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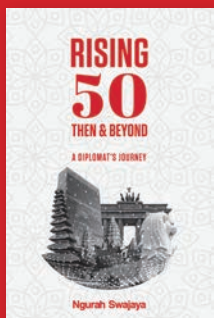
Cohesion & Mutually Beneficial

Importance of Indonesia and Singapore Ties



SPECIAL REPORT: FIRST STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB TO INDONESIA

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW



RISING 50 THEN & BEYOND
A DIPLOMAT'S JOURNEY - FROM THE NEW BOOK
BY AMBASSADOR NGURAH SWAJAYA

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Synergy for a Greater Indonesia

Bank Indonesia Representative Office in Singapore is continuously strengthening synergies with the Embassy of Republic Indonesia at Singapore and Indonesia Incorporated to contribute to Indonesia's economic development, specifically in promoting trade, tourism and investment in Indonesia



Bank Indonesia hand in hand with the government of Republic of Indonesia is committed to continue developing the country. This effort is in line with Bank Indonesia's vision to become a central bank that creates tangible contributions to the Indonesian national economy. Translated into the mission level, Bank Indonesia supports macroeconomic stability and sustainable economic growth through achieving synergy among Bank Indonesia's policy mix, Government's fiscal policies and structural reforms as well as other strategic partners policies.

Over the years Singapore and Indonesia's bilateral trade and investment has built a strong foundation in establishing a good business relationship between the two. Opportunities to further support economic cooperation are supported by a dynamic business climate and the advantage of geographical proximity. Bank Indonesia Representative Office at Singapore is continuously strengthening synergies with the Embassy of Republic Indonesia at Singapore and Indonesia Incorporated to contribute to Indonesia's economic development, specifically in promoting trade, tourism and investment in Indonesia. Various events have been held in collaboration between two institutions, namely **The Indonesia Investment Day, Indonesian Business Missions**, and several **Event Bazaars** promoting Indonesian product at Singapore. Likewise, the Bank Indonesia Singapore Representative Office always maintains excellent cooperation and relations with various institutions between the two countries and also countries in the region, bridging economic, business and networking interests, which is not limited to government relations but also business people, investors, and also the other parties.

Going forward, the potential for strengthening and future development is still widely open. Hence, amid heightened uncertainties become current global challenges, solid regional partnership is believed to be essential. In line with Indonesia's focused programs for the next five years, expansion of trade, tourism, and investment are areas that we'd like to accelerate through the active collaboration.



This message is brought to you by

LIVE AND RELEARN IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19



The unprecedented rapid transmission of COVID-19 across all global barriers has taken a huge toll on human life, economics and lifestyle options. While there's no taking away from the dreaded repercussions of this pandemic, what has also emerged is a resonating message from people all over the world to fight back with a deep sense of responsibility, caring and compassion. Strangely enough it's also generated an enormous sense of positivity and a more humane outlook across all strata of society. While on one hand social distancing is the key to contain the virus, it's the deeper connect of people-to-people which continues to create new narratives. Nations too have reached out to each other to add their knowledge and medical expertise to fight this global affliction together.

Indonesia and Singapore have a longstanding relationship which covers everything from politics, to economics from cultural ties to people-to-people concerns— and never more has that been more relevant than in these fearful times. Both nations have come together to ramp up their efforts on a war footing for the safety of the Indonesian community here in Singapore from the impact of COVID-19. This has been one of the chief concerns of HE Ngurah Swajaya

Indonesian Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, even as he readies to end his tenure here.

The Mission, as indicated by HE, continuously goes on with its mandate of enhancing the bilateral relations between the two countries, and though many of the planned activities have been postponed to later dates, it is still making preparations for when the situation gets better. "We are hoping that the crisis is over sooner rather than later. Nevertheless, we are also as ready as we can be to accelerate our bilateral projects as the crisis starts dying away and is finally over," says HE.

Looking back on his tenure in the island nation HE shares with us some of the leading highlights of this relationship, which is vital to both Indonesia and Singapore, both major players in the ASEAN region, HE points out to the cascade of positive impacts triggered off by the several Leaders' Retreat and major engagements at the highest levels under his watch. He opines that that is a strong mechanism which they have in place which helps to further the ties between the two nations. He believes that this commitment from both sides has been particularly fulfilling for his Mission. Touching upon the subject of trade and investment between the two countries he acknowledges modestly that the growth that has been witnessed during his tenure has been phenomenal from previous times. A major factor in this growth has been the effort to address the several constraints experienced by businesses here in Singapore to do business in Indonesia. Of particular note, in creating energy and momentum for Indonesia-Singapore relations to grow exponentially, was the 'Rising 50' initiative

In an interview HE Ngurah's wife, Madame Ni Nyoman Mahaswi Astama shares insights on the vital role an Ambassador's spouse can play in his assignment and how it's turned out to be a job in itself.

While the world comes to learn about the "IO New Balis" waiting to be discovered in Indonesia, we learn about the new teaching retreat Batam, which is fast gaining attention as a volunteer tourism attraction.

Nomita Dhar

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SHREYAS NALLUR
A prospective undergraduate student, he has always been drawn to the idea of gaining as much exposure and knowledge in as many different industries as possible. He takes an avid interest in fitness and cooking, while aspiring to pursue a career in the field of Finance in the future!

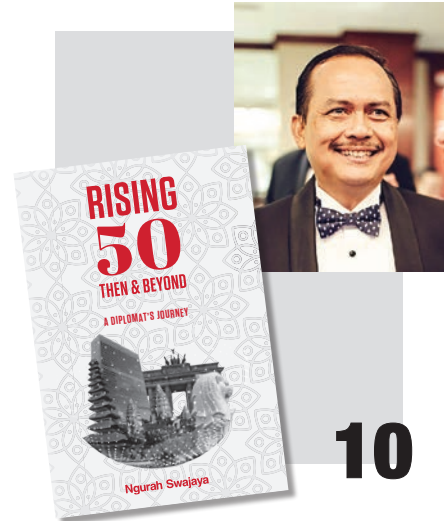


CHINTALACHERU-VU SIDDHARTH
An avid writer and traveler, Siddharth enjoys exploring the visceral elements of the places he visits. As a prospective social science major, he is continuously looking to expand his worldview and work alongside people to elicit a tangible social impact. In his free time, you can find him immersed in the outdoors.



RANEES SAHANEY
She's been a Consulting Editor for 15 years to the Outlook Traveller group of publications and contributed to Discover India, BBC Good Food Guide and others. In the past 25 years, her features have been published widely and now also in IndoConnect magazine.

