

IndoConnect

SPECIAL EDITION

CONNECTING INDONESIANS IN SINGAPORE

RISE OF NUSANTARA



ALSO INSIDE:

- PRESIDENT JOKOWI'S TWIN VISITS TO SINGAPORE
- INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SURYO PRATOMO
- INTERVIEW WITH HEAD OF INDONESIAN DIASPORA



MOVING FORWARD FOR AN ADVANCED INDONESIA
HAPPY 78TH REPUBLIC INDONESIA INDEPENDENCE DAY!



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Welcome to the special edition of Indoconnect!

In this edition we take immense pride in joining the Embassy of Indonesia to celebrate the vibrant festivities of Indonesia's National Day. We are happy to bring you an exclusive interview with H. E. Suryo Pratomo, Ambassador of Indonesia in Singapore.

This year is also special for Indonesia as it holds the ASEAN Chairmanship, carrying the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth".

Central to this issue is the flourishing bilateral relationship between the two nations, underscored by the significant visits of President Joko Widodo to Singapore. The President's two visits stand as a testament to the shared aspirations and collaborative spirit driving our countries forward. These interactions have ignited many opportunities for investment, particularly in the dynamic landscape of Indonesia's new capital city Nusantara, with its focus on sustainability and innovation.

As we delve into the pages ahead, we not only explore the depths of these thriving bonds but also unveil the immense tourism potential that Indonesia holds. From its breathtaking landscapes to its cultural treasures, Indonesia emerges as a captivating destination for the discerning traveller, and Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara, shines as one of the nation's super priority tourism destinations.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of Indonesia for guiding us through this journey of celebration, diplomacy, and investment. Together, we embrace the unfolding narrative of Indonesia's remarkable journey and its enduring ties with the world.

Happy reading !

Nomita Dhar



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CONTENTS



EDITOR'S NOTE

01 Indonesia - Singapore Ties Grow Closer

COVER STORY

04 Rise of Nusantara - A Tale of Two Green Smart Cities

BEHIND THE SCENES

06 Interview: Ambassador Suryo Paratomo
Indonesia-Singapore Cooperation at an All-Time High

ECONOMY

09 Bullish on Batam, Bintan and Beyond

VIEWPOINTS

11 Man in the Middle:
Shoeb Kagda

ASEAN NEWS

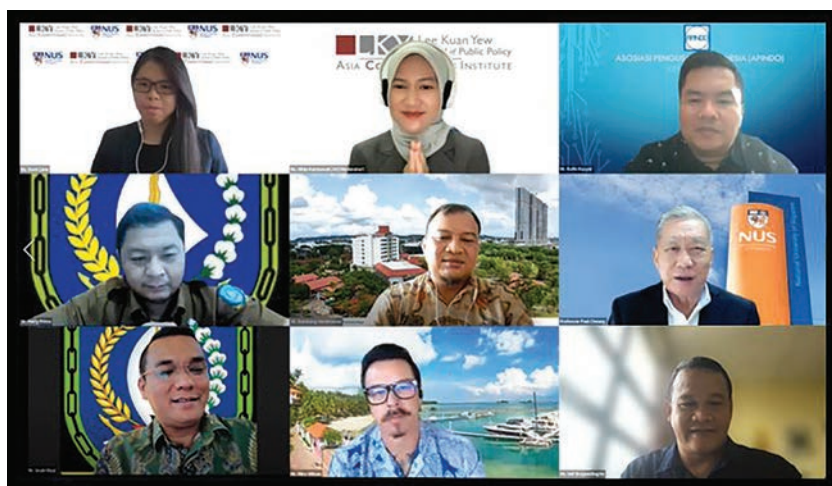
12 Indonesia at the Helm of
ASEAN in 2023

EDUCATION

13 SIS Spruced Up for 54th
Anniversary Celebration

TRAVEL

14 Labuan Bajo - The Inner Heart
of Indonesia





FASHION

16 You Won't Believe It...

DIASPORA NEWS

17 Uniting Cultures: Vision of a New
Diaspora Head

EMBASSY EVENTS

20 Past and forthcoming events organised
or supported by the Republic of
Indonesia Embassy in Singapore

16

14



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Rise of Nusantara – A Tale of Two Green Smart Cities

President Joko Widodo made two visits within months of each other – the Leaders' Retreat in March and a one-day visit in June to Ecosperity underscores closer ties and more areas of mutual cooperation in a wide range of sectors



President Joko Widodo met Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore on 16th March and followed it up with a one-day visit in June to secure cooperation from the Island Republic to participate in the development of the upcoming Ibu Kota Nusantara (IKN) or the capital city of Nusantara in East Kalimantan.

The visit in the first quarter was for the sixth Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat with President Jokowi and the first to be hosted in Singapore since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both Leaders reaffirmed the excellent relations between Singapore and Indonesia and agreed that the bilateral relationship had strengthened substantially over President Joko Widodo's two terms as President, providing a solid foundation to develop new areas of cooperation that are deep, multifaceted, forward-looking, and mutually beneficial for future generations.

Agreements Ratified

The Leaders welcomed the ratification of all three agreements under the Expanded Framework, namely:

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

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

Prime Minister Lee and President Joko Widodo agreed to deepen cooperation in sustainable and forward-looking areas of mutual interest. To this end, the Leaders' witnessed the exchange of six Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) in emerging sectors like the digital economy, sustainability, and human capital development, as well as in traditional areas like security.

The Leaders noted the development of the digital economy in Singapore and Indonesia through cooperative projects like the Nongsia Digital Park in Batam. The Leaders welcomed the MOU on the Tech:X Programme between the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, which allows young tech professionals in both countries to undertake work opportunities in each other's markets. This will deepen networks between Singapore and Indonesia's tech



ecosystems and allow tech talents to pursue opportunities in the fast-growing digital economy.

Sustainability & Renewable Energy

Focusing on common interests in sustainability, Prime Minister Lee and President Joko Widodo welcomed the signing of the MOU on **Renewable Energy Cooperation** between the Singapore Prime Minister's Office and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment. The MOU will put in place a framework for commercial cooperation on the development of renewable energy capabilities, transmission infrastructure and cross-border electricity trading. The Leaders also witnessed the signing of an MOU on **Sustainable Urban and Housing Development** between



the Singapore Ministry for National Development and the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning, to facilitate knowledge-sharing and training in sustainable infrastructure development.

Human Capital Development


Prime Minister Lee and President Joko Widodo recognised that people remained the most important resource of both countries and witnessed the signing of MOUs to invest in human capital through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and training across various sectors. This includes the MOU on Health Cooperation between the Singapore Ministry of Health and the Indonesian Ministry of Health, and an MOU regarding Collaboration on Knowledge Sharing, Capacity Building and Research between the Singapore Centre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development, and the Indonesian Nusantara National Capital Authority. The Leaders also welcomed the announcements on new projects under the **Human Capital Partnership Agreement** between the Singapore Ministry of Education and the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, and the renewal of people-to-people exchanges in **vocational training** and between the respective civil services.

Visit to Ecosperity

On June 7, 2023, Indonesian President Joko Widodo embarked on an under-24 hours working visit to Singapore and Malaysia. The

highlight of his Singapore itinerary was his participation as a speaker at Ecosperity Week 2023, a prestigious annual sustainability event organized by Temasek Foundation. President Widodo, along with his wife, First Lady Iriana Joko Widodo, was graciously hosted by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs. Lee for a lunch reception.

President Widodo and First Lady Iriana also played host to Prime Minister Lee and Mrs. Lee at the 42nd ASEAN Summit held in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, in May. Such reciprocal visits underline the strong bilateral relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore.

Ecosperity Week, held at the Sands Expo & Convention Center, brought together an esteemed gathering of investors, government officials, and academics. President Widodo utilized this platform not only to deliver a special address but also to promote investment opportunities in Indonesia. He emphasized key sectors such as energy transition, green infrastructure, and the development of the new capital city, known as Ibu Kota Nusantara (see *accompany box story*). The President's proactive approach to attracting foreign investments aligns with his administration's goal of boosting Indonesia's economic growth and sustainable development. 



Invitation to Participate in IKN Development

During his speech at Ecosperity Week 2023, President Joko Widodo urged Singaporean investors to seize the golden opportunity to participate in the development of Indonesia's new capital city; he also emphasized that this was a unique chance for investors to be part of building a **future-proof smart city with a nature-based concept**.

