments, "We celebrate not only the 23rd anniversary of our restoration of independence, but also our growing partnership with Singapore, a nation that extended a hand of friendship since our earliest days of sovereignty."



Philippine Embassy Celebrates Independence Day in Singapore with Cultural Tribute and Deepening PH-SG Relations



The Philippine Embassy in Singapore hosted a diplomatic reception on 11 June 2025 at Orchard Hotel to commemorate the 127th Anniversary of Philippine Independence and Nationhood. The event, attended by more than 350 guests, from the diplomatic corps, Singapore government, business and academic sectors, and the Embassy's institutional partners.

In his welcome address, Philippine Ambassador Medardo G. Macaraig reaffirmed the strengthening relationship between the Philippines and Singapore, citing recent high-level exchanges, including Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's visit to Manila in June 2025 and President Tharman Shanmugaratnam's

state visit to the Philippines in August 2024. Ambassador Macaraig also spotlighted new areas of bilateral cooperation such as carbon credits, biodiversity conservation, and digital innovation. He paid tribute to the 220,000-strong Filipino community in Singapore for their vital contributions across diverse sectors. Minister Chee, in his remarks, congratulated the Philippines and expressed confidence in the continued growth of ties, rooted in mutual trust, regional priorities, and vibrant people-to-people links.

Mongolia and Singapore Mark 55 Years of Diplomatic Relations with Reception in Singapore

On 27 June 2025, the Embassy of Mongolia in the Republic of Singapore hosted a commemorative reception to mark the National Day of Mongolia and the 55th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Mongolia and Singapore. The event served as a moment of reflection on the steady development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Held at a central location in Singapore, the reception brought together approximately 100 attendees, including representatives from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, diplomatic corps, partner institutions, and the Mongolian community residing in Singapore.

The evening commenced with an address by His Excellency Mr. Sosorbaram Enkhbayar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Singapore. In his remarks, he highlighted significant milestones in Mongolia-Singapore relations over the past five decades, underlining the importance of continued collaboration in areas such as trade, education, and people-to-people exchanges.



**INVITING ALL MISSIONS AND PARTNERS TO WISH
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