CONTENTS



EDITOR'S NOTE

- 01 Live and Relearn in the Times of COVID-19

COVER STORY

- 04 Cohesion and Co-Dependency: Important to Indonesia and Singapore Ties

COMBATING COVID-19

- 07 KBRI Doing Its Best to Handle COVID-19 Crisis
- 08 Ibu Mahaswi on Diplomatic Life and Work in Singapore

FEATURE

- 10 A Diplomat's Journey through Singapore
- 12 Messages for Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya

INTERVIEW

- 18 Ibu Mahaswi on Diplomatic Life and Work in Singapore

ARTS & CULTURE

- 20 KBRI Proudly Celebrates First National Batik Day
- 22 ICN 2020: Nilanka - The Musical

EDUCATION

- 24 SIS Goes SMART with Ambassador Ngurah
- 26 Education - A New Frontier for Cooperation
- 28 The Quieter Side of Batam: A Teaching Retreat

EVENT

- 30 Chingay 2020: Harmoni in the Archipelago

TRAVEL

- 32 My Jakarta: An Alternative Itinerary

PICTURE POST

- 36 Ready for Transformation



20





24



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30



22



32



28

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Cohesion and Mutually Beneficial Importance of Indonesia and Singapore Ties

Report compiled by: Shreyas Nallur
Photos: S'pore MCI/Chwee

Digital economy, education and security issues ranked high in the agenda of President Halimah's first State visit to Indonesia



Bilateral ties between Singapore and Indonesia have been strong for decades now, owing to an excellent relationship of trust and communication between the two members of the ASEAN economies. The deep, multi-faceted and forward-looking relationship was further enhanced by Singapore President Halimah Yacob's recent visit to Indonesia, from the 3rd to 6th of February 2020. Not only was this her first visit to the country, it was also the first official visit by a Singapore head of state to the archipelago in eight years. The President was accompanied by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Ms Grace Fu, and Mr Sam Tan, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

President Halimah began her visit in Jakarta, where she met President Joko Widodo. In their meeting, President Widodo said, "Ibu Halimah and I agreed to increase cooperation in mutually beneficial areas. Not only in education, but also investments, people-to-people relations and human resource development." This was followed by a sojourn in Yogyakarta. Following were some of the main highlights during the President's visit.

On the economic front, Singapore has been Indonesia's largest investor since 2014. The two share close

trade and investment ties with bilateral trade amounting to \$65 billion in 2018, and this figure seems to be on a steadily growing trend. Given the increasing relevance of cloud computing and artificial intelligence in operations across diverse sectors, both presidents affirmed the robust economic cooperation and agreed on the tremendous potential for collaboration in upcoming, growing areas such as the digital economy and Industry 4.0 as a means to stay relevant and updated in a period of extensive globalisation. The concept of upgrading skills to meet the requirements of a booming fourth industrial revolution was accentuated as the President witnessed a training programme conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Singapore Polytechnic and the Indonesian Ministry of

Industry (MOI). This human resource development strategy will enhance the capabilities of the Indonesian polytechnic staff to meet the evolving manpower needs by upgrading their technical knowledge.

The stable and flourishing trade and investment environment was enhanced by the ratification of the updated Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance ("DTA"), which was witnessed by President and President Joko Widodo.

Old Friends & Close Neighbours

Excerpts of remarks by President Halimah at the Joint Press Conference at the end of her visit

“Singapore and Indonesia are old friends and close neighbours. Bilateral relations have flourished since the establishment of diplomatic relations 52 years ago. When President Jokowi and I met earlier today, we reaffirmed the excellent state of bilateral relations and the extensive and mutually-beneficial cooperation between our two countries across the economic, cultural, security and people-to-people spheres.”

“Singapore has been Indonesia’s top foreign investor for the past six years. This demonstrates Singapore’s confidence in Indonesia’s vibrant economy. Our two countries are among each other’s top trading partners. We have successful joint projects such as the Kendal Industrial Park in Semarang, which has attracted investments valued at US\$843 million and will create more than 8,000 jobs. I am happy to hear that the Kendal Industrial Park has been established as a Special Economic Zone, which will make it even more attractive to investors.”

“President Jokowi and I also had a good discussion on the excellent cooperation between our two countries in human resource development. The establishment of the Kendal Polytechnic within the Kendal Industrial Park is a good example of how Singapore’s investments support skills training for the Indonesian workforce. Tomorrow I will visit Indonesia’s Ministry of Industry to observe a train-the-trainer programme that is jointly supported by the Singapore Polytechnic and the Ministry of Industry to prepare Indonesian factories and workers for Industry 4.0.”

“Singapore is also keen to strengthen cooperation with Indonesia’s regions and cities. In this regard, I look forward to visiting Yogyakarta tomorrow, where I will meet Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, the Governor of Yogyakarta. I will also visit the renowned Gadjah Mada University, which has a number of ongoing partnerships with universities in Singapore.”

Photo: Spore MCI / LH Goh



Signing of the updated Singapore-Indonesia Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement by Second Minister for Finance Indraneel Rajah and Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati.

On her visit to Yogyakarta, President interacted with Block71, an initiative by NUS Enterprise and Indonesia’s Salim Group to develop start-up ecosystems in Yogyakarta. Once again, she reaffirmed the growing opportunities for the people of Indonesia and Singapore to collaborate in the rising technological and innovation sectors to mutually improve the standard of living for residents in both countries.

Strengthening Bridges & Progressing Together

The notion of maintaining harmonious people-to-people relations between Indonesia and Singapore was brought to light as the President visited Gadjah Mada University (UGM), engaging in a dialogue centred on the theme “Singapore and Indonesia: Strengthening Bridges and Progressing Together”. She drew attention to the

co-dependency between the people of both countries, encouraging the students to augment this strong foundation of mutually beneficial ties as prospective future leaders.

Her meeting with Vice-President Ma’ruf Amin saw an exchange of opinions regarding a cohesive and congenial community, agreeing that the two states could improve synergy in this field through methods including inter-faith dialogue. Suitably, President affirmed the importance and gravity of inter-faith harmony, over lunch with religious and inter-faith leaders. The topic of strengthening unity and resilience in their respective communities was also discussed. As such, forging friendships and maintaining a state of multi-cultural and multi-ethnic unanimity would bolster the prosperous relationship between the



Indonesian Vice President Ma’ruf Amin calls on Singapore President Halimah Yacob on 4th Feb 2020

two economies, bringing numerous opportunities to the table.

With regards to the defence and security sector, Singapore Police Coast Guard and Indonesia's Directorate-General of Customs and Excise had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 3 February 2020 that would provide for information exchanges and the conduct of regular joint operations, patrols, as well as bilateral training initiatives. The boosting of the safety of the environment would optimistically see improved confidence in the industry of both economies, leading to sustainable growth and development for both countries.

Meeting of Indonesian and Singapore Business

On the second day of her visit, President Halimah attended a reception with Singapore and Indonesian business leaders that also included a delegation from Singapore organised by the Singapore Business Federation and Enterprise Singapore. She stressed that business ties between the "natural economic partners" stretched from centuries before till today.

The economic data speaks for itself, "Singapore has been Indonesia's top investor since 2014, with realised investment valued at US\$6.5 billion in 2019. Singapore is Indonesia's third largest trading partner, while Indonesia is Singapore's sixth largest trading partner, with bilateral trade having increased 9.4 percent year-on-year to reach S\$65 billion in 2018."



