

IN Diplomacy

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ANNUAL ROUND UP Foreign Missions Yearbook

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Singapore is famous for....



Dear Friends,

Singapore could not have had a more prominent place in the world's media spotlight than when the US and Democratic People's Republic of Korea decided to stage the historic meeting between President Donad Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un in this 'Little Red Dot' which despite the country's small population I have heard many ambassadors say is still able to "punch above its weight" in regional and global affairs. As far as the organisation of the event, efficiency and facilities were concerned, the country shone through brilliantly - bearing in mind that there was only a four-week window between the official announcement and the start of the event on 12th June 2018. Another clear winner was the diplomatic logistics which kicked into gear to ensure things went smoothly. Even the weather cooperated as the historic meeting was bathed in bright sunshine. It reflected everyone's hope that all the issues that have plagued the Korean peninsula will eventually be resolved through dialogues and negotiations. Singapore played its part by providing a neutral platform and a positive setting for the beginnings of a historic process which has global ramifications.

Several months later the spotlight zoomed its lens once again upon the island republic - this time for hosting one of the largest (outside the UN) and most influential meetings of the year - the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits at Suntec City. Aside from the leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries - the roll call included the heads of state from Australia, China, India, Japan, Chile, New Zealand, Russia, United States, and South Korea. This was the final meeting for Singapore as Chair of ASEAN before it handed it over to Thailand. Singapore was commended by many leaders for its stewardship as the Chair for the past year. Indeed, in an address to all the ASEAN leaders during the Summit's plenary session, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that strengthening ASEAN is an ongoing, multi-year project that requires a forward-looking effort that "goes beyond national interests." At the end of the Summit, the Prime Minister was pleased to note the progress of Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship and put on record his appreciation for the support shown by fellow ASEAN leaders as well as the grouping's external partners.

Just as Singapore has a foreign policy that is famous for aiming to be "a friend to all, but an enemy of none," in this issue of IN Diplomacy we offered foreign diplomatic missions a space to provide a round up of their activities as well as a section to describe what iconic products or services the country is famous for which can be popular back in their country or even here in Singapore.

The feedback from the many embassies based in Singapore on the highlights of the year for each of them has given us much to ponder over. It has been heartening to discover how these varied activities and events have reflected the diversity of their engagement not just in diplomatic circles, but also which involved their diaspora and Singaporean citizenry at large.

One common thread was the promotion of trade and investments with our island that is also established as a major gateway to the rest of Southeast Asia. One particular initiative in this sector that caught our attention was Indonesia. Under the tenure of the Indonesian ambassador HE Ngurah Swajaya, he established the first of its kind (for Indonesia) an impressive dedicated country products showroom on the embassy's premises that is the largest among Singapore foreign missions that also taps into a vast online database so that interested clients and customers can *directly* contact the manufacturers.



Photo by Kevin Lim/ The Straits Times/Handout/Getty Images

Then there were missions that also cited areas of expertise; others even anticipated growth sectors that they have ambitious plans for being well-known for in the future. We are happy to receive the information and hope readers will also learn something new!

Happy Reading!
Nomita Dhar



Top Visits' Agenda in 2018: World Peace and Regional Influence



Singapore took centrestage in two events that dominated the diplomatic world in 2018: The US-North Korea Summit and the 33rd ASEAN Summit with Singapore as Chair of the regional grouping and host to a range of related summits

The eyes of the world turned towards the meeting between two heads of states in the island resort of Sentosa when the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Un and the President of the United States (US) Donald J Trump met on 10 June and 11 June 2018 respectively when they arrived in Singapore for the US-DPRK Summit.

As expected the event provided an unprecedented opportunity for both to leaders to meet each other and kick-off the beginning of negotiations to ease tensions and according to the then US Secretary of State Mr Mike Pompeo "The fact that our two leaders are sitting down face to face is a sign of the enormous potential to accomplish something that will immensely benefit both of our peoples and the entire world."

Between the announcement and the actual 12th June meeting, there were only four weeks to plan and execute everything. Behind the scenes the Singapore government, US Embassy in Singapore and DPRK officials did an incredible job in logistics, security and successfully prepared a welcome not only for the two leaders but also for more than 2,000 members of the world press.

The meeting in Sentosa augmented and sealed the tiny city-state's reputation and capacity to host successfully this first summit between the US and North Korea and later in November the 33rd ASEAN Summit. These two mega scale diplomatic events gave substance to Singapore's Foreign Minister's assertion he made in a speech outlining the core principles underpinning Singapore's diplomacy: "We (Singapore) are honest brokers. We deal fairly and openly with all parties. And there is a sense of strategic predictability, which has enabled Singapore to build up trust and goodwill with our partners

over the decades. And because we are credible, Singapore is able to play a constructive role in international affairs, at ASEAN and at the UN."

ASEAN Summit

Nowhere was this made even more evident than at the 33rd ASEAN Summit (11th to 15th November 2018) where a veritable who's who of leading powers and individuals attended. Apart from the 10 ASEAN nations leaders' Summits, Singapore also hosted leaders from the US, Russia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Chile (as a guest of the Chair) as well as Ms Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF.

On the economic front, the meetings also covered the progress of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which once settled will be the largest free trade pact in the world. Other agreements of significance were the ASEAN agreement on e-commerce, the ASEAN single window facilitating customs clearance for goods moving across ASEAN and also the ASEAN-wide self-certification scheme.

The agenda to focus on the multilateral rules-based world order came in very handy in addressing the sensitive South China Sea issue. Singapore as coordinator for ASEAN-China relations was enabled to arrive at a single draft negotiating text on the Code of Conduct (COC), which provides a good basis on which future negotiations can proceed. A flagship project for Singapore's Chairmanship was the launch of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network which identified 26 pilot cities across Southeast Asia. Singapore has handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Thailand, but will continue to shepherd this concept, and act as a facilitator for efforts in smart cities across Southeast Asia.



Negara Brunei Darussalam 11th to 14th May 2018

PRESIDENT Halimah Yacob's State Visit was at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam. This is President Halimah's first overseas State Visit during which she met senior members of the Bruneian Royal Family and Cabinet, including His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Negara Brunei Darussalam. President Halimah and the Sultan witnessed the signing of the following agreements:

- Financial Technology Cooperation Agreement between the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam and the Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Financial Intelligence Unit, Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam and the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office, Commercial Affairs Department, Singapore Police Force Concerning Cooperation in the Exchange of Information related to Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing



Photos by MCI/Terence Tan

Kingdom of the Netherlands 20th to 24th November 2018

PRESIDENT Halimah Yacob made the first-ever Singapore State Visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander. She visited Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, and Eindhoven. In the course of her visit the President met Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and President of the Senate Ankie Broekers-Knol and President of the House of Representatives Khadija Arib. She also attended briefings at the Prodock, a hub to facilitate innovation in the port of Amsterdam; the Wageningen University & Research, one of the top Dutch universities, for briefings on sustainable farming, innovative horticulture and food safety; Deltares, an independent institute in Delft for applied research in the field of water and the subsurface; she met Dutch researchers from Brainport Eindhoven – the innovation centre of the Netherlands – and the Eindhoven University of Technology. In Rotterdam, President Halimah attended a business forum with Dutch and Singapore companies.



Photos by MCI/HL Goh



(Clockwise from top): ◯ President Halimah and HM King Willem-Alexander witnessed signing of MOUs ◯ Prodock an incubator & innovation hub ◯ Hydroponic tulips at Wageningen University ◯ Binnehof, the oldest house of parliament in the world still in use ◯ President Halimah and HM Queen Maxima witnessed signing of MOU between NTU & University of Groningen and the University of Wageningen



CLASS of 2018

In 2018 many high commissioners and ambassadors presented their credentials in Singapore. IN Diplomacy interviewed many of them on their thoughts and feelings about their new posting and plans. For the interviews, more photos and official bios visit

www.indiplomacy.com

Why Diplomacy Matters

Singapore is home to 70 resident foreign High Commissions and Embassies, 43 Consular Posts and 11 International Organisations. They act as a conduit between Singapore and their respective countries. Diplomatic missions are headed by influential newsmakers who open doors for business, trade, investment, education, the arts and culture.

IN Diplomacy has a mission to communicate and act as a bridge between the diplomatic community and Singaporeans.



The Ambassador of The Republic of The Philippines HE Joseph Del Mar Yap

20 April 2018



The Ambassador of The Republic of Belarus HE Valery Kolesnik



The Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia HE Professor Admasu Tsegaye Agidew



The Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan HE Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud

28 June 2018



The High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania HE Baraka Haran Luvanda



The Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador HE Fabián Valdivieso

26 July 2018

24 August 2018



The Ambassador of Georgia HE Irakli Asashvili



The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Her Excellency Magdalena Bogdziewicz

27 September 2018

24 October 2018



The Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia HE Normans Penke



The Ambassador of Japan HE Jun Yamazaki



The Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea HE Senkoun Sylla

29 March 2018



The Ambassador of The Hellenic Republic (Greece) HE Constantina Koliou



Ambassador of The People's Republic of China HE Hong Xiaoyong



Ambassador of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam HE Tao Thi Thanh Huong

31 May 2018



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand HE Manopchai Vongphakdi



The Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation HE Fabrice Filliez



The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea HE Ahn Young-jip

26 July 2018



The High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji HE Seleima D. Veisamasama



The Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan HE Kakhramon Shakirov



The Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See HE Archbishop Marek Zaleski

27 September 2018



The Ambassador of Ireland HE Patrick Bourne



The Ambassador of the Republic of Peru HE Carlos Raul Vásquez Corrales



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden HE Niclas Kvarnström

9 November 2018



The Malaysian High Commissioner, Dato' Zainol Rahim Bin Zainuddin

29 November 2018



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain HE Ahmed Abdulla Alhajeri



The Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania HE Gediminas Varvuolis

IN Diplomacy

Foreign Missions Annual Round Up

There are 70 resident foreign High Commissions and Embassies and 43 foreign Consular posts here (featuring over 60 non-resident foreign High Commissioners and Ambassadors) accredited to Singapore*. All of them are headed by influential newsmakers with information, events and activities that touch business, trade, investment, education, the arts, culture and invariably, in some way touch the lives of the people in Singapore.

This section brings together the highlights of the various activities and engagements of the many embassies, high commissions and consulates. They have also shared with readers what they consider to be iconic products, services or even symbols or expertise, which are not only popular back home but have also gained fame and popularity here in Singapore. Some of the choices are familiar, some were a surprise! Regardless, we believe readers will always learn something new.

* as of 12th December 2017. Source: Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Countries Represented in Singapore and Yearbook Country Contributors Locator

Following are the diplomatic missions and consulates **based in Singapore**. Consulates are denoted by the symbol ○. Diplomatic missions that have contributed to the Annual are marked in **BOLD**

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Argentina and Singapore: Upcoming Trade & Investment Agreements will Boost Relations

Text and photographs by the Argentine Embassy in Singapore



*(Top & above right): Visit by Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie at the Istana with PM Lee Hsien Loong and Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan.
 (Above left): PM Lee with Argentine President Macri during G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires*

Throughout the year, the Argentine Embassy in Singapore worked hard to strengthen bilateral ties by organising and participating in numerous trade and cultural events. Of these, the introduction of **Malbec World Day** in Singapore was truly significant. Malbec World Day is celebrated simultaneously across the globe, on April 17. This year Malbec World Day provided 16 local Argentine wine distributors the perfect platform to showcase their products to the local gastronomic leaders.

In August, Argentina's **Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie** made his second official visit to Singapore. He was received by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. Minister Faurie signed both the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of ASEAN and an Air Services Agreement with Singapore. The latter will go a long way to help boost air connectivity between both countries. In July, a delegation of **Singaporean businessmen from the**

fish industry visited Argentina in search of local suppliers.

Following that, in November, a delegation of **wineries from the Argentine province of Mendoza visited Singapore** to offer their products to the main local importers and distributors.

Finally, at the end of November **Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong** held his first visit to Argentina to participate in the **G20 Leaders' Summit**.

While in Buenos Aires, he also held a bilateral **meeting with President Mauricio Macri**. Both leaders agreed to continue strengthening trade and investment ties. With that purpose, a Bilateral Investment Treaty and a Double Taxation Agreement between both countries, plus a Free Trade Agreement between MERCOSUR and Singapore are already being discussed by both parties.

ARGENTINA FAMOUS FOR...

Argentine Food, Beverage & Fruit are Most Appreciated in Singapore



THE growing number of Argentine exports to Singapore in recent years reflects the interest of local consumers for the best quality Argentine food and beverages that are available at competitive prices.

Within the food category, there is no doubt that beef, wine and fish dominate the scene, with an increasing participation of Argentine fruits.

With respect to beef, consumers in Singapore now can taste a top-quality produce from livestock that is fed on grass and raised under the highest health safety standards. Within the seafood category, even though toothfish is the main Argentine export to Singapore, the unique Argentine red shrimp and Patagonian squid are expected to be in high demand soon too.

In the wine category, the Argentine Malbec currently enjoys a fine reputation in Singapore as it does in the rest of the world. Building on its success, Argentine wineries are increasingly expanding their presence in this country through other Argentine varietals of similar top quality, such as Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

The white wine Torrontes deserves a special mention. Originated in Argentina, this varietal is gaining ground within the local wine lovers, giving them a fresh option, different from other classic whites.

As a sign of growing worldwide recognition of Argentine wines, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, the most trusted authority in wine for over 30 years recently awarded 100 evaluation points to River Stones Malbec 2016 and The Great Enemy Single Vineyard Gualtallary 2013.



The growing number of Argentine exports to Singapore in recent years reflects the interest of local consumers for the best quality Argentine food and beverages that are available at competitive prices. Within the food category, there is no doubt that beef, wine and fish dominate the scene, with an increasing participation of Argentine fruits

2018 - A Good Year for Australia in Singapore

Text and photographs by the Australian High Commission in Singapore

Another great year for Australia-Singapore ties as both countries are brought closer together under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)



Australia's Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, The Hon Karen Andrews MP, during the Good Science = Great Business 2018 Festival

Australia knew that this year would be busy with Singapore as ASEAN Chair, a higher than usual number of official visits and an exciting forward agenda with the release of the country's Foreign Policy White Paper in late 2017.

The first half of the year set the pace. The Australian High Commission (AHC) hosted its Ministers for Defence, Digital Transformation and Industry, the country's Governor-General, Air Force Chief and large delegations for significant regional conferences. The AHC was thrilled to support Qantas' decision to once again use Singapore as a hub. Australia announced the ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards and ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities initiatives during an ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

The second half of the year was even more action-packed, with visits by Prime Minister, The Hon Scott Morrison MP, and more Australian Government Ministers for the Shangri La Dialogue on Defence, ASEAN Regional Forum senior officials' meetings, the Quad meeting, Australia's trilateral strategic dialogue with the US and Japan, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus and the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits programme.

