

6TH LEADERS' RETREAT MOVES FORWARD ON AVIATION, EXTRADITION & DEFENCE ISSUES



ALSO FEATURING

■ International Womens' Day 2023



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Singapore - Indonesia 6th Retreat Marked by Ratifications in Aviation, Extradition and Defence Issues

More MoUs were also signed for new opportunities for deeper cooperation and scaling up of growth plans in mutually beneficial areas

PRIME Minister Lee's 6th Leaders' Retreat on 16th March 2023 with President Joko Widodo, was the first to be hosted in Singapore since the COVID-19 pandemic. It was an opportune occasion for both Leaders to reaffirm the excellent state of relations between Singapore and Indonesia. Both Leaders were in accord that the bilateral relationship had strengthened substantially over President Joko Widodo's two terms as President, providing a solid foundation to develop new areas of cooperation that are deep, multifaceted, forward-looking, and mutually beneficial for future generations.

The ratification of all three agreements under the Expanded Framework, were welcomed by President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Lee:

- Agreement on the Realignment of the Boundary between the Jakarta Flight Information Region (FIR) and the Singapore FIR
- Treaty for the Extradition of Fugitives
- Defence Cooperation Agreement

The duo looked forward to the completion of the next step of obtaining approval from the International Civil Aviation Organisation for the new arrangements under the FIR Agreement, so that both countries can bring all three agreements into force on a mutually agreed date. The resolution of these longstanding issues is a testament to the strength and maturity of our bilateral relations.

MoU Highlights

The Leaders also oversaw the exchange of six Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) in emerging sectors like the digital economy, sustainability, and human capital development, as well as in traditional areas like security. The Leaders welcomed the MoU on the **Tech:X Programme** between the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, which allows young tech professionals in both countries to undertake work opportunities in each other's markets. This will further deepen networks between Singapore and Indonesia's tech ecosystems and allow tech talents to pursue opportunities in the fast-growing digital economy.

Prime Minister Lee and President Joko Widodo also acclaimed the signing of the MoU on **Renewable Energy Cooperation** between the Singapore Prime Minister's Office and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment.

The MoU on **Sustainable Urban and Housing Development** between the Singapore Ministry for National Development and the In-



Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto and Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong signed the MOU on Singapore-Indonesia Tech:X Programme witnessed by President Widodo and Prime Minister Lee (Photo: BPPI Setpres/Laily Rachev)

“The Leaders welcomed the MoU on the Tech:X Programme... which allows young tech professionals in both countries to undertake work opportunities in each other's markets. This will deepen networks between Singapore and Indonesia's tech ecosystems and allow tech talents to pursue opportunities in the fast-growing digital economy”

Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning, will facilitate knowledge-sharing and training in sustainable infrastructure development. Both Leaders were in agreement that people remained the most important resource of both countries and witnessed the signing of MoUs to invest in

human capital through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and training across various sectors. These areas of collaboration and exchanges will augment existing expertise, strengthen interpersonal ties, and anchor positive relations between the two countries' peoples.



(Above from left): Warm welcome to Singapore by Indonesia's Ambassador Suryo Pratomo. Both the Indonesian ministerial delegation and Singapore ministers get a chance to meet up first at the East Drawing Room of the Istana (Photo: BPPI Setpres/Laily Rachev)

Singapore President Reciprocates with Visit to Malaysia

The Singaporean President's 3-day visit underscores the importance of Singapore-Malaysia ties which have been marked by ongoing conversations on mutually beneficial issues at many levels

President Halimah Yacob was on a formal visit to Malaysia, scheduled from 20th to 22nd March 2023, at the invitation of H.M. Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia. This is President Halimah's maiden State Visit to Malaysia. This a reciprocal visit to the earlier State visit to Singapore of H.M. the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in October 2022. President Halimah Yacob was accompanied by her husband Mohamed Abdullah Alhabsee. They were met at Sepang airport by the minister-in-attendance, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

President Halimah and her husband Mohamed Abdullah Alhabsee were welcomed by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah. The ceremonial State Welcome at the parade ground kicked off with the singing of Singapore and Malaysia's national anthems by the Royal Malaysian Air Force central band, followed by a 21-gun salute. President Halimah Yacob inspected a guard of honour by the First Battalion Royal Ranger Regiment led by Captain Muhammad Akmal Hakim Sabarudi, from Setapak's Wardieburn Camp at Istana Negara.