"I advise you not to wait too long. This is an incredibly attractive golden opportunity in Indonesia, and you can be a part of it," stated President Jokowi during his address at the Sands Expo and Convention Center.

President Jokowi highlighted the fact that Nusantara would be a comfortable place for both business and living conditions. The development of IKN has already commenced, with the construction of essential infrastructure and government centers targeted for completion next year.

"For the private sector, in the initial stage, we have prepared 300 investment packages worth a total of USD 2.6 billion in various sectors such as housing, transportation, energy, technology, and others," he added.

Furthermore, the President expressed Indonesia's commitment to green energy and green industry development. As a first step, the country has established nurseries in two different locations nationwide, with an annual capacity of 16 million seedlings in Rumpin and 15 million seedlings in Mentawir. President Jokowi also highlighted Indonesia's significant potential in renewable energy, estimating it to reach 434 gigawatts from geothermal, wind, solar, biofuels, and hydro sources. The country boasts 4,400 rivers, including the Kayan River in Kalimantan Island, which serves as a green energy source for the Green Industrial Zone in North Kalimantan.

Interview **H.E. Suryo Pratomo**

Indonesia – Singapore

Cooperation at an All-Time High

As Indonesia and Singapore celebrates their respective National Days in August, the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore H.E. Suryo Pratomo shared his thoughts with Nomita Dhar, IndoConnect's Editor in Chief about the latest developments between both countries



We again meet before Singapore and Indonesia celebrate their national days. August is always a milestone month for both countries. You've been here for a few years now; tell us about the new initiatives taken to keep our bilateral relationship warm and happening?

We have done many things to strengthen our cooperation. The most important is the relationship between our heads of state which is going extremely well. This can be seen from the expansion of our Bilateral Economic Working Groups from six to seven working groups. New is what Indonesia and Singapore can do together in renewable energy and how to reach zero emissions.

On the business level we have also made achievements. We are collaborating with Singapore's Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Kwok Fook Seng. We are working together and last May we invited 95 potential Singapore investors to spend three days at the site of the new capital Nusantara.

For people-to-people ties, I think it is excellent. For example, if I can use the 'badminton diplomacy' to illustrate this. Last month (June) I accompanied Singapore's Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Pak Maliki Osman to meet the head of the Indonesian Badminton Association (PBSI) Pak Agung Firman Sampurna. He mentioned to Minister Maliki that Indonesia has about 58,000 national badminton players! With such a huge talent pool, the Second Minister wondered if it was possible to send 100 of them each month to Singapore to compete and train with Singapore national players to raise their standards! It is a new idea and such things are important ways to bring people together. This is something I have been trying to do during my past two-and-a-half-year tenure in Singapore to build up people-to-people ties. As close neighbours there can sometimes be problems but we can solve them as the trust and confidence between our two countries can be maintained and improved.

Orchids have always been very special to Singapore and I believe there are some initiatives about featuring orchids from Indonesia in Singapore?

The idea to hold an exhibition of orchids from the 'East Tropics' originated from Garden by the Bay's management who invited several ambassadors as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore celebrate their national days in the same month as August, along with Thailand, which is also famous for its orchids. We are still in discussions about this and might do this between July and September. The orchids will be exhibited along with iconic examples of traditional homes from each country; from Indonesia we chose the Rumah Toraja from South Sulawesi.

Indonesia is the current Chair of ASEAN. What is your reading on the growth of ASEAN, its leverage and ability to find solutions for difficult problems like Myanmar?

Yes, Myanmar is the most challenging issue for ASEAN and Indonesia as Chair

“Another factor for higher investments from Singapore this year is the development of Nusantara... the biggest single project in the region valued at US\$32 billion which is four times the size of Singapore. When President Jokowi was here in June he was scheduled to have a tête-à-tête with PM Lee Hsien Loong for 10 minutes but in the end it took more than an hour!”



(Seated from left): Ambassadors Suryo Pratomo of Indonesia and Kwok Fook Seng of Singapore together meeting President Jokowi in Singapore in June at Ecosperity Exhibition and at the Nusantara work site in East Kalimantan with Indonesian ministers

of ASEAN also consider Myanmar as one of our brothers so we listen to their views as well as get ideas for solutions from all other ASEAN members.

We know that a peaceful situation is very important to bring prosperity to the people. You cannot develop a country when it is not at peace or (politically) stable. That is why ASEAN members are doing it by reaching a consensus and not getting involved (directly) in the country's internal matters. We try to find the best ways to solve the problems in Myanmar by sharing a new approach, new ideas or maybe trying new concepts, but it is not easy.

Do you think a breakthrough is possible?

We have the experience like back in 1997 when we were involved in solving the problems after the coup in Cambodia. We are using the same approach as we did then quietly trying to solve the problems without the need for any ‘megaphone’ diplomacy going for continued mediation within ASEAN. In Cambodia we were able to bring all the factions to sit together for an informal meeting. It took a long time but, in the end, look at Cambodia today. It is politically stable and its economy continues to improve. It has to be done with all the ASEAN member countries onboard with the same mindset.

Singapore is Indonesia's top foreign investor and you have projects like the upcoming Nusantara capital on the table; President Jokowi also came to Singapore to pitch for the capital city project and left Singapore with many letters of intent. What is the latest on Singapore investments and investors involved in this project?

If you follow the many forums, seminars and workshops held here they all realise Southeast Asia is the most dynamic economy in the world. There's still room for growth with Indonesia registering 5.3% GDP. The first quarter 2023 GDP figure has already exceeded 5% with Singapore investing US\$4.3 billion. If you compare the first quarter US\$4.3 billion figure against the whole of last year's total of US\$13 billion, I am confident the level of Singapore investment in Indonesia will be more than last year.

Another factor for higher investments from Singapore this year is the development of Nusantara. This is the biggest single project in the region valued at US\$32 billion. We need to build up the capital city which is four times the size of Singapore. When President Jokowi was in Singapore in June he was scheduled to have a tête-à-tête with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for 10 minutes but in the end it took more than an hour!

After the meeting President Jokowi explained that they shared many things including politics, the economy and he had asked if Singapore was willing to support Indonesia in building the capital. That is why in the press conference that followed, Prime Minister Lee mentioned very clearly that Singapore will support the development of the new capital and President Jokowi also said he will ask Indonesia businesses to also invest in Singapore.

Earlier in March, after the Indonesia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat, I joined up with Singapore Ambassador Fook and we organised the trip for the 95 business people in May to visit Nusantara. That

was when President Jokowi shared he planned to do a series of roadshows to three countries - Hong Kong, Singapore and the UAE - devoted to the development of the capital. But the first country he wanted to go was to Singapore. So he has been to Singapore twice in three months! His second visit on 7th of June is to specially explain to Prime Minister Lee about the new capital.

President Jokowi was not only here to invite Singapore and global businesses to invest just in the new capital, but also to share that the opportunities for investment in all of Indonesia are huge. In the last five years President Jokowi has set up programmes for the down streaming of our industries. We also have very ambitious plans to develop our renewable energy resources to produce a potential of more than 440 Gigawatts of power from renewable energy.

Next month we have plans to take Singapore businesses on a trip related to healthcare and health centres in Indonesia as we are also reforming Indonesia's health industry.

Yes, many Indonesians come to Singapore for health reasons. President Jokowi in a speech given during his recent visit to Singapore also mentioned that he would like some of Singapore's universities to work with Indonesia. Has there been any progress on that front?

Yes, we are still working on that and in this sector, President Jokowi has also set up a new Special Economic Zone (SEZ) specialising in health in Bali. A large hotel in Sanur underwent renovations to become a world-class international hospital and it will be the first Health SEZ in Indonesia.

Ambassador, also in terms of trade, how has the story been between the two countries?

Singapore is very dependent, specially for food, from other countries so it has to try to find more sources. COVID-19 gave us the opportunity when Malaysia instituted a chicken export ban in May last year. For the first time, Singapore started accepting our frozen chickens in July 2022. It was also at this time during a Leaders' Retreat at a meeting discussing bilateral matters, President Jokowi asked Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong about the possibility of exporting live chickens to Singapore. Last month the first consignment of live chickens from Bintan arrived here. We also now have a licence from the Singapore Food Agency to export eggs to the Singapore market.