The AHC held the inaugural Australia-Singapore Infrastructure Investment

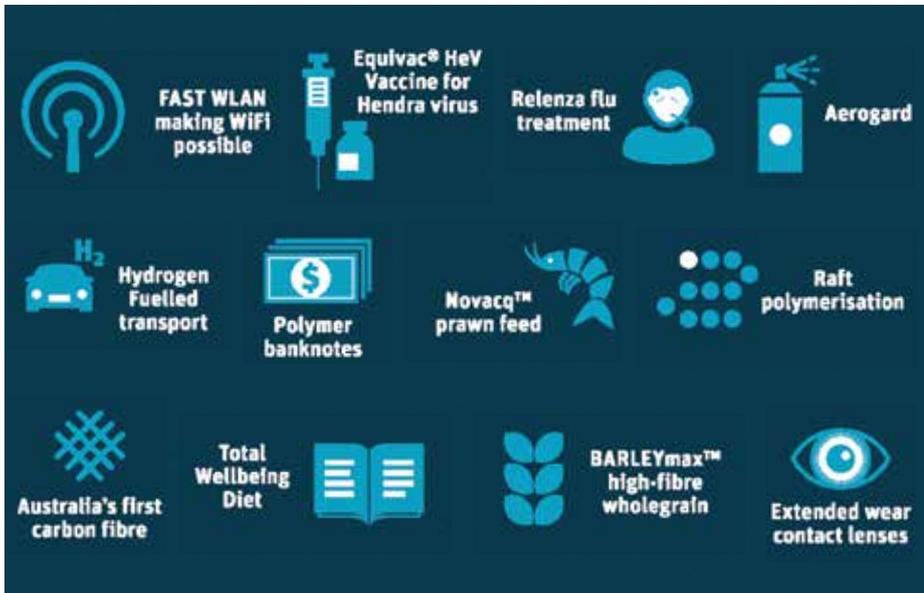
Forum in July, which provided a platform for Australian, Singaporean and global infrastructure leaders to meet with key decision-makers from industry and government. Through September, the AHC held Good Science = Great Business 2018: An Australian Festival of INNOVATION in Singapore and ASEAN to promote Australia's science and research capability and investment opportunities in Singapore and the region.

The High Commission also launched two cohorts of Australian Landing Pad companies and Singapore-based regional offices for our national science and research organisation, CSIRO, and The Australian National University.

Australia's strong defence ties with Singapore were enhanced. In October, 650 Australian Defence Force personnel joined the military training exercise, Bersama Lima, just off Singapore. In November, the AHC marked 25 years of the Singapore Air Force operating at the RAAF base at Pearce and 20 years of their activities in Oakey. Work continued on the multi billion-dollar Singaporean military training initiative in North Queensland. The spirit of progress is central to the CSP, which is a context for Australia and Singapore to explore areas where they can build up further cooperation. Australia is looking to collaborate further to promote open trade values, collaborate on the digital agenda, strengthen cybersecurity cooperation, increase infrastructure investment, support smart cities in ASEAN and deepen collaboration in science and innovation.

AUSTRALIA FAMOUS FOR...

Australia Aims to be Synonymous with Good Science and Great Business



Australia is internationally known for its landscape and lifestyle, but less well known is the excellence of its achievements in science and innovation. Australia has produced 15 Nobel Laureates, 11 of them in science or medicine

(Above): Some examples of top Australian innovations. Source: CSIRO

WHILE Australia is internationally known for its landscape and lifestyle, it is less well known for the excellence of its achievements in science and innovation. Australia has produced fifteen Nobel Laureates, 11 of them in science or medicine.

Australian scientists are responsible for transformative innovations including the fast WLAN technology behind WiFi, polymer banknotes, hydrogen-fuelled transport, ultrasound scanners, the cochlear implant and life-saving vaccines, to name a few.

Australia has punched above her weight in scientific achievement, discoveries and high-quality research. The country's universities are world-class and are producing excellent research at the cutting-edge.

Despite having only 0.3 per cent of the world's population, Australia contributed to more than four per cent of world research publications in 2017. The country's research strengths include health, energy, soil and water, food security, cybersecurity and resources.

But it seems Australia is not so great at sharing its science with the world and can do better in developing international partnerships. This is why the Australian High Commission in Singapore spent September 2018 promoting Australian science and the opportunity for innovation collaboration in Singapore through the Good Science = Great Business 2018 Festival. The Festival saw the launch by Australia's national research organisation – CSIRO – of its ASEAN Hub, bringing Australia's innovation catalyst to Singapore.

With more than 1,800 patents, CSIRO is Australia's largest patent holder, providing a vast source of commercial opportunity and already resulting in more than 150 spin-off companies, with more to come.

The Festival was just the beginning. Such efforts will not stop until Australia, Singapore and ASEAN are more effectively working together to use science to solve national and global social, environmental and economic challenges, to develop commercial opportunities, and to create jobs in all the respective countries.

In Australia, we appreciate that others love our landscape and our lifestyle, but we want the region to see Australia as synonymous with good science and great business.

Bangladesh-Singapore Relations: A New Era of Cooperation and Opportunities

Text and photographs by the
Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore



Singapore and Bangladesh bilateral relations date back to February 1972. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, made her first official visit to Singapore from 11th to 13th March 2018. She called on President Mdm Halimah Yacob; had a meeting with her counterpart Lee Hsien Loong (pictured above and right) and also visited the Port Authority of Singapore (PSA); she also attended an orchid-naming ceremony at Singapore's National Orchid Garden and was Chief Guest at a business forum and round table and gave an exclusive interview to *The Straits Times*. The paper also carried an op-ed by the Prime Minister. During this visit, six agreements/ Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) were signed.

In 3rd to 4th November 2018 during his maiden visit to Bangladesh Singaporean Foreign Minister, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and met Bangladesh Foreign Minister



A H Mahmood Ali. Visiting the Rohingya Camps in Cox's Bazar, he assured Singapore's (under the ASEAN umbrella) support to Bangladesh and Myanmar in finding a long-term solution for the refugee situation..

In October 2018, the High Commission organized the 'Bangladesh Development Fair 2018' (pictured below left). High Commissioner, Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman delivered the keynote address at the inaugural seminar that highlighted the business potential between the two countries. The government's socio-economic achievements as also welfare initiatives were highlighted and a documentary on Bangladesh's development was screened, while handicrafts, exportable items, books, and cuisine items were also put on display.

To celebrate the graduation of Bangladesh from LDC Group, the High Commission organized a panel discussion, 'Bangladesh: The Next Level of Development' in collaboration with Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) NUS on May 15 2018. The discussion focused on Bangladesh's infrastructure development and its social impact, its economic priorities and its role as a regional and global actor. Among the panelists were Ms. Ayesha Aziz Khan, Managing Director & CEO, Summit Power International Pte Ltd, Dr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and Dr. Amitendu Palit, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS. Dr. Iftekhar A Chowdhury, Principal Research Fellow of ISAS chaired the panel discussion.

A business delegation led by Chairman of Singapore Business Federation (SBF) visited Bangladesh from July 7-13. The visit facilitated interaction between business communities and greater cooperation between trade promotion organizations. The delegation met business



(From l to r): Seminar on Bangladesh's Graduation from LDC; Networking with Bangladesh Students and Singapore's Foreign Minister visited Rohingya refugees at Cox's Bazar

leaders in a 'Bangladesh-Singapore Business Forum' and called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Commerce Minister. The Hon'ble Prime Minister offered 500 acres of land in a SEZ to Singaporean investors.

Today, Singapore is Bangladesh's fourth largest source of foreign direct investment, and its companies are showing increasing interest

in the growing Bangladeshi market, particularly in the power, connectivity and infrastructure sectors.

Cultural promotion is another aspect. In November 2018, the Mission hosted an enthralling cultural evening where artists from the Shilpakala Academy of Bangladesh Poet Rabindranath Tagore's Chandalika.

BANGLADESH FAMOUS FOR...

Bangladesh Keen to Expand into World Leather Market

REPUTED for its excellent quality, leather goods from Bangladesh offer a huge potential for investment and export earnings. This reputation has been hard-earned as the country is firm on using the best qualities of fine grain, uniform fibre structure, smooth feel and natural texture in its leather products. Bangladesh produces and exports quality bovine and ovine, caprine (buffalo and cow; sheep and goat) leathers that have a good international reputation for fine-textured skins.

The country has a solid institutional base for this industry. Presently 30 mechanized footwear companies are producing products for global export. Many semi-mechanized and non-mechanized companies are also in operation for domestic market. In addition, Bangladesh has a fairly large livestock to support a strong and growing tanning industry. The current local output in Bangladesh is 25 million sqft leather annually. Apart from the local bovine and caprine, Kangaroo hides and ostrich leather is imported from Australia for production of high-quality export-oriented leather goods.

Bangladesh holds a share of only 0.5% of the world's leather trade worth US\$75 billion so the potential for exports is high. In 2017, the total value of leather and leather goods exports from Bangladesh stood at \$1.2bn, accounting for 3.54% of the country's total merchandise exports. With appropriate investment, product and export diversification, the export earnings from this sector may be expanded manifold.

Reputed for its excellent quality, leather goods from Bangladesh offers a huge potential for investment and export earnings. This reputation has been hard-earned as the country is firm on using the best qualities of fine grain, uniform fibre structure, smooth feel and natural texture in its leather products. Bangladesh produces and exports quality bovine and ovine, caprine (buffalo and cow; sheep and goat) leathers that have a good international reputation for fine-textured skins

The sector has competitive edge because of low labour cost differentiation, availability of hides in the domestic market and a favorable investment and business environment. The new leather park in Savar, Dhaka is expected to transform the leather industry with a marked increase in production, product diversification and new product lines with increased sustainability of the sector. The government is also encouraging investments in sustainable and cleaner production technologies.





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to the many
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Belgium in Singapore: An Eventful 2018

Text and photos by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Singapore



Trade Relations) visited their Belgian counterparts as well! Meanwhile, the Belgian dance group 'Voetvolk' performed in Singapore.

On November 12, the Ambassador – supported by Katoen Natie and DEME – hosted the King's Day reception where over 400 guests enjoyed the very best Belgium has to offer. Secretary of State De Backer (Fight against Fraud, Privacy, North Sea) – who conferred an honorific distinction upon Arnoud De Meyer (President, SMU) – and Cathy Berx (Antwerp Governor) were present with a business delegation. Singapore's Dr Maliki Osman, Senior Minister of State (Ministry of Defence, Foreign Affairs) graced the event (pictured left). Finally, the Embassy supported Quadra Medicinale – an exhibition by the late Belgian artist Jef Geys – as well as the screening of *Girl*, the award-winning movie about a transgender's ambitions to become a ballerina.

The year 2018 was an eventful one. There were screenings of *A Plastic Ocean* and panel discussions where the GMs and CEOs of large Belgian companies like DEME and Katoen Natie talked of strategies to tackle plastic pollution.

In February, Belgium's Secretary of State, Foreign Trade, Pieter De Crem (Foreign Trade), a business delegation for the Air Show, as well as Minister Smet (Mobility, Public Works, Brussels-Capital Region) came to Singapore. In March, the Embassy, teamed up with Alliance Française to screen Belgian francophone movies such as *Le Tout Nouveau Testament* and *Noces*.

In April, Singapore Minister Zulkifli (Environment, Water Resources) met Belgium's Secretary of State De Crem (Foreign Trade) in Belgium. In turn, Cécile Jodogne (State-Secretary, Foreign Trade, Firefighting, Emergency Medical Assistance, Brussels-Capital Region) came to Singapore. At 'Food Hotel Asia', 65 Belgian companies were also prominently present! Finally, the Embassy supported the screening of *Patser*.

May brought the European Film Festival where Belgium's contribution, *Insyriated*, the award-winning movie about the Syrian civil war, saw a strong turn-out.

In June, Belgium got elected into the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member. That month, Dirk Achten and Régine Vandriessche (Secretary-General, Director Asia-Pacific, FPS Foreign Affairs) visited Singapore as well. Meanwhile, the Ambassador organised a sold-out live screening of the Belgium-Tunisia World Cup football match, that was attended by over 300 guests and S\$ 9,000 was collected for charity.

July saw the visit of Antwerp Mayor Bart De Wever leading a delegation of Antwerp and Flemish businesses to Singapore. In September, the Embassy took part in the 'Study in Europe' fair where the Ambassador spoke about world-class education in Belgium.



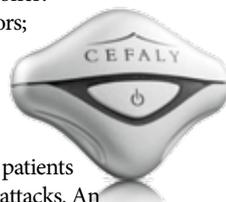
Then came October: not only did the Sultan of Brunei visit King Philip in Belgium; Singapore Ministers Balakrishnan (Foreign Affairs) and Iswaran (Communications and Information,

During his visit, Secretary of State De Backer also held a speech at a lunch seminar titled "Antwerp Meets Singapore" organised by BLBG Singapore and Voka - Kamer van Koophandel Antwerpen-Waasland – which was graced by Singapore Minister Masagos Zulkifli, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (see picture below left).

BELGIUM FAMOUS FOR...

ALTHOUGH famous for chocolates, Belgium has more to offer: not only is the country an interesting destination for investors; in terms of merchandise export, it is ranked 12th globally.

Some examples of Belgian products include **Cefaly II: Migraine Pain Relief**. This is a non-invasive device that treats and prevents migraines, helps to lower dosage of oral medication and can be considered a first-line treatment for patients



suffering frequent migraine attacks. An electronic, battery-powered, pocket-sized, rechargeable device, it is placed on the forehead for 20 minutes once a day, using a self-adhesive electrode and a magnetic connection. The device sends electrical impulses through the skin to desensitize the upper branches of the trigeminal nerve to reduce the frequency of migraine attacks!

The humble **potato** is also a top Belgian export as the Belgian potato-processing industry has become the largest exporter of pre-cooked potato products in the world: in 2017, no less than 2.2 million tonnes of frozen potatoes were exported. This year, 4.6 million tonnes have been processed into a wide range of products in Belgium: fries (fresh and frozen), mashed potato products, crisps, granules, flakes, etc. From 2008–2015, the volume of processed potatoes rose 50%: this growth was most noticeable in the production of fries.

Finally, the idea behind the **Brussels Beer Project** (BBP) is the co-creation of new beers with the community. BBP represents a contemporary Brussels: a cosmopolitan city which is alive, evolving and growing. Recently, a new bold and creative wave on the Belgian brewing scene has been cropping up to challenge the norms. BBP will open a new brewery in 2020 with a capacity of ten million bottles per year. Currently, they are imported by Mundito Singapore Pte Ltd.



Time for Brazil in Singapore

Text and photographs first appeared in It's Time for Brazil in Singapore, 2018 edition



(From l to r): Ambassador Flávio Damico, Sec. Diogo Lyra, the then Minister Aloysio Nunes, Trade Advisor Carlos Pheysey, PM Lee Hsien Loong and Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan

The year ended with Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong meeting the then President of Brazil, Michel Temer, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, which Mr Lee was attending in Argentina last November. It was the culmination of a very good run in the past two and a half years of activities between Brazil and Singapore. In that time, both nations were able to commemorate the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations as well as step up economic and trade ties.

