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SINGAPORE



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

AMBASSADORS' AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS' MESSAGES ON SINGAPORE'S 60TH NATIONAL DAY

FEATURING

**BRUNEI | CAMBODIA | DENMARK | EGYPT
HUNGARY | ITALY | MEXICO | MONGOLIA
PAKISTAN | PERU | PHILIPPINES
SAUDI ARABIA | SOUTH AFRICA | THAILAND
UKRAINE | VENEZUELA | VIETNAM**

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Singapore at 60: Time to Celebrate

As Singapore celebrates its 60th year of independence, the occasion invites both reflection and recalibration. From a vulnerable city-state in 1965 to a globally respected hub of trade, diplomacy, and innovation, Singapore's journey has been defined by disciplined governance and strategic foresight. SG60 is not just a commemoration of national resilience—it is a reaffirmation of Singapore's place in the world.

Foreign policy has long been a quiet cornerstone of Singapore's success. Built on principles of realism, multilateralism, and constructive engagement, the city-state's approach has enabled it to punch above its weight in global affairs. As Prime Minister Lawrence Wong noted in his 2025 S Rajaratnam Lecture, Singapore remains “a safe harbour in a turbulent world,” committed to upholding international law, open trade, and principled diplomacy.

This year's launch of the Saudi-Singapore Strategic Partnership Council exemplifies Singapore's evolving foreign policy in action. It reflects a broader shift toward omni-directional engagement—deepening ties not only with traditional partners but also with emerging powers across the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. As Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan emphasized, Singapore must remain open and inclusive while navigating multipolarity with clarity and purpose.

We extend our sincere thanks to the diplomatic missions of Brunei, Cambodia, Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Saudi Arabia for their warm National Day messages and continued friendship. Their contributions to this edition reflect the strength and diversity of Singapore's global partnerships. We are grateful for the collaboration with each mission in highlighting shared priorities and expanding bilateral cooperation.

Under its fourth-generation leadership, Singapore's foreign policy remains anchored in continuity, but not complacency. The global order is shifting—from unipolarity to multipolarity, from rules-based stability to fragmented competition. In this landscape, Singapore's strategic posture is clear: build resilient partnerships, uphold norms, and remain a trusted, agile interlocutor on the global stage.

SG60 is a moment to celebrate, but also to prepare. The next chapter of Singapore's foreign policy will demand the same discipline, adaptability, and strategic clarity that have defined its first six decades. If history is any guide, Singapore will meet that challenge with quiet confidence and enduring relevance.



As Singapore celebrates its 60th year of independence, the occasion invites both reflection and recalibration. From a vulnerable city-state in 1965 to a globally respected hub of trade, diplomacy, and innovation, Singapore's journey has been defined by disciplined governance and strategic foresight. SG60 is not just a commemoration of national resilience—it is a reaffirmation of Singapore's place in the world.

Welcoming New Diplomats

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.



Her Excellency Ferdousi Shahriar
The High Commissioner of
the People's Republic of Bangladesh

High Commissioner Ferdousi Shahriar is a career diplomat who joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in January 1999. Prior to this, High Commissioner Shahriar served as Additional Foreign Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka. She was previously Director-General of the Ministry's Myanmar Wing from 2023 to May 2025. Her earlier assignments include Director-General of the Americas Wing and Director in the Office of the Foreign Secretary.

High Commissioner Shahriar has also served in various overseas postings. These include Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, D.C., Assistant High Commissioner in Manchester and Counsellor at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Rome.

She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Dhaka and a Master's degree in Diplomacy and Trade from Monash University in Australia.



His Excellency Jaime José López Badía
The Ambassador of
the Republic of El Salvador

Ambassador Jaime José López Badía most recently served as El Salvador's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (ROK), with concurrent accreditation to Malaysia and the Philippines. Ambassador López Badía's diplomatic career began in 2005 and includes extensive responsibilities in consular affairs, bilateral cooperation, and trade promotion. He brings over 20 years of experience in public service, diplomacy, and Asian studies, having previously held senior postings in the ROK and Taiwan.

Ambassador López Badía holds two Master's degrees from leading Taiwanese institutions: an Executive Master's in Asia-Pacific Political Studies from Tamkang University and an International MBA from National Chengchi University. He also holds a Bachelor's in Economics and Business from the Superior School of Economics and Business in El Salvador, and has completed more than half a dozen specialised certifications in areas such as trade negotiations, regional integration, and investment promotion.

Throughout his career, Ambassador López Badía has played a pivotal role in negotiating economic agreements with Taiwan, the European Union, and the Caribbean Community. He has also represented El Salvador in multilateral trade forums including the World Trade Organization. Ambassador



His Excellency Martin Makururu
The Ambassador of
the Republic of Zimbabwe

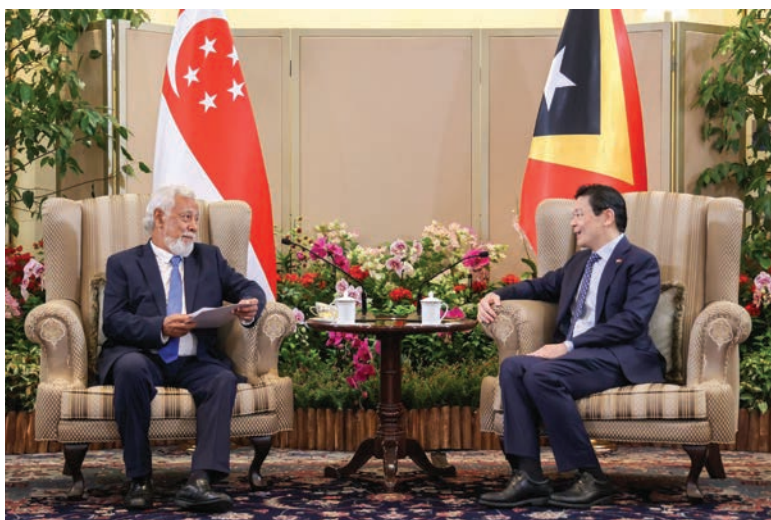
Ambassador Martin Makururu has been Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Indonesia since August 2024, with concurrent accreditation to Laos since July 2025. He was Director of Human Resources and Training in the Zimbabwe Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade from 2022 to 2024, and has been posted to Zimbabwe's diplomatic missions in South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Namibia. During his career at the foreign ministry, he also held positions in the Protocol and Administration Departments, and on the Africa, America, Europe, and Pacific Desks.

Ambassador Makururu graduated from the University of Zimbabwe with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economic History and obtained a Postgraduate Degree from the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in London, United Kingdom.

Prime Minister of Timor-Leste

Xanana Gusmão visit to Singapore

Singapore reaffirmed its commitment to regional partnership as Prime Minister Lawrence Wong welcomed Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão on 14 July 2025, marking a key step forward in strengthening bilateral ties and supporting Timor-Leste's path to ASEAN membership.



In a significant diplomatic gesture underscoring Singapore's commitment to strengthening regional ties, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong welcomed the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, to Singapore on 14 July 2025. This high-level visit signals a new chapter in bilateral relations between the two countries as Timor-Leste prepares for full ASEAN membership.