There are now many food products coming in from Indonesia including manufactured food and beverages products now having access to Singapore.

How is it on the tourism front? Are there more Singaporeans going to Indonesia and are there any new areas that have opened up for us to explore like in the 10 New Bali book that President Jokowi promoted?

I think in tourism, Singapore must give thanks to Indonesia because last year we registered the largest number of Indonesian visitors to Singapore - 2.2 million. This makes Singapore Indonesia's most favourite place to visit. During the same period Indonesia received less than one million visitors from Singapore.

But we are working very hard to strengthen the connections between Singapore and Indonesia. In fact, next Saturday I will be at a new resort destination - Nirup Island - which is only a 15-minute boat ride from Sentosa. I will be there at the official opening of the harbour by the Indonesian Minister of Transportation Bapak Budi Karya Sumadi. It is billed as the 'New Maldives of Batam' so I will get to see it for myself.

National Days are very close to everyone's heart and you have a large diaspora here. How do you engage them and what is your national day message for them?

I'm very lucky as I have Pak Juviano Ribeiro, the new head of department for Information, Social and Culture. He is very active engaging with the diaspora. And I have told Pak Juvi please utilize our embassy as we have very nice facilities and there is a gathering here almost every weekend organised by Pak Juvi and the team from the labour attache department. We also have many other groups from the Indonesian diaspora made up of young Indonesian professionals that come here for activities.

Just last week there was an event here (the embassy) where I rode a bicycle joining a group of 120 other riders from more than ten diaspora groups!

You still have so many associations?

While they belong to their own groups, every three months we organise a big gathering and everyone from all the other groups join together. They are very active. We have about 200,00 to 250,000 members of the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore.

As of last week, also for the first time, Singapore's Ministry of Health is admitting Indonesia nurses to work in Singapore. The first batch of 21 nurses arrived last week to work in public hospitals here. We have sent nurses to Japan but this is the first time to Singapore. It was not easy as they are assessed on their education, nursing education and vocational training as well as language proficiency. Thankfully all 21 passed the assessment and after this hopefully many other Indonesians will have the opportunity to serve as a nurse here.

One last question on your digital collaboration and honing young talent that's something very unique that our two countries are doing. So what's on that side?

We are pleased about it because EDB

"Last year registered the largest number of Indonesian visitors to Singapore - 2.2 million. This makes Singapore Indonesians' most favourite place to visit"

(Singapore's Economic Development Board) is also very active in setting up this cooperation with Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs. They are working together promoting the Nongsa Digital Park in Batam. We have already set aside an area that could become the Digital Park of Indonesia and Singapore with data centres being set up there.

Two months ago I went to Batam to open the IBM Academy of Hybrid Cloud and AI. They will be training 150,000 Indonesians a year in IT. There is also an Apple Developer Academy in Batam. The purpose of the academies is to prepare enough of an Indonesia digital workforce.

This is a huge opportunity for ASEAN with estimates that the grouping's digital economy can be developed to more than US\$200 billion. And the biggest of these markets is in Indonesia.

And your mobile penetration is one of the highest in the world. So much content have been created and new business startups have come up.

That's right. Last month the Indonesia government launched a special satellite SATRIA 2 dedicated only for the internet in Indonesia. The government and President Jokowi have already decided that the digital economy is one of the pillars needed by the nation to face the challenges of the future. That is the reason we must be prepared with our human capital. And that is why we are developing and working with the best academies in the world.

Also in Batam we have also setup Infinite (Studios) at Nongsa Digital Park and it's like the Hollywood of Indonesia. You should see the facilities we have there. Many movies shown on Netflix and programmes on Singapore television are produced there.

As I mentioned earlier there are seven working groups and one of them is specially working on Batam, Bintan and Karimun (islands). They are all close, only 30 minutes away by ferry from Singapore.

We have asked so many questions. Things move because good human beings are on important chairs; we talk to each other and we facilitate life, oil the economy and change lives. You are one of them. I want to know how has your tenure been in Singapore so far. What are your most favourite places, your most favourite food and people.

For food here, the first is chicken rice and second is Indian food where there are many Indian restaurants at Race Course Road. Also here at Dempsey Hills where there is a good Indian restaurant. Many Indonesians also like the fish head curry dish.

What is the one food you would like to promote from Indonesia in Singapore?

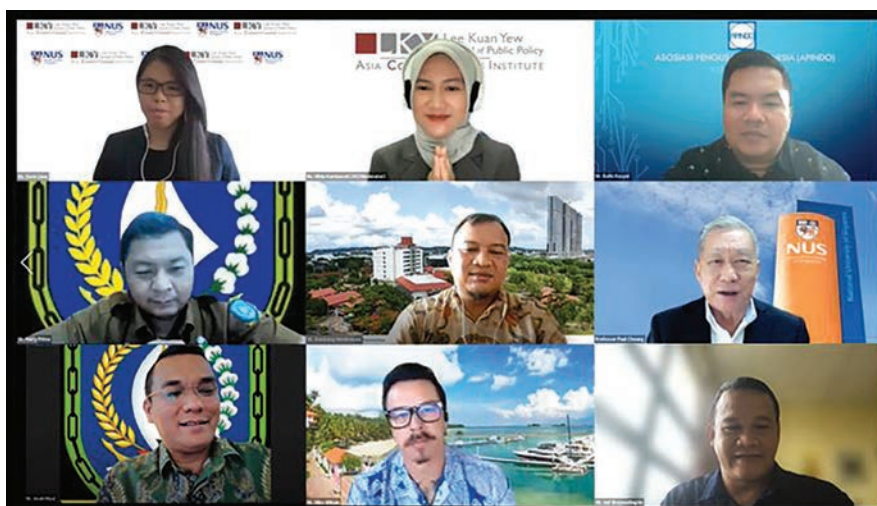
There are too many! But there is one dish that has started to catch on in Australia - it is *Nasi Bungkus* (rice wrap). It is very traditional and like Indian food it uses a banana leaf to wrap a small amount of rice and other side dishes from Indonesia. President Jokowi and my minister of foreign affairs were in Australia and visited an Indonesian restaurant but there was no place to sit; so they ordered *Nasi Bungkus* - as it is small enough to go as a takeaway and be eaten anywhere! 🍴

Bullish on Batam, Bintan and Beyond

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy hosted a webinar by the Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI) and Politeknik Negeri Batam (Polibatam) on the subject 'Post-Pandemic Economic Strategies for Riau Islands' and posits that in post-pandemic Indonesia, the province should get ready to once again become a "hot spot" for foreign investments

Riau islands is one of Indonesia's premier manufacturing hubs with industry contributing more than 40% to its economy. Home to large industrial estates like **Nongsa Digital Park** and the **Bintan-Batam-Karum Free Trade Zone**. The webinar presented by the respected Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) invited several presenters from the educational, public as well as private sectors of Batam to provide some ideas on what are the "growth catalysts" of the Riau province and how has the Indonesian government supported its leading industries. The speakers included:

- Guest of Honour, H.E. Ansar Ahmad, S.E., M.m Governor of the Riau Province
- Mr Andri Rizal, Head of the Regional Planning, Research and Development Board
- Mr Mike Wiluan the CEO of the Nongsa Digital Park
- Mr Rafki Rasyid, Head of the Batam Chapter of the Indonesian Employers' Association of Raiu Islands
- Mr Bambang Hendrawan, the Head of ASEAN and Regional Competiveness Research Centre of Politbatam.



Economic measures by the provincial government has resulted in growth in 2021 reaching 3.43% and is dominated by manufacturing, construction, quarrying and mining sectors. This is very much in step with the Riau Islands' Province Regional Medium Term Development Plan that targetted 1.5 to 3.5% growth in 2021.

Several strategic policies were implemented that encourage the rise of small, micro and medium enterprises as well as the provision of various relaxations of invesment permits to attract as many investors as possible.