Brazil has always had a level of trade with the city-state that placed Singapore ahead of many other of its Latin American neighbours. Both countries are seriously intent on stepping up from this already high plateau to an even higher level of engagement. To achieve this there was an unprecedented array of meetings between the Foreign Minister of Brazil and his counterpart in Singapore. In the past year alone they have met six or seven times and this clearly points to an intensification of the ties.

Two landmark agreements were signed related to the avoidance of double taxation, a long-held aspiration for both countries, and the two governments initiated the negotiations for a free trade agreement between Singapore and the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela). On top of that an agreement of visa extension between Brazil and Singapore was also inked. Some other highlights of this intensification of ties include bilateral visits by official delegations from various economic and technical sectors.

Minister Nunes also met with the Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, Mr. S Iswaran. He also called on the GIC Pte Ltd (formerly known as

Government of Singapore Investment Corporation) and Temasek Holdings. Dominating the range of meetings, was the exchange held with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited São Paulo in August 2018 to meet Brazil's then Minister for Finance and Head of Brazil's Central Bank, to address developmental issues as well as

the requirements for a streamlined financial framework spanning matters of remittances, credit lines, taxation, transparency and more.

Throughout the year several government and industry groups visited the island republic and a significant number of companies actively participated in the exhibitions here.

Bearing in mind the large volumes of Brazilian produce supplied to Singapore, the Asian nation hosted in February 2018 a visit initiated by Mr. Eumar Novacki, the Executive Secretary, i.e. Deputy Minister for MAPA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply. He met officials at Agri-food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA). He also called on Francis Chong, Senior Director for Emerging Markets, from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Office of the Presidency of Brazil encompasses a board known as SPPI, the Secretariat of the Programme for Investment Partnerships, which set its sights on Singapore and sent a team in June 2018 that included the Ministry of Transportation, Ports and Civil Aviation (MTPA), along with the representative in Asia for Apex-Brasil, the country's trade and investment promotion board. There is great potential and prospects as Brazil would like to further streamline and remove the bottlenecks in its logistics and energy supply sectors. The organisations were represented by Mr. Marco Aurélio de Barcelos Silva, from SPPI, Mr. Dino Antunes Dias Batista, from the MTPA, along with Mr. José Mario Moccia Antunes, from Apex-Brasil.



DPM Shanmugaratnam at the World Economic Forum

Brazil has always had a level of trade with the city-state that placed Singapore ahead of many other of its Latin American neighbours. Both countries are seriously intent on stepping up from this already high plateau to an even higher level of engagement



(From l to r): Minister Sam Tan Chin Siong ; Ambassador Flávio Damico, Executive Secretary Eumar Novaki and the CEO of AVA, Mr. Lim Kok Thai. Passion Ball 2018 celebrated Brazilian culture and cuisine

In September Brazil celebrated the nation's 196th Independence Day with guest of honour Singapore's Minister of State (Foreign Affairs) (Social and Family Development) Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong, who described 2018 as another "vinatge year" for bilateral relations. Guests also received a special treat as one of Brazil's most celebrated Brazilian musicians, the saxophonist Léo Gandelman, provided soulful renditions of Singapore's *Majallah Singapura* and the Brazilian national anthem *Hino Nacional Brasileiro*. Gandelman was also the featured performer at the Brazilian Embassy's annual signature musical event, PianoBotanica.

BCB, Brazil's Central Bank, seeks to be at the forefront of some of the advancements and experimentations into new realms made possible by fintech. Representatives from the Department of Financial System Regulation from BCB came to Singapore for a conference on "Central Banking FinTech and RegTech Global Summit".

Brazil featured prominently at April's Food and Hotel Asia (FHA) 2018, one Asia's largest trade shows related to food, beverages and related equipment. Brazil's 90 sqm pavilion congregated over a dozen companies in the largest display ever of Brazilian products at this fair. The Trade Section of the

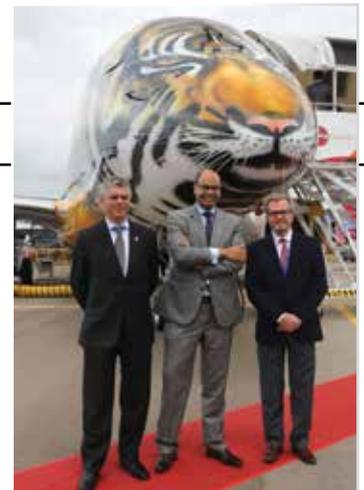
Embassy and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply co-organised the Brazilian participation in the national pavilion.

The country still remains one of the traditional global leaders in coffee and seeks to expand its repertoire of speciality coffees. This has led the BSCA (Brazilian Specialty Coffee Association), with the assistance of the Trade & Economic Section of the Embassy of Brazil to Singapore and Apex-Brasil, to set up a booth in March 2018 at the 'Cafe Asia and ICT Industry Expo'.

On the epicurean front Brazilian cuisine created quite a splash in Singapore's food circle through the visit of several well-known Brazilian chefs throughout the year. They included Nelson Nardocci Neto, Paulo Machado, Rafael (Rafa) Costa e Silva and Pablo Oazen. Brazilian culture and cuisine was even the centrepiece for one of Singapore's leading social charity events, the Passion Ball, whose theme last year was 'Brazilian Dreams - Romance in Rio'. Chef Machado delivered a menu of dreams combining typical Brazilian dishes with a twist that delighted the senses.

BRAZIL FAMOUS FOR...

BRAZILIAN aircraft manufacturer Embraer is one the great success stories of the country's high-technology manufacturing sector. Embraer showcased its E190-E2 narrow-bodied single-aisle passenger plane at the Singapore Airshow 2018, with its forward section painted to emulate a tiger (pictured right), a fitting tribute to this Asian Tiger economy that is Singapore. The model entered service soon thereafter, in April 2018. This Brazilian high-tech manufacturer also displayed its Legacy 650E business jet, the Legacy 500 mid-size business jet, as well as the Phenom 300 light jet (now in use in the UK and US). The company hopes to tap into Asia's projected 4% future GDP growth and its need for 3000 aircraft of up to 150 seats over the next two decades.



Brazilian agribusinesses have been feeding the world in the 21st century, the outcome of having not just vast tracts of arable land yet to be cultivated without harming the native forest but also of having the vertical integration, sanitation and food safety programmes that meet the stringent requirements of nations worldwide. Thus, Brazil is able to supply itself and moreover other continents with some of the best produce available, be it meats, grain, fruit, seafood, timber from renewable sources and so much more.

Canada: Deepening Engagement with Singapore in 2018

Text and photographs by the High Commission of Canada in Singapore



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets business leaders on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November.

The year 2018 was another momentous year for Canada-Singapore relations! As Singapore took on the role of ASEAN Chair, Canada had its own year in the spotlight as President of the G7. Canada's priorities in this role – such as promoting a more peaceful and secure world, ensuring growth works for everyone, and combatting climate change, complemented Singapore's objectives as ASEAN Chair to build a more resilient and innovative region. As such, this year we signed two MOUs with Singapore: on cybersecurity cooperation and on smart cities and infrastructure collaboration.

Canada is one of ASEAN's longest-standing Dialogue Partners, and, as a Pacific country, deeply values its engagement with this regional organization. In August, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland visited Singapore to attend the ASEAN-Canada Post Ministerial Conference and the ASEAN Regional Forum. As part of her visit, she also delivered a Fullerton Lecture organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) entitled "In defence of the rules-based international order: how Canada and its partners must fight back." A few weeks later, Canada's Minister of International Trade Diversification Jim Carr visited Singapore to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting. These visits built on the engagement of Canada's Minister of Defence Sajjan, who attended the IISS Shangri La Dialogue in June, and the goodwill ship visit by HMCS Vancouver in May.

The year culminated in the visit of Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. He was invited by Singapore to attend events during the 33rd ASEAN Summit as Guest of the Chair. The Prime Minister had a full program, including meetings with Prime Minister Lee, President Halimah Yacob, and a range of Singaporean business leaders. He also held an interactive dialogue at National University of Singapore with an enthusiastic audience of students and faculty. Of course, no trip to Singapore would have been complete without a visit to a hawker centre. The Prime Minister visited Adam Road to learn about Singapore's food culture and interact with members of the public.

Many were surprised to learn of Prime Minister Trudeau's Singaporean ancestry. He visited Fort Canning to pay respects at the gravestone of his great great great grandmother Esther Bernard - daughter of William Farquhar. While the distance between Singapore and Canada may be great, links between the two countries are deep and long-standing, and the Prime Minister is a prime example of our invaluable people-to-people ties.

While it was a busy year in terms of high-level engagement, we also showcased Canada's diverse culture through a range of visual and performing arts events, and worked with Singaporean organizations to promote action on climate change, women's empowerment, and diversity. Canadian provinces also continued to expand their activities in Singapore, including the opening of a new BC Trade and Investment Office. In addition, we launched the Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) program for students from across ASEAN to study at Canada's world-class universities, and were pleased to welcome the first cohort from Singapore in September.

To find out more about events, initiatives or scholarship opportunities, follow us on facebook @CanadainSingapore. We invite Singaporeans to continue to choose Canada as a premier destination in which to work, study, travel, invest and do business!

CANADA FAMOUS FOR...



CANADA is surrounded by three oceans and a vast, unspoiled natural environment conducive to growing the finest food ingredients in the world. Canadian agri-food products have found a niche in Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole. Canada is a popular choice for the supply of high quality wheat to Southeast Asia and North Asia, and Canadian soy beans are the most widely used food grade beans in Southeast Asia. Our ubiquitous canola oil was rated the healthiest and fastest growing vegetable oil in Asia, and Canadian ice wines have achieved a dominant position in many markets in Asia. Canada is a leading global quality pork and beef exporter, and our fresh and processed seafood products are prized in key Asian countries, including Singapore, where sustainable live Canadian lobsters and Pacific oysters lead the market in season. New items gaining popularity include Canadian craft beer and maple water.

In Singapore, Canadian food is a best kept secret in local fine food stores and restaurants. Delectable Canadian ingredients can be found locally in high quality pastry and soy products, as well as the succulent pork, beef and seafood served in restaurants. Our craft beer is available in local pubs. A growing range of Canadian confectionery, healthy snacks, maple syrup and seafood can also be found on the supermarket shelves.

The High Commission of Canada participates in various promotional events - such as Food & Hotel Asia and Speciality & Fine Food Asia - raising the profile of Canadian food. We are proud to work with local retailers and establishments to showcase and promote the highest quality Canadian agri-food products in Singapore and throughout Asia.

Chile: Asian Focus

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Chile in Singapore

Ties gaining momentum with increased interaction on many fronts



The President of the Republic of Chile Sebastián Piñera was in Singapore to participate in the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in November 2018. On the occasion the President shared that: “Joining the Asia-Pacific world is of paramount importance and fundamental for Chile”

During his visit President Piñera highlighted the bilateral meetings held and emphasized the importance of this region for Chile. During the course of the event President Piñera met with President of Singapore, H.E. Halimah Yacob, Prime Minister of Singapore, H.E Lee Hsien Loong (pictured above left) and President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo; President Piñera also had a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Lim Jock Hoi.

“Joining the Asia-Pacific world, which is the most dynamic region with the highest growth rate in the world, is of paramount importance and fundamental for Chile. This is with a single purpose in mind: to create more opportunities, improve the quality of life of Chileans, create more and better jobs, improve wages and attract foreign investment,” the President said at Merlion Park.

The President attended a gala dinner organized by the Prime Minister Lee within the framework of the ASEAN summit; President Piñera was joined by President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence, Chairwoman of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde, Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and Myanmar State Counselor and Noble Peace Prize Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, among others.

“We have had a very good meeting with the ten member countries of ASEAN, an association that represents the most dynamic region of the world economy and that is expanding”, the President added.

President Piñera took time out to also to visit the Centre for Research and Cyber Security (Itrust) of the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), the NEWater treatment plant; The Centre of Excellence for Testing & Research of Autonomous Vehicles NTU (CETRAN) and Urban Redevelopment Authority.

CHILE FAMOUS FOR...

FROM the desert in the north to glaciers in the far south, along with its varied climatic features, Chile's natural diversity is unrivalled for supporting a wide spectrum of products, for both domestic use and for its export markets. As a result Chile has evolved into an important player in the global food industry, and a reliable supplier of safe, healthy food that meets the highest standards demanded by international consumers. Chile's reputation is well known among food lovers and wine experts, for which selected ingredients, raw materials and different quality produces ready for the consumption and enjoyment by the public.



Chile's geographic characteristics assure natural barriers for most problems related to agriculture. Chile has some of the clearest skies in the world and large fresh water reserves. Also, its unique geographic and weather characteristics create an island effect from the phytosanitary perspective. The Atacama Desert to the north, the Andes to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west and Antarctica to the south are natural barriers that isolate food production and protect it from pests and disease. The Chilean food system is rated among the most reliable food supplier worldwide, thanks to the first world production techniques, high qualification of its work force, and exceptional logistic and quality assurance system.



In Singapore, Chile is better known by its wine, fresh fruits, and seafood. Apart for its range of European traditional varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Singaporeans can also enjoy Carmenere a unique and staple of the Chilean wine industry. Chile is ranked among the main producers of fresh fruits worldwide. Cherries, blueberries and table grapes, readily available well into the Chinese New Year. Also popular are its fabulous seafood offerings such as salmon, seabass and mackerel, oysters, blue mussels, lobsters and king crabs. Chilean food products and wine are available in traditional retail and specialized stores across Singapore.

Colombia: Greater Pro-Trade and Social Initiatives

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Colombia in Singapore

The year 2018 had a slew of interesting activities both on the diplomatic level as well as in the social arena. This year saw the arrival of both the new trade commissioner for Colombia, Mr. Juan Carlos Jiménez Tobón, Director of ProColombia for Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, as well as the new consul, Ms. Diana Rengifo (both pictured right), as the mission in Singapore becomes essential for doing business in Asia Pacific. ProColombia is the country's non-profit, foreign direct investment promotion agency, as well as supporting exports and tourism. The Pacific Alliance, a pan-regional organization comprising Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru with open migration, free trade and tariff reduction and common investment and value chain advantages will be the focal point of ProColombia in Singapore.



Various seminars and forums demonstrating the Ease of Doing Business in Colombia as well as the opportunities available for investors and buyers from Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, were organized through the year, by ProColombia in Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland and Singapore.



Colombia had an important role to play at this year's Singapore Writer's Festival with Santiago Gamboa (pictured top right column). It also showcased our heirloom of gold artistry with the Gold Museum of Bogota's photographic display at the National Museum of Singapore and our cultural musical and dance heritage with Swing Latino (pictured above) for National Day!

An important delegation from Colombia and other LATAM countries arrived for this year's Singapore Fintech Festival with both financial institutions and companies participating alongside.