During their meeting, both leaders engaged in fruitful discussions aimed at deepening cooperation in several key areas, notably in human resource development and capacity building. Prime Minister Wong's decision to host an official lunch for Prime Minister Gusmão further highlights the warmth and importance Singapore attaches to its relationship with Timor-Leste.

A major outcome of the visit was Singapore's announcement of a customised enhanced Singapore-Timor-Leste ASEAN Readiness Support (eSTARS) Package, which will run from July 2025 to December 2028. This initiative is a strategic move to support Timor-Leste's upcoming accession to ASEAN, a milestone long anticipated by the regional bloc.

The eSTARS Package is a timely and thoughtful initiative. It not only facilitates Timor-Leste's ASEAN integration through access to ASEAN-related training and expertise but also goes beyond ASEAN matters to include scholarships, leadership development, and specialised capacity-building programmes tailored for Timorese officials. Such a comprehensive support framework reflects Singapore's broader regional vision — one that is inclusive, developmental, and anchored in shared progress.

As the youngest nation in Southeast Asia, Timor-Leste stands at a crucial juncture in its national development. Singapore's proactive engagement and support underscore the city-state's belief in the potential of regional cooperation to uplift and empower nations. The partnership also reflects ASEAN's founding spirit of mutual assistance, stability, and unity in diversity.

In welcoming Prime Minister Gusmão, Singapore is doing more than engaging in diplomacy — it is investing in the region's future. The path to ASEAN membership for Timor-Leste may be complex, but with strong and steady support from regional partners like Singapore, the journey is one of promise and progress.



As the eSTARS initiative unfolds over the next three years, it is expected to serve as a model for how larger and more developed ASEAN members can play a constructive and empowering role in nurturing the capabilities of newer members. The seeds of collaboration planted today are sure to yield dividends of peace, stability, and prosperity for the region tomorrow.

"We share the pride of your nation's remarkable journey," says **HE Hajah Noor Qamar Haji Sulaiman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam**

As Singapore marks 60 years of independence, Brunei reflects on four decades of strong bilateral relations rooted in history, trust, and regional cooperation.



As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, Her Excellency Hajah Noor Qamar Haji Sulaiman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Singapore, has extended warm congratulations to Singapore on its 60th year of independence. The message also commemorates a key milestone in bilateral ties—40 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei and Singapore, established in January 1984 following Brunei's independence.

Brunei Darussalam and Singapore marked an important milestone in 2024, celebrating forty years of diplomatic relations, established in January 1984 after Brunei Darussalam gained independence. This occasion not only celebrates our shared journey but also reaffirms a partnership

grounded in a common vision and strong, lasting ties.

The history of our relationship predates formal diplomatic ties, rooted in the enduring friendship between the late Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien III and Singapore's founding father, the late Prime Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. As two small Southeast Asian nations with a shared vision and aspirations, we have continued to collaborate closely in multifaceted areas of cooperation, bringing mutual benefit to our people and countries. The unique and special ties have led to the Currency Interchangeability Agreement and robust defence ties enjoyed today.

The exchanges of visits at all levels have also laid a solid foundation for our bilateral relations. Upon assuming office in 2024, President

Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong made Brunei Darussalam their first official overseas engagement. The Young Leaders Programme, which reached its 10th milestone iteration in 2024, was celebrated when His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, visited Singapore.

Over the past four decades, our bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, education, defence, and people-to-people exchanges has expanded in depth and scope. Amid an increasingly complex global landscape marked by geopolitical tensions and geo-economic uncertainties, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore have continued to cooperate closely, identifying new key areas such as the green economy and food security to ensure the mutual resilience of our people.

These forward-looking initiatives reflect our mutual commitment to ensuring our enduring partnership remains relevant. Over the years, our collaboration has yielded meaningful results across various sectors, benefiting our

people and countries. The partnership cultivated over many generations exemplifies the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect and understanding shared between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. As Singapore celebrates its 60th year of independence on 9 August 2025, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations and very warm wishes to the people and Government of Singapore. We share the pride of your nation's remarkable journey, and we look forward to many more years of meaningful cooperation. Guided by a shared vision for peace, resilience, and sustainable growth in ASEAN and beyond, I am confident that the Brunei Darussalam–Singapore relations will continue to flourish, fostering greater prosperity and cooperation for future generations.

Singapore and Brunei maintain a unique Currency Interchangeability Agreement, allowing both the Brunei dollar and Singapore dollar to be legal tender in either country—a symbol of financial integration and trust. Defence cooperation is extensive, with regular joint exercises such as Exercise Airguard and Exercise Pelican, and the Singapore Armed Forces maintaining a jungle training facility in Brunei's Temburong district.

*This year marks significant milestone of Singapore's journey **says H.E. SOK Khoeun, Ambassador of Cambodia***

In a double celebration, Singapore marks its 60th year of independence alongside 60 years of diplomatic relations with Cambodia, reaffirming shared values and future cooperation.



long-lasting connections that we see today. Over the past 60 years, both countries have enjoyed long-standing robust and excellent relations and multifaceted cooperation in various sectors such as economy, trade and investment, security and defense, education, tourism, culture and people-to-people connectivity. Both leaders agreed on the importance of deepening new emerging cooperative fields including renewable energy and carbon credits, driving the decarbonization of economy.

While the world is changing, more complicated and uncertain, Cambodia and Singapore as like-minded countries in the world, have worked closely to strengthen multilateralism and rule-based international order as well as bilaterally and within regional frameworks such as ASEAN to advance the interests of our people and region. Both countries share common interest to open and free trade, prosperity, security and growth in the region and beyond. We do believe that bilateral ties and partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength and further deepen to even greater heights for the benefits of our people.

Cambodia was one of the first countries to recognize Singapore's independence in August 1965, establishing diplomatic ties just a day after Singapore's separation from Malaysia. This early gesture of solidarity laid the foundation for a relationship marked by resilience, pragmatism, and mutual respect.

As Singapore celebrates 60th anniversary of its independence. This year marks significant milestone of Singapore's journey. It is our great honor to extend our warmest congratulation and best wishes to the Government and friendly people of Singapore on this joyous occasion of Happy Singapore 60th Birthday.

We wish to sincerely congratulate Singapore for this journey of transformation from the third world country to the top one, achievements, prosperity, and social harmony and cohesion that serve as an inspiring model for countries around the

world. We strongly believe that Singapore will continue to thrive and shine brightly on the world stage.

On the other hand, Cambodia and Singapore commemorate 60 years of diplomatic ties. This momentous occasion bears testimony to the enduring friendship, mutual respect and partnership that the two countries have nurtured. Cambodia was among the first countries to recognize Singapore's independence. However, the old generations of our two countries started building their relations even before Singapore's independence, laying the foundations for strong and

"Growing greener together through 60 years of partnership," says HE Jakob Brix Tange, Ambassador of Denmark

Denmark joins Singapore in marking 60 years of independence and six decades of enduring bilateral relations built on innovation, sustainability, and shared values.



features in the Embassy's commemorative logo.

The Singapore-Denmark relationship is anchored in strong economic ties, particularly in the maritime sector. Denmark established its first consulate in Singapore in 1845 to prepare for the arrival of the Danish exploration vessel Galathea in 1846. This long-standing maritime connection remains a defining feature of the bilateral relationship today.