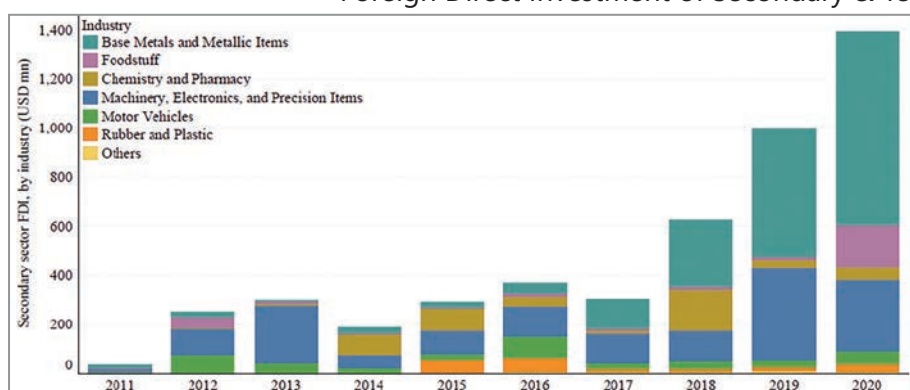
SEZ Strategy

One of the main measures undertaken by the provincial governemnt he said was the encouragement of the growth of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in Batam, Bintan and Karimun with various convenience facilities in licensing. One example of the economy recovery mode policies in Batam was the establishment of the Batam Aero Technic SEZ, the Batam Nongsa Digital Park SEZ and the Batam Sekupang International Health SEZ. The SEZs have several advantages, such as business tax

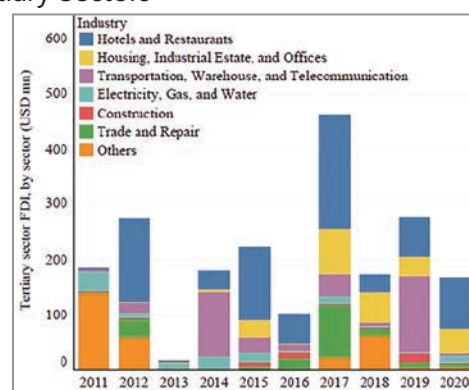
From LKYSPP's Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI) was Prof Paul Cheung and the Dean of the Politeknik Negeri Batam, Uuf Brajawidagda, S.T, M.T, Ph.D. Ms Doris Liew Wan Yin was the Project Coordinator from ACI / LKYSPP for the event.

In his introduction, the Governor of Riau said the Riau province is unique in that 96% of the ocean makes up the total area and it is bordered by other countries such as Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia. This he said makes the area a "strategic province in economic, political and defence" terms. He was also happy to report that Riiau's economy continues to show a positive trend after overcoming the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Foreign Direct Investment of Secondary & Tertiary Sectors



Source: Doris Liew ACI/LKYSPP



and income tax cuts as well as special investment incentives. The infrastructure tends to be of a higher quality and benefit from industry clustering.

In Ms Doris Liew's address on presenting The Case for Riau Islands (*see accompanying diagrams*) she also highlighted untapped resource-based potential for the province with its vast sea area which is ideal for fishing and aquaculture, and great potential in agricultural production in wood, rice, soy, fruits, vegetables and palm oil.

The Riau Islands also offers seven tourism corridors that can encourage:

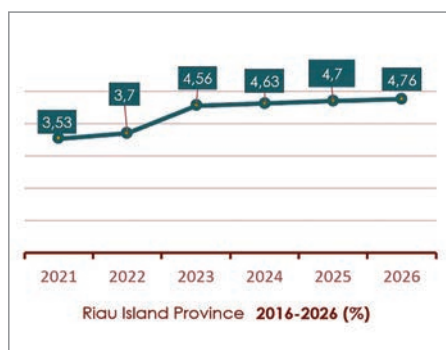
- Batam - MICE and cultural tourism
- Bintan - Family and eco-tourism
- Karimun - Heritage, eco- and marine tourism
- Tanjung Pinang - Heritage and cultural tourism
- Natuna - Marine and eco-tourism
- Anambas - Marine and eco- tourism
- Lingga - Heritage and eco-tourism

Business Outlook & Sentiments

Mr Rafki Rasyid, who was representing the Batam Chapter of the Indonesian Employers' Association of Riau Islands, in his presentation said that 2022 marked the turning point of the "economic awakening" of the Riau Islands and spoke on the outlook and sentiments held businesses whose stance was that all economic sectors will begin to recover (including tourism) since the COVID-19 pandemic was under control. There are other positive sentiments said Mr Rafki with the following factors bolstering confidence in the province's economic outlook:

- World trade volume and commodity prices continue to increase thus underpinning the export outlook
- Expectations and optimism is improving and this is reflected in the consumer index
- Batam has already started attracting investment in renewable energy

Economic Growth Projections



Source: The Riau Islands Regional Development Planning Agency (BAPPEDA KEPRI)



- Batam's strategic position makes it very suitable as a digital hub
- Building of the Batam-Bintan bridge will attract more investment and create economic equality between the regions

Digital Pace Growth

Mr Mike Wiluan, CEO of Nongsa Digital Park gave a talk on Building Industry Resilience through the Digital Ecosystem that included the impressive growth registered by both users services of digitalisation that have climbed in a short space of time (*see accompanying diagrams*). Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially granted Special Economic Zone status to Nongsa Digital Park in 2021 and the 166.45 ha Park said Mr Wiluan is targetted to bring in investments totalling 16 trillion rupiah (S\$1.49 billion) and create 16,500 jobs.



He revealed by the end of 2021 the Park had already attracted more than 80 companies and 1,250 workers as well as investments of US\$500 million for the establishment of two data centers. He also said that to ensure a constant deep pool of digital talent the Park has partnered with Apple Academy, RMIT, AWS and Kampus Merdeka to provide education for digital studies.

Medium-Term Development Plans for Riau

Mr Andri Rizal, from the Panning, Research and Development Agency of the Riau Islands Province, gave a comprehensive outline for the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) for the Province from 2021 to 2026. He said the Government is working towards achieving several regional development goals and presented the accompanying programmes to meet the targets set in the following areas:

- Accelerating Recovery and Increasing Economic Growth

- Acceleration of Infrastructure Development and Inter-Island Integration
- The realization of Maritime and Environmental Optimiation
- The Realization of Strengthening Social Safety Nets
- The Realization of Superior Human Development and Character
- The Realization of Clean, Strong and Anticipatory Governance
- The Realisation of Religious Guidance , Cultural Preservation, and Community Harmony

Macro Indicators for Riau Islands

NO	Macro Performance Indicators	Base Year Condition	Achievement Indicator		RPJMD's Target				RPJMD Final Performance Condition	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
1	Human Development Index	75,59	75,79	76,7	77,14	77,14	78,03	78,47	78,47	
2	Poverty rate	6,13	5,75	6,01	5,74	5,68	5,63	5,57	5,57	
3	Unemployment Rate	10,34	9,91	10,10	9,50	8,70	8,10	7,50	7,50	
4	Economic growth	-3,8	3,43	4,8 - 5,6	4,9 - 5,8	5,0 - 5,9	5,1 - 6,1	5,2 - 6,3	5,2 - 6,3	
5	Income per capita	78,04	-	80,07	81,91	83,90	86,02	88,27	88,27	
6	Gini Index	0,334	0,339	0,332	0,329	0,325	0,321	0,318	0,318	

Source: The Riau Islands Regional Development Planning Agency (BAPPEDA KEPRI)

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

SHOEB KAGDA

Shoeb Kagda, the Chairman of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia, and Director of the Singapore Management University Overseas Centre, Jakarta, in conversation with Nomita Dhar. Shoeb has been based in Indonesia for 25 years. He started as a journalist and now he helps Indonesian – Singaporean businesses and students to multiply opportunities.



Shoeb Kagda's background has been in the media and he explained that he came to Indonesia in 1998 primarily to cover the then political and economic crisis and was widely reporting on Indonesia. Later he started his own media consulting company. He also owns the platform called *Indonesia Economic Forum* that brings together various stakeholders. He says he loves Indonesia and as a Singaporean he also felt that it is his primary duty to help explain Indonesia to the outside world.

According to Mr Kagda, over the past 25 years, Indonesia has moved from a centralized autocratic economy to a democratic decentralized economy! It is the fourth largest democracy in the world and he feels in the last 25 years there has been a rise of a very dynamic middle class which is driving progress in many different areas. Consumer spending has increased and is expected to grow further in the areas such as education and health care.

Mr Kagda observes, "Indonesia also has one of the largest startup economies and digital ecosystems in the world. And all of it is being driven not only by the middle class but also a very young dynamic population. Sixty percent of the population is under 35. So it has a huge runway for growth."