President Halimah Yacob paid her first overseas visit, as Patron of the Singapore International Foundation, to its Occupational Therapy for Children with Special Needs project in Jakarta on 5th Feb 2020

Furthermore, "Financial cooperation between our two countries is also robust. In 2018, Bank Indonesia (BI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore established a US\$10 billion bilateral financial arrangement which comprises a local currency bilateral swap agreement and a bilateral US Dollar repurchase agreement. At the request of BI, this bilateral financial agreement was renewed for another year in November last year."

The figures and data she said showed that Singapore is very much invested in Indonesia's success, "We believe that a growing, stable and prosperous Indonesia is good for Singapore and our wider region. Singapore appreciates the size and diversity of Indonesia and is keen to look beyond merely Jakarta for economic opportunities. Our flagship collaborative projects such as the

Kendal Industrial Park in Central Java and the Nongsa Digital Park in Batam show clearly that Singapore's economic engagement in Indonesia is broad-based across various sectors and regions."

President Halimah also noted that beyond the larger Singapore enterprises in the infrastructure and industrial sectors, Singapore's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are also making headway in other sectors, such as consumer, Industry 4.0 and financial technology, through partnerships with Indonesian companies. Singapore companies such as Love Bonito (a retail outlet), Salad Stop (a food service), Auk Industries (an Industry 4.0 company) and V-Key (a financial technology firm) are good examples of SMEs that are doing well in Indonesia as a result of solid partnerships with Indonesian companies. She encouraged and looked forward to more of such fruitful business-to-business collaborations between businessmen from both countries.

At the end of the day, it was a fruitful and engaging visit that saw the enhancement of bilateral ties between the two countries through a multitude of channels, ranging from training courses to signing of new agreements. Bilateral diplomatic relations look set for a bright future, fuelled by extensive trade and cultural collaborations. ©



President's wife with the students of Gadjah Mada University

KBRI Doing its Best to Handle COVID-19 Crisis



HE Ngurah Swajaya, talks to Editor-in-Chief Nomita Dhar (via Skype) about COVID-19 and the safeguards being taken against the spread of the virus and its impact on Indonesians in Singapore

Your Excellency, we would like to hear your views on various aspects of the pandemic and its impact on Indonesians here in Singapore. Could you tell us if any of your visiting citizens are affected by the travel restrictions in Singapore? What are the steps being taken by your Mission to help them?

Many of them are affected by these restrictions as Singapore receives the largest number of foreign visitors and we ourselves have 13 Indonesian international airports connecting to Singapore. What concerns me the most are those who are still in the process of medication after their medical operations in Singapore hospitals. For example those many patients from Indonesia who are still undergoing chemotherapy here. For those who are part of this segment of our community our advice to them has been for them to stay in contact with their doctors in Singapore for advice or on how they can continue to undergo chemotherapy treatment in Indonesia if they need to. And for those who want to come for medical checkups at this time, they should opt to do so in Indonesia – and, if not, they should reschedule their appointments here in Singapore for later dates.

ADJUSTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES AT THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

W.e.f. 23rd March 2020 public services that include Immigration, Consular, Labour and Transportation Services will be conducted by prior appointment.

Please contact via email:
singapura.kbir@kemlu.go.id

Hotline for emergencies:

Immigration: +65 91860058
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We are also issuing daily press releases, regarding the latest information related to COVID-19, to the media as well as through our social media platforms. We have also made available a 24/7 Emergency Numbers that can be contacted by our nationals (see above). Our public service section at the mission is still open, though its services are right now limited only to urgent issues

How is the Mission coping with the COVID-19 emergency and what steps have been taken for the safety of those working in the Mission?

We have been preoccupied with handling issues related to COVID-19 ever since the Dorscon Alert level was

raised to 'orange' for the pandemic. In the area of public service at the Mission, we have taken precautionary measures by providing masks and hand gloves to the staff who are directly engaged with the public. We have been addressing this on a war footing for the safety of our own Mission staff; we have gradually also started introducing the work-from-home and other precautionary approaches for all our staff when they are in a public space.

Regarding COVID-19 have there been any special directives issued by your government for citizens living in Singapore?

No specific directive has been given in this context, but we are grateful for the close cooperation between the MOH and Embassy as well as our own MOH, concerning the Indonesians who are being treated for COVID-19 here in Singapore. The directives from the Singapore government's MOH are monitored closely by our embassy; these are continuously being relayed by us to our citizens. We have responded to hundreds, if not thousands, of inquiries every day regarding the pandemic and are trying to do so to all these in a responsible and effective manner.

During these challenging times, what is the role your Mission has played to keep the cooperation between your country and Singapore going?

We are still doing what we have been doing to continuously enhance our bilateral relations. Although many of the planned activities have been postponed to later dates, we are still making preparations for when the situation gets better. Recently, we arranged the coordination between Jakarta and Singapore in the assistance provided by Singapore for COVID-19, for example the test kit for COVID-19 detection, as also the assistance extended by Temasek Foundation, as well as the range of initiatives by other people to help in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hoping that the crisis is over sooner rather than later. Nevertheless, we are also as ready as we can be to accelerate our bilateral projects as the crisis starts dying away and is finally over. 🇮🇩

Indonesia Supplies for Singapore Quarantine Facilities

Altogether 4,500 bedding items such as bed frames, mattresses and pillows have been shipped from Indonesia to Singapore for use in the island's community isolation facilities



The bedding items were presented by HE Ngurah Swajaya, Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore, to representatives from Singapore. From left: Mr Wong Heang Fine, Group CEO of Surbana Jurong; Mr Tan Chong Meng, Group CEO of PSA International; Mr Ng Boon Heong, CEO of Temasek Foundation; HE Ngurah Swajaya, Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore; Mr Rumaksono, Trade Attache, Indonesia Embassy in Singapore; Mr Yeo Choon Chong, CEO, Singapore, Surbana Jurong. (Photo: Temasek Foundation)

According to the Temasek Foundation, it has been working with the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore to support measures in containing the COVID-19 outbreak here. The Foundation ordered the bed sets and the Indonesian Embassy here helped facilitate the shipments.

The first shipments started arriving in the last week of April and consist of bed frames, mattresses, mattress covers, bed sheets, pillow cases and blankets. They will be used in quarantine facilities such as at Singapore Expo where there are patients who are stable and recovering but still test positive for the virus.



Mdm Ho Ching, CEO Temasek Holdings

The shipment also attracted a comment from Mdm Ho Ching, the Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Holdings and wife of Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who posted her thanks on Singapore Matters Facebook page: "The solidarity of friends! Thank you Indonesia! We had an earlier shipment of 5000 beds and beddings. Now we have another shipment of over 38,000 beds and beddings, facilitated by the Indonesia ambassador to Singapore."

"A huge huge terima kasih to you, Bapak Excellency, for your friendship and support! Take care everyone, and best wishes to everyone in ASEAN and around the world as we battle the scourge of COVID."