For the First Time

His Majesty and President Halimah will plant a Gelam Tree (*Melaleuca cajuputi*) in the Istana courtyard, after the ending of the State Welcome Ceremony. A special Orchid Naming Ceremony will follow at which President Halimah and Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabsee will have a new orchid hybrid, the Vanda Halimah Yacob Mohamed, named in their honour. This is the first time that a Tree Planting Ceremony and an Orchid Naming Ceremony have been incorporated into a State Visit to Malaysia. Their Majesties will also host a State Banquet in the Singaporean President's honour.



(Top row) H.M. the Raja Permaisuri Agong, President Halimah Yacob, H.M. the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabsee. (2nd row): Meeting with the Sultan of Perak and Chancellor of University of Malaya. (3rd row): Visit to the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia (GGAM) with H.M. Raja Permaisuri Agong, who is also the Patron of GGAM, President of GGAM Dr Wan Azizah, and Chief Commissioner of GGAM Dato' Jeyadhevi Subramaniam. (4th row): President Halimah was also hosted by Overseas Singaporeans in Malaysia
(Photos: MCI/ Ngau Kai Yan)

Meeting with Malaysia PM

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim also called on President Halimah. The Singapore President said: "I was pleased to continue our excellent discussions from our last meeting during his visit to Singapore in January. We reaffirmed the strong commitment of both countries to work constructively and pragmatically together, especially in an era of greater geopolitical uncertainty. I expressed Singapore's confidence that, under Prime Minister Anwar's leadership, bilateral cooperation will strengthen across multiple domains and deliver concrete benefits to our peoples and businesses. We also discussed the importance of leaders promoting social unity in this post-pandemic world. To this end, I shared with PM Anwar the work of various structures in Singapore to promote social cohesion, including key platforms such as the International Conference on Cohesive Societies, which I started in 2019." As Chancellor of the National University of Singapore, President Halimah was also scheduled to meet Sultan of Perak and Chancellor of the University of Malaya, His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah.

A group of Singaporean and Malaysian business leaders, also got to meet and interact with President Halimah. Additionally the President attended a reception hosted for Overseas Singaporeans in Malaysia. It is notable that President Halimah, who is also Patron of Girl Guides Singapore, was hosted to a visit to the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia by Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong.

Accompanying President Halimah on this visit will be Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabsee, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman, Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Culture, Members of Parliament Murali Pillai, Xie Yao Quan, and Yeo Wan Ling, and officials from the President's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr Eddie Teo, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers, will exercise the function of the Office of the President, during President Halimah's absence from office in Singapore.

WOMEN DIPLOMATS IN SINGAPORE

IWD 2023 MESSAGES...

THEY ARE PART OF AN ELITE GROUP OF FOREIGN WOMEN DIPLOMATS WHO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRIES. IN DIPLOMACY RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO OUR CALL FOR THEM TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON THREE QUESTIONS WE FEEL ARE RELEVANT TO THE SUBJECT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT....



THERE is currently a record number of women heads of mission posted to Singapore. At the last count 24 of them have presented their credentials and 19 are based here. This fact alone is worthy of popping the cork off an extra bottle of champagne to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) as it points to the great strides already achieved by women in the diplomatic field. However, they are also the first to say more can be done. We found this out from their answers to the following three questions that we posed:

- **What are the most pressing needs and objectives that still need to be achieved to empower women today internationally and in your country?**
- **What steps can we collectively take to improve the state for women's equality in the world?**
- **How do you see women's roles in diplomacy and international relations evolving in the coming years?**

H.E. SUN HAIYAN

CHINESE
AMBASSADOR
TO SINGAPORE



● Over the past ten months since I came to Singapore as Chinese Ambassador, I have had quite a few thought-provoking and enlightened discussions with the female ambassadors to Singapore. There are over 20 female ambassadors and many more senior as well as promising young female diplomats posted to Singapore, contributing their wisdom and talent in the field of diplomacy and international relations. My work as Chinese Ambassador to Singapore, for example, has received the strong support of many outstanding young female diplomats from the Chinese Embassy, which I believe is also the case in many other foreign missions here.