He also thinks that increasingly Indonesians are also getting much more outward-looking.

Upon probing on how Indonesia is engaging with the world Mr Kagda replied, "Indonesia now walks on the global stage with a bit more spring in its step. Recently it hosted the G20 and this year it is the Chair of ASEAN. So it has come a long ways since 1998. It is not just on the business side, one can also see it being manifested in culture, music and diplomacy."

The Chamber, he shares organizes networking sessions as well as leadership programmes. It also participates in many economic and business forums and also works with the Indonesian government. It helps Singapore companies do two things: One, of course, to give them the lay of the land and what is going on here - what are the growth sectors; new regulations that may have been introduced etc. Secondly, it tries to help them to network with potential joint venture partners, across many sectors. So as a Chamber it acts as a bridge between the business communities on both sides. It also works very closely with the Embassy of Singapore in Indonesia, Enterprise Singapore and the EDB.


First Step for Businesses

Mr Kagda hopes that any Singapore business organisation contemplating entry into the Indonesian market takes the first step by becoming a member of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia. He is happy to share that after they complete and send in the membership form they become part of the ecosystem of the Chamber. The Chamber has a dynamic, very well experienced council that is selected every year. The council members are all volunteers who give their time and share their knowledge with members.

Mr Kagda meets many young Singaporeans who come into the Chamber personally. His advice to the new entrants is to join the Chamber so that they can be part of many networking opportunities. Periodically they also invite senior Indonesian government leaders to address the members."

Mr Kagda is also well placed to provide

some indicators of where are the most active sectors in the Indonesian economy that are attracting investors. His thoughts on this subject was that they have seen a huge influx of young investors and businesses. For the big companies it is easy to do their own due diligence and can manage on their own. The Chamber is especially catering to the needs of startup founders, young entrepreneurs and SMEs looking to venture into Indonesia. Many of the Singapore startups have come with ideas and products for the Indonesian market. There is growth in areas such as logistics, edutech, fintech and health tech. In the future especially the sectors with potential are related to sustainability and carbon exchange credits. In the traditional sectors like agriculture and plantation, Singapore companies can find a niche. Even plantations and retail companies are in the need of digitalization. Singapore companies, especially SMEs and startups can also play a very critical role as service providers to the food and beverage sector. Tourism sector most definitely still remains huge."

Involvement in Indonesia Mr Kagda feels has to be long term. His advice to newcomers is "You really have to invest yourself in the country. You must like the country. If you are only coming with the thought that you are only going to make money and then go back. Then it doesn't work. When you come here you must firstly invest yourself in the country not money. Then you will start to understand the country and then do business right." 

For the full interview visit:
www.indoconnectsingapore.com

Indonesia at the Helm of ASEAN

in 2023

Indonesia expressed a firm resolve that it will oversee the achievements of the the three main pillars of its ASEAN 2023 Chairmanship



Indonesia went on record to express its commitment to oversee the achievements of the three main pillars in its ASEAN 2023 Chairmanship. This was outlined in May by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Teuku Faizasyah.

He said for the first pillar, **ASEAN Matters**, Indonesia has prepared a grand vision of ASEAN 2045 as well as a discussion process on the draft ASEAN Leaders Declaration to strengthen ASEAN's institutional capacity and effectiveness. This has been adopted during the **42nd ASEAN Summit**, 9 to 11 May 2023 in Labuan Bajo, West Manggarai, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)."

For the first pillar, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, has emphasised a number of issues that must continue to be pushed, namely the negotiation of the Code of Conduct (COC) text, eradication of Trafficking in Persons, strengthening the



(Top): ASEAN Chair Indonesia played host to the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, (Above): President Jokowi chairing press briefing with Foreign Minister Ratno Marsudi (seated left)


institutionalisation of the Human Rights Dialogue in ASEAN, drafting the Timor Leste membership Roadmap, and signing the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Protocol.

The second pillar, **Epicentrum of Growth**, prioritize issues such as strengthening the health architecture through the One Health Initiative, strengthening food security and strengthening energy security, including through the development of an electric vehicle ecosystem. The commitment to use ASEAN currencies in trade transactions

and connectivity of payment mechanisms in the region has also been agreed upon to strengthen regional financial stability.

The third pillar, namely the implementation of **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs also emphasised the strengthening of concrete AOIP cooperation based on the principles of inclusiveness, economic cooperation, and economic development. To that end, Indonesia will organise a flagship event, the **ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum**.

Through the theme of the ASEAN Chairmanship: "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", Indonesia is determined to direct ASEAN cooperation in 2023 to continue and strengthen ASEAN's relevance in responding to regional and global challenges, as well as strengthen ASEAN's position as the epicentrum of regional economic growth, for the prosperity of the people of ASEAN.

At the recent 42nd ASEAN Summit held in Labuan Bajo from 10th to 11th May, President Joko Widodo gave a press conference following the summit where he outlined a number of results achieved in the implementation of the Summit. One of them is related to how the interests of the people are the main concern of ASEAN leaders including the protection of migrant workers and victims of human trafficking. "I invite ASEAN countries to take firm action against the main perpetrators," said the President. 

ASEAN Meetings

Complementing these three pillars, a number of important meetings have also been held in the last four months, such as the **ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat** in Jakarta which was held on 1st to 4th February 2023. Also held were the **ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Meeting** in Yogyakarta on 2-5 February 2023 and **ASEAN SOM and Related Meetings** in Jakarta on 6-8 March 2023.

In April, at the **ASEAN Youth Dialogue on Development for Sustainable Development Goals** there was a forum to exchange ideas and formulate recommendations related to digital development in Southeast Asia by around 60 youths from ASEAN and Timor Leste. The recommendations were then submitted to ASEAN Leaders at the **42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo** in May.

SIS Spruced Up for 54th Anniversary Celebrations

IndoConnect spoke to Sekolah Indonesia Singapura (SIS) principal Ibu Yenny Dwi Maria about the special significance behind this year's Anniversary celebrations held in the school's new assembly hall



SIS' present school building was completed in 1988 and architecturally was recognised as one of the best traditional Indonesian buildings in the Siglap area. However, the flooring of the school hall was made of wood and after many years of wear, it was ready to be replaced.

Principal Yenny Dwi Maria, also said the school is also a "melting pot" for many Indonesians to gather and hold events there. Many groups of migrant workers and from the diaspora request to use the school hall for their activities. This accelerated the wear-and-tear until things came to a head this year when the school decided to plan a massive celebration to mark its 54th anniversary on 20th May 2023 and renovate the school hall at the same time. It was to be a grand affair as SIS wanted to invite not just the students' parents but also involve the Indonesian community in Singapore who have helped the school in the past as well as the Indonesian Embassy.


A full day programme was drawn up that included a Family Fun Walk, a School



(Top, from left): Ibu Yenny, Mr Edwin Tong and Ambassador Suryo Pratomo. (Above): Massive turnout for the anniversary celebrations

Bazaar, and its own SIS Got Talent contest featuring student finalists drawn from the monthly school contests held in the months leading up to the finals. The challenge was getting the funding to do the event and renovation around the same time.

According to Ibu Yenny this was when the Embassy, and in particular, Ambassador Suryo Pratomo, came to help. She presented the school's proposal to the Ambassador and she said: "Pak Dubes really supported it and opened up channels to Indonesian business people who were willing to sponsor our event plus the renovation of the floor!" It was fitting then that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the renovated school hall by the

Ambassador. The Guest of Honour during the anniversary celebrations was Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, who is also the MP for Joo Chiat division of the Marine Parade GRC. 

About the School

SIS school population of 160 is spread across elementary, primary, secondary and high school (Grade 1 to 12). SIS is in effect an Indonesian government school following the country's normal curriculum. The Indonesia Ministry of Education and Culture organises many competitions and the school is proud to mention that most recently two of its senior high school students have qualified to compete in the highly competitive and prestigious Science Olympiad at the national level in Jakarta. Last year many SIS students, said Ibu Yenny, were also able to enter good universities. The school also stands out in promoting Indonesian culture and values like Pancasila and include religious classes (Islamic, Catholic, Christianity and Hindu).