Today, Singapore and Denmark are leading maritime nations that punch above their weight when it comes to sustainability in global shipping. Our collaboration focuses on decarbonising the shipping industry, promoting net-zero emissions in maritime trade, and developing sustainable port infrastructure. Despite lacking natural resources, both Singapore and Denmark have cultivated innovation-driven economies. From quantum technologies and fintech to green technology and maritime innovation, their universities, start-ups, and corporations collaborate closely. There are currently more than 400 Danish companies registered in Singapore, benefitting from the innovation system, talent pool and ease of doing business.

As Singapore celebrates its Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years of independence, the Kingdom of Denmark extends its warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore. In this momentous year, both nations also commemorate six decades of diplomatic relations – a partnership grounded in mutual respect, green ambition, and forward-looking cooperation.

As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the Embassy of Denmark reflects on the evolution of this longstanding relationship, which has extended far beyond political ties into economic collaboration, innovation, and sustainability.

Denmark and Singapore's green ties date back over 200 years to the establishment of Singapore's first botanic garden. In 1822, Danish botanist and surgeon Nathaniel Wallich played a key role in its founding at the invitation of Sir Stamford Raffles. This moment marked the beginning of a deep-rooted partnership in sustainability that has only strengthened over the centuries.

The two nations continue to work closely on sustainability initiatives, including renewable energy development, green transition, and environmental innovation – continuing to grow greener together, most recently symbolised by the anniversary theme "Growing Greener Together", which also

"With a rich heritage in maritime and culture of innovation, both our nations are committed to digital transformation, maritime excellence and green transition. Looking ahead, I hope our partnership will continue to evolve, embracing new challenges and opportunities. The next 60 years will hopefully be shaped by deeper cooperation, stronger economic ties, and a shared vision of green transition that will leave a lasting global impact. Congratulations to Singapore on 60 years as an independent nation and to where Singapore is today. A remarkable feat!"

- His Excellency Jakob Brix Tange, Ambassador of Denmark to Singapore, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and aspirations for the future

A year of deepening ties in diplomacy, development, and dialogue," says HE Ahmed Mostafa, Ambassador of Egypt

As Singapore celebrates six decades of independence, the Egyptian Embassy marks the occasion with a message of goodwill and a look back at the longstanding Egypt–Singapore relationship.



As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, this special report highlights the evolving and multi-faceted relations between Egypt and Singapore from July 2024 to July 2025 — a year marked by high-level exchanges, deepening economic ties, and closer cooperation in religious and social sectors.

Egypt, which was the first Arab and Middle Eastern nation to recognise Singapore's independence in 1965, formally established diplomatic relations in 1966. Since then, bilateral ties have remained consistently warm, grounded in shared interests and mutual respect.

Over the past year, both nations have maintained regular high-level engagement. Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong met with Egyptian

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the final day of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 18–19 November 2024, reaffirming bilateral cooperation on global platforms. Earlier, on 23 September 2024, Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan met his Egyptian counterpart Dr Badr Abdelatty in New York during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman visited Egypt in December 2024 to attend the Cairo Ministerial Conference on Gaza. During his trip, he held bilateral talks with Minister Abdelatty and reiterated Singapore's support for regional humanitarian efforts and intergovernmental dialogue.

In January 2025, Minister for Social and Family

Development and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, conducted a working visit to Egypt. He met with the Grand Mufti of Egypt, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the Minister of Religious Endowments, and the Minister of Social Solidarity, exploring avenues for cooperation in religious education and social welfare.

Egypt also sent senior officials to Singapore. In April 2025, Minister of Social Solidarity Dr Maya Morsy participated in the International Conference on Societies of Opportunities. She held extensive discussions with Minister Masagos to expand collaboration in community development and women's empowerment. In June 2025, His Eminence Dr Nazir Mohamed Ayyad, Egypt's Grand Mufti, visited Singapore and was received by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam. The meeting underscored the countries' shared values and highlighted the importance of dialogue between religious and academic institutions.

On the strategic front, Major General Hany Shabana, Head of the Military Research Authority, led the Egyptian delegation to the 22nd IISS Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore from May to June 2025, engaging with regional partners on defence and security issues.

Economic relations remain a cornerstone of bilateral ties. Singapore is the fifth-largest Asian investor in Egypt, with investments totalling approximately USD 1 billion in sectors such as logistics, agriculture, IT, food processing, and plastics. These ventures have supported local job creation and contributed to Egypt's export capacity.

In 2024, the bilateral trade volume reached USD 360 million. Singapore's exports to Egypt totalled USD 267 million, while imports from Egypt stood at USD 93 million. Both countries have expressed the political will to expand these figures through further collaboration in trade and industry.

Over the past year, Egypt and Singapore have maintained regular high-level engagement. Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the final day of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 18–19 November 2024, reaffirming bilateral cooperation on global platforms. Earlier, on 23 September 2024, Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan met his Egyptian counterpart Dr Badr Abdelatty in New York during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"Promoting mutual understanding and people-to-people connections," says **HE Judit Pach, Ambassador of Hungary**

Marking over half a century of diplomatic ties, Hungary and Singapore reaffirm their strong and evolving relationship through political dialogue, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange.



As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, Hungary joins in the celebration of Singapore's 60th year of independence by commemorating a milestone of its own—55 years of diplomatic relations with the Republic. Established in 1970, Hungary–Singapore ties have grown into a comprehensive partnership anchored in mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to rules-based international cooperation.

The past year has seen intensified engagement between the two countries, especially at the ministerial level. In 2024 and early 2025, Singapore welcomed three Hungarian cabinet members—Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Culture and Innovation

János Csák, and Minister of Justice Bence Tuzson. These high-level visits underscore the importance both governments place on sustained political dialogue and strategic coordination, particularly amid evolving global challenges.

Economic ties continue to strengthen, with bilateral trade reaching USD 1.5 billion in 2024. Hungarian exports to Singapore include machinery, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and gourmet food products, while imports from Singapore largely comprise high-tech components, precision instruments, and biotechnology solutions. At the same time, Hungarian enterprises—especially those in information and communications technology (ICT), data services, and smart technologies—are

increasingly drawn to Singapore's transparent and innovation-driven economy.

In return, Singapore has become the largest Southeast Asian investor in Hungary, with over 120 companies operating across various sectors and a cumulative investment exceeding USD 8 billion. The significance of this economic relationship was highlighted in the Singapore Manufacturing Federation's 2024 White Paper on Hungary, which introduced Hungary as a strategic hub for Southeast Asian businesses expanding into Europe. The paper has served as a platform for knowledge exchange and investment exploration.

On the scientific front, the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN) and the Energy Research Institute at Nanyang Technological University (ERI@N) have signed a strategic partnership agreement to establish a joint research lab in Budapest, focusing on hydrogen storage and smart grid technologies. Biomedical collaboration is also advancing, with Semmelweis University and the National University of Singapore maintaining active research and academic exchange programmes.

Cultural diplomacy has played a key role in further strengthening bilateral ties. In October 2024, Hungary launched the first-ever

Hungarian Month in Singapore, which presented more than 30 events over five weeks. The programme offered a dynamic mix of music, film, gastronomy, innovation showcases, and design exhibitions, and culminated in a sold-out gala concert by the legendary Plácido Domingo, attended by close to 1,800 people. The initiative successfully introduced Hungarian culture to a broader Singaporean audience, promoting mutual understanding and people-to-people connections.