● Both China and Singapore, and indeed many countries around the world, have over the years made tremendous efforts to empower women

and achieved remarkable progress in this respect. The presence of so many female leaders taking on important roles in every walk of life in Singapore speaks volumes of the achievements the country has made in empowering women. It has been such a pleasant and rewarding experience interacting with the female leaders across different sectors in Singapore.

● In terms of women empowerment globally, much has been achieved, but it is far from enough. We need to do more domestically and globally to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The task may be daunting, and the challenges formidable, but with our joint and consistent efforts, I am convinced we'll see more and more women playing extraordinary roles across various fields in different societies, living up to their full potential to create a better world for women, girls, men, and boys everywhere.

H.E. MICHAELA FRONKOVA
AMBASSADOR
OF CZECH
REPUBLIC TO
SINGAPORE



● The international environment discusses often and at length the need for gender balance. And rightly so, because this question, despite being on the table for several decades, is still not satisfactorily resolved. Admittedly, it has to be said, several ways to improve it are entirely in the hands of women. It is crucial to spread awareness among us women that it is our duty to support and help each other. We are our own best friends, we need to keep this in mind all the time and remind ourselves of it.

● We, women, are the ones who bring new lives into the world. It is us who pass on the foundations of values to children in the first years of their lives. So it's about raising boys correctly from a young age, leading them to respect women, but also raising

girls correctly - leading them to self-respect and self-confidence. Guide girls not to let themselves be handicapped by mistakes, because to make mistakes is human. You have to learn from them and move on. Psychologists claim that the difference between men and women in the approach to their own mistakes is striking. The man makes a mistake, closes the imaginary door behind him and doesn't deal with it anymore; the woman remains with her own mistake for a long time; and though she closes the imaginary door, she remains locked with the mistake in the room.

● The number of women in diplomacy in my country is increasing; this trend is particularly noticeable amongst the younger generation. Therefore, women are not yet represented so much in the highest positions, but at lower career levels their number already exceeds men. It is then only a matter of time before the percentage of female ambassadors increases. Of course it is right - a woman brings empathy to diplomacy, an approach that is more and more needed in a world with fast-growing and ubiquitous technologies. Diplomacy is about man for man, it remains fully in human hands and you need to have an empathetic approach to achieve long-term results in diplomatic negotiations.



H.E. JUDIT PACH

AMBASSADOR
OF HUNGARY
TO SINGAPORE

● In my opinion, one of the most pressing needs is to promote greater gender equality in all aspects of life, from education and access to health care to equal opportunities in the workplace and equal pay for equal work. Additionally, it is essential that women empower women. By supporting each other, women can create a stronger, more empowered future where their voices are heard and respected. Furthermore, supporting and lifting each other up enables us to develop a stronger sense of self-worth, as well as the confidence to stand up for

FEATURE

our rights, pursue our goals, and advocate for change.

● I believe collectively, we can all take steps to challenge pervasive gender-based discrimination in all forms. We need to empower women and girls through meaningful conversations and support networks. As a female leader myself I believe it is very important that we make sure that female voices are heard and respected within decision-making processes.

● I believe women's roles in diplomacy and international relations will continue to grow, as women are becoming increasingly influential in setting global agendas and making a significant impact in the global community, either through their work in government and politics, their activism, or their accomplishments in other fields. What is more, women are often on the front lines of conflict, working to bring peace and stability. Women are often first responders to humanitarian crises and often are the people most aware of the real needs of their communities. This increasing role of women is essential both to achieve justice and to ensure we reach our full potential, on both the individual level and on the global scale.

H.E. SARAH ANN MCGRATH

AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO SINGAPORE



● The theme of this year's IWD, "Embrace Equity", is one which I am very passionate about because it captures the idea that systems which on the surface appear "fair" or "meritocratic" are not always equitable because not everyone is starting from the same place. I believe it is important that we recognise that the change that is needed to achieve gender equality involves changing organisations, and indeed society, rather than approaches which focus on changing or "fixing" women to encourage them to emulate the behaviours of men to succeed at work. Policies which support genuine work/life balance - regardless of family status - and empower women and men to be their authentic selves and expand their choices will not only result in greater gender equality but also better and more successful societies.