(Above): Mr Ng Boon Heong (left), and HE Ngurah Swajaya, receiving the bedding items together

Temasek Foundation said since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, they have stood with the community in Singapore and in ASEAN by supporting various collaboration efforts through the Foundation's ongoing provision of medical equipment, and hand sanitisers to community partners and that it will continue to work closely with partners like the Indonesia Embassy in Singapore to respond and support community needs where possible. ©



Indonesian Corporates Extend Helping Hand to Communities

Prominent Indonesia conglomerates are helping the country's citizens help overcome the challenges of everyday living brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak



Jababeka Group 'Gotong Royong' project (Photo: telusur.co.id)

For an inspiring example, public-listed Jababeka Group through PT Jababeka Infrastruktur, the developers of the first open industrial areas in Indonesia, working together with Badan Amil Zakat (Baznas) has distributed 2,500 basic food packages to 13 villages surrounding the Jababeka Industrial Estate in Cikarang in the Bekasi Regency of West Java in late April. The areas include the Desa Mekar Mukti, Pasir Gombang and city of Cikarang.

According to reports by telusur.co.id, for some of the recipients this was the first time they were receiving such aid since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown. Mr Tjahjadi Rahardja, the President Director of PT Jababeka Infrastruktur who manages the Jababeka Industrial Estate said that everyone in the community should step forward to help in these difficult times. He said that workers in the informal sectors and those in jobs such as hawkers, traders in the markets and motorcycle taxi riders who receive only a daily wage have seen their incomes reduced greatly and: "Because of this reason we have distributed the food aid to those who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. Our hope is that the distribution of these basic food essentials will help them meet their daily needs."

The food distribution exercise is the third one related to combating the effects of COVID-19. Previously the company has distributed free face masks in the Jababeka Industrial Estate and cleaning supplies such as spraying disinfectants to communities the surrounding 13 villages in the area.

The 'Gotong Royong Corporate Assistance in Jababeka' above is the result of cooperation between Jababeka and several tenants from its Industrial Estate such as PT Artha Karya Utama, PT Unilever Indonesia, and PT Haluan Utama Karya.

A spokesperson from Jababeka Group also revealed that apart from food distribution, the company has also provided aid in the form of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospitals, public health centres and clinics in the Cikarang area.

L'Oreal Partners with Jababeka



L'Oreal Indonesia Plant work with Jababeka to distribute aid in Bekasi (Photo: industry.co.id)

PT Yasulor Indonesia which runs the L'Oreal Indonesia Plant, is another company that is active in combating COVID-19. This is in the form of its participation in the Program Solidaritas COVID-19 L'Oreal working together with PT Jababeka Infrastruktur COVID-19 Crisis Team. According to a report by industry.co.id, Mr Puneet Verma, a Director of L'Oreal Indonesia Plant, said this is the time to share beauty for social purposes and make it a top priority as these are unprecedented times in overcoming the impact of the coronavirus.

The L'Oreal plant is a tenant of the Jababeka Industrial Estate and Mr Verma said: "L'Oreal Indonesia Plant has been a partner with PT Jababeka Infrastruktur for a long time in being committed to supporting the surrounding environment is now more important than ever and is one of the ways to be of service to the community."

L'Oreal support comes in the form of 10,000 Garnier hand sanitizers, 246,000 cleaning products and PPEs worth 1.7 billion rupiah. These items will be distributed by PT Jababeka Infrastruktur COVID-19 Crisis Team to health volunteers, people and patients in observation and isolation as well as people who are affected by large-scale social restrictions in West Java Province between 15th to 12th May 2020. 📌



Subsidiary Follow Suit

One of Jababeka's subsidiaries, PT Banten West Java, which manages the Tanjung Lesung Special Economic Zone, has also provided assistance to one hospital, three health centres and communities in the Pandeglang-Banten in support of the Indonesian government's efforts to break the chain of infection by the coronavirus. The help came in the form of PPEs, disinfectants, hand sanitizers and face masks for health care workers and communities who need them. According to its President Director, Mr Poernomo Siswoprasetyo, said they have distributed the items to 18 locations which included to workers who are still working in essential services

A Diplomat's Journey through

Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya caps his tenure as Indonesia's top diplomat in Singapore the many milestones achieved by Indonesia and Singapore as well as valuable insights as



Three years ago, when H.E. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya presented his credentials to the President of Singapore, it also marked the start of a sterling period of service in the island city-state. He played a key part in many diplomatic and economic milestones and moments in the history of Indonesia and Singapore relations. Chief among this was RISING 50 the commemoration of many events, initiatives and activities that celebrated 50 years of diplomatic ties between both nations. It capped a more than 33-year diplomatic career and is part of the title of his new biography published in March 2020: **RISING 50 Then & Beyond A Diplomat's Journey**.

The slim 92-page book takes readers on Ambassador Swajaya Ngurah's journey as a diplomat. From his journey, he shares personal insights, anecdotes and lesser known facts spanning three decades of his career, right from the time Indonesia began growing international stature, to the difficult period when Indonesians faced post financial and multi-dimensional crisis, to the current democratic Indonesia embracing international norms.

Insights on ASEAN

He is also ideally placed to share insights on ASEAN. Before his posting to Singapore he served as Indonesia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to ASEAN (from 2010 to 2013). Touching upon the Transformation of ASEAN, rise in people-to-people diplomacy, the need for digital diplomacy and the 50 years of bilateral relations between Singapore and Indonesia, he not only provides glimpses of the changing diplomatic scene in the region but also highlights technology and people as the game changers of the future.

H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia shares: "His writings and observations will be valuable in understanding the transformative mindset needed by every diplomat in performing his or her duties in the constantly changing environment. I therefore commend Ngurah's

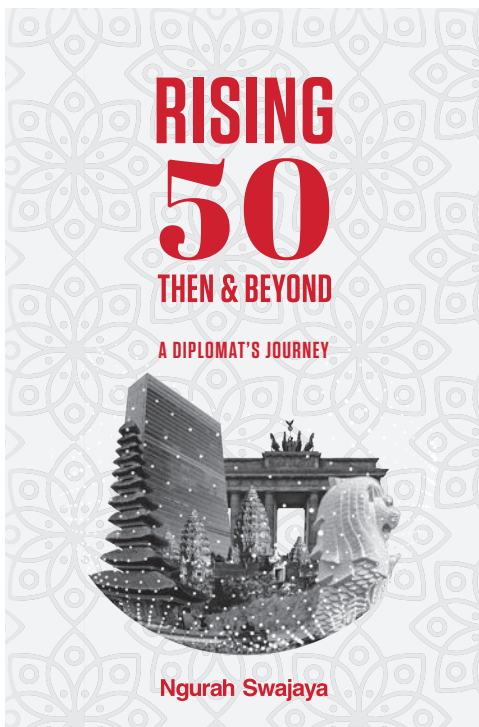
willingness to share his priceless experiences in this book."

He is also well respected by his peers and his stature is also based on solid educational credentials. He holds a Law Degree from Udayana in Bali and a Master of Arts from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy from Tufts University, Boston (USA).