Labuan Bajo – The Inner Heart of Indonesia

www.dolanesia.travel



Labuan Bajo at sunset

Located on the westernmost point of Flores – The Land of Flowers – there are many opportunities for visitors to experience what life is like in the once small fishing village of Labuan Bajo. This emerging tourist destination will amaze with its fantastic views, and as a jump-off point to the renowned Komodo Dragon islands! There are spectacular panoramic views of Padar, Rinca, Kelor and Kanawa

Labuan Bajo continues to be developed as a tourist city; the city is also being developed as a transit city and port city to serve as an entrance from Sape, West Nusa Tenggara to mainland Flores, East Nusa Tenggara.

PADAR is a part of the Komodo National Park, a World Heritage Site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO). However, there are almost no Komodo dragons on this island. As of 2019, a ranger from Komodo Island reported only about three Komodo dragons on Padar Island. Despite having almost no Komodo dragons, Padar is a big attraction being endowed with natural beauty both on land and underwater. In 2019, Atlas Obscura included Padar on their list of 10 unique beach locations. Exotic landscape, beaches and underwater scenery are Padar's crown.

RINCA ISLAND is one of the two famous islands where you can find Komodo

Dragons. Rinca is smaller than the famous Komodo Island and is inhabited by residents. The two islands each have their attractions. Komodo Island has more forests, while Rinca island has more savannas.

The Komodo dragons on Rinca also have a more ferocious nature because of the scorching weather conditions and landscape dominated by savanna. But the location of Rinca is very convenient as a trekking place that will not be easily forgotten.

KELOR ISLAND is proof that Indonesia is a perfect destination from the marine habitat underwater, the beaches to the mountains that feature panoramas of great natural beauty. The deserted Kelor Island is still quiet and a must-visit - a place to calm yourself and the perfect antidote for the stress of the hustle and bustle of the city.


KANAWA ISLAND is a great place to relax on its beaches that are fringed with a colourful coral reef seabed. It is also an ideal destination for beachcombing and snorkelling from Labuan Bajo. Only 35 min away from Labuan Bajo, most of the day trips will stop at Kanawa to end one's day and admire the beautiful sunset over the Sangeang volcano. Often described as a paradise island, Kanawa is widely known as one of the most picturesque islands in Komodo National Park. The small island has thousands of beautiful star fish in the waters along the coast. It's never enough to tell about Kanawa island from the thousand amazing panoramas one can enjoy from the Flores group of islands!

There are other islands to explore. High on your list should be the pink beaches of **PINK BEACH ISLAND** (one of only seven in the world) and **GILI LABA ISLAND** which is another great place to round off your visit to Labuan Bajo as it offers great trekking routes and divers will not be disappointed by its eco marine system.



Kelor Island is deserted but offers the visitor many beautiful panoramic views on land and underwater

For more...

While Padar Island is considered to be one of the most photogenic of the islands there are plenty of other attractions for all the above islands. For more photos and details on what these islands offer visit: www.dolanesia.travel 

Getting There

There are many ways to get here. Start by taking a plane, a boat, or even going by land route from Java island.

Air

The international airport in Labuan Bajo is named International Airport (LBJ). It is supported by the government and short-listed for future enhancement of its facilities. You can fly directly from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport Jakarta (CGK) or Ngurah Rai International Airport (DPS) in Denpasar Bali. Flights can be made through TransNusa in cooperation with Aviastar to fly twice daily from Denpasar (Bali) to Komodo Airport in Labuan Bajo, just one hour away.

Sea

Many ships have a route to Labuan Bajo. Some of them are relatively cheap, and some are in the form of luxury live onboard packages. Choose a trip according to your travel budget. There are only two ships serving the Bali-Labuan Bajo route, namely KM Wilis from Denpasar – Badas (Sumbawa) – Labuan Bajo. Besides KM Wilis, the KM Tilongkabila boat can also take you to your destination via the Denpasar – Mataram – Bima – Labuan Bajo route. The cost for the ship journey is approximately IDR 200.000- up to IDR 300.000- including breakfast and dinner on board.

Accommodation and Amenities

For more information on the latest places to stay visit www.dolanesia.com

Snorkelling at Kanawa Island where there are thousands of star fish that inhabit its coastal waters



Padar Island probably is the most photogenic island at Labuan Jayo

The Komodo Dragons of Rinca are reputedly the more ferocious of the two Komodo National Park islands



Rinca Island is also well known for its trekking routes



A special thanks in particular to Martin Lukas and all the other intrepid photographers and contributors to www.indonesiaphotogallery.com and www.dolanesia.travel

You Won't Believe It...

Gini Ika Jayanti is an Indonesian domestic worker, creative designer and eco activist who made Indonesia proud when she won the 1st Runner up title in the *You Won't Believe It Is Trash* competition. Her work was shown as one of the best examples of using recycled materials for haute fashion!

During the *You Won't Believe It Is Trash* (YWBIT) contest Gini appeared along with the renowned Thai sustainable designer Madaew and her fellow competitors who were all from leading fashion schools in Singapore while Gini herself works here as a domestic helper.

Gini started doodling, making clothes and fashion accessories made from recyclable materials about four years ago as a hobby. Her natural talent for this has grown so well, that eventually some of her work went on display at events at the Holland Club, James Cook University, Selegie Art Centre Gala Dinner, and Suria TV before she finally entered the YWBIT in May which was hosted by real estate developer Lendlease.

In this interview with *IndoConnect* she said she was nervous entering YWBIT as it attracted more than 100 competitors and this had to be whittled down to 10 dresses through several rounds before they were worn by international professional models who walked down the runway in the finals at 313 Somerset. She said: "Thank god, I was so happy to have won the 1st Runner Up prize. All the winning dresses were exhibited at the four Lendlease Malls at 313 Somerset, Parkway Parade, JEM and PLQ."

The 40-year old who hails from Malang, East Java, said what inspired her to take up this unique hobby was when she was very young she already was recycling items to

use them for different purposes and when she started to work in Singapore she took it up again during her free time. She said: "It is something positive that I wanted to share with everyone including the people in the household where I am working. I was lucky that my employer also fully supported me in this hobby."

Gini said she has not attended any formal fashion courses and much of what she learnt she picked up from watching videos on YouTube: "Many of them were on designing dresses and creating fashion accessories such as earrings, handbags, bracelets and necklaces."

After YWBIT what's next? Gini revealed: "When I return to Indonesia I want to open a business that uses creativity to make products from the recycling of trash. My main objective is to create a better world that is clean and safe converting trash into beautiful works of art and fashion."

The Grand Winner for YWBIT was Jamela Law, a 'fashion technologist' and founder of Baëlf Design who created a dress made from cartons of Tetra Pak drinks!

For Gini's inspiration she was in awe of a dress worn by singer Rihanna that was designed by Chinese designer Guo Pei. She recreated it with used coffee capsules! She was thankful that her network of friends and neighbours helped collect the used capsules. She was glad that this also helped to create a cleaner environment! 



(Top): Gini with her trophy and 'Nescafé' capsule dress. Photo: Lendlease
(Above): A 'pret-a-porter' version of the winning dress. Photo: Michael Ozaki
(Far left): Gini has proven trash can be recycled to look more than good - wearable art! Photo: Michael Ozaki



Uniting Cultures: Vision of a New Diaspora Head

The newly elected head of the FKMIS (Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Indonesia Singapura) has a vision and mission for the 21 Indonesia diaspora groups to connect together and grow as well as engage the broader Singapore community



(Left): Ericssen delivering his campaign speech during the leadership election at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore.
(Below): Congratulations from Ms Nomita Dhar, the publisher of IndoConnect magazine and a promise to build bridges of communication across the diaspora

In the heart of bustling Singapore, a dynamic leader has emerged to breathe new life into the Indonesian Diaspora community. Meet Ericssen, the newly elected head of the Indonesian Diaspora in Singapore, whose journey in the city-state began with a scholarship at the National University of Singapore. Now, armed with a fresh approach and a clear vision, he aims to bridge the gap between Indonesians living abroad and their homeland, fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

The path to leadership was straightforward for Ericssen. Elected without any opposition, he now stands as the unifying force for the diverse Indonesian community in Singapore. His main goal is simple yet profound: to connect Indonesians with their embassy and create opportunities for everyone to engage actively within their adopted home.

Managing a web of interconnected groups can be a daunting task, but Ericssen embraces the challenge with open arms. Rather than imposing a top-down approach, he believes in empowering each individual organization. With approximately 100 members in each of the 20 organizations, Ericssen serves as a bridge that keeps everyone connected while allowing them to maintain their autonomy.