● The approach of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland to both gender equality and broader diversity and inclusion can be summarized using "the three Rs" - **Resource:** Women are over 50% of the population so if we do not recruit, retain or promote women we are overlooking an enormous talent pool.

Reputation: We want to be seen as a great place to work and Ireland - like many countries - advocates for gender equality in our foreign and development policy. We must then also take the same approach inside our own organization to be consistent with our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Representation: As a diplomatic service we have a representational role. My colleagues and I represent Ireland around the globe and Ireland, like the world, is 50% female. I am very proud to be the first woman to serve as Ireland's Ambassador to Singapore and while Ireland is far from perfect we will this year for the first time reach gender parity amongst the leadership of our overseas missions.

● Every role in diplomacy and international relations is one which can be a woman's role. In the years ahead I hope we will see some additional "firsts" in roles which have up until now only been occupied by men e.g. the next Secretary General of the United Nations but also continuing progress toward critical mass in organizations and roles where the glass ceiling has already been broken. Gender equality and embracing equity whether in foreign or domestic policy is not only about women, it is about all of us. Any study you care to consult will show the direct economic and other benefits of women's full and equal participation. In summary: when women succeed, societies succeed.

H.E. RUKHSANA AFZAAL

PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE



● I think the overall societal attitudes and response to women in leadership roles are still not up to the mark. Women still suffer biases, hostility, and at the times, vitriol in the workplace. Secondly, when a man fails, his failure is an individual failure, his gender is never blamed, but when a woman fails, the gender is blamed and ridiculed for being inferior. Thirdly, though women have joined the active workforce and shoulder the financial responsibilities of the family, their roles as mothers, daughters, and wives have not changed. While they share the financial burden of the male members of the family, the male members do not share their household responsibilities, resulting in early burnouts, i.e. many talented women throwing in the towel.

● Society needs to create an enabling environment for women to step out of the four walls of their houses and join the workforce. It has to give them a sense of security and comfort that they can become useful members of the household and contribute to the family income without compromising their dignity. No country in the world can afford half of its able-bodied population sitting at home and only half contributing to the national economy.

● Women bring their perspectives to the negotiations. They are more sensitive, patient, considerate, empathetic, resilient, and far-sighted, and have an eye for minute details. They bring sobriety and more meaning to the discussion. Their presence always adds value and credibility to diplomatic initiatives.

H.E. MAGDALENA BOGDZIEWICZ

AMBASSADOR OF POLAND TO SINGAPORE



● Last year's developments negatively affected millions of women across the globe - through socio-economic inequalities, natural catastrophes, human rights violations. In Poland, but also internationally, one of the most pressing issues became the humanitarian situation of women in conflicts and as a result of them. My country hosts currently over two million of refugees from Ukraine, most of them women and children, who lost almost everything as a result of Russia's war: their loved ones, property, jobs, social safety nets. It is crucial to support them so that they can rebuild their lives in new circumstances.

● For women that suffer as a result of war, like for women in general, the key thing is to create opportunities and let them build their lives with independence and dignity. Securing access to job market, state and social services but not less importantly to child care and education opportunities for their children can go a long way. This approach has been adopted by Poland where both state institutions and non-governmental entities offer avenues and programmes to do so.

● I am confident the role of women in diplomacy will only grow. It is a trend we have been observing for a while, as women often bring to the table many abilities necessary in modern diplomacy starting from multitasking and organization to pragmatism and communication skills. I see additional promise in technology as a big enabler of the current trends towards hybrid or more flexible working arrangements which will help to maintain work-family life balance for both genders.

H.E. SUMADHURIKA SASHIKALA PREMAWARDHANE

AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA TO SINGAPORE



● Creating an enabling environment at the workplace for women through flexible working options, be it part-time or remote working, can be a game changer that helps to balance work with other responsibilities. Not only does this help those with children or caring responsibilities to stay in the workforce, but in some cases, it can

Continued next page...