As Hungary and Singapore reflect on 55 years of friendship, both nations reaffirm their commitment to deepening cooperation across all sectors. With shared interests in innovation, sustainable development, and inclusive global governance, the bilateral relationship continues to evolve—looking toward the future with confidence and mutual respect.

Hungary–Singapore ties have grown into a comprehensive partnership anchored in mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to rules-based international cooperation.

"We honour a longstanding friendship and look to deepen it for decades to come," **HE Dante Brandi, Ambassador of Italy**

Marking six decades of diplomatic ties in 2025, Italy and Singapore reaffirm their shared commitment to innovation, cooperation, and global engagement.



Italy and Singapore are commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, celebrating a milestone grounded in mutual values of stability, open dialogue, and sustainable development. Over the past six decades, the two countries have cultivated a robust and multidimensional relationship that continues to flourish in areas such as science, technology, security, and economic cooperation.

As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, this landmark occasion is not only a celebration of the past but also a signal of future ambition. Both countries share an outward-looking perspective, with Italy contributing its world-renowned industrial heritage, cultural excellence, and technological know-how, while Singapore

continues to serve as a regional leader in innovation, finance, and connectivity.

Economic and trade relations have formed a strong foundation for bilateral collaboration, but the partnership has broadened over the years to encompass cultural exchange, public diplomacy, and strategic engagement. Italian companies regard Singapore as a vital gateway to Southeast Asia, while Singaporean enterprises increasingly look to Italy for collaboration in design, food, fashion, engineering, and advanced manufacturing across Europe.

Scientific and technological cooperation stands out as one of the most vibrant pillars of engagement. Under the current Executive Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, ten joint

projects are currently underway, focusing on key sectors such as foodtech, artificial intelligence, medical sciences, robotics, photonics, quantum technologies, and hydrogen research. These initiatives connect universities, research institutes, and start-ups across both countries, reflecting a joint commitment to solving global challenges through innovation.

Naval diplomacy has also become a growing area of collaboration. In 2024, the Italian Carrier Strike Group, led by the aircraft carrier *Cavour*, made a strategic port call in Singapore, facilitating dialogue in maritime security and defence technologies. The same year, the visit of the training ship *Amerigo Vespucci* served as a high point in public engagement. The Embassy of Italy organised Villaggio Italia, a large-scale public diplomacy showcase that highlighted Italian excellence in science, education, and industry to thousands of visitors in Singapore.

High-level exchanges have further elevated bilateral ties. In 2024, President Tharman Shanmugaratnam of Singapore visited Italy, meeting with key Italian leaders, while several high-profile Italian officials travelled to Singapore, including Deputy Minister for Enterprises and Made in Italy, Valentino Valentini, and Undersecretary of

State for Defence, Matteo Perego di Cremona. These visits have contributed to a structured and strategic dialogue between both nations.

Looking ahead, the upcoming visit of Italy's President of the Council of Ministers, Giorgia Meloni, to Singapore is expected to mark a new chapter in bilateral cooperation. The visit is poised to reinforce ties across innovation, connectivity, defence, and economic development, further aligning Italy and Singapore in their shared vision for a secure, sustainable, and interconnected future.

On the occasion of Singapore's 60th National Day, Italy extends its warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore, honouring a longstanding friendship rooted in mutual respect and looking forward to deepening the relationship in the decades to come.

Over the past six decades, Italy and Singapore have cultivated a robust and multidimensional relationship that continues to flourish in areas such as science, technology, security, and economic cooperation.

“Nearshoring strategies have emerged as new avenues for bilateral economic engagement,” says HE Agustín García-López Loaeza Ambassador of Mexico

As Singapore marks six decades of independence, Mexico joins in the celebration with a message of solidarity and highlights a year of deepening bilateral ties.

As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the Embassy of Mexico extends its warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its independence. This milestone not only marks Singapore's journey of national development but also reflects the strength of its international friendships, including with Mexico.

In 2024, both nations witnessed political renewal with the election of Dr Claudia Sheinbaum as Mexico's first female president and the appointment of Mr Lawrence Wong as Singapore's new Prime Minister. These leadership changes have opened opportunities to further advance cooperation based on shared values and forward-looking policy approaches.

Since establishing diplomatic relations in December 1975, and with the opening of the Mexican Embassy in Singapore in 1990, ties between the two countries have grown steadily. The partnership has been underpinned by collaboration in trade, innovation, and multilateral engagement. Both countries have expressed mutual interest in advancing science and technology through

collaboration in areas such as biotechnology, biomedicine, artificial intelligence, and research in infectious diseases.

The Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, created with support from the Mexican Embassy, now includes more than 170 members. With sector-based committees and presence in both countries, the chamber has become a platform for strengthening commercial ties and building business linkages.

In 2024, total trade in goods between Singapore and Mexico reached SGD 11.57 billion, a 60.5% increase from the previous year. Investment activity also saw momentum, with Singapore's cumulative investments in Mexico totalling SGD 1.54 billion (USD 1.13 billion). With Singapore's global investment portfolio surpassing USD 1 trillion by 2022, there remains significant scope for further expansion.

Singaporean firms have shown increasing interest in leveraging Mexico's role within North American supply chains. Nearshoring strategies—focused on logistics, digital economy, and sustainability—have emerged as new avenues for bilateral economic engagement.

A significant moment in bilateral cooperation was



the July 2024 trade mission titled Overseas Market Workshop, co-organised by the Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Singapore, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Business Federation. The mission brought 13 Singaporean companies to major cities across Mexico, where they engaged with industry leaders, innovation parks, and policymakers. Meetings included discussions with Ms Altagracia Gómez Sierra, Coordinator of Mexico's Presidential Economic Development Advisory Council. Four companies have expressed interest in future investments, reflecting the positive outcomes of this initiative.

Looking ahead, both countries are aligned in their priorities for inclusive growth, sustainable development, and

technological advancement. These shared objectives form the basis for continued partnership, guided by frameworks such as the Singapore-Mexico Connectivity Agreement and mutual interest in global and regional peace.

In 2024, total trade in goods between Singapore and Mexico reached SGD 11.57 billion, a 60.5% increase from the previous year. Investment activity also saw momentum, with Singapore's cumulative investments in Mexico totalling SGD 1.54 billion (USD 1.13 billion). With Singapore's global investment portfolio surpassing USD 1 trillion by 2022, there remains significant scope for further expansion.

“A milestone that reflects a strong and steadily evolving partnership,” says HE Sosorbaram Enkhbayar, Ambassador of Mongolia

As part of IN Diplomacy’s Singapore National Day Edition Feature, Mongolia and Singapore mark 55 years of diplomatic relations with a reception honouring decades of bilateral growth.



June 11, 2025, marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Republic of Singapore—a milestone that reflects a strong and steadily evolving partnership built on mutual respect, shared interests, and a vision for enduring cooperation.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were formally established in 1970. In 1975, His Excellency Mr. Dashtseren Buyant, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Singapore, presented his Letters of Credence to then-President of Singapore, Benjamin Henry Sheares. At the time, Mongolia had not yet opened an embassy in Singapore, and Ambassador Dashtseren

was concurrently accredited from New Delhi, India.