ProColombia together with ProChile, ProMexico and PromPeru organized the first Flavours of the Pacific Alliance event at the Peruvian Ambassador's residence November 27, showcasing the various ingredients and aromas that comprise our vast gastronomic legacy with the presence of major investment firms, importers and Singaporean socialites.

In December, the Embassy of Colombia and ProColombia launched its first Destination Update for Travel Agencies in Singapore with the support of NATAS and explained the immense possibilities for both vacationing as well as business tourism in Colombia.

COLOMBIA FAMOUS FOR...

Cocoa, Coffee, Quinoa and Avocado

COLOMBIA is one of seven countries identified with the greatest agricultural potential in the world by the FAO -United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Blessed with five thermal floors it has a vast expanse of fertile land to be one of the seven countries which can support the world demand for food, together with Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan.

Colombia offer crops 365 days a year with a sprawl of 114 million hectares, of which 44.8 million are under agriculture, livestock and reforestation.

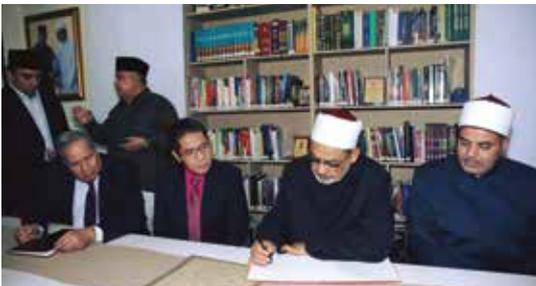
It is an excellent trade platform with over 16 FTAs that provide investors in agroindustry massive access to foreign markets.

Four of its five thermal floors are optimal for agriculture and are best known for the produce of cocoa, tilapia, avocado, coffee, quinoa, plums, cape gooseberry and flowers. From the high plateau are sourced beans, quinoa, and several varieties of wheat and corn.



Singapore and Egypt on Same Wavelength on Religious Tolerance

Text and photographs by the Egyptian Embassy in Singapore



The highlights of 2018 was the visit of His Eminence Prof Dr Ahmed AlTayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar to Singapore from 3 to 5 May, upon the invitation of H.E. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The Grand Imam met with Her Excellency Mdm Halimah Yacob, the President of Singapore, where both agreed on measures to intensify cooperation between Al-Azhar and the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS).

A dinner was hosted for the Grand Imam by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and a lunch by Mr Teo Chee Hean, (former) Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security. The Grand Imam visited the Al-Junied Islamic school where he met with Al-Azhar Alumni. He also visited the Religious Rehabilitation Group.

His Eminence met with Singapore's Religious Leaders during the lunch hosted by the Egyptian Ambassador, and delivered a thought-provoking MUIS lecture on 'The Unifying Force of Religion'.

The Grand Imam's visit came not only to reinforce support for Singapore's Muslims, but also to advocate the unique Singaporean model of peaceful coexistence and harmony between religions. He delivered strong messages and explanations about the true teachings of Islam as a tolerant religion that embraces harmony and unity among humans.

Former Minister for Trade and Industry Tarek Kabil visited Singapore from 5 to 7 February 2018, during which he highlighted achievements in Egypt's economic reform program to Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Koh Poh Koon, and SBF members. He also discussed the draft contract between the Egyptian Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and SECC Group, a Singaporean Holding company, with Surbana Jurong as its consultant, to develop a 33 sq km integrated economic city in Kom Oshim, close to Cairo.

HE Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Environment and Water Resources and Minister in Charge of Muslim Affairs, visited Cairo on the 15th and 16th of October 2018 to attend the graduation of Singaporean students from Al Azhar University. Minister Masagos also met with H.E Mr. Mohamed Abdel Atty, Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation as well as H.E Dr Yasmin Fouad, Egyptian Minister of Environment. The discussions included the exchange of best practices and potential areas of enhanced cooperation between both countries.

The Embassy celebrated Egypt's National Day on 30 July 2018 at the St Regis Hotel, where Dr. Mohamed Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the Guest of Honour, along with Members of Parliament, Mr Henry Kwek and Mr Murali Pillai. The Embassy also co-hosted a reception at The Fullerton Hotel on May 28 in celebration of Africa Day.

EGYPT FAMOUS FOR...

EGYPT's exports to Singapore range from mineral fuels, mineral oils, products of their distillation, bituminous substances, iron and steel.

Exports also include components of electrical machinery and equipment, as well as soaps, essential oils (Gernium essential oil *pictured top right*) and resinoids, perfumery and cosmetic ingredients, organic surface-active agents (tumeric soap *pictured far right*), detergent and



lubricating ingredients. Egyptian exports further include fruits, nuts, peels of citrus, melons, and finally apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted.



Finland Poised to Launch Solutions and Support for Circular Economy

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Finland, Singapore



In 2018, the Embassy of Finland in Singapore continued to build bridges between Finland and Singapore and to create more exchanges on business and trade, investments, education and tourism. Collaboration focused on health technologies, education and science, innovations, start-ups and culture. In 2019, a new theme will be circular economy, as it is a timely topic in Singapore and Finland has a lot to offer in solutions and technologies supporting circular economy.

Finland continues to enjoy global fame in education. The Embassy of Finland focused on identifying opportunities for cooperation in education, as well as increasing the awareness of Finnish education and science. Over the year, several delegations and journalists from Singapore to Finland were particularly impressed by the lifelong learning and the system of inclusive education in Finland, where no child is left behind.

Finland is known for leading health technology solutions and one of the most effective healthcare systems in the world. In November, the Singapore - Finland Research Seminar on Metabolic Diseases gathered experts from both countries representing academia, industry and government to discuss the prevention and treatment of diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases. The aim of the seminar was to find concrete cooperation proposals for joint development and research. The Embassy was active in promoting other areas of innovation as well. Finland is part of the Nordic Innovation House, launched in September 2018 in Singapore. Together with Team Finland partners and 130 organisations from Finland, the Embassy organized the September Super Week, associated with the Singapore SWITCH Week, to highlight different technology innovations and expertise from Finland. The Super Week also included Finland showcases at SLUSH Singapore, TechInnovation and Women in Tech Asia -events.

The second Finnish Film Festival in Singapore enriched the mutual appreciation, discourse, collaboration and friendship between the two countries. Fourteen movies were screened at the legendary movie theatre The Projector including Aki Kaurismäki retrospective and Tom of Finland movie premiere in Singapore. The Festival concluded with the movie- and travel-themed 'We Love Finland' party.

Towards the end of the year, it also welcomed the Finnish indoor activity park - SuperPark, to Singapore's Suntech City and brought the Nordic Christmas spirit to Singapore in the first Nordic-Asia Christmas Festival. On December 6, Finland celebrated the 101th anniversary of the independence with over 300 guests in the Chijmes hall.

FINLAND FAMOUS FOR...

A range of top quality liquors and the most popular brands from Finland such as Arctic Blue Gin, Laplandia Vodka, Kalevala Gin, Napue Gin, Original Long Drink, Lapin Kulta Premium Beer were launched recently in Singapore. These include tasting award winners, genuine and most delicate aromas from the Finnish nature. These premium artisan and organic products are now available in Singapore!

An online shop for pure organic skincare from Scandinavia Nordic Glow sets out to import pure Nordic experiences into Singapore through a Scandinavian skincare journey. The truly committed co-founders want to educate and empower the discerning consumer that they can achieve healthier skin with pure organic Nordic skincare, while getting a deep satisfaction that they are supporting brands with ecologically sustainable business practices. The products have gone through stringent European quality controls. Nordic Glow is looking to offer an online-curated selection of advanced pure skincare products suitable for woman, men and children, with trusted Scandinavian standards throughout South-East Asia, based out of Singapore. www.thenordicglow.com

Designed with Finnish heart and Finnish know-how, SuperPark is a unique, purpose-built, indoor activity park. People of all ages and sizes come here for movement, friendship and fun. The concept has been created by Mr. Taneli Sutinen from Finland. The original concept was launched in 2012 in Finland and the activity has grown rapidly. There are now 13 SuperParks in Finland. International branches have been opened in Hong Kong, Sweden, China and Malaysia, and now in November 2018 SuperPark was launched in Singapore in 3 Temasek Boulevard, Suntec City Tower 1, #02-477 (North Wing), Singapore 038983 www.superpark.com.sg



World Opportunities Forum

SINGAPORE 2019

A Dozen Opportunitites. One Platform



What is the World Opportunities Forum?

Diplomatic Missions are a treasure trove of information on a country's trade, culture, investment climate. A window to the world of opportunities.

The World Opportunities Forum aims to bring together experts on various markets in collaboration with various Embassies to present information sessions on

● Investment Climate ● Policy & Projects ● The Next Step

Why you should atte

World Opportunities Forum is a value packed opportunity where diplomats, policy makers, CEO's entrepreneurs, innovators, thought leaders and Creative minds will come together to share the space for opportunity creation and growth between businesses.

What makes it special?

You can know more about various markets and get information from market leaders in these economies and also network with decision makers and policy makers.

Participating Countries Investment Bazaar

AFRICA (Egypt, Rwanda & South Africa) ASIA (India, Indonesia, Malaysia & Philippines)
CENTRAL ASIA (Russia & Uzbekistan) LATIN AMERICA (Brazil & Chile)
MIDDLE EAST (Saudi Arabia)

About the organisers

Sun Media in collaboration with the Embassy of Brazil, Embassy of Chile, Embassy of Egypt, High Commission of India, Embassy of Indonesia, High Commission of Malaysia, Embassy of Nigeria, Embassy of Philippines, Embassy of The Russian Federation, Embassy of Rwanda, South Africa High Commission, Embassy of Uzbekistan and Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

About Sun Media

Sun Media has been working with Diplomatic missions since 1999. In celebration of our 20th anniversary we bring the World Opportunities Forum in Singapore to provide updated market intelligence on various markets to facilitate cross market opportunities using Singapore as a hub and diplomatic missions as the window to the world of opportunities.

Knowledge on Investment climate, policy changes and ready to tap investment opportunities in various markets is our forte. Using SINGAPORE as a hub and access to market information on so many economies we put together power packed event where you can shop for your next growth opportunity.

Date & Venue

22nd May 2019 at Fullerton Hotel, Singapore

Programme

For detailed / updated programme visit: www.sunmediaonline.com

For more information on how you or your organisation can participate in the event please contact:

■ Nomita Dhar – nomita@sunmediaonline.com
■ Swati Singh – business@sunmediaonline.com
or call tel: (65) 6735 2972



Singapore-India: Inspirational Terms of Engagement

Text and photographs first appeared in Shikhar Issues 2 & 3 2018/19



(Above): Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong together with the 10 heads of state of ASEAN at India's 69th Republic Day Parade. (Above right): January 2018, Singapore was the venue for the India-ASEAN Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Singapore and India relations continue to take great strides to fulfill many of their aspirational goals when it comes to bringing the two nations ever-closer with the deepening of ties as they build new bridges of co-operation and understanding. India's deep engagement with the region dates back from around 200BCE till the 15th century. In his address at the Shangri-La Dialogue the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi (*opp. pg. picture 1*), shared that 2018 was a land-mark year of India's relationship with ASEAN. "Over the past three decades, we have re-claimed that heritage to restore our role and relationships in the region," he said.

From 6th to 7th January 2018, Singapore played host to the India-ASEAN Pravasi Bharatiya Divas; three weeks later India's 69th Republic Day Parade became truly memorable for that unique historic moment when, for the first time ever, it played host to 10 guests of honour—the 10 heads of state of ASEAN.

The year 2019 also marks the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi that is being celebrated all over the world. These celebrations were kick-started in Singapore on 2nd October 2018 (*opp. pg. picture 3*). As part of these extended celebrations Smt Ila Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi visited Singapore from 7 to 9 October 2018.

The historical ties between India and Singapore continue to be strengthened by a robust ongoing interchange on multiple levels, be it trade, business, technology, education or culture. As shared by the Indian Ambassador to Singapore, HE Jawed Ashraf, there have been regular exchanges of ministerial visits, and taking into account all delegations, the number of such exchanges might be well in excess of 200 in the course of the past year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made several significant visits in the course of the year to the city-state. During his November 2018 visit for the 33rd ASEAN Summit he participated in the ASEAN-India, RCEP and East Asia Summits. As he had done in his seminal keynote address at the Shangri La Dialogue

in June 2018, Prime Minister signaled India's firm and unequivocal commitment to deepen engagement with ASEAN members and the Indo Pacific Region more broadly. In the East Asia Summit, as well as the ASEAN-India Meet, Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to work for an Indo-Pacific Region that was open, balanced and inclusive.

The Fintech Festival, attended by the Who's Who of the financial world in the city-state put the spotlight on PM Modi's Keynote Address in which he provided some ideas on how India, with its very talented information technology professionals, can work together with Singapore and the ASEAN region in this space. The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to sketch a roadmap of the many opportunities in India for investors that are waiting to be tapped to their full potential. Singapore is India's second largest investor, with cumulative FDI from 2000 to 2016 amounting to S\$36.3 billion. Reciprocally, with more than 7,000 registered companies, India forms the largest foreign corporate contingent in Singapore. This intensity of engagements between the two nations are set to be maintained and further broadened e.g. in the areas of infrastructure, IT and Fintech industries and projects.

Singapore Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat was on a 5-day visit to Delhi and Mumbai last June (*opp. pg. picture 2*) for a third review of a key bilateral pact between both countries to explore new areas of cooperation in trade and investment.

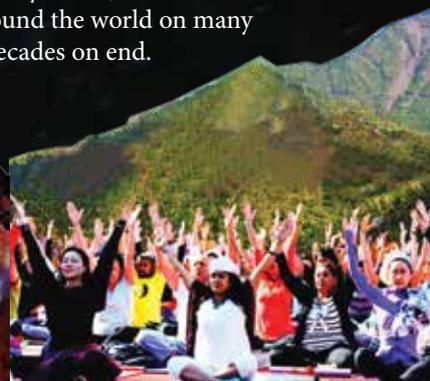
Defence and security cooperation is a key pillar of this strategic partnership between the two nations. Last November, in the 25th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise, SIMBEX, took place in Andaman Seas and Bay of Bengal. Singapore's Defence Minister H.E. Dr. Ng Eng Hen visited India (*opp. pg. picture 4*) to witness the exercises and hold the annual ministerial meeting with Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.



INDIA FAMOUS FOR...



ITS amazing culinary heritage, wellness and healing traditions such as yoga and Ayurveda and its astonishing diversity of arts and crafts and the performing arts, in particular Hindi cinema (Bollywood!) ...all of which have been showcased around the world on many platforms for decades on end.



Indonesia-Singapore: Great Strides in Diplomatic & Economic Engagement

Text and photographs first appeared in IndoConnect Magazine 2018

Opening of the Indonesia Trade Showcase in 2016 signalled the start of an aggressive campaign that grew into a juggernaut of promotional activities in 2018



Two major ASEAN centric events in Singapore saw the visit of President Joko Widodo to the island-republic as Indonesia extended its appreciation to Singapore as the Chair and Host of the 32nd ASEAN Summit (on 27th to 28th April 2018).