Prof. DR. Hasjim Djalal, M.A., a former Indonesian Ambassador to Germany, Canada, and the United Nations and also Senior Advisor to the Indonesian Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Indonesian Naval Chief of Staff, also shares his confidence on the capability of the Ambassador: "Ambassador Swajaya is one of the good Indonesian diplomats who has passed through proper education, and has had various levels of experience in diplomacy, and therefore I am confident that he is now in a position to achieve what Indonesia would like its diplomats to achieve."

The book is not just a review of His Excellency's experiences of past events but also as the 'Beyond' in the title implies, what are the factors and issues needed to overcome the challenges that lie ahead to continue with the success achieved in the last few years in both the bilateral and ASEAN contexts.

Students of diplomacy and career diplomats will appreciate a special feature of the book. Almost every chapter is accompanied by an accompanying "My Perspectives" section where he speaks directly from his heart and mind presenting as unvarnished as possible views, insights and analyses on the major periods undergone by Indonesia in the world of diplomacy, how he was involved and what was the outcome. For example, he was there as part of the team helping in the drafting of the ASEAN Charter, where he first met Prof Tommy Koh (and Walter Woon), members of Singapore's representatives in the High Level Taskforce in charge of drafting the ASEAN Charter.



BOOK NOTE:

RISING 50 Then & Beyond A Diplomat's Journey is now available online on Amazon.com

The book is published by Sun Media Pte Ltd. For book purchases in Singapore you can also call tel: +65 6735 2972 or Email: edit@sunmediaonline.com

Singapore

by launching his biography that pays tribute to an insider to the workings and future of ASEAN



From the book's photo gallery: ❶ Fly Pass by Republic of Singapore Air Force and Republic of Indonesia Air Force over Marina Cruise Centre, Singapore witnessed by President of Indonesia and PM of Singapore to mark 50th Anniversary of RI-Singapore (RI SING50) ❷ President Jokowi presented 10 New Bali picture book to PM Lee on the occasion of the Leaders' Retreat in Bali, October 2018 ❸ Wefie with President Jokowi and Mdm Iriana Widodo and more than 3,800 Indonesians at the Embassy, 2017 ❹ RISING 50 Forum in Singapore, 2017 ❺ After dinner exercises ❻ Probably the first foreign diplomatic couple to ride and participate in Chingay, Singapore's premier street festival

Prof Koh, Singapore's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations; presently Ambassador-at-Large at Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also the Chairman of the Centre for International Law of National University of Singapore (NUS), Special Advisor of the Institute of Policy Studies and Chairman of the National Heritage Board said: "I regard Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya as one of Indonesia's finest diplomats. I had the great pleasure of working with him on two occasions. The first was in drafting the ASEAN Charter. The second was in organising the celebration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations be-

tween Indonesia and Singapore. Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya did an outstanding job on both occasions. I am one of his many admirers."

The book which is published by Sun Media Pte Ltd, saw the Ambassador working very closely with Publisher Ms Nomita Dhar and book editor Ms Prionka Ray. Along with the Ambassador they reviewed and culled materials from his past postings. The core work in editing (and re-editing) the drafts as well meetings with the ambassador to clarify factual details (during his free time) took an intensive three-month period before handing it over

to layout and design. The result said Ms Nomita is a compact 'primer' that gleans the highlights of a diplomatic career that starts from Bali, to Europe, the US, the ASEAN Secretariat right up to Singapore. The Ambassador shares his thoughts and approach to various diplomatic issues. "It was never meant to be a scholastic tome but offers insights that could be of use to those thinking of diplomacy as a career and 'behind-the-scenes' peek for seasoned diplomats and readers who can read some of the background to some momentous moments in ASEAN – and even Singapore's – history." 



*Message by Dato' Seri Douglas Foo
President of Singapore Manufacturing Federation*

“The SMF is deeply appreciative of the Ambassador for his commitment and drive to help to deepen and strengthen the good relations between Indonesia and Singapore at all levels and walks of life. Once again, I share my heartfelt appreciation of His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya for the commitments and support given to the SMF.”

On behalf of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), I would like to put on record SMF’s deepest gratitude to the Ambassador of Indonesia, His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya, for the unstinting support which His Excellency has consistently given to SMF and in partnering SMF to promote closer collaborations among the enterprises of our two countries. Indonesia and Singapore have always enjoyed vibrant diplomatic relations and our economic ties have flourished and strengthened under the charge of Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya.

In 2017, Singapore and Indonesia celebrated 50 years of bilateral relations and His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya personally took charge to drive numerous activities planned throughout the year to commemorate this milestone. His support and passion for the continued growth of bilateral relations are the hallmarks of the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. SMF is indeed honoured and blessed to have the friendship of Ambassador Swajaya who has been instrumental in leading SMF to forge business linkages for our members with Indonesia’s enterprises. Ambassador Swajaya is very committed this goal of strengthening business partnerships between enterprises of our two countries and he has personally taken time and effort to join SMF in our business delegations to visit Indonesia so as to provide his advice and assistance to facilitate business people from Indonesia and Singapore to collaborate together.

Diplomatic and business ties between Indonesia and Singapore have come a long way since the 1960s. In March 1969, Singapore made its first substantial investment pledge for joint ventures in the production of rubber, flour and electrical appliances, with a package totaling US\$20.7 million. By end-1990s, Singapore was Indonesia’s fifth largest foreign investor, with cumulative foreign investments since 1967 totaling US\$3.7 billion, with the bulk of investments seen in real estate, manufacturing and mining. With the commitments and efforts of the political Leaders and Governments of Indonesia and Singapore and coupled with the good and strong relations built at all levels between our two countries, Singapore has become one of the top foreign investors in Indonesia.

The SMF is deeply appreciative of the Ambassador for his commitment and drive to help to deepen and strengthen the good relations between Indonesia and Singapore at all levels and walks of life. As the digital realm increasingly gains importance, it is an ideally opportune time for Indonesia and Singapore to strengthen their partnership and work together to navigate opportunities arising from the dynamic digital era. With the launch of the “Making Indonesia 4.0” Roadmap rolled out by Indonesia President Jokowi in 2018, Indonesia is set to raise the GDP contribution of its manufacturing sector from 20% to 25% by year 2025. I am optimistic and confident that there will be plentiful opportunities for collaboration among the enterprises of our two countries on win-win basis. Prospects for collaboration between Indonesia and Singapore companies, particularly, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are abundant in several sectors including training, food and beverage, automotive, electronics, chemicals, machinery, medical, textile and garment and other key manufacturing industries as well as digital, healthcare and many service sectors.

Once again, I share my heartfelt appreciation of His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya for the commitments and support given to the SMF. I also take this opportunity to wish good blessings, fortune, success and good health to Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya and his family. The SMF looks forward to partnering with the Indonesia Embassy in Singapore and Indonesia government and business communities in strengthening and promoting good economic ties between Indonesia and Singapore enterprises.