Welcome to the New Ambassador of the Philippines

This career diplomat shares with IN Diplomacy Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Ms Nomita Dhar what he hopes to achieve in his first Ambassadorial post here in Singapore. Ambassador Medardo A.G. Macaraig has plans to tap into Singapore's vibrant entrepreneurial culture

Your Excellency, congratulations on the presentation of your credentials. Is this your first visit to Singapore and what is your impression so far?

Yes, I haven't been here before. I was nearby in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2012 to 2015. I was invited to Singapore but did not get a chance (to visit) because of work. But, here I am now and it is very nice so far

Thank you so much. And, we are looking forward to working with you. What is your assessment of the state of bilateral relationships between Philippines and Singapore?

Well, the Philippines and Singapore have had relations for almost 55 years. Next year, we're going to celebrate another milestone anniversary. We're neighbours. We're both members of ASEAN. There have been a lot of bilateral exchanges through the years. I can't mention everything as it's going to be a long list. Of course, following the visit of President Marcos to Singapore last September we hope to continue to further these relations by multiple visits - not only from the Government, but also from the private sector.

Ambassadors when they arrive, come with an agenda or specific dream. What is yours?

Well, first of all, I'm still feeling my way around. I know there are many things already written about Singapore but, just like any other place, there's no substitute for actually experiencing it for yourself - that very personal experience here. Of course, you know there are many Filipinos here in Singapore. And, it has always been my dream, my advocacy rather, to make



(Above): Ambassador Medardo A.G. Macaraig with Ms Nomita Dhar.
(Right): At the Presentation of Credentials to President Halimah Yacob on 14th February 2023 at the Istana



Filipinos into entrepreneurs so that when they return home they are able to live and enjoy their time back in, let's say, greater comfort.

What is your agenda in terms of investment and trade?

Well, the marching orders of the President before we came here was to look for new and better opportunities for Filipinos. Not just for Filipino workers, but also for Filipino businesses. And, of course, on the reverse side, we are also looking for investments from Singapore as well as other countries. Last year, I believe, Singapore had the highest foreign direct investments in the Philippines. And, we hope to continue that.

Ambassador, tell me a little bit more about yourself - about your diplomatic career and training

My foreign assignments took me to Ottawa, Canada. That was my first assignment. Then, I was also Consul General to Saipan, which is part of the Commonwealth in the Northern Mariana Islands, somewhere in the middle of the Pacific. And then, I was also assigned as Deputy Chief Commissioner and Consul General to Kuala Lumpur. That was my last assignment before coming here. So, Singapore is my first Ambassadorial position.

That's wonderful. Ambassador, many diplomats who stay here for three to four years do get opportunities to go and visit the region. Would you want them to also visit Philippines - and, where would you like them to go first?

Yes, of course. The Philippines welcomes all visitors and we have much to offer. Besides the beaches,

we also have our very rich culture and history to explore and experience. Our people are one of the most hospitable in the world. Just like Singaporeans, we speak English. You don't have any problem being understood. So, it's something that the Philippines is proud of.

Human resource is your biggest asset and you earlier said you would want your workers staying in Singapore to go and start their own businesses. How would you also ensure that they have good prospects in Singapore, they're fairly treated, and more Filipinos get jobs here?

You're correct in saying that HR is one of our best assets. We just recently established the Department of Migrant Workers and it is charged with the protection of their rights and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers and their families all over the world.

Investment opportunities are something that keep the countries plugged in with one another. Do you have any specific opportunities for Singaporean investors to look at in the Philippines?

There was a MoU signed between Singapore and the Philippines on the massive New Clark City project that is already attracting a lot of interest. Opportunities also exist in our aviation, waste water treatment, and IT sectors.

Ambassador we wish you every success in your tenure here!

A podcast of the above interview is available online at www.indiplomacy.com

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encourage women who were hitherto compelled to stay away from the workforce to actively enter it and contribute. I believe this is one of the most pressing needs that needs to be achieved to empower women globally, which can also be a boost to global growth.

● Collectively, we should work towards improving conditions for women by enacting laws that tackle inequality in every sphere and creating a conducive environment that can lead

to increasing women's participation in the labour force. Some of these issues include addressing inequality in property ownership, access to credit, education, and healthcare, while of equal importance is improving access to transportation, technology, electricity, and water infrastructure.