Indonesia welcomed the positive outcomes that would not only solidify ASEAN unity, but also its centrality.

During his visit, President Jokowi and Madame Iriana Joko Widodo were very pleased with the arrangements that had been made. Indonesia, in particular, thanked the Leaders for their support to Indonesia's proposal of the Indo-Pacific concept. President Jokowi elaborated further on the concept of Indo-Pacific at the Leaders' retreat and underlined the need for ASEAN to remain proactive and to engage all partners to maintain regional peace and stability and enhance the prosperity of the people.

The second visit by President Jokowi to Singapore was for the 33rd ASEAN Summit on 13th November 2018 where, after the official opening ceremony, all the ASEAN leaders attended the presentation of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council to the ASEAN heads of state and governments. Beside the ASEAN Summit, President Jokowi also was here for other related summits including ASEAN Plus Three Summit (with China, South Korea and Japan) and the 13th East Asia Summit (with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States).

During the course of the year, the Embassy also organised or participated in many other diplomatic activities in Singapore and the region. Several of these are presented here in the pictorial highlights.

(Top row): Scenes from visit by President Jokowi during the 33rd ASEAN Summit.
 (2nd row): Diplomatic reception for the Republic of Indonesia's Independence Day celebrations

Jan	■ Experience ASEAN @ Bishan Park (picture 1)
Mar	■ Semarak Indonesia Show @ Indonesian Embassy (picture 2)
Apr	■ FHA 2018 @ Suntec Convention Centre (picture 3)
May	■ Women Empowerment @ Mandarin Orchard
Aug	■ RISING Fashion @ Paragon Mall (picture 5) ■ RISING Merdeka @ Paragon Mall (picture 6) ■ Socialization on How To Bring Foreign Currency @ Indonesian Embassy ■ Indonesia Investment Day @ Marina Bay Sands (picture 7) ■ Indonesia is Calling @ Changi Airport
Sep	■ ASEAN Business Advisory Council at Singapore ■ Economic Working Groups Ministerial Meeting @ Singapore ■ Indonesia Forum @ Orchard Hotel
Oct	■ ASEAN Leaders' Retreat and Labuan Bajo & Komodo Island Business Meeting @ Labuan Bajo & Komodo Island ■ Opening D2-1 @ Paragon Mall ■ Nusa Tenggara Barat Business Meeting @ Marina Bay Sands ■ Garuda Travel Fair @ Suntec City ■ Nusa Tenggara Barat Gala Dinner @ Suntec City ■ Business Mission to Belitung
Nov	■ 33rd ASEAN Summit @ Singapore ■ JAGA SAGA Diplomatic Golf Tournament @ Bintan-Batam
Dec	■ Bandung Business Mission @ Bandung ■ Indonesia Appreciation Gala Dinner @ Pan Pacific Hotel ■ RISING Design Bazaar @ ACM (picture 8)

Economic Diplomacy: Event Highlights 2018



INDONESIA FAMOUS FOR...

IN December 2016 an Indonesian Products Showcase of Excellence (see top picture) was established at the premises of the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. An initiative that was brought to fruition by HE Ngurah Swajaya, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore it served the dual purpose in promoting products from the home country, not just amongst Singaporeans but also the larger ASEAN market for which Singapore is a critical gateway. It is one of the largest, if not the largest, dedicated trade showcase of its kind among all the foreign missions in Singapore.

According to the Ambassador, Singapore can serve as a springboard to export Indonesian products into the international market, especially the larger ASEAN region, which has a huge consumer base that is ready to be tapped. He shares, "Looking at that momentum and the growing ability of Indonesian businesses in developing their products and commodities such as coffee as well as industrial goods, it makes sense to showcase the products here." The elaborate display includes products such as coffee, industrial and military equipment, furniture, food and beverage items. These are sourced from the many exhibitions held all year round by Indonesian companies in Singapore. The showcase has become an important platform for housing some samples of their products.

The added advantage is obvious and Ambassador Swajaya points out that while an exhibition can last for a few days, the display at the Embassy's Chatsworth chancery is open all year round. This permanent exhibition, not just for the Singapore market, but also the international market, is also important as potential buyers or customers can get a first hand feel (and for some products taste) of the quality of products that are currently being manufactured in Indonesia. While the showcase if not able to

accommodate all products at least people can get an idea of what is available, who is manufacturing them and how to contact them and so on and so forth.

This has been a groundbreaking initiative by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, where no other embassy has such a set-up. Normally embassies work on enquires, they don't play a pro-active role in such interactions and they don't necessarily deal with the outcomes. "One can never be sure once the enquiry is received and passed on, how well it is being followed through. So this is a new way for us, a new approach to address these problems. Buyers and sellers are able to connect directly with each other., what we call 'From Contact-to-Contract,' says the ambassador.

One of the many success stories in 2018, was apparel from Indonesian designers which was promoted very vigorously here and received good response from Singaporeans. The embassy help expose the products of these Indonesian designers here and they were able to assess what the market wants and received feedback on their products. The ambassador is very keen that more Indonesian products can be exposed here directly and be available through both offline and online stores.

A high target industry for the Embassy is the promotion of products from the fisheries sectors as it's also an important source of livelihood for a large segment of the Indonesia society. He shares, "We are looking for partners and investors in the downstream processing of seafood for export, logistics cold store facilities, marketing etc. There is also a need to build up the brand and image of Indonesian products. For example, Indonesia is one of the leading exporters of coffee and there is a drive to develop higher quality, premium brands of coffee to satisfy the discriminating sector of this market."

Malaysia - Singapore Ties Renewed

Text and photographs first appeared in Opportunity Malaysia 2018 Edition



Malaysia's Dr Mahathir Mohamad retired in 2003 after 22 years of being in power as Prime Minister of Malaysia. Then in May last year he led the Pakatan Harapan coalition to a stunning general election victory and was sworn in as the world's oldest elected leader. His official visit to Singapore in November 2018 (see picture 1) marked an incredible milestone in his life and career, his country's history and an exciting new era in bilateral ties between Malaysia and Singapore. Following the official visit he attended the 33rd ASEAN Summit under the Chairmanship of Singapore.



Prime Minister Lee reiterated Singapore's commitment to building on strong existing cooperation and finding new areas where both sides can collaborate for the benefit of the people of Singapore and Malaysia. Prime Minister Lee expressed appreciation to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Malaysia's support for Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship and both Leaders agreed to work together to continue strengthening ASEAN (see picture 3). Prime Minister Mahathir and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah also attended an orchid-naming ceremony at the Istana where an orchid, *Dendrobium Mahathir Siti Hasmah*, was jointly named after them (see picture 4).

During his visit Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad also received an Honorary of Doctor of Laws from Singapore President, also Chancellor of National University of Singapore (NUS) Halimah Yacob during a special conferment ceremony at NUS (see picture 2).

From the 13th to 15th of November, the Prime Minister attended the 33rd ASEAN Summit. He also delivered the keynote address at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2018 where he talked about the progress ASEAN has made and the need to fight against trade protectionism; he also made recommendations for more robust development and greater economic engagement within the regional group.

MALAYSIA FAMOUS FOR...

MALAYSIA's natural bounty of beautiful beaches, islands, and highland attractions as well as the world's oldest tropical nature reserve are complemented with world class facilities, accommodation and amenities making Malaysia a top destination for tourism. Last year, two exciting tourism programmes were announced: 2019 will be VISIT MELAKA Year and the Sarawak Tourism Board plans to reinvigorate the promotion of the East Malaysia state that has it all - culture, adventure, nature, food, and festivals - something that would rival many popular destinations in the world.



Nigeria's 58th National Day Celebrations

Text and photographs from the High Commission of Nigeria in Singapore

It was one of the major highlights in the Nigeria High Commission in Singapore's diplomatic calendar. The 58th Anniversary of the nation's independence, which was held on 12th October 2018, was meaningful and memorable and involved many tributes from both the host nation and Nigeria; a lively programme of Nigerian music and beautiful fashion created great bonhomie at the event.

High Commissioner HE Ogbole Amedu Ode welcomed Guest of Honour HE Amrin Amin, the Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health, who represented the Singapore government. He was accompanied by Singapore Members of Parliament, Mr Ang Hin Kee and Mr Alex Yam Ziming (pictured top right).

In his welcome address, High Commissioner Ode said that at the international and bilateral levels, Singapore and Nigeria have maintained excellent relations, supporting each other in international fora in global organisations such as the Commonwealth, the UN and its numerous affiliated bodies. The cordial bilateral relations have also found expression in the visits of many high ranking officials and captains of industry in both directions. As a result, the High Commissioner said, Singapore today Singapore has an impressive level of investments in Nigeria citing Singapore companies such as Indorama, Keppel, Olam and Wilmark who have made sizeable, long term investments in the country. He said the reason for the presence of many Singaporean firms in the Nigerian economy is also thanks to Enterprise Singapore. Nigeria has also benefitted from capacity building in the country's public service with training programmes provided by the Singapore Cooperation Programme for Technical Assistance. The latest developments in their mutual outreach to deepen relations saw President Buhari in February 2018 ratify a Bilateral Air Services Agreement and in March 2018 he also ratified a Bilateral Avoidance of Double Taxation agreement.

Mr Amrin congratulated Nigeria on the auspicious occasion and highlighted how Singapore ministers and officials from her economic agencies, who have returned from official visits to Nigeria, have come away highly impressed with the vibrancy of the country and the economic opportunities. He said both countries have only more to gain from closer interaction and collaboration.



Singapore and Norway – Ocean Partners

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Norway in Singapore

Belief in a rules-based international order and respect for international law are aspects that link Norway and Singapore. With longstanding shipping and maritime relations, business is bustling with over 200 Norwegian companies in various sectors here

ASEAN is increasingly important for Norway both politically and economically. There are common interests in global issues, and cooperation on many projects. Norway prioritises the sectoral dialogue partnership with ASEAN, and Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide (pictured top right) was pleased to be part of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting in Singapore in August. She met with Foreign Minister Balakrishnan, ASEAN's Secretary General, and many of her colleagues from the region.

Both Norway and Singapore are concerned about how the shipping industry can further the SDGs. This was the underlying theme for a jointly-organised ASEM-conference by Norway, Singapore, Germany and the Philippines. **'Green Shipping. Blue Business. Moving Forward Together'**, which was held in Singapore with the aim of promoting a green shift in the maritime sector. Key actors, such as the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim, Norway's Minister for Climate and Environment, Mr Ola Elvestuen, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Health and Transport, Dr Lam Pin Min, shared their perspectives with close to 250 participants.

The entire 17-member strong **Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment** from the Norwegian Parliament (Storting) visited Singapore in September. To understand Singapore's policies and priorities in this area, they spent three hectic days meeting parliamentarians: SMS Dr Amy Khor in MEWR; the leaderships of EMA and MPA. They visited the Semakau Landfill (see picture below) as well as the impressive Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator (REIDS). When they met the Norwegian business community, they saw the many areas of cooperation between our two countries.

The **Norway-Asia Business Summit (NABS)** is an annual summit for Norwegian businesses engaged in the APAC region. In 2018, the Norwegian Business Association in Singapore (NBAS) hosted the summit together with the Embassy. It focussed on political and



economic trends in ASEAN, digitalisation across industries, and the dynamic scene for high-tech start-ups. An impressive number of high-level speakers contributed to an interesting programme for around 200 participants, among them Mr Per Sandberg of the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, and SMS Mr Koh Poh Koon of MTI.

The Embassy and the Norwegian Business Association had the annual **Seafood Dinner** in March. Around 1000 guests, including SMS Dr Lam Pin Min and Minister of State Sam Tan, enjoyed the best of Norwegian seafood, prepared by top Singaporean and Norwegian chefs.

NORWAY FAMOUS FOR...



SALMON is the most popular fish for quality-conscious Singaporeans. This delicious, versatile and healthy fish, with its bright orange-red flesh and silver skin, finds its way into almost all supermarkets across the island. It is also eaten raw as in sushi and sashimi in the numerous Japanese restaurants. Norway is the world's leading producer of farmed Atlantic salmon, which is brought in fresh by air several times a week, all year round. With a market share of more than 80 per cent, Norwegian salmon plays a vital role in supplying Singaporeans with high-quality safe seafood. Additional Norwegian seafood products found in Singapore includes Fjord Trout, mackerel, cod, prawns and king crab. In 2018, we expect to bring in 1000 tons of seafood to Singapore, and we hope that Singaporeans will continue to favour healthy, Norwegian seafood in 2019!

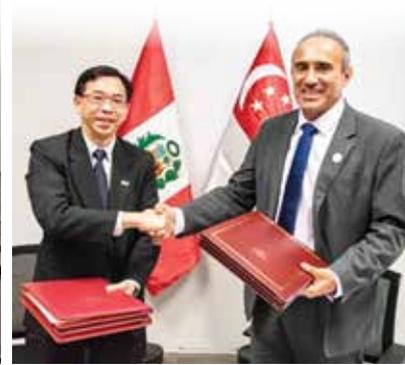
Norway is also a leading provider of high-tech products and services for the maritime industry. One key area is safe navigation at sea. Since 2014, the maritime authorities of Norway and Singapore, together with Kongsberg Norcontrol, have worked on the next Ship Traffic Management System for the straits. This will optimize traffic flows and improve safety and efficiency at sea by using data and digital tools on board and ashore. With a new phase of the cooperation underway, we look forward to seeing the next generation system in operation.



Peru Concludes Air Agreement

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Peru in Singapore

It's been a hectic year at the Embassy of Peru here in Singapore, with many activities on many fronts



The Embassy kicked off the year with Peruvian companies (superfood exporters) participating in the Food & Hotel Asia 2018 fair, from 24th to the 27th of April.

In the month of May it was on to the International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM) - Asia Pacific which was held at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, for tour operators dedicated to the segment of high profile tourism, luxury travellers and representatives of the specialized press.

There was also the 'QHAPAC ÑAN: THE INCA TRAIL PHOTO EXHIBITION', at which the Ambassador of Peru explained to a lively audience, the characteristics of the Inca Trail, its construction process and utility for the Inca Empire as well as its value as a cultural and touristic heritage.

A delegation from San Ignacio de Loyola University led by its Founding President, Mr. Raul Diez Canseco, attended the conference and exhibition "Asia-Pacific Association for International Education" (APAIE 2018), at MBS Sands Expo & Convention Center.

The 'Embassy of Peru Award' was celebrated again at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). The Award was first presented in 2006; it features a silver "Tumi", which is given to the most outstanding graduate at NAFA.

In September, the new Ambassador of Peru to Singapore, Mr. Carlos Vasquez, presented his credence letter to Mdme Hamilah Jacob, President of Singapore (pictured top left). President Jacob and Ambassador Vasquez Corrales reviewed the leading issues of the bilateral agenda between the two countries, predominantly political, cultural, economic and trade matters, including Singapore's involvement in the Pacific Alliance.

The Peruvian Ambassador in Singapore inaugurated the gastronomy festivities of the 'Flavours of Peru' which attracted over 1,100 attendees who came to sample the delicious traditional dishes of Peruvian cuisine.