Over the past five and a half decades—particularly in the 21st century—political, economic, and cultural ties between Mongolia and Singapore have expanded significantly. Frequent high-level visits have played a key role in strengthening bilateral relations. From Mongolia, Prime Minister Enkhbayar Nambar visited Singapore in 2002, followed by Prime Minister Batbold Sukhbaatar in 2011, President Elbegdorj Tsakhia in 2013, and Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai in 2022. On the Singaporean side, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited Mongolia in 2016 to participate in the 11th ASEM Summit.

The relationship between the two countries is further

supported by several key bilateral agreements. These include the Agreement between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore on the Promotion and Protection of Investments, and the Agreement between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income. These agreements have laid the legal foundation for expanded economic cooperation and investment flows.

Singapore is currently Mongolia’s third-largest foreign investor. In 2021, the total bilateral trade turnover reached USD 277.87 million—a reflection of the growing economic engagement between the two countries. To encourage further trade and investment cooperation, both sides have launched targeted initiatives in recent years. Investment-centered events such as “Mongolia’s Capital Market Connectivity: Singapore” and the “Mongolian Investment Forum: Singapore” have been regularly organized in Singapore. Since 2024, the Singapore Business Federation has also begun hosting annual investment forums in Mongolia, bringing large delegations of Singaporean business leaders. Mongolian business representatives are likewise active participants in major

global events hosted in Singapore, such as SWITCH and the Singapore FinTech Festival.

People-to-people ties continue to strengthen with the mutual visa-free travel arrangement, allowing citizens of both Mongolia and Singapore to travel to each other’s countries for up to 30 days without a visa. This has greatly facilitated tourism, business exchange, and academic engagement.

To commemorate these achievements, the Embassy of Mongolia in the Republic of Singapore hosted a reception on 27 June 2025, celebrating Mongolia’s National Day—the 104th Anniversary of the People’s Revolution—and the 55th anniversary of the establishment of Mongolia–Singapore diplomatic relations.

On the auspicious occasion of the 60th National Day of the Republic of Singapore, the Embassy of Mongolia extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Government and the friendly people of Singapore. Over the past six decades, Singapore has achieved remarkable progress and become a symbol of innovation, resilience, and good governance. Mongolia values the strong and growing ties of friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

"A resilient friendship that has flourished across nearly six decades," says HE Rabia Shafiq, High Commissioner of Pakistan

As Singapore commemorates its 60th National Day, Pakistan extends heartfelt congratulations and reflects on a rich legacy of bilateral cooperation.



As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan proudly joins Singapore in celebrating its 60th National Day, recognising a resilient friendship that has flourished across nearly six decades. Since the establishment of formal diplomatic ties on 17 August 1966, the relationship between the two countries has evolved into a multifaceted partnership shaped by collaboration, shared values, and mutual respect.

In the early years, Pakistani professionals made notable contributions to the foundational sectors of Singapore's development. Among them were Captain Anwar Masood Khan, who moved to Singapore

in 1973 and helped train the first generation of Singapore Airlines pilots, and Captain Muhammad Jalaluddin Sayeed, whose maritime expertise laid the groundwork for Neptune Orient Lines—Singapore's flagship shipping company—at the request of then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. His legacy is remembered fondly by former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who referred to him as the "perfect gentleman".

High-level diplomatic engagements have remained consistent. In December 2022, then Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with President Halimah Yacob and Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan in Singapore. More recently, on 25 October 2024, Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Ishaq Dar held discussions with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Apia, Samoa, and Dr Balakrishnan to discuss strengthening Pakistan–Singapore ties across economic, political, and cultural spheres.

Technology and innovation form a vibrant pillar of cooperation. Since 2019, Pakistan has actively participated in the Singapore FinTech Festival (SFF), growing from just eight companies to sixty by 2023. At SFF 2024, Pakistani fintech startup Hakeem App received an Excellence Award from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). A 2021 MoU between fintech associations from both countries has furthered collaboration in digital finance.

Economic relations continue to show promise. In 2024, bilateral trade reached approximately USD 1.3 billion, with Pakistan's key exports—textiles, rice, fruits, and surgical instruments—holding significant potential for expansion. Singaporean investments in Pakistan stood at USD 47 million, while remittances from the Pakistani diaspora in Singapore totalled USD 111.6 million. Engagement between business communities has grown through delegations from the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce

(SMCCI) and Pakistan's active participation in platforms like the ASEAN Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference and the International Agri-Food Week 2024 in Singapore.

Institutional cooperation has also flourished. Agreements in technical education, public policy, and healthcare have connected Pakistan with Singapore's key institutions, including ITE, Civil Service College, NUH, and ISAS. Over 1,600 Pakistani civil servants have benefited from training under Singapore's Cooperation Programme. In February 2025, 15 Pakistani students earned two gold, three silver, and ten bronze medals at the STEMCo Global Finals in Singapore, exemplifying the growing educational ties.

In celebrating Singapore's 60th National Day, recognising a resilient friendship that has flourished across nearly six decades. Since the establishment of formal diplomatic ties on 17 August 1966, the relationship between Singapore and Pakistan has evolved into a multifaceted partnership shaped by collaboration, shared values, and mutual respect.

"People-to-people engagement remains at the heart of our bilateral friendship," **says** *HE Francisco Tenya Hasegawa, Ambassador of Peru*

The Embassy of Peru marks Singapore's 60th National Day with a message of friendship, highlighting 45 years of growing bilateral ties in trade, sustainability, and people-to-people connections.



On the occasion of Singapore's 60th National Day, the Embassy of Peru extends its warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore. We join in celebrating six decades of extraordinary progress, innovation, and leadership that have made Singapore a global reference in development, sustainability, and good governance.

This year also marks a significant milestone in Peru-Singapore relations, as we commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two nations. Over the past four and a half decades, our bilateral

relationship has deepened steadily, grounded in mutual respect, shared interests, and a growing commitment to economic and environmental cooperation.

Singapore is a key partner for Peru in Southeast Asia and beyond. In recent years, the two countries have strengthened collaboration through a range of strategic platforms. Peru was the first country in the Americas to sign the Implementation Agreement on carbon credit cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement—an important step that reflects our shared commitment to climate action and market-based environmental solutions.

Moreover, Peru proudly became the first Pacific Alliance member to ratify the Pacific Alliance Singapore Free Trade Agreement (PASFTA). This first ratification reaffirmed Peru's strong will with Singapore and support for its closer integration with Latin America. Our belief is in the immense potential for cross-Pacific trade, investment, and innovation.

Geographical distance, once seen as a limitation, is increasingly becoming an opportunity. The new Chancay Megaport on Peru's central coast is set to redefine maritime connectivity between South America and Asia. With a direct shipping route to East Asia, including Singapore, the port significantly reduces travel times and opens new logistics and trade corridors between our regions, where PSA Marine provides important port services. Singaporean companies are doing business with Peru, but new ones are exploring opportunities in this context, and we welcome greater participation from Singapore in this exciting new chapter of interregional connectivity.

Beyond trade and environmental cooperation, Peru and Singapore continue to foster deeper ties, from political dialogues to culinary festivals and art exhibitions, and people-

to-people engagement remains at the heart of our bilateral friendship.