Ericssen's strategy to connect these groups culminates in a grand event titled 'Amazing Indonesia.' Set to take place on November 4th to 5th, 2023, this event promises to showcase Indonesia's rich culture and remarkable achievements. Ericssen envisions it as a platform to encourage collaboration among different Indonesian groups and even engage the broader Singaporean community. The proposal for this event has already gained approval, marking a significant step toward fostering unity between the Indonesian and Singaporean communities.

Continued next page...

FKMIS Members

- Indonesian Muslim Association in Singapore (IMAS)
- Masyarakat Kristiani Indonesia Singapura (MKIS)
- Indonesian Professionals Association (IPA)
- Persatuan Pelajar Indonesia Singapura (PPIS)
- Persatuan Wanita Indonesia Singapura (PWIS)
- Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (IAI) Chapter Singapura
- Pelaut Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (PBTI) / Bobotoh Development Singapura
- ID22SG (Orang Indo di Singapura)
- Ikatan Keluarga Alumni Bina Nusantara - Chapter Singapura
- Himpunan Alumni Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB)
- Keluarga Alumni Gajah Mada Jogjakarta (KAGAMA)
- Indotutors Indonesia Language School
- Miss Singapore Indonesian and Gayatri Beauty Academy
- Indonesian Family Network (IFN)
- Himpunan Penata Laksana Rumah Tangga Indonesia Singapura (HPLRTIS)
- Pekerja Indonesia Singapura (PIS)
- Dewan Perwakilan Luar Negeri Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia (DPLN SBMI)
- Paguyuban Ngumpulke Balung Pisah Javanese Diaspora Network
- Komunitas Cinta Berkain Indonesia
- Paguyuban Seni Banyumasan
- Paguyuban Pasundan Singapura (PPS)



(Above): The Leadership Team of the Indonesian Diaspora in Singapore, along with the Leaders of Civic Organizations, hosted a dinner for Balinese Provincial Legislators from Commission II at the IndoChili Restaurant in River Valley, Singapore, on Tuesday, 4th April 2023. Diaspora members and Legislators discussed how the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore could collaborate with the provincial government of Bali to boost the resort island's tourism industry, which has been recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Ericssen’s strategy to connect these groups culminates in a grand event titled ‘Amazing Indonesia.’ Set to take place on November 4th to 5th, 2023, this event promises to showcase Indonesia’s rich culture and remarkable achievements”

...continued from previous page.

Core Principles


One of Ericssen’s core principles is inclusivity. He strives to empower every organization, not only through his leadership but also by strengthening ties with the embassy. As a crucial intermediary, Ericssen and his team ensure that vital information reaches those who may have been less involved in the Diaspora activities. By extending this outreach, they aim to amplify the impact of each organization’s efforts.

Ericssen’s journey isn’t without its challenges, but his unwavering commitment is clear. Despite juggling other responsibilities alongside his leadership role, he emphasizes the collective effort that

drives the organization’s success. Rejecting the concept of personality politics, Ericssen believes in the strength of collaborative ideas and shared goals. Having called Singapore home for over a decade, Ericssen’s connection to the city-state runs deep. He arrived on these shores as a scholarship recipient at the National University of Singapore, where he pursued studies in political science. Through his experiences and interactions, he has cultivated a profound understanding of both Indonesian and Singaporean cultures.

When asked about his ambitions, Ericssen’s response is candid and reflective of his approach to leadership. He values spontaneity and action over meticulous planning. His focus lies on execution

and fostering genuine connections, rather than getting lost in the intricacies of elaborate plans. With a shared sense of purpose, he aims to propel the ‘Amazing Indonesia’ event forward, envisioning it as a catalyst for empowerment and involvement within the Diaspora.

As the ‘Amazing Indonesia’ event draws closer, Ericssen’s passion and dedication remain steadfast. With his visionary leadership, the Indonesian Diaspora in Singapore is on a transformative journey toward unity, inclusivity, and active engagement. The event serves as a beacon of hope and a celebration of cultures, embodying Ericssen’s unwavering belief in the power of collaboration and community. 



Pak Martin Lukas (seated 2nd from left), Diaspora (FKMIS) Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Media, and Sport, along with Pak Juviano Dos Santos Ribeiro, Head of Communications, Social, and Culture of the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore met with Deputy Regent of Karo Theopilus Ginting on 19th April 2023 at Taman Simalem Resort, Karo, North Sumatra to discuss a potential partnership aimed at boosting Lake Toba’s tourism industry. Deputy Regent Ginting warmly welcomed Pak Martin, his Dolanesia delegation, and 21 Singaporean tourists who were on a one-week Calvary Toba Lake Tour. Many of the tourists were first-timers and were captivated by the breathtaking beauty of Lake Toba. Mr. Ginting sought a partnership not only to promote Lake Toba but also to introduce small and medium-sized enterprise products (UMKM), such as Karo coffee to the Singapore market.

KBRI's Celebrations for 78th Independence Day



The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore is set to mark Indonesia's 78th Anniversary of its Independence Day with a cascade of engaging activities that emphasize unity, culture, and sportsmanship. The festivities kicked off with a spirited badminton tournament featuring men's doubles and mixed doubles categories, drawing around 150 participants from diverse backgrounds, who showcased their talents and enthusiasm for the sport. The event took place at the Singapore Indonesia School, creating an atmosphere of excitement and camaraderie among the Indonesian community residing in Singapore.

In addition to the badminton tournament, auditions for the "Pesta Rakyat HUT RI," a People's Party for Indonesian Independence Day, were set to take place on 6th August, providing a platform for talented performers to contribute to the vibrant celebration. A Funbike and traditional games competition on 22nd July offered a unique opportunity for participants to engage in physical activities while celebrating Indonesia's rich cultural heritage. A volleyball tournament was scheduled for 30th July aims to foster community spirit through friendly competition.

The pinnacle of the celebrations will be the solemn flag-raising ceremony on 17th August, symbolizing the resilience and unity of the Indonesian people. A vibrant People's Party and Bazaar on 20th August will immerse attendees



in Indonesian culture through cultural performances, traditional food stalls, and a lively marketplace. The festivities will conclude with a Diplomatic Reception on 24th August, bringing together diplomats, officials, and members of the Indonesian community to reinforce diplomatic bonds and commemorate shared values. These diverse events collectively aim to unite the Indonesian community in Singapore and amplify the spirit of patriotism on Indonesia's 78th Independence Day.

Indonesian Jewelry Shines at Singapore Expo 2023

The Indonesian Pavilion was the star of the Singapore International Jewelry Expo 2023. Held from 13th to 16th July at Marina Bay Sands, the event showcased Indonesia's exquisite jewelry and attracted global buyers. There were 230 exhibitors from 27 countries and the 18th expo highlighted Indonesia's prowess in jewelry.

The pavilion, a collaboration between the Ministry of Trade, the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, and Bank Indonesia, showcased stunning silver, gold, and pearl pieces that captivated international audiences.

The Indonesian Ambassador emphasized Singapore's role as a key partner for Indonesian jewelry.

Attended by dignitaries and global jewelry industry players, the event furthered Indonesia's presence in the market. The Director General of National Export Development highlighted jewelry's contribution to Indonesia's exports, particularly to Singapore. The Indonesian Pavilion's success solidifies Indonesia's place in the global jewelry market.



Orchid Extravaganza: Celebrating Unity Through Nature and Culture in Singapore

The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore in collaboration with embassies of Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia in Singapore presented a mesmerizing orchid exhibition titled "Orchid Extravaganza: Orchid of the East Tropics," giving Singaporeans a sneak peek into the wonders of ASEAN at Gardens by The Bay.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community, and Youth, Edwin Tong. Indonesian Ambassador Suryo Pratomo was joined by Thailand's Ambassador to Singapore, Chutintorn Gongsakdi; Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to Singapore, Dato Paduka Haji Sidek bin Ali;

and Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore, Dato' Dr. Azfar Bin Mohamad Mustafar.

The orchid exhibition presented a holistic experience. Indonesia's pavilion was represented by traditional Torajan house, decorated beautifully with Indonesian orchids like *Phalaenopsis Amabilis*, *Phalaenopsis cv.*, and *Dendrobium sect. spatulata cv.*, creating a symphony of culture and nature. Set against the backdrop of Gardens by the Bay, this enchanting Orchid Extravaganza unfurls its petals from July 28, 2023, to September 17, 2023. Amidst the lush greenery and architectural marvels, the exhibition



not only spotlights Indonesia's botanical treasures but also nurtures cross-cultural appreciation, fostering deeper bonds among nations.