● It is clear that there is significant economic gain from gender inclusion. I believe that women in diplomacy have a pivotal role to play in shaping the global discourse and advocating to level the playing field.

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● KSA Embassy Updates ● Int'l Women of Courage ● UN DigitALL Innovation & Technology for Gender Equality



EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day Celebrated with Verve Thanks to the Irish Embassy in Singapore

16th March 2023

The celebration was a rare opportunity to showcase Irish food, music and culinary offerings in Singapore. And the Irish Embassy here did not let the marking of St. Patrick's Day festivities end without an enthusiastic showcase of music, dance, and traditional Irish cuisine. Amongst the huge gathering at the event was Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information, Mr. Tan Kiat How. This year's reception was particularly special as it was the first time the new ambassador of Ireland to Singapore, H.E. Sarah McGrath (pictured right with IN Diplomacy Publisher, Ms Nomita Dhar) who hosted a national day reception, at Conrad Centennial Hotel. St. Patrick's Day is an important cultural and religious celebration for the Irish people held on 17th March which is the death anniversary of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. The significance of St. Patrick's Day lies in its ability to bring people of all backgrounds and nationalities together in a celebration of Irish culture and identity.



Successful Completion of New UN Convention on Marine Diversity (Outside State Jurisdiction)

4th March 2023

Negotiations have concluded at the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) on a new international agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. **It was presided over by Ms Rena Lee, Singapore's Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.**

The BBNJ Agreement is the result of discussions that began under the auspices of the United Nations in 2004 to improve the international legal regime governing the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in oceans beyond states' exclusive economic zones and continental shelves. Despite the fact that the high seas are incredibly biodiverse, just 1% of them are now governed. As a result, the BBNJ Agreement represents a significant step forward in contributing to the governance of the global commons. Singapore has presided over the agreement's discussions since September 2018. An innovative aspect of the BBNJ Agreement is developed countries' commitment to provide an additional 50% of their annual financial contributions under the Agreement to fund capacity-building projects that will assist developing countries in conserving and using marine biodiversity sustainably, as well as implementing the Agreement.



Promoting Singapore as a Halal Hub

4th March 2023

Sun Media Pte Ltd, the publishers of **IN Diplomacy** magazine, is part of a group of companies that have signed a series of MoUs with the Ever Rich Group at the Singapore Muslim Festival which was held at Singapore Expo to establish the Singapore International Halal Hub Conferences and Exhibitions in the MICE sector - connecting Singapore to the halal world. Ms Nomita Dhar, Founder and Managing Director of the 24-year old media communications company said: "The seed of this collaboration has been sown with the desire to use Singapore as a boutique hub to attract opportunities on the Halal front globally for the ASEAN market. Recognising the core competency of Ever Rich Group in the supply chain arena, and our work with international missions, we will, through Singapore International Halal hub Conferences and Exhibitions, bring global opportunities to ASEAN using Singapore as a show window for trade to flow in and out of the region."



Silent Heroes Also Sought Among Foreigners

12th March 2023

NOMINATIONS are now open for the public to submit any Singaporean (and permanent residents) who has been quietly doing good for fellow men. Since last year the Silent Heroes Awards has also launched a new category titled 'Compassionate Foreigner' open to non-Singaporeans to also recognise members of the foreign community who have contributed to Singapore society. The nominations process was launched last Sunday 12th March 2023 by Senior Minister (SM) Tharman Shanmugaratnam Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, in the Prime Minister's Office at a community event at Taman Jurong. The whole process will culminate in the Singapore Silent Heroes Awards Presentation Night in August which will be attended by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lawrence Wong. The event is organised by the Civilians Association of Singapore (CAS). Currently there are five categories and each has their own criteria of recognition: • Heart of Humanity • Pioneer of Promise • Outstanding Adult • Inspiring Youth • Compassionate Foreigner. Sun Media Pte Ltd, the publishers of **IN Diplomacy** has also signed a MoU to produce the 10th Anniversary coffee table book to commemorate the past decade of the Silent Heroes Awards for CAS. For more information about the awards and how to go about submitting your nomination please visit: <https://www.sgsilentheroes.com>

For the full story visit www.indiplomacy.com