**Dato' Seri Douglas Foo, BBM
President
Singapore Manufacturing Federation**



We would like to express our warm appreciation to His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya for his support and efforts in promoting closer tourism cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore. We appreciate his friendship and sincerely wish him good health and all the best in his future endeavours.

From all of us at the **Singapore Tourism Board**



On behalf of Bintan Lagoon Resort, allow me to express our appreciation and gratitude for His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya's support towards our resort's activities, work and development. Thank you for our great collaboration and strong ties which have connected us.

Gerald A. Hendrick
Senior Vice President
General Manager



On behalf of Garuda Indonesia, we would like to gratitude to Bapak Ngurah Swajaya in supporting airlinks and promoting Tourism between Indonesia and Singapore during his tenure. Bapak Ngurah Swajaya has been instrumental in developing and bringing business opportunities to Indonesia especially to the 10 priority tourism destinations like Belitung, lake Toba, Komodo Island and many others.

We would also like to congratulate him on his promotion as Director-General for Americas and Europe.



With great appreciation to H.E. Ngurah Swajaya.

The strong relationship you have fostered during your tenure is greatly valued and cherished.

from SingHealth Group



Building Bridges in the Digital Age

Kris and Mike Wiluan, two of the movers and shakers in the region's property development and entertainment content production industry, shared some insights with IndoConnect on the role played by Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya in connecting Indonesia and Singapore in the digital arena



Mr Kris Wiluan, Chairman of Citramas Group and KS Energy. He also chairs Indonesia-based Del Institute of Technology's board of governors and is the patron of Citramas Foundation

Mr Kris Wiluan:

Almost four years ago when Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya came in, one of the initiatives from RISING 50 (50th anniversary of Indonesia-Singapore diplomatic ties), when President Jokowi visited Singapore, saw the consolidation of all the various areas of cooperation into something more concrete. Some of these initiatives were in the area of the digital IT and media industries. This was an area in which Ambassador Swajaya has been very proactive; he did not just look at it as part of an overall policy picture but knows all about it in great detail. He takes the time to make visits and when there are problems in implementation of projects he takes time to understand details and always responds proactively. He has even called me in the middle of the night during times when there are issues that need his urgent attention!

So he makes it a point to really understand the details of any challenges and I think one of the iconic decisions taken was how to cement the relationship between both countries through projects such as Batam being used as the Digital Bridge between Indonesia and Singapore. Now with the COVID-19 outbreak and disruptive nature of several digital technologies, we are seeing the increasing importance of digital communication. A McKinsey report on Indonesia has also reported the potential from digital business is about Rupiah 444 trillion. Ambassador Swajaya understands this and implements things accordingly. He has always been open not only towards me and other investors and businesses, he has also been very active with many Singapore (business) associations and has hosted the visits of many business missions to Indonesia.

I am quite sad that after four years he is leaving us in Singapore, but I am quite pleased that he has been promoted and I wish him well. I think it was an opportune time that during this COVID-19 situation we still have Ambassador Swajaya with us here as we are at the stage where it is important for Indonesia and Singapore cooperate with each other.



Mr Michael Wiluan, the CEO of Infinite Studios, which operates film studios in Singapore and Batam

Mr Michael Wiluan:

Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya very quickly cemented his reputation with us as a doer. He really took the time to understand the details of the industry. We come from a relatively new industry - the digital economy - and there is much to understand; it is a revolving world but what was really nice was the Ambassador took a lot of time and effort to visit and really understand the nature of our industry and found a way in which the industry could be a bridge between Indonesia and Singapore. He saw the importance of Batam and he saw it as an obvious digital bridge between both countries and worked together with many Singapore agencies to make things happen, especially now with what we have at Nongsa Digital Park.

I think Ambassador Swajaya was a bridge himself, helping to close the divide between the two countries. I think his excellent reputation as a true diplomat and a great communicator really excelled in this area.

His personal ability to really take the time to go down into the details of our industry is something that we always admire because I understand obviously that the role of an Ambassador is incredibly taxing and comes with lots of responsibilities. But when you take time to understand new industries in terms of how they are able to help in ASEAN development, especially in the relationship between Indonesia and Singapore, that takes things to a whole new level.

His Excellency was also involved in the growth and contribution of talent between Singapore and Indonesia and training and education in Nongsa Digital Park. I would also like to thank him as a friend who has always been very steady and always offered very good personal and professional advice. Ambassador Swajaya will be very sorely missed.



I had the pleasure of working together with Bapak Ngurah Swajaya, who was an exceptional Ambassador. We find his dedication and enthusiasm both inspiring and motivating to our organisation (IIPC). His useful guidance has helped a lot of Singaporean companies to learn more about Indonesia's market and its opportunities. Thank you so much Bapak Ngurah and we wish you every success in your new assignment!

From Mohamad Faizal
 Director of Indonesia Investment Promotion Center (IIPC) Singapore



Message from FKMIS Committee
 Umbrella of Indonesia Communities in Singapore
www.fkmis.sg

We sincerely appreciate the support and past collaborations during the four and a half years of Your Excellency's tenure in Singapore. Indeed we pray that the next phase of Pak Ngurah's career will be more shining and bright.

Message from Stephanus Titus Widjaja
 Chairman of FKMIS and Co-Founder of BISA (Business Indonesia Singapore Association)

Your presence in Singapore was very much cherished and your valuable work and support contributed to the intensification of relations between the Indonesian Embassy and Indonesian Communities in Singapore which is growing significantly which we desire to continue and develop further.



Personally, I firmly believe that relations between Indonesia and Singapore have very much benefited from your experience and I truly believe that wherever you will be serving, relations between us will still continue further consolidate in the years to come.

I wish to express my sincerest appreciation for the work you have carried out in Singapore. Reflecting on the time you spent here, I am grateful for our relationship and I value our cooperation.



We are very honoured to be part of the team that created *The 10 New Bali* photo book - a project initiated by H.E. Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya. We wish him every success in his new position and we promise to keep in touch and collaborate to promote the beauty of Indonesia to the world.

From Martin Lukas and all the contributors of the photo book
The 10 New Bali.



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Your Excellency and Ibu Swi,

We will miss you dearly. Your commitment and support for many worthwhile projects and causes is admirable and inspirational to us.

I would especially like to put on record my thanks to you and the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore's role in helping Sun Media in the organisation of the memorable IBU POWER seminars (for Ibu Kartini Day) (see pictures below) and all the other charitable events organised by Sun Media.