Indonesian Cultural Extravaganza Takes Singapore on a Journey of Diversity and Creativity

The scenic Flower Dome at Gardens by The Bay was the enchanting backdrop for the Indonesian Cultural Extravaganza on Sunday, 13th August 2023. Organized in collaboration with Sekolah Indonesia Singapura, Gayatri Beauty Academy, and Eka Swara Santhi, the event captivated attendees with a rich display of Indonesian culture.

Eka Swara Santhi kicked off the festivities with their mesmerizing musical performance, blending traditional and contemporary Indonesian melodies in perfect harmony.

Gayatri Beauty Academy then took the stage, showcasing the intricate artistry of traditional Indonesian makeup and hairstyling, celebrating the time-honoured beauty practices of the nation.

Sekolah Indonesia Singapura's interactive booths offered visitors an engaging exploration of Indonesia's diverse regions, delving into the country's history, art, and craftsmanship.

The event was a gift to the community, with free entry to all programs. Regular Flower Dome admission applied.



The Indonesian Cultural Extravaganza served as a bridge between nations, delivering the vibrant spirit of Indonesia's cultural heritage to Singapore's doorstep.

Legal Talk Event Focuses on Child Privacy Protection and Online Safety

Marking National Children's Day 2023, the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore's Office of the Prosecutor Attaché (KBRI SG) partnered with the Indonesian Women's Association (DWP KBRI SG) and the Singapore Indonesian School (SIS) for a legal discussion event. Titled "Bincang Hukum: Bijak Bermedsos dan Perlindungan Privasi Anak," the event occurred on 28th July 2023. Speakers included the incoming Prosecutor Attaché,

Ms. Mahayu Dian Suryandari, and Ms. Yenny Dwi Maria, Head of SIS.

Held at the SIS auditorium and on Zoom, the event garnered attendance from SIS students, teachers, DWP KBRI Singapore, and representatives from various Indonesian diplomatic missions. The event aimed to enhance understanding of online safety and child privacy protection, offering valuable insights to all participants.



Unveiling the Depths of Wastra Nusantara: A Fascinating Talk Show at KBRI Singapura

Indonesian traditional fabrics, known as Wastra Nusantara, took the spotlight during an interactive talk show held on August 12, 2023. Hosted at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore (KBRI Singapura), the event featured Lewa Pardomuan, a respected journalist and collector of these fabrics.

Wastra Nusantara holds profound stories and philosophies within its motifs, reflecting Indonesia's cultural heritage. Pardomuan engaged attendees, guiding them through the narratives intricately woven into each textile. The talk show

highlighted the meticulous craftsmanship, historical significance, and spiritual meaning behind these textiles.

Enthusiasts, historians, and culture aficionados gathered to explore the intricate techniques and symbolism behind Wastra Nusantara. As the event concluded, attendees departed with a deeper understanding of Indonesia's cultural richness and the importance of preserving these traditional arts. The Indonesian Embassy hinted at more future events celebrating the nation's cultural treasures.



Ignite. Integrate. Shape. (IIS): Bridging Cultures through Community Exchange in September

IIS is a dynamic community programme aimed at fostering cultural understanding and social cohesion among Singaporeans, Indonesians, and foreigners. Through thought-provoking talks, panel discussions, exhibitions, workshops, tours, and integration activities, IIS seeks to bridge the gap between generations and diverse cultural backgrounds. This initiative is driven by the belief that collective wisdom, guided by the spirit of the *kampung* (village) ethos, can help create a more harmonious and connected society.

IIS is a pioneering effort to nurture dialogue on Cultural Preservation and Heritage, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding cultural diversity for generations to come. With a target audience of at least 200 participants from 1st to 30th September, comprising both Indonesians and Singaporeans, IIS invites prominent speakers, industry experts, and representatives from the community. The programme includes engaging panel discussions, hands-on workshops, guided heritage tours, and integration activities.



By promoting cultural exchange and mutual respect, IIS aims to enhance social cohesiveness and create lifelong friendships, fostering a sense of belonging and understanding among participants. For more information visit: <https://integrationcommunity.sg>

IASTI 2023: Empowering Indonesia's Startup Ecosystem in November

The Indonesia Agritech Startup & Tourism Insight (IASTI) event, established in 2015 as Indonesia Startup Insight (ISI), has evolved into a catalyst for growth and innovation. This year's edition is focused on agri-tech and tourism and IASTI connects startups, investors, and mentors, fostering economic resilience and social impact. As a dynamic platform, IASTI spotlights visionary entrepreneurs, offering international exposure, networking, and mentoring opportunities. The upcoming event from the 20th to 23rd November 2023, organized by BISA (Business Indonesia Singapore Association) and Satu Tampa Coworking and is supported by the Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Singapore will feature prominent industry figures, promises a convergence of ideas, solutions, and partnerships.



Embracing startups with transformative ideas, the event promises social impact, economic growth, and cross-cultural exchange. The November 2023 agenda boasts industry visits, workshops, and a pitching battle. Attendees access invaluable mentoring and networking, propelling

them toward success. IASTI's evolution echoes Indonesia's vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, and its upcoming edition is set to ignite even greater strides in the startup ecosystem. For more information contact BISA at this email: bisaindonesiasingapore@gmail.com

National Celebrations

The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore marked this year's **Pancasila Day** with a solemn ceremony led by Deputy Ambassador Sulistijo Djati Ismojo on 1st June 2023. The event was attended by dignitaries and participants. The commemoration reaffirmed the importance of Pancasila's principles in nurturing national spirit and unity.

On 23rd Ma, the embassy also observed the **115th National Awakening Day** with a dignified ceremony led by Ambassador Suryo Pratomo.

Singapore-Indonesia Trade & Investment Highlights

Collaborative initiatives between KBRI Singapore, IIPC, and ESG drove fruitful trade discussions. Notable events include

an **Indonesia Business Forum** on investment policies and regulations, boosting investor confidence. IHOB Singapore, a joint venture, spotlighted premium Indonesian coffee, solidifying bilateral ties. The **38th Trade Expo Indonesia** showcased diverse sectors, fostering networking and growth opportunities. **Small Business Coaching** empowered Indonesian migrants in Singapore.

IT prowess shone at the **ATxSG exhibition**, encouraging global expansion. Singaporean entrepreneurs explored **IKN Nusantara**, signaling strong commitment. Healthcare dialogues and updates reinforced cross-border cooperation. These efforts affirm the enduring Singapore-Indonesia trade and investment partnership.

Indonesia's 78th Independence Day Celebrated in Singapore

The People's Celebration and Bazaar for Indonesia's 78th Independence Day successfully took place in Singapore on 20th August 2023. Held at the Indonesian Embassy, the event united the Indonesian community and featured renowned celebrities like RAN and Anggi Marito. The occasion reinforced the strong ties among the Indonesian diaspora in Singapore and their dedication to Indonesia's progress.

Armada Band's Concert in Oct

Armada Band's "Asal Kau Bahagia - The Concert" to Unite Indonesian Community in Singapore for a Night of Joyful Music. It is set to bring the Indonesian community together at Star Theatre Singapore on October 18, 2023. Secure your tickets via SISTIC or visit www.proj3ct69.com



Congratulations to the people and the Republic of Indonesia on their 78th Anniversary of Independence

Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) is a healthcare group in Singapore with four hospitals, five national specialty centres, three community hospitals, and a network of primary healthcare clinics. With over 40 medical specialties and a faculty of 3,700 doctors, the group offers integrated care in a multidisciplinary setting.

SingHealth institutions have earned a reputation for setting standards in healthcare for the region. Patients enjoy the benefit of treatments with solid diagnostic and treatment medical technology in a wide range of medical procedures.

SingHealth Hospitals



Singapore General Hospital



Changi General Hospital



Sengkang General Hospital



KK Women's and Children's Hospital

National Specialty Centres



National Cancer Centre Singapore



National Dental Centre Singapore



National Heart Centre Singapore



National Neuroscience Institute



Singapore National Eye Centre

Partner in Academic Medicine