In October 2018 Peru and Singapore signed an Air Services Agreement. A commemorative ceremony - National Day of the Armed Forces of Peru and the Navy, was held on October 08. Many Peruvian companies participated in the ITB ASIA 2018 Tourism Fair. A Video conference was also arranged between A Star Agency Singapore and the Peruvian institution CONCYTEC, to explore and develop cooperation programs to promote science and technology.

The Ambassador of Peru's meeting with Minister of Trade and Industry of Singapore, Chan Chun Sing (pictured top middle) in December, focused on trade interests between Peru and Singapore and the perspectives of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

PERU FAMOUS FOR...

PERU ranks among the world's leading countries with the greatest biological diversity and the fourth as regards diversity of plant species. Amongst its two great contributions to the world's food heritage are the nutrition-packed Quinoa or *Chenopodium quinoa* (pictured right) - an Andean grain that is a gluten-free, cholesterol-free 'superfood', richer by far in protein than most other plant foods - and then there's Cocoa or *Theobroma cacao* from which they produce one of the world's most highly reputed chocolate.



Andean Peruvian quinoa has been so prized for its nutritious value NASA's Astronauts have taken it on their space missions! Quinoa has been around for almost 7000 years. So great are its benefits the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 the "International Year of Quinoa"

Quinoa is an Andean grain, not a cereal. To the ancient Peruvians, superfood quinoa was known for its high nourishing qualities, and wide healing properties. It contains a perfect balance of proteins and lipids. Currently it's the only vegetal food which provides all the essential amino acids for the human nutrition. Although Quinoa is now cultivated all over the world, the Andean countries have the privilege of sowing and cropping the original, native quinoa.

A product of choice among first world consumers Peruvian chocolates gets its distinctive flavour from a combination of the diversity of species, soils and climate for cacao. Its insuperable aroma and high fat content makes it a highly priced product in international markets. In October 2017 the Peruvian dark chocolate Shattel walked away with the Gold Medal at the International Chocolate Awards, held in London. And again in 2018 it won the Silver Medal at the European Bean-to-Bar Competition in Amsterdam in August. These two events are the most prestigious global recognitions of the superb quality of the Peruvian cocoa, produced for centuries in the Andean Mountains and the Amazon Jungle highlands.

Singapore and Philippines Ties - Solidarity & Support

Text and photographs first appeared in Partner Philippines 2018 Edition



The diplomatic calendar in 2018 of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore began with the arrival of the new Ambassador to Singapore, HE Joseph Del Mar Yap.

The year also witnessed several highlights that centered around activities involving the Filipino community in Singapore, economic and investment seminars, as well as the visit of President Duterte for the 32nd ASEAN Summit in April.

The Feast Day of Santo Niño and the Sinulog Festival was the first official function of Ambassador Yap (*opp. pg. picture 2*) with the Filipino Community here after presenting his credentials to Singaporean President Halimah Yacob (*above inset*). The Philippine Embassy, headed by the Ambassador, his wife Madame Josephine Gotianun Yap, and the officers and the staff of the Embassy, along with the Philippine Overseas Labour Office, joined the celebrations on 28 January 2018 at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor in Singapore. The holy icon of Santo Niño de Cebu was flown in from the Basilica Minore del Santo de Cebu for the celebration.

In April, one of the year's biggest community events, was the official trip of President Rodrigo Duterte's for the 32nd ASEAN Summit, where he met with Singapore's Filipino community on 28 April 2018. The concert hall for this event was packed to capacity with a crowd of 6,000 enthusiastic Filipinos. The crowd was fêted with entertainment by Filipino artists and also featured remarks from members of the cabinet who accompanied the President to Singapore (*opp. pg. picture 1*). The President updated the audience on recent developments back home. He assured them that the government had not forgotten their contributions and was committed to look after the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers through their embassy here.

President Duterte was joined by a few members of his cabinet such as Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon M. Lopez, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter Cayetano, and Secretary of Finance Carlos Dominguez.

On the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, the Philippines organized a successful business forum (*see top picture*) where President Duterte was able to witness business and investment MOUs and cooperation agreements signed between several Singapore and Filipino companies and organizations worth almost US\$190 million.

Earlier on 2nd March 2018, Secretary of Trade and Industry (DTI), Ramon M. Lopez, joined his other ASEAN counterparts in a Ministerial Panel during the ASEAN-EU Business Summit (*opp. pg. picture 3*) held at Singapore's Grand Hyatt Hotel. During the discussions, Secretary Lopez also provided updates on the Philippine economy, particularly on the latest tax reform package: "The Philippines is expected to grow over 7% for the next four years as the country continues to build its production capacity to address trade imbalances."

The ASEAN-EU Business Summit was held on the sidelines of the 24th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat (AEMR), 16th AEM-European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Consultations, and the 4th Intersessional Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting, that took place from 1 to 3 March 2018 in Singapore which he also attended.

Other highlights of visits to Singapore by official delegations included a visit by Senator Loren Legarda, Chair of the Senate Committees on



Climate Change, Finance and Foreign Relations, on 18 May 2018 at the 5th Singapore Dialogue on Sustainable World Resources. She called on ASEAN member states to take collective action in transitioning to green growth. During her visit, she also called on Singapore's Environment Minister Masagos Zulkifli (see top left picture) to discuss climate-smart initiatives.

Secretary Benjamin Diokno of the Department of Budget and Management, Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph Del Mar Yap, Director General Charito B. Plaza of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and SAVP Marie Antoinette Mariano of BDO Unibank Inc. were some of the speakers in the exclusive seminar "Investing and Doing Business in the Philippines" held at UniCredit Bank Singapore on 13 April 2018. The seminar was organized by the Italian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, in partnership with the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore and the European House of Ambrosetti. It aimed to promote business and investment opportunities in the Philippines among Italian and European companies based in Singapore.

The Philippines was one of the participating ASEAN countries in the Chingay @Heartland 2018 celebration, with a cultural performance and



a booth at the bazaar featuring Philippine products. Chingay is Singapore's biggest annual street festival, where the Higaonon Dance Group (see picture 4) from the Filipino Community in Singapore was a hit.



PHILIPPINES FAMOUS FOR...

Asia's Top Dive Destination

THE Philippines was recognised at the ADEX 2018 (Asia Dive Exhibition) as the top dive destination in the Asia Pacific region thanks to its conservation efforts that have "preserved the breathtaking underwater ecosystem".

It is an open secret that the white sandy beaches of its renowned islands extend to pristine waters that are some of the best for scuba diving and attract divers from around the world. The citation reads: "The Philippines is one of the richest regions in the world for diving, with over 7,000 islands and a well-developed dive industry.

The best sites are around the Luzon and Visayas regions, where a plethora of dive experiences abound. Its islands are also the site of some of the greatest bio-diverse expanses of marine life in the world, housing numerous coral species, exotic sea snakes, and even resident populations of whale sharks. Divers new to the experience can enjoy



relaxing dives among schools of jacks, reel fish, and rays, while intrepid divers can explore deep war wrecks. The waters here are warm all year round are warm year-round, but the monsoon seasons from December to March and July to November will bring rain and strong winds."

Russia - Singapore Golden Year

Text and photographs first appeared in Opportunity Russia 2018 Edition



An area for collaboration between the two nations that holds great promise is the development of the Russian Arctic Zone. Singapore's vast experience in urban planning and seaport infrastructure building would be helpful in the ongoing modernization of the Russian Far East featuring all-round infrastructure development, construction of new production facilities and transportation corridors. In March Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sam Tan attended the Day of Reindeer Herders Festival in Salekhard of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region and visited the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St Petersburg to discuss the potential areas of cooperation.

Over 70 representatives from the Russian aerospace industry took part in the Singapore Airshow 2018.

On 1st June 2018 Singapore and Russia celebrated their Golden Jubilee of partnership and cooperation with several large-scale activities which underpinned the highpoints of a five-decade bilateral relationship that has moved from strength to strength and marks a shared vision of brighter prospects of mutually beneficial interaction on many fronts.

The peak of the celebrations came to a culmination in the month of November with the state visit of President Putin to Singapore in conjunction with the ASEAN-led summits. His meetings with President Halimah Yacob and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong set up a comprehensive and forward-looking agenda for the further development of bilateral cooperation.

Sixteen agreements and contracts were signed by agencies and companies during the visit. The new documents cover trade, investments, oil and gas, petrochemical and woodworking industry, innovations, digital services, intellectual property, nuclear medicine, higher education. One of the joint projects is the creation of the Intellectual Transport Platform in St Petersburg.

A fresh impetus to develop political dialogue and practical cooperation between the two countries has been given at the foreign ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Singapore in August 2018 as well as at the 9th session of the High-Level Russia – Singapore Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) held here in September under the co-chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Ministers.

The ongoing negotiations on the establishment of the Free Trade Area between Singapore and the Eurasian Economic Union launched in 2016 display the strong commitment of both sides to economic integration. The Joint Statement on the Russia – Singapore Agreement on Trade in Services and Investment signed on the sidelines of President Putin's visit is an important step in this direction. In 2018 bilateral trade between Russia and Singapore reached US\$6.3 billion and has a good potential for further growth.

Military contacts are also on the rise. In April a Singapore delegation headed by then-Second Minister for Defence Ong Ye Kung attended the VII Moscow Conference on International Security. Defence Ministers Sergey Shoigu and Ng Eng Hen had a fruitful meeting on the sidelines of the ADMM Plus in Singapore in October. The Russian Pacific Fleet flagship – Guided Missile Cruiser Varyag visited Changi Naval Base late last year.

There is a growing Singaporean demand for the Russian law enforcement expertise, especially in the counter-terrorism and cybersecurity fields. The bilateral expert consultations on the information security issues held last September in conjunction with the 3rd Singapore International Cyber Week revealed the similar approaches of the two countries on the cybercrime.

Russia and Singapore have never wasted opportunities to strengthen people-to-people contacts. This is the main reason behind the intention to build the Russian Cultural Centre at Rangoon Road. The foundation stone of the complex which will also house the Orthodox Church was unveiled by Presidents Vladimir Putin and Halimah Yacob in November.

A unique taste of Russian culture was brought to Singapore last year. The local audience enjoyed the performances of the award winning Rovesniki Choreographic Ensemble, leading dance school from Blagoveschensk City in the Russia's Far East Amur Region, at the annual Singapore Chingay Street Parade, the St Petersburg Ballet Theatre with Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, the Russian State Ballet of Siberia with Romeo and Juliet, the Great Moscow Circus with thrilling acrobatic performance, the Youth Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Yuri Bashmet, concerts of the internationally acclaimed Borodin Quartet and winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition – titan of the piano Boris Berezovsky. The final accord was made in December by the Moscow Suvorov Military Orchestra and the Military Band Service of the National Guard of Russia pulling together for the Russian National Music Days in Singapore.

Russia and Singapore released a joint stamp issue with the theme on "Modern Architecture" to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations (pictured right). The Singapore National Library hosted the photo exhibition on the history and main stages of development of the bilateral ties (pictured top left). A few thousand Singaporean football fans visited Russia in summer to attend the FIFA World Cup.



RUSSIA FAMOUS FOR...

CAVIAR has long been associated with luxury and wealth in Russia and also in many other European countries. Though very expensive, it is commonly served at holiday feasts, weddings and other festive occasions. Russian fishermen learned to produce caviar in the 12th century and sturgeons were supplied to the Tsar's throne since the reign of Ivan the Terrible (from 16th century). Today Russia's ossetra caviar, sourced from a particular variety of sturgeon, is the most popular in the world, capturing a market share of 63 per cent.



Rwanda & Singapore Celebrate 10th Anniversary Diplomatic Relations

Text and photographs by the High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda Singapore



The crucial milestone in Rwanda-Singapore relations began with President Paul Kagame's visit in 2008 when an agreement for technical cooperation and capacity building was signed and a decision was made to open a resident Rwanda mission in Singapore.

Aiming to optimize bilateral cooperation, Singaporean institutions have worked with Rwandan counterparts to develop technical capacities in crucial areas that include investment promotion, public service, aviation, good governance, TVET, ICT, social security and health. In trade and investments, Rwandan exports to Singapore have grown from almost zero to US\$ 35 million in 2018. Standing at zero in 2008, FDI from Singapore to Rwanda has grown and crossed the 200 million-dollar mark and is steadily on the rise.

As President of the African Union for the year 2018, President Paul Kagame launched the Pan-African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the 'Single African Air-Transport Market (SAATM)' during the Unions HoS Summit hosted in Kigali. A total of 49 out of 55 member states signed the AfCFTA and 23 member countries agreed to the SAATM initiative.



Rwanda also continued to implement its global integration mission in 2018 through initiatives such as the visa-on-arrival for all nationalities, to the official visits to Rwanda by several world leaders that included Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Shanmugaratnam visited Rwanda (pictured top left), while visits to Singapore were made by both Mr Richard Sezibera and Mr Olivier

Nduhungirehe (pictured above left with Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan), respectively the Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda.

The participation of the Rwandan delegation (pictured below right) at the 2018 Africa-Singapore High Level Ministerial Exchange and the Africa-Singapore Business Forum 2018 highlighted continued bilateral partnership.

2018 saw the signing of three major bilateral agreements. The Bilateral Investment Treaty for Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments, the Bilateral Air Services Agreement and a partnership agreement for technical and capacity building between the Civil Aviation authorities of the two countries were signed.



RWANDA FAMOUS FOR...

RWANDA's main economic drivers for 2018 were export of minerals, FMCG, and agro-products on one hand and services like ICT and tourism. Singapore has joined the top 10 export markets for Rwanda minerals with the bulk being tin and tungsten ores and concentrates. In agribusiness, coffee continues to lead but the new entries like honey, chili oil and other horticulture produce are very much in evidence.



mountain gorillas by American TV host Ellen DeGeneres.

Rwanda's integration and connectivity with global commerce was boosted with the recent opening of the electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP) with Jack Ma's Alibaba. A similar platform, will be launched in Singapore, and bring the best of Rwanda to Singaporean homes. Rwanda has also seen

The highlight of 2019 will be the launch of online retail service in Singapore for Rwandan agro and non-agro products like coffee, tea, essential oils, high quality honey, chili oil, leather products, Rwandan jewellery, art and craft etc.

High-end tourists from Singapore and Asia have also increased and this movement was further strengthened by Rwandair's expansion across the globe. The tourism campaign 'Visit Rwanda' was boosted by Rwanda's partnership with the Arsenal Football Club as its first tourism partner and the launch of the Diane Fossey Center of Excellence for the conservation of

Volkswagen opening its first car plant with upcoming plans for innovative home-grown mobility solutions, and local brewery, Bralirwa, has begun production of Heineken beer locally.