From all of us the best of luck in your future endeavours
– Ms Nomita Dhar and the Sun Media team



I remembered I was very excited and looking forward to meet HE Ngurah Swajaya for the first time with a few of my guys for lunch at a restaurant in a golf course in Sembawang. We were happy to find him as warm and friendly just like his predecessor (Bapak Andri Hadi). And it was truly a blessing in disguise that we came to know that he too is an avid Harley-Davidson rider! And since then, the Ambassador (and his wife!) have rode together on several occasions such: our Charity Rides, National Day and Indonesia Merdeka Ride, Jubilee RISING50 Ride, Charity Ride with the Turkey Ambassador, Desaru International Bike Week Bike 2019 ride with the Italian Ambassador and met with the Sultan as well as the Crown Prince of Johor. The Ambassador also participated and rode along side with us in the 2019 the Grand Chingay Parade at the F1 Pit where we were cheered by the crowds who included Singapore's President, Ministers and other VIPs. We also had fun enjoying all the celebratory events held at the Indonesian Embassy on many different occasions. We are going to miss him deeply when he leaves the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. May Allah always bless him with good health, happiness, success with the new assignments and all HIS Kindness and Mercy. Amin.

From Harley-Davidson Brothers' Director Mohd Salleh, Dy. Director Abdul Rashid and all our riders who had rode with him

*With Appreciation and Gratitude
for all your
Contributions in Strengthening
the Indonesia - Singapore Connection*

H.E. Ngurah Swajaya

from



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Ibu Mahaswi on Diplomatic Life and Work in Singapore

IndoConnect has worked closely over the years with Ibu Mahaswi Swajaya, the wife of the Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore HE Ngurah Swajaya. As they prepare to leave to their next posting, she shares some of her experiences and plans for the future with Editor-in-Chief, Nomita Dhar in this pre-COVID-19 interview

Dear Ibu, you've had a very engaging tenure in the last few years as the wife of the Indonesian ambassador in Singapore. Please share with us your experience with Dharma Wanita, which is part of the Indonesian MFA. How was your experience representing women and the diplomatic spouses?

I've spent the last 4 years here in Singapore and they've definitely been fulfilling for me. As the leader of Dharma Wanita, I had a wonderful time but it also was challenging. The ladies I worked with weren't just from MFA, but also from other ministries. So it was a challenge for me to coordinate all the activities with them and ensure everything ran smoothly. Thankfully, I trusted myself and it's turned out great.

What are some of the favourite engagements you've had with the ladies?

Every Ramadan, during the fasting month, we have a program where we watch Indonesian movies together. So that project has always been great fun. We've watched all kinds of movies from comedies to romance flicks and I always looked forward to them.

During the last few years, President Jokowi came often to Singapore for official visits and you have hosted his wife, the First Lady, all those times. How has that experience been and what would you like to pass on to future diplomatic wives?

It's always been a real honour for me to host the First Lady. From my experience, there isn't a manual to

being the ambassador's wife. I've had to learn about all the diplomatic processes and workings all by myself all these years. One thing I do is ask my husband whenever I'm unsure. So, communicating with my husband has always helped.

You've been accompanying your husband to many diplomatic receptions and official engagements. And on top of that, you have your own events and functions that you organize through the diplomatic wives association. What are the highlights from these events? Do you prefer the diplomatic receptions or your own functions?

Undoubtedly, I've met many people from the diplomatic corps and made a lot of friends from the official receptions that I attended. Of course, I always meet you at those events as well. They've been special, but the events that I organize have always been closest to my heart, especially Coffee Morning. I've met many members of the Indonesian community and friends through my own events and I've loved reaching out to my own community.

During the ambassador's term, he introduced lots of new things including "Rising Fashion", which you were a part of as well. How was your experience promoting Indonesian fashion to Singaporeans?

It was very brave of my husband to even initiate such a project. I would





Some highlights of the roles Ibu Mahaswi plays as a diplomat's wife

never have thought of doing something like that. I think promoting Indonesian fashion has been do-able mainly because the community here is open minded, and the population isn't very large.

What are some of your favourite places in Singapore?

We love Orchard Road because we can do all our walking and shopping and eating there. Apart from that, we try to go on walks at least three times a week at the Botanic Gardens as well.

Is it easy to be the ambassador's spouse? You've been to so many countries with your husband and were even in the same university. And as Bapak told me, you got more marks than him. So, how has your journey with the ambassador been?

Well, when we were at the university, I influenced him a lot. But now it's the other way round. People always tell me how it must be lovely to be the ambassador's wife. How great it must be to be treated like a VVIP and all. But frankly, being the ambassador's wife is a job in itself. There are many protocols to follow and procedures to know and you have to learn all of it on your own. You have to put your heart in it and thankfully

I had my husband to support me through it all.

Are you excited to go back to Jakarta?

Of course, Jakarta is my home. I can't wait to meet my children and my family. I also have a grandchild that's coming later this year so I can't wait to be back.

Congratulations! So this term has been especially successful because your son also got married.

Definitely. One of my favourite memories here in Singapore was my son's wedding.

I think as mothers, memories like those will always be special. What do you think are the challenges for Indonesian women or women in general these days?

Now a woman can receive the highest education possible and can go on to work in top positions in every kind of field as well. So the challenge in the long run will be taking care of children at home and to ensure that they receive the right kind of education. So balancing a career as well as family is a challenge that women are facing nowadays.

So, after spending a few years here, what is your message to Singaporeans

about Indonesia?

Come to Indonesia! I feel like Singaporeans know very little about Indonesia and they should visit more places in the archipelago. So, I'd like to urge people here to venture and explore more of what Indonesia has to offer.

You and Bapak are both from the most beautiful and well known island of Indonesia, Bali. Bali needs no introduction but is there more to the island that you'd like to share?

Personally, I'm very proud of being Balinese. It is a very special place and I'm proud that we've preserved our culture and traditions till this day. Another reason that makes Bali special for me is that I met my husband there.

So, will you miss the diplomatic spouses you've met here?

It's common for the first few friends you make to become your best friends. So a few of my best friends have left already and I miss them dearly. I'm still in contact with them and message them regularly. I'm not very close to the new diplomatic spouses that are here, especially because there haven't been events or receptions where we can interact. ☺

KCBI Proudly Celebrates First National Batik Day

KCBI Singapore collaborates with the Indonesian Embassy to promote the traditional fabrics, fashion and culture of Indonesia



HE Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya with the Board of KCBI Singapore



(From left): Mrs Estu McAlister, Vice Chairwoman of KCBI Singapore, Mrs Mahaswi Swajaya and Mrs. Ninda Harahap

KCBI (Komunitas Cinta Berkain Indonesia) is a worldwide organization established to celebrate and conserve Indonesian fabrics and fashion. Its Singapore branch has been active for almost a year before it was formally inaugurated last year on 3rd November 2018. According to KCBI Singapore Chairperson, Ibu Desi Windanarni Wilson: “We have conducted many social and cultural activities to carry out the vision and mission of the KCBI.”

(From left): Mrs Sita H. Agustanzi, the founder of KCBI; HE Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya and Mrs Desi Windanarni Wilson, the Chairwoman of KCBI Singapore

In the series of KCBI Singapore inauguration activities, the founder of KCBI based in Jakarta, Mrs. Sita H. Agustanzi, accompanied by Mrs. Desi Windanarni Wilson has visited and met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia for Singapore Mr. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya. The visit strengthened ties between KCBI Singapore and the Embassy of Republic of Indonesia in Singapore as KCBI Singapore is playing an active role as a member of the Indonesian community branched out in Singapore under the auspices of the Embassy’s Pensosbud (Penerangan, Social and Budaya) or Social and Cultural Affairs section.