As we look toward the future, Peru reaffirms its strong commitment to expanding cooperation with Singapore. Once geographically distant, we are closely aligned in vision, values, and ambition. Together, we are building bridges that transcend oceans—towards a more connected, sustainable, and prosperous world.

Over the past four and a half decades, Peru and Singapore bilateral relationship has deepened steadily, grounded in mutual respect, shared interests, and a growing commitment to economic and environmental cooperation.

“Singapore is a trusted friend, an excellent and reliable partner of the Philippines,” says HE Medardo Antonio G. Macaraig, Ambassador of Philippines

As Singapore marks 60 years of independence, the Philippines commemorates 56 years of close diplomatic ties—built on shared values, economic collaboration, and people-to-people links.



On the occasion of Singapore's 60th National Day, the Philippine Embassy joins the celebration by highlighting the deep-rooted and enduring friendship between the Philippines and Singapore. This year also marks the 56th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries, offering an opportunity to reflect on a partnership anchored in history, proximity, and shared regional aspirations.

Singapore is a trusted friend, an excellent and reliable partner of the Philippines. As neighbours, the Philippines and Singapore share common goals, vision and aspirations

for a peaceful, stable, secure and prosperous region. The Philippines-Singapore diplomatic ties were formally established on 16 May 1969, but our relations are deeply rooted in history. Our geographical, historical and people-to-people links make Singapore a natural partner of the Philippines.

The Philippines and Singapore share robust bilateral relations in the areas of trade and investment, defence, culture and people-to-people connectivity. Both countries are also pursuing other emerging areas of cooperation, such as in the green economy, smart infrastructure, renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and health.

In 2024, a milestone year in our relations, the celebration of the 55th anniversary of Philippines-Singapore ties has seen numerous high-level exchanges of visits undertaken by our officials. Notable visits include the State Visit of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to the Philippines on 15-17 August 2024, the official visit of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on 31 May 2024 to serve as keynote speaker in the 21st Shangri-La Dialogue, and the working visit of Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan to the Philippines. The Philippines also hosted the 6th Informal Consultations on the Philippine-Singapore Action Plan, the foremost bilateral mechanism between our countries, in February 2024.

Most recently, on 4 June 2025, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong made his Introductory Visit to the Philippines, the first one he has taken after the General Election. During the visit, President Marcos Jr. and Prime Minister Wong reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral ties and attain greater heights, and demonstrate the natural bond between the Philippines and Singapore. The historic and unforgettable jamming performance of Prime Minister Wong and

President Marcos Jr. in the song “Wonderful Tonight,” at the State Banquet created a new bond of friendship and gave new meaning to diplomacy.

The Philippines and Singapore share robust bilateral relations in the areas of trade and investment, defence, culture and people-to-people connectivity. Both countries are also pursuing other emerging areas of cooperation, such as in the green economy, smart infrastructure, renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and health.

"The momentum behind Saudi–Singapore economic ties is stronger than ever," **says** *Mr Salem Mokhlef S Alshammary,* *Charge d'affaires of Saudi Arabia*

Marking 60 years of Singapore's independence, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia highlights a new era of deepened bilateral relations and strategic cooperation.



On the occasion of Singapore's 60th National Day, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Singapore extends its warmest congratulations to the Government and people of the Republic of Singapore. This milestone reflects six decades of visionary leadership, economic resilience, and global engagement, and we join Singapore in celebrating its remarkable achievements.

This year marks a significant advancement in Saudi–Singapore relations with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Saudi–Singapore Strategic Partnership Council. Co-chaired by

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Council represents a new chapter in our bilateral ties—one defined by strategic alignment, high-level coordination, and shared ambition.

Singapore is Saudi Arabia's first strategic partner in Southeast Asia, and this partnership reflects the growing convergence between our national priorities. Bilateral trade reached S\$10.6 billion in 2023, and Saudi investments in Singapore continue to expand, with leading companies such as Aramco and SABIC

deepening their presence. Singaporean firms are also increasingly engaging with the Kingdom's dynamic market, drawn by its scale, youthful population, and the transformative opportunities offered by Vision 2030.

The Strategic Partnership Council will accelerate cooperation across key sectors, including trade, investment, energy, logistics, technology, and innovation. It provides a structured platform for both governments to chart long-term collaboration and unlock new avenues for growth. With regular exchanges and expanding private sector engagement, the momentum behind Saudi–Singapore economic ties is stronger than ever.

As both nations pursue bold development agendas, we are confident that the opportunities for collaboration will multiply.

The Embassy reaffirms its commitment to supporting this comprehensive partnership and to fostering deeper business and institutional linkages in the years ahead.

Happy National Day, Singapore. We look forward to a future of shared prosperity and enduring cooperation!

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“SABF propels economic growth by bridging the gap between Singapore and Africa,” says HE Madiepetsane Charlotte Lobe, High Commissioner of South Africa

H.E. Madiepetsane Charlotte Lobe highlights enduring ties between South Africa and Singapore as President Cyril Ramaphosa extends warm felicitations on Singapore’s milestone 60th National Day.



On the auspicious occasion, South Africa celebrates continued substantive relations with Singapore, anchored by frequent high-level engagements, multifaceted cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, growing people-to-people relations, and cooperation in the multilateral institutions. Following decades of international

of State to visit Singapore, followed by President Mbeki’s State visit in April 2005, President Cyril Ramaphosa in his capacity as Deputy President in October 2016 and Deputy President Paul Mashatile in December 2023.

Apart from their common colonial past, Singapore and South Africa are political, economic, transport, fintech and knowledge hubs in their respective regions. They have also positioned themselves as bridge builders, pathfinders and listening posts for regional developments in their respective regions, with their airports and seaports connecting the world.

Singapore continues to be a strategic partner of South Africa as both a maritime and aviation hub in Southeast Asia. Singapore’s expertise in technology, urban planning, and education provides useful models for South Africa’s own development efforts. This year, South Africa invited Singapore to its G20 Presidency as a convenor of the small states within the UN, the Global Governance Group (3G). This invitation showcases South Africa’s commitment to inclusive multilateral engagement and allows Singapore to contribute its valuable perspectives in areas such as trade, investment, and sustainable development.

Over the past three decades of bilateral relations, Singapore has supported South Africa’s development trajectory through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), in areas such as urban planning, economic policy, and public sector development.

As South Africa prepares for the G20 Summit in November 2025, Singapore will host two important platforms aimed at strengthening its relations with Africa, namely, the Singapore-Sub-Saharan Africa High-Level Ministerial Exchange Visit (SAMEV) and the Africa Singapore Business Forum (ASBF). The biennial (SAMEV) is aimed at fostering closer links, sharing best practices and exchanging development experiences between Singapore and Sub-Saharan African countries.

As part of IN Diplomacy’s Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the High Commissioner underscored the strength and progress of bilateral relations, which have deepened through high-level visits, multi-sectoral cooperation, and mutual support in global platforms.