Saudi Arabia - Singapore: Greater Collaboration & Cooperation in 2018

Text and photographs first appeared in Saudi Arabia Gateway to the Middle East 2018



(Above from left to right): Saudi Arabia's Minister of Interior, Prince Abdulaziz Bin Saud Bin Naif, calls on President Halimah Yakob at the Istana; Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong with Ambassador Saad Saleh Al-Saleh; Chairman of the Shura Council, Dr Abdullah Mohammad Ibrahim Al Sheikh, with President Halimah

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Singapore celebrated 40 years of establishment of bilateral ties and this relationship is excellent on multiple fronts. There have been several visits at the Ministerial level and several delegations have also visited Singapore with the aim to enhance business, education and cultural cooperation.

Prince Abdulaziz Bin Saud Bin Naif, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was in Singapore, following the visit of Singapore Minister for Home Affairs and Law, K Shanmugam, to Saudi Arabia in November 2017. During the Saudi Interior Minister's visit he met Mr Teo Chee Hean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister K. Shanmugam and also Mr Yaacob Ibrahim, then Minister for Communications. The Kingdom's Minister of Interior also called on President Halimah Yakob.

The Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr Tawfiq Al Rabiah also visited Singapore under the Middle East Eminent Person's Programme (MEEPP) at the invitation of Minister for Health Mr. Gan Kim Yong and they exchanged views on developments and challenges in the healthcare sector.

At this year's traditional annual Ramadhan Iftar Banquet held in May, the Saudi Embassy invited members of the diplomatic corp, representatives from the government and leading civic and business leaders to the Ritz-Carlton Millenia Grand Ballroom with Guest of Honour HE Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs. Other dignitaries included Senior Minister of State Mr Maliki

Osman and former Minister for Communications and Information, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim and CEO of Mendaki, Abdul Razak Hassan Maricar.

In July 2018, Dr Abdullah Mohammad Ibrahim Al Sheikh, Chairman of the Shura Council lead a four - member delegation which also included two women council members. While interacting with the Singaporean Parliamentarians, they also called on Madam President.

The Kingdom has a Saudi Cultural office here that looks after the cultural aspects of the relationship between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia hopes to be able to have exchanges at the under graduate level, so that the country's students can acquire knowledge from the world class universities in Singapore. It is the KSA Embassy's pleasure to share that NUS is one of 20 universities worldwide - and the only university in Asia and Oceania - to be recognized by the Saudi MOE Elite Scholarship Programme.

Saudis who have gained admission in any of the 20 universities in the Programme will be granted scholarships administered by the Saudi Ministry of Education. Other prestigious universities on the list include ETH Zurich, Harvard University and University of Cambridge.

The Saudi Arabia Embassy in Singapore was also honoured to welcome, at the General Cultural Authority King Fahad Cultural Center, the world's youngest 11 year old talented violinist, Chloe Chua (pictured below right) from Singapore who has been a student at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts School of Young Talents (SYT) strings section to perform in Saudi Arabia.



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(Top row l to r): Singapore Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, meeting his counterpart Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir at the sidelines of the G20 meeting in Argentina in May 2018; Saudi Arabia's Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz also called on Singapore Minister of Home Affairs and Law Mr K Shanmugam; Ambassador taking part in the Chinese traditional Lo Hei with Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli and Ambassador of Chile, James Sinclair. (2nd row l to r): Courtesy call on Mr Peter Ong, Chairman of Enterprise Singapore and Ambassador Saad Al-Saleh with Minister Masagos and Singapore civic leaders seeing off the pilgrims for the Hajj at Changi Airport in 2018

SAUDI ARABIA FAMOUS FOR

IN 2018 Saudi Arabia received more than 2.3 million pilgrims from various parts of the world. Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, and the Crown Prince Mohammad Salman, Saudi government establishments are working together to ensure high - quality service for the guests of Allah after their arrival in and departure from the KSA, and their safe return to their families and places of origin, by harnessing the full potential of the Kingdom's resources which are required to serve the pilgrims.

Special emphasis has been laid on the Umrah pilgrims in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. The government aims to increase its capacity for this category of pilgrims to 30 million per year by 2030.

Under the KSA Vision 2030, a 360-degree view has been taken to diversify the economy and reduce the KSA's dependence only on oil. On all fronts - economic, social and foreign policy changes, forward looking policies have been put into place.

For example, termed as the "World's most ambitious project in 'NEOM', 'Red Sea' and 'Oiddiva' were announced and have the potential to create massive opportunities on many fronts. These are certainly great initiatives to build Saudi Arabia's future prospects besides that of oil.



(Ambassador with Habib Hassan (standing far right) with this year's two selected guests of the Custodians of the Holy Mosque for the Hajj

Under the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's VISION 2030, a 360-degree view has been taken to diversify the economy and reduce the KSA's dependence only on oil. On all fronts - economic, social and foreign policy changes, forward looking policies have been put into place



South Africa is also Raising its Profile in Green Tech Industries

Text and photographs by the High Commission of South Africa in Singapore

South Africa has a diversified economy and enjoys close ties with Singapore

South Africa is ranked as the leading emerging economy in Africa, and the only African country to be in the top 15 worldwide of the Emerging Markets Opportunity Index. The country has world-class infrastructure, exciting innovation, research and development capabilities and an established high quality manufacturing base, as well as a highly developed agro-industrial sector. South Africa's membership of the African Tripartite Free Trade Area adds to this allure.

The annual Tourism Seminars raised awareness of the wide ranging products and opportunities for tourists outside of the traditional destinations in South Africa. Singaporean tour agencies have improved knowledge of excellent offerings in previously untapped areas of South Africa. As a result, Singapore Airlines increased direct flights to South Africa from one to two flights a day, emphasising the high number of travellers visiting South Africa for business and tourist purposes.

South Africa is also at the forefront of the development and rolling out of new green technologies and industries, creating new and sustainable jobs in the process and reducing environmental impact. The country's Special Economic Zones assist investors with all aspects of setting up their operation.

In view of the global interest in investment in South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted an Investment Summit in October (*see picture above*) during which over \$10 billion in new investment was pledged. Even before this Summit, HARPS invested in the Offshore Supply Base in Saldanha Bay.

SOUTH AFRICA FAMOUS FOR

Strategic Source for Food

SOUTH Africa and Singapore enjoy close relations. Singapore sees South Africa as a strategic source of food and beverage imports; 20% of all imports from South Africa are in this sector. Chemicals and chemical products account for 35% of total imports, with mineral products at 29%. Quality manufactured goods comprise 8% of imports, with 4% consisting of machinery.

South Africa has some of the world's best produce; fish, seafood and meats, including ostrich and our venison, are delicious, while its fruits and fruit juices are globally sought after, as are vegetables and spices. In 2018, South Africa successfully hosted food and beverage showcases with new products being well received in the market. South Africa is planning increased exposure of halal and non-halal F&B products in Singapore that will grow market share, improve consumer awareness of the country's many assets and contribute to its agro-industrial development. This will provide market access to emerging farmers who will obtain land through the land reform process, contributing to employment and development in South Africa.

“Singapore sees South Africa as a strategic source of food and beverage imports, 20% of all imports from South Africa are in the F&B sector. Chemicals and chemical products account for 35% of total imports, with mineral products at 29%”

Spain Looking at Singapore As Investment Hub for R&D

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Spain in Singapore



(Above): Spain's National Day celebrations in Singapore in October 2018. Spain has one of the largest business communities here. (Inset): The then-designated Spanish Ambassador to Singapore HE Santiago Miralles Huete first day in office on 28 Dec 2018

With 50 years of diplomatic ties between them to celebrate Spain and the Republic of Singapore have weathered many changes that both nations have witnessed on the home front as well as in the global context since 1968 when they first set up bilateral relations. It is the very strength of those ties which has helped forge a better understanding of the push and pull of diplomatic engagement to work towards a greater, more mutually beneficial relationship in the years to come.

Looking back over the years it's heartening to see how this dynamic relationship has evolved since 1968. Just three years earlier Singapore had gained independence and it was in the throes of that great change that founding father Lee Juan Yew noted in his memoirs: "Some countries are born independent. Some achieve independence. Singapore had independence thrust upon it." Spain in 1968 was still a dictatorship and the economic situation forced many citizens to migrate in search of better opportunities.

Fifty year on both nations can be proud of what they have achieved in the interim period. The great momentum of the success and high growth of Singapore stems from those early days of hardship of putting together a new nation. Today's Spain too is so radically different from those times. The country has since enjoyed the benefits of a fully-fledged free democracy with the rule of law, separation of powers, decentralization and the respect of human rights enshrined in the constitution, a keystone of its political freedom of which this year precisely Spain celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Economic ties between Spain and Singapore too have evolved exponentially. In 2017 bilateral trade in goods and services exceeded the benchmark of US\$2 billion. Provisional figures for 2018 show an increase of 25%. Bilateral economic relations between the two nations go beyond the ambit of trade. Bidirectional investment has grown steadily over the last five years. Spain is looking to investing in Singapore as a hub for research and development as well as technological cooperation and entrepreneurial collaboration. On the other hand, enjoying the strongest rates of economic growth among the largest countries in Europe Spain is a very reliable country for Singaporean companies to invest in.

At the heart of this increasingly strong relationship is the business community of Spain; over 150 Spanish firms are established in Singapore and more than 2500 Spanish and Singaporean firms are engaged in the business of imports and exports each year. The setting up of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, which will start its official

activity in the coming days in Singapore, will be greatly instrumental in the consolidation of the bilateral relations between the two countries. Bilateral relations do not rely purely on trade and investment. Over 2000 Spaniards call Singapore their home and over 60.000 Spanish tourists visit it every year. In turn a good number of Singaporeans, around 70000, visit Spain thanks to the direct flight to Barcelona.

SPAIN FAMOUS FOR

Wine, Olives, Saffron and...

ALTHOUGH Spanish food and beverages are today less than 10% of the total exports from Spain to Singapore, Spanish gastronomy based on a range of prime quality products such as meat, fish, shellfish, vegetables, legumes, virgin olive oil, preserves, species, cheese, wine and fruits, has been joyfully embraced in Singapore.

Acorn-fed Ibérico ham, sourced from the last of the grazing species of "Ibérico pig" in Europe has already conquered the taste buds of Singaporeans trying it for the first time. It is eaten in wafer-thin slices to appreciate the fragrant, delicate flesh, flecked with fat from the pigs' diet of acorns. Olive oil is another flagship Spanish product freely available in Singapore. Extra virgin olive oil has also been a huge success here.

Spain is the world's largest producer of two top-class products such as saffron and pimentón, or Spanish paprika. Both saffron and pimentón have found much favour in Singapore.

The Singapore consumer is also quite familiar with Spanish sweets and desserts, jams, turrón (Spanish nougat), and honey made according to Spanish Arab, Jewish and Christian culinary traditions. And who can forget the recent arrival in Singapore of real crispy churros, best accompanied by a tasty Spanish hot dark chocolate.

Spanish gastronomy and Mediterranean cuisine, to be found at the referral supermarkets, gourmet shops and specialized stores, as also a number of high quality Spanish restaurants in Singapore (many of them awarded with Michelin Stars), is fast gaining popularity here.



Sri Lanka and Singapore: Trade Growing at High Level & Expected to Increase with NES

Text and photographs by the Sri Lanka High Commission in Singapore

Sri Lanka exports cruise ships, excursion boats, ferry-boats, activated carbon, gemstones, sea food, black tea, food ingredients such as spices and essential oils and coconut-based products to Singapore. Exports from Sri Lanka recorded an upward trend in 2017 - up by 10.2 per cent - to US\$ 11,360 million in 2017, from US\$ 10,310 million in 2016.

Earnings from industrial exports, mainly textiles and garments (44 per cent), helped increase export earnings in 2017, followed by agricultural exports. The two countries have entered into a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement in January 2018 that will open up untapped areas for trade and investment expansion. Sri Lanka exports mainly apparel, tea, gems and jewellery, rubber and coconut-based value-added products, spices and food ingredients, sea food and aquarium fish, electrical and electronics components and boats and related products (*see table below*).

Year	Value (US\$Mn)	Main Products
2015	78.05	22% Fuel oils, 3.97% Gems stones, 4.74% Tea
2016	108.17	23% - Cruise ships, excursion boats, ferry-boats, and similar vessels, 13.5%-fuel oil, 3.1% quartz, 2.5% wheat flour, 2.2% Gems stones, 2.1% Crabs
2017	191.37	37% - Cruise ships, excursion boats, ferry-boats, and similar vessels, 13.9% Fuel oil, 8.08% light oil, 2.98% perfumes & toilet water, 2.92% wheat, 2.87% Gems, 2.4% other food preparation, 2.09% quarts, 2.04% Tea

The country has implemented several measures to increase the competitiveness and diversify exports to major markets. Under the **National Exports Strategy** (NES) IT-BPM, the boating industry, wellness tourism, spices and concentrates, processed foods and beverages, electrical and electronics components have been identified as priority sectors. The NES focuses on the short-and-medium-term approaches aimed at elevating the export sector from its current annual level of approximately US\$10 billion to US\$28 billion by 2022. This will be done through a well-coordinated process involving all relevant private and public sector stakeholders and the optimal use of the country's resources and capabilities. Further establishment of a National Single Window is being implemented to facilitate a single point for the submission of standardised information and documents.

The **Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal** was launched July 2018 to increase access to information related to cross-border trade and to comply with the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement. The portal provides existing trade regulations and procedures such as laws, administrative procedures, guidance notes, forms, licenses, permits, and applicable fees etc.

Further, enactment of two legislations named Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties and Safeguard Measures during 2017 is another important milestone that Sri Lanka achieved to protect the domestic industry against unfair trading practices and unforeseen surges of imports.

SRI LANKA FAMOUS FOR...

CEYLON Tea is known as the 'cleanest tea'. Sri Lanka has been credited by the Montreal Protocol in Canada as producing the only 'Ozone Friendly Tea' and has received United Nations Global Compact Awards and is a role model for the United Nations Environmental Program. Commitments to corporate social responsibility are high and the industry is ILO-compatible.



Sri Lanka produces **top-quality ethical fashion apparel**— sportswear, lingerie, loungewear, bridal-wear, work-wear, swimwear and children's wear. The industry has grown phenomenally and is today the country's primary foreign exchange earner.

Sri Lanka's industrial solid tyres are globally renowned, and the country produces a wide range of **rubber-based value-added products** such as solid tyres, latex gloves, rubber bands, extrusions, beadings, mats, miscellaneous sports goods etc.

Next come **coconut-based value-added products**. These include kernel as well as fibre products such as desiccated coconut, coconut cream and milk/milk powder, coconut water, coconut oil, coconut shell products, charcoal, briquette and fibre products including coir twine, geotextiles, rubberized coir products for the horticultural and agricultural industry, as also rubberised coir mattresses.

The country is a quality **sea food and ornamental fish exporter** - predominantly tuna, lobsters, crabs, squid, cuttle fish, shark fin are its famed products.

Sri Lanka's **Ceylon Sapphire** is widely known and the country offers over **70 varieties of coloured stones** to the global gem market.