One of the highlights of KCBI’s activities organised with the support of the Indonesian Embassy here was the historic and memorable celebration of the first National Batik Day on 2nd October 2019. KCBI Singapore collaborated with Mrs. Mahaswi Swajaya, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia for Singapore, to commemorate National Batik Day with the theme Membatik untuk Negeri or Batik for the Nation.

The programme that day included a presentation of a number of traditional Indonesian heritage batiks. Members and the board of KCBI gave an informative talk about the meaning and philosophy behind those batiks. Another highlight of the event celebrating National Batik Day was the Best Batik Dress Competition at the Wisma Indonesia. ©

KCBI Activities in 2020

In light of the measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak KCBI Singapore is following the Social Distancing guidelines. Programmes planned till June 2020 have been postponed until conditions are declared safe and back to normal by the Government of Singapore. However, during this period KCBI Singapore will still continue organising educational activities around

the theme of Indonesian Traditional Cloth (Kain Wastra Nusantara) through online channels. The non-meeting activities related to this theme will include a Writing Competition and Photogenic Competition; with sub-themes about the local wisdom, culture, history and daily apparel also. These activities are also organized in conjunction with the celebrations of International Woman Day in March and Kartini Day in April 2020.



Mrs Mahaswi Swajaya, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia for Singapore with the Senior Officers of Indonesian Embassy for Singapore in the Social and Cultural Affairs section and KCBI Singapore members at the National Batik Day celebrations.



(Above): HE Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya (standing centre) with members of the Board of KCBI Singapore and KCBI Head Quarter.
(Left): Mrs Mahaswi Swajaya in her welcoming speech



(Top & above): KCBI Singapore presenting a number of traditional Indonesian heritage batiks and explaining their meaning and philosophy



HE Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya and Mrs. Mahaswi Swajaya with all participants at the National Batik Day celebrations.



NILANKA

a musical



The musical's synopsis outlines the journey of a crown prince who receives guidance on how to be a great king from a tender-hearted uncle and a loving sister. He is often scrutinized by the people, who desire a more confrontational leader. As tragedies befall upon him, he has to find within himself the will to fight back and be the king of his people.

Ms Clarita Naslim, a fourth year student in NTU's School of Art, Design and Media, is one of the two Artistic Directors for Nilanka. In an interview with IndoConnect she explained that like many of the crew and cast much of their experience in performing arts had been taking part in past ICN performances: "One of the biggest challenges for me this year is to find the cohesiveness - to get all the different departments and portfolios might have their own different ideas about how to interpret the script or story. That extended all the way back to include even choosing which story to tell. It has to pique the audiences' interests. We do want to promote Indonesian culture and we also want it to be relevant to this modern age."

She said much of the values and messages in the country's folklores are still relevant to this day and age. For *Nilanka* the message she hopes the audience will go home with after watching the show will be: "I hope they will think more about diversity and accept that everyone is unique and has a place in the world. They do not have to conform to a certain societal norm. There is no one way to do things; there can be many interpretations and ways that are good. This extends not only to subjects such as race and religion but also our opinions and thoughts!" ¹⁰

Nilanka is a fresh look at the Batak folklore 'Dayang Bandir and Sandean Raja.' The setting takes place in the aftermath of a civil war in the late nineteenth century that saw the emergence of various family groups of the Batak tribe in North Sumatra.

The story is told in English as a musical(!) and carries on the annual ICN (Indonesian Cultural Night) tradition to interpret Indonesian tales and legends in a fresh way that is able to reach out to a greater number of audiences and introduce some insights into Indonesian culture as well as provide a showcase for the talents of Indonesian students studying in Singapore.

This year's outing did not disappoint as *ICN 2020 - Nilanka* by the Indonesian Students of Nanyang Technological University also known as PINTU delivered a polished production that shone most brightly with excellent music performances backing the students-turned-actors who had to act, sing and dance on stage!



SIS Goes SMART with Ambassador Ngurah

Sekolah Indonesia (Singapore) or SIS has upgraded its status and the way it is managed since 2016. SIS pays tribute to Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya for providing the impetus as “motivator, inspirator and father figure” to learn and master the digital age

Sekolah Indonesia Singapura, which was founded in 1969, has formally joined the league of private schools in Singapore since 2016 and recognised as a Private Educational Institution. Since then, all the management and activities have had to be reported to the Minister of Education and Committee of Private Education besides the Indonesian Government through the Indonesia Embassy in Singapore. This new status brings also a new name - Sekolah Indonesia (Singapore) Limited and a new school organisational structure called School Boards which is different from the usual structure of schools in Indonesia. They consists of boards of advisers, board of trustees, boards of directors and boards of examinations etc.

As a member of the Board of Advisers, HE Ngurah Swajaya, has given productive support to SIS. He gives advice, critiques, and guidance about school quality management at least once in the monthly staff meetings and often in the school board meetings. One of his most important reminders is his continuous concern that students be proficient in new technologies including mastery through coding. He has made Singaporean schools the benchmark for the quality of education expected from SIS. He has personally helped the school find an instructor for coding.



HE Ngurah Swajaya always attends and gives motivation talks at many school events such as National Day ceremonies and even regular or incidental programmes and activities.

Two major, special events that have become landmark moments for the school was when he attended the Launching of Smart School and the School's 50th Year Anniversary. His presence at these two events has made the students and faculty proud that he officiated them. In the first event, he said that he was so happy because SIS consistently managed to upgrade itself to study the development of technology for education with programs like e-learning and e-testing with SIS MOODLE, e-management with SIS QUINTAL application, and SIS e-library with SIS KIPIN ATM application. He also stated that the school's acquisition of teaching tools such as smart boards will help in lessons and keep the school up-to-date with the latest educational tools and technology.

The Ambassador is also always ready and willing to come to SIS for smaller scale events such as presenting of students' appreciation awards for their achievements in studies. His Excellency also has taken the opportunity to give rousing speeches; so, for the school, he is really a motivator, an inspirator and a father figure as well, which the school has

appreciated a lot.

School Quality Improvement

HE Ngurah Swajaya's wife, Mdm Mahaswi Swajaya also contributes much to the school's quality improvement. She is always at the Ambassador's side whenever the school invites him. In the past, she has also visited SIS with members of the organization she heads, Dharma Wanita Persatuan (DWP) KBRI Singapura. She gave much encouragement, motivation and inspiration to care while interacting with *all* students. Since there are many students of different age levels, the activity has put into three groupings based on primary, secondary and high school levels. The students were very happy and inspired because there were various activities such as presentation, games, interactive discussion and door prizes. She said the sessions were also memorable because when she asked what the students wanted to be, some students gave uncommon answers of new non-traditional work options

HE Ngurah Swajaya gives advice, critiques