As Singapore celebrates its 60th anniversary, otherwise known as the diamond jubilee, on August 9th, President Ramaphosa has conveyed his sincere felicitations to the President, Government and People of the Republic of Singapore on reaching this significant milestone. Majula Singapura!

isolation of the apartheid South Africa and significant progress heralded through the peaceful negotiations, the founding father of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, visited South Africa in 1992. This visit began a process of establishing friendship between the people of South Africa and the people of Singapore. This friendship was fortified in May 1992 when South Africa and Singapore established consular relations and in October 1993 formalised diplomatic relations and appointed their envoys at the highest level of High Commissioners.

In March 1997, President Nelson Mandela became the first South African Head

South Africa and Singapore also cooperate on critical global challenges such as climate change and environmental sustainability through frameworks like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Singapore’s advanced expertise in areas like green technology and water management offers valuable insights for South Africa.

“Our shared commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity,” says HE Ureerat Chareontoh, Ambassador of Thailand

Thailand's Ambassador Extends Heartfelt Congratulations to Singapore on its Diamond Jubilee. As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, H.E. Ureerat Chareontoh reflects on decades of friendship and shared achievements.



As Singapore marks its 60th National Day, Her Excellency Ureerat Chareontoh, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of Singapore, has extended her warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore.

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore, it is my pleasure to convey to the people of Singapore, and its Government, my warmest wishes, together with those of the Government of Thailand and people.

The 9th of August marks a moment of great national pride, commemorating Singapore's founding and its journey since 1965.

Thailand was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Singapore, and the two nations have since enjoyed close cooperation, including working side-by-side as founding members of ASEAN through the historic Bangkok Declaration in 1967.

As Singapore marks its 60th National Day, there is much for which Singapore can be proud. Its success as a global hub for trade, finance, technology, and education continues to inspire. Above all, Singapore has demonstrated remarkable resilience in overcoming challenges to become a society that embraces diversity and values the contributions of all its people.

This year, as Singapore celebrates its Diamond Jubilee, we also proudly commemorate 60 years of our Diplomatic Relations. Our partnership has grown stronger over the decades, grounded in mutual respect, shared regional aspirations, and a spirit of enduring friendship. This bond has deepened through dynamic trade and investment relations, collaborative innovation, defence and security cooperation, sustainable development efforts, and close people-to-people exchanges.

On this significant day, it is fitting to honour the resilience, innovation, and determination of the people of Singapore in shaping a dynamic and forward-looking nation. This milestone offers a timely opportunity to reflect on our shared journey and to look ahead, towards a future where our two countries continue to serve as engines of regional growth and stability. Thailand stands with Singapore in friendship and solidarity, and looks forward to further strengthening our close relations in the years to come.

In view of all this, allow me once again to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Singapore on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, SG60. It is truly an honour to serve as Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore

during this dynamic and revitalised chapter of our diplomatic relations. Thailand, its government and people, stand with Singapore in celebrating its many achievements, and look forward to further strengthening our close and enduring partnership in the years ahead.

Majulah Singapura!

On this significant day, it is fitting to honour the resilience, innovation, and determination of the people of Singapore in shaping a dynamic and forward-looking nation. This milestone offers a timely opportunity to reflect on our shared journey and to look ahead, towards a future where our two countries continue to serve as engines of regional growth and stability.

"Honouring Friendship, Progress, and Peace," says HE Kateryna Zelenko, Ambassador of Ukraine

As Singapore marks six decades of independence, Ukraine reflects on the strength of bilateral ties and shared aspirations for peace, innovation, and global cooperation.

As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the Embassy of Ukraine joins in the celebrations of Singapore's 60th National Day, honouring a landmark moment in the city-state's history while reaffirming the enduring friendship and shared values between Singapore and Ukraine.

In a heartfelt message, Ambassador Kateryna Zelenko extended Ukraine's warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore, describing the 60th anniversary as a moment to celebrate the achievements of nation-building and the powerful example that Singapore continues to set on the world stage.

Every anniversary, and especially such a milestone as the 60 years of independence, is an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the nation-building journey, as well as on prospects and plans for the years to come. Singapore is a truly remarkable achiever. The small island city-state has vividly demonstrated that the most important asset is people, unity and consistency in upholding principles. Singapore is much bigger and significant: it has become a global brand of reliability, safety and cutting-edge progress.

Independent Ukraine is almost half the age of Singapore. We have

always strived to follow many positive examples set by your country. We are grateful to Singapore for your experience, which you generously share, and for your consistent and clear support, which we have felt throughout all the years of countering gross and unprovoked violations of the UN Charter Principles. Ukraine, in turn, is open to learning from our unique experience of unbreakable resilience and proven creative security innovations. After all, in the face of growing threats and challenges, it becomes even more obvious that true independence is about the ability to ensure peace and security for people, which includes the political freedom of a state in the world based on the rule of law.

Surely, in this regard, it's worth reiterating repeatedly Ukraine's sincere gratitude for the humanitarian assistance extended by Singapore. Tranches provided by the Government of Singapore, Singapore Red Cross and Singaporeans, who support Ukraine from the shores of Southeast Asia or even chose to come to Ukraine, have been vital for saving lives and supporting communities affected by Russia's full-scale invasion.

Over the past years, Ukraine and Singapore have developed a strong and meaningful cooperation for the common benefit based on mutual respect and understanding. Our shared commitment to

the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity has laid a solid foundation for political dialogue at the level of the leaders of our states and foreign ministries, promoting business connectivity, awareness and people-to-people contacts.

On top of that, in recent years, our cooperation has also extended into the realm of technology and innovation. In 2023, Ukraine presented its inaugural national booth at the Singapore FinTech Festival. The Ukrainian companies presented their business solutions, cutting-edge products and advancement achieved against all ongoing odds. For three consecutive years, Ukraine has also contributed to Singapore International Cyber Week with our experience in promoting digitalisation and ensuring secure and sustainable cyberspace amid the challenges of external malicious interference.

Cultural diplomacy is flourishing as well. Over the past years, Ukraine has been proud to present its rich heritage and contemporary creativity to the Singaporean public. Notable events include the Ukrainian Food and Fashion Festival, a mesmerising concert by Ukrainian



virtuoso pianist Mr. Evgeny Khmara at the iconic Esplanade and Ukraine's flavour and vibe at the Red Cross Bazaar. A special highlight was the fashion show by the renowned Ukrainian national clothing designer Ms. Oksana Polonets, who showcased elegant interpretations of traditional Ukrainian embroidered attire – «vyshyvanka» – and offered a glimpse into Ukraine's artistic and cultural identity.

As Singapore celebrates its 60th Anniversary, Ukraine is eager to explore new prospects and horizons for our cooperation: from digital transformation and trade to innovation, sustainability and beyond.

“A moment of celebration but also an opportunity to renew and deepen bonds,” says HE Jessica María López Piña, Ambassador of Venezuela

On the 60th anniversary of Singapore’s independence, Venezuela celebrates the Republic’s achievements and reaffirms its commitment to strong and respectful bilateral ties.



On the occasion of the 60th commemoration of the Independence of the Republic of Singapore, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has extended its warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Singapore, recognising the nation’s remarkable achievements in social progress, economic growth, and technological advancement.

As part of IN Diplomacy’s Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the Venezuelan Government paid tribute to Singapore’s exemplary development journey, which aligns closely with the values of stability, multilateralism, and international cooperation that underpin Venezuela’s Bolivarian Diplomacy of Peace.

Formal diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Singapore were established on 1 August 1987, grounded in principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect, and friendly cooperation. Since then, both nations have fostered a cordial relationship marked by dialogue and interest in expanding ties in key areas such as economic and trade exchange, multilateral coordination, cultural understanding, and connectivity.

A defining moment in bilateral relations occurred in October 1999, when President Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, then Head of State of Venezuela, made an official visit to Singapore—the first-ever by a Venezuelan President to Southeast Asia. His visit

marked a strategic outreach to the region and included meetings with senior Singaporean leaders such as President S R Nathan and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. These discussions covered a range of areas, including infrastructure, maritime transport, and technology, with a focus on strengthening economic collaboration.

President Chávez’s visit reflected Venezuela’s vision of a multicentric and multipolar world, and his emphasis on deepening ties with Southeast Asian nations that prioritise innovation, peace, and sustainable development. This spirit of cooperation continues under the leadership of President Nicolás Maduro Moros, with both countries maintaining respectful diplomatic engagement at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Over the decades, Venezuela and Singapore have supported each other’s positions in international forums such as the United Nations, International Maritime Organization (IMO), and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)—particularly in upholding the principles of international law, non-intervention, and peaceful dispute resolution.

Venezuela views Singapore as a model of strategic planning and institutional

effectiveness, and continues to promote South-South cooperation, cultural exchange, and mutual development, based on values of complementarity, solidarity, and shared benefit.

In this commemorative context, Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to building a future-oriented bilateral relationship based on equity, peace, and shared prosperity. The 60th anniversary of Singapore’s independence is not only a moment of celebration but also an opportunity to renew and deepen bonds of friendship between the two nations—championing a common vision of a fairer, more inclusive international order.

Over the decades, Venezuela and Singapore have supported each other’s positions in international forums such as the United Nations, International Maritime Organization (IMO), and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)—particularly in upholding the principles of international law, non-intervention, and peaceful dispute resolution.

“Comprehensive Strategic Partnership sets a model for ASEAN cooperation,” says HE Tran Phuoc Anh, Ambassador of Vietnam

In celebration of Singapore's 60th National Day, Vietnam and Singapore reaffirm their strong diplomatic and economic ties by elevating relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2025.



As part of IN Diplomacy's Singapore National Day Edition Feature, the enduring friendship between Vietnam and Singapore takes a significant leap forward with the official launch of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) this year. The upgrade comes as Singapore marks its 60th National Day and Vietnam approaches its 80th year of independence, highlighting a timely convergence of historical milestones and future-oriented collaboration.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in 1973, and over the last five decades have developed one of the region's most robust bilateral partnerships. Political trust is reinforced

through frequent high-level engagements. In recent years, Vietnamese leaders such as Secretary General Tô Lâm and Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính have expressed Singapore's strategic value, while President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong have underscored Vietnam's central role in Singapore's regional engagement. Notably, in December 2024, National Assembly Chairman Trần Thanh Mẫn's official visit to Singapore further solidified parliamentary cooperation and policy alignment.

Economically, Singapore has maintained its position as Vietnam's top foreign investor, with registered capital exceeding US\$80 billion in 2024. Key to this success are the Vietnam–

Singapore Industrial Parks (VSIPs), now spanning 13 provinces and contributing significantly to employment, technology transfer, and sustainable development. Bilateral trade also surpassed US\$23 billion in 2024, driven by strong synergies in manufacturing, logistics, and services.

Looking ahead, the CSP prioritises collaboration in emerging sectors such as the digital economy, with both nations actively pursuing initiatives in AI, fintech, smart cities, and data governance. Environmental sustainability is another key pillar, with joint ventures in carbon credit trading, green finance, and renewable energy. Continued cooperation in education, technical assistance, and human capital development is expected to drive inclusive growth.

On the defence front, security ties are expanding through regular bilateral dialogues, joint training, and naval cooperation, reinforcing both countries' shared vision of a stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific. At the societal level, deepening people-to-people exchanges through tourism, education, and cultural diplomacy highlight the strength of their growing connection.

As they celebrate parallel milestones, Vietnam and Singapore's Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership sets a model for ASEAN cooperation, grounded in shared values, mutual respect, and regional aspirations. It exemplifies a modern alliance that is both resilient and adaptable—key traits in navigating today's complex global challenges.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in 1973, and over the last five decades Singapore and Vietnam have developed one of the region's most robust bilateral partnerships.

Political trust is reinforced through frequent high-level engagements.

Singapore's Diplomatic Community Bids Farewell to *Ambassadors of Estonia, Belgium, and Jordan*

An evening of tributes and reflection marks the departure of three ambassadors whose postings in Singapore have strengthened ties with Estonia, Belgium and Jordan.



A recent farewell gathering in Singapore brought together members of the diplomatic community to honour the contributions of three ambassadors completing their tenures: H.E. Priit Turk of Estonia, H.E. Colette Taquet of Belgium, and H.E. Samer Anton Naber of Jordan. The event, hosted by Madam Weiling Wee of Pan Pacific Hotels Group, served as a moment to reflect on their accomplishments and the growing ties between their nations and Singapore.

Farewells in diplomacy are often bittersweet—marked by gratitude for shared achievements and anticipation for future chapters. Each ambassador has left a unique mark on bilateral relations, enhancing cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

Ambassador Priit Turk played a key role in advancing Estonia-Singapore ties, particularly in the areas of digital innovation and strategic collaboration. His tenure saw the inauguration of Estonia's Embassy and Business Hub in Singapore in 2023, attended by Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas and then Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong. Bilateral trade reached S\$177 million in 2022, and new agreements were signed in areas such as digital services and health technology. Estonia's leadership in e-governance and cybersecurity aligned closely with Singapore's Smart Nation goals, fostering meaningful exchanges in tech, AI, and sustainability.

Ambassador Colette Taquet strengthened Belgium-Singapore relations with a focus on trade, maritime partnerships, healthcare, and cultural exchange. Her efforts led to the revival of direct flights between Brussels and Singapore and expanded cooperation between the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and Singapore's PSA International. Belgian innovation in healthcare, food technology, and



vertical farming contributed to Singapore's development goals. Her tenure culminated in the state visit of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to Belgium, signifying deepening ties between the two nations.

Ambassador Samer Naber's time in Singapore was marked by cultural engagement and strategic cooperation. Under his leadership, Jordan and Singapore continued to build on their 2004 Free Trade Agreement and collaborated in areas such as ICT, smart cities, education, and agriculture. Ambassador Naber championed interfaith dialogue and mutual respect—values shared by both nations. His outreach fostered stronger people-to-people connections and broader regional understanding.

Each of these ambassadors promoted shared values such as openness, innovation, multilateralism, and peaceful cooperation. Their efforts have contributed to deeper, future-focused partnerships between their respective countries and Singapore.



As they move on to their next postings, the legacies of Ambassadors Turk, Taquet, and Naber will remain visible through the institutions, initiatives, and friendships they helped build. Their time in Singapore stands as a testament to the impact of diplomatic service in advancing mutual understanding and shared progress.

The farewell served not just as a goodbye, but as a recognition of enduring partnerships and the evolving role of diplomacy in addressing global challenges. Singapore extends its appreciation and best wishes to the ambassadors for continued success in their future endeavours.



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