The country is a highly reputed supplier of **spices, allied products and essential oil**. **Ceylon Cinnamon** is the country's most important spice commodity among the spice sector and is widely used in bakery products, pharmaceutical preparations and cosmetics worldwide.

The **electrical and electronics** component sector has been identified to be promoted in the high value exports bracket and products in this segment include boards and panels electrical wires, harness products and transformers.

Boat and ship building have been identified as one of the priority sectors under the NES. Sri Lanka's major ship building products include, multipurpose platform supply vessels, anchor handling and supply vessels, crew boats, passenger vessels, harbour berthing / towing tugs, naval / coast guard vessels, landing crafts, fire-fighting vessels, fishing vessels to name a few.



American Diplomacy Strengthens Partnerships through Dialogue

Text and photographs by the U.S. Embassy Singapore

The entire world focused on Singapore when U.S. President Donald Trump met with Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (pictured right) on June 12. A day earlier, President Trump thanked Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for Singapore's generosity and partnership in hosting the Summit and both leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation on diplomatic, defence, and economic issues to promote stability, security, and prosperity in the region.

In addition to the historic Summit, Singapore's ASEAN chairmanship in 2018 offered numerous opportunities for senior U.S. government officials to visit The Lion City. Strengthening ties with Singapore and the region, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo (picture 2) visited Singapore in August to participate in the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, where he reinforced partnerships and outlined the United States' vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. This set the stage for U.S. Vice President Mike Pence's visit for the U.S.-ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit in November where he reaffirmed the enduring U.S. commitment to the Indo-Pacific region and highlighted expanded cooperation. Vice President Pence and Prime Minister Lee also reaffirmed the longstanding and multi-faceted partnership between the two countries.

The U.S.-Singapore partnership also deepened its shared defence priorities. U.S. Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis (picture 1) spoke of U.S. leadership in the Indo-Pacific at the opening plenary of the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue in early June. He said: "Working together on the basis of shared principles, we can create a future that provides peace, prosperity, and security for all... A constellation of nations, each its own bright star, satellites to none."



When he returned in October for the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting, Secretary Mattis and Singapore Minister of Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen reaffirmed their commitment to the U.S.-Singapore defence relationship and discussed efforts to strengthen cooperation, to include counterterrorism and maritime security.

Earlier in the year, the United States was the largest international exhibitor at the Singapore Airshow – a strong indicator of how important the Indo-Pacific region is to the United States and to the U.S. aerospace and defence industry. Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., U.S. Embassy Singapore (picture 3), cut the ribbon at the USA Partnership Pavilion opening ceremony, welcoming its 170 participants. It was a testament to the strong bilateral trade and investment relationship, in addition to reaffirming U.S. economic engagement in the region.

2018 was also full of important milestones celebrating U.S.-Singapore people-to-people ties, promoting mutual understanding between Americans and Singaporeans. The year began with the launch of the sixth edition of the U.S. Embassy-ITE Alumni Mentoring Program (picture 4), which pairs Institute of Technical Education (ITE) students with alumni of U.S. government exchange programs to develop confidence, creativity, and perseverance in future leaders. Sessions were hosted by innovative U.S. companies, including Nike, Boeing, MasterCard, and the Conrad Centennial Hotel. In July, U.S. Embassy Singapore celebrated great American cities during its annual Independence Day festivities at Gardens By the Bay (see picture below). The Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale sang both the Singapore and U.S. national anthems in celebration of America's 242nd birthday.

The U.S. Embassy ended 2018 on a high note by hosting the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Summit, bringing together 150 YSEALI alumni, entrepreneurs, and change-makers from across ASEAN and the United States. The Summit showcased innovative approaches to economic cooperation and growth by leading U.S. companies, organizations, and institutions and included awards of seed funding to young teams of social entrepreneurs.



Busy Year for Uzbekistan in Singapore

Text and photographs by the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Singapore



Uzbekistan commemorated the 21st anniversary of its diplomatic ties in 2018. This has culminated in a legal framework of five inter-governmental agreements covering promotion and protection of investments; air services; Uzbekistan commemorated the 21st anniversary of its diplomatic ties in 2018. This has culminated in a legal framework of five inter-governmental agreements covering promotion and protection of investments; air services; economic and humanitarian cooperation; avoidance of double taxation among others. In 2018, this level of mutually beneficial and fruitful cooperation at the governmental basis continues to be extended to Singapore businesses as projects are undertaken in various sectors of Uzbekistan, chiefly in: chemical, textile, agriculture, education, healthcare, infrastructure and trade sectors. This was also reflected in the many bilateral visits between the two countries by delegations that have helped increase the state of trade, investment and people-to-people ties between them.

In February a delegation representing the country's Ministry for Development of Information technologies and Communications, "E-Government" Centre and Mirzo Ulugbek Innovation Centre was in Singapore and held the meetings with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), e-Government leadership center (eGL), such companies as KDi Asia Pte. Ltd., Ecquaria technologies Pte Ltd, vCargo Cloud Pte Ltd., SMRT, ST Electronics Pte Ltd and Surbana Jurong (SJ).

In May, the Uzbekistan Embassy organised a meeting of the members of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis (Parliament) K. Djuraev and E.Tulyakov with citizens of our country studying in Singapore at the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS). E.Tulyakov paid special attention to the training of students in foreign countries, the need for close interaction with diplomatic and consular missions abroad and maintaining ties with the homeland.

On the 3rd May, the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the assistance of National Association of Travel Agents Singapore (NATAS) organized Roadshow "Uzbekistan: Jewel of the Silk Road" with participation of travel and tourism companies from Uzbekistan.

Also in May, a delegation of the National University of Singapore (NUS) visited Uzbekistan within the framework of study tour for Engagement and EnRichment (STEE R) and held meetings at the various ministries and agencies of the country.

On 4-8 June, Sh.Nazarov, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Roads, headed a delegation to study Singapore's experience in the sphere of construction and maintenance of roads.

In July, a delegation led by Mayor of Sergeli district of Tashkent city

N.Khusanov participated at the World Cities Summit and Mayors Forum in Singapore which united the mayors from more than 155 cities of the world. The visiting delegation also held separate meetings with Enterprise Singapore, Singapore Cooperation enterprise, National Association of travel Agents of Singapore, Association of Attractions, Urban Redevelopment Authority, House Development Board, Land transport Authority, Center for Liveable Cities, DP Architect Pte.Ltd., CPG International Pte. Ltd., SBS transit, Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, Surbana Jurong and Indorama Corporation and signed five Memorandums of Understanding to strengthen bilateral cooperation and investment opportunities in master planning.



social housing, public transport, high-tech cities and tourism (see picture 2).

Then from 17th to 19th July, the Uzbekistan Embassy here also participated in the Speciality & Fine Food Asia Exhibition with demonstrations of the Uzbekistan wine production by joint-stock company Uzsharobsanoat. The wine was very well received by the market here and many were impressed with the quality of the wines from Uzbekistan.



Also in July, more than 40 school students from Uzbekistan took part in the annual Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge and did the country proud by winning two gold, six silver and 17 bronze medals.

November 3-7, 2018 the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan headed by Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court B.Isakov visited Singapore to study best practices in the field of organizing the activities of specialized judicial bodies in dispute resolution with the participation of foreign investors.



(Above right): NATAS Holidays 23rd Mar 2018: Uzbekistan's Ambassador HE Kakhramon Shakirov presenting tourism potential of Uzbekistan. (Above left): Charles Tan, NATAS Secretary General, pays a visit to the Uzbekistan National Pavillion



Minister, Minister of Finance J.Kuchkarov organized a visit to study the experience of developing the banking and financial sector in Singapore, improve the credit rating of the banks of Uzbekistan and establish partnerships between government and commercial financial institutions of the two countries.

During the visit, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance J.Kuchkarov met with Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister of Finance Heng Swee Keat, and presented information on the ongoing large-scale reforms to create favorable conditions for foreign investors in Uzbekistan and invite to visit Uzbekistan in 2019 (see opp. pg. pictures 4 & 5)

During the visit delegation hold the meetings at the Supreme Court, International Commercial Court, the Singapore Management University, as well as a briefing on the topic: "Large-scale reforms towards ensuring the rule of law and the reform of the judicial and legal system of Uzbekistan" (see opp. pg. picture 1).

25-29 November, 2018 the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan headed by Minister of Justice R.Davletov and Deputy Prosecutor General E.Yuldashev visited Singapore. During the visit, the delegation met with Minister for Law K Shanmugam, Attorney-General Lucien Wong, Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) Denis Tang, representatives of the public service center and notary public, as well as organized the briefing for foreign investors with detailed information about current reforms in Uzbekistan in all spheres (see opp. pg. picture 3).

November 25-28 the delegation of Uzbekistan headed by Deputy Prime

The representatives of Ministry of Transport and NUS participated at the High-level International Conference "Central Asia in the system of international transport corridors: strategic prospects and untapped opportunities" 20-21 September 2019 in Tashkent. At the same time such Singapore companies as Issa Global, Universal Success (see opp. pg. top right picture), Indorama, Olam International, S.E.A Business Center participated at the International Investment Forums in Tashkent city and region, Samarkand, Bukhara and Djizzak regions.

Uzbekistan participated in both editions of Singapore's largest travel fair - NATAS 23-28 March and 17-19 August. The Uzbekistan Embassy here together with representatives of State Committee for Tourism Development and Tashkent City Municipality had actively participated with a national booth. Traditional Uzbek Dance performances were part of the country's presentation and caught the attention of visitors to the fair. The dance troupe was also part of the Fair's Opening Ceremony as well as presentation by the Ambassador HE Kakhramon Shakirov on tourism potential of Uzbekistan.

UZBEKISTAN FAMOUS FOR...

UZBEKISTAN currently produces more than 20 million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables annually. Over the last 25 years then total volume of fruits and vegetables grew fourfold with grapes increasing by nine times, vegetables eight times and fruits by five times and beans seven times.



There are more than 350 types of agricultural products being grown in Uzbekistan with 180 of them being exported. In order to greater promote Uzbekistan produce and goods such as dry and fresh fruits, wines and brandy, silk and textile products to Singapore, a special purposed company has been founded by S.E.A. Business Centre Pte. Ltd in cooperation with two Uzbekistan companies - Umax Group and Annexure Company - to form the Uzbekistan-Singapore Trading House. This joint venture were set up in 2018 and is effectively the "Trading Hub" for Uzbekistan produce and goods for the ASEAN markets.



(Above montage): Shipment of dry fruits and beans (black and yellow raisin, beans, mush and etc.) from Uzbekistan are being imported by Mohamed Mustafa & Samsuddin Co Pte Ltd (Singapore) in cooperation with MFM Agro (Uzbekistan)

Uzbekistan also exports ferrous metals and products, textile, electric equipment, building materials, mechanic equipment and services to Singapore.



(Above): The first shipment fresh broccoli from Uzbekistan company Uz-Agro-Lider to Ringwood Group Pte Ltd in Singapore. In 2019, there is an agreement to bring in 100 tons of this agriculture product into the Singapore market

Uzbekistan currently produces more than 20 million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables annually. Over the last 25 years then total volume of fruits and vegetables grew fourfold with grapes increasing by nine times, vegetables eight times and fruits by five times and beans seven times

Venezuela - Singapore: 31 Years of Friendship

Text and photographs by the Venezuelan Embassy in Singapore



(Top): Pacho Flores with the SNYO at Esplanade. (Above row from l to r): 188th Anniversary of demise of Simón Bolívar at new Embassy premises; LatAmCham's Flight to the Fantastic at Paragon Mall; visit by Chef Gisela Salazar and Keppel Latin American Film Festival screening of Upside Down

Venezuela and Singapore celebrated 31 years of diplomatic relations in 2018, and throughout that year there has been a continuous exchange of highly-qualified representatives of companies from both countries. There were numerous other activities as well.

From 7th to the 23rd September there was the Latin American Cultural Event, where Venezuela showcased traditional masks of Dancing Devil of Corpus Christi, a cultural manifestation awarded UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status, as well as indigenous Pemon basketry, national dance (Joropo) traditional costumes and astonishing pictures of the Venezuelan Tepuy Mountains. All this was coordinated within Flight to the Fantastic, organized by LatAmCham at the Paragon Mall.

Again in September, on the 19th, Venezuelan Chef, Gisela Salazar, resident in Singapore, participated in Latinada (Latin moment), an event organized by Tono Restaurant that showcased Latin-American gastronomic perspectives including Venezuelan dishes such as *arepa* and *cachapa*.

In November, (21-25) Venezuela participated in the Latin American Film Festival Keppel at National Art Gallery (NAG) Singapore. The Venezuelan film *Upside Down*, a family-oriented production made in 'Cinema Village', a Venezuelan state-of-the-art facility for cinema production was unspooled at the NAG.

Before the screenings, guests delighted their senses with Venezuela's Diplomático rum, acclaimed by experts as the best worldwide. This exclusive drink is available in most discerning bars in Singapore and the rest of Asia.

On December 6, world-renowned Venezuelan trumpeter, Pacho Flores, performed in Singapore with National Youth Orchestra of Singapore (SNYO) at the Esplanade Concert Hall. Trained in a world-class Venezuelan programme, 'The System', Pacho Flores has received the highest trumpet recognitions for his versatile performances that include recitals in New York, Paris, Tokyo and Caracas. This year Singaporean ears were caressed by his music.

The 188th anniversary of the demise of Simón Bolívar, The Liberator, was commemorated on December 17. Together with this event, the inauguration of the new premises of the Venezuelan Diplomatic Representation in Singapore took place with the graceful blessings of the Apostolic Nunciature and the attendance of members of the diplomatic corps and the notables of Singaporean society.

The Embassy organized the screening of *Manuela Sáenz*, a movie that depicts the struggle and love lived by Manuela Sáenz, partner of Simón Bolívar, The Liberator, and a female South American hero who contributed to the independence of various Latin American nations.

VENEZUELA FAMOUS FOR...

VENEZUELAN top products in 2018 are oil and petrochemicals, rum, and cocoa (chocolate). This year, the Venezuelan product with strong presence in Singapore that has been selected to be highlighted is Diplomático Rum.



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RISING Tide of Trade & Investments between Singapore and Indonesia



In his welcome remarks at the year-end Gala, Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, Ngurah Swajaya urged entrepreneurs and investors to continue investing in Indonesia. “There are many questions directed to me, especially how entrepreneurs and investors must respond to the political year in Indonesia. My advice is keep investing, keep doing business in Indonesia, and still visit Indonesia. The political year will not reduce the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to guarantee businesses and investments.” He also pointed out, “We also showed during 2018, that Indonesia-Singapore diplomatic ties are stronger than ever, and that the Indonesian Embassy’s economic diplomacy team in Singapore, engaged almost every agency and stakeholder here to carry out Indonesia economic diplomacy activities.



The Year in Review : 2018 was one of the busiest where the Republic of Indonesia Embassy, Singapore undertook a year-long range of activities described by the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, H.E. Ngurah Swajaya, as part of its **economic diplomacy** programme that culminated in the RISING Appreciation Gala Dinner.

See page 26 for more on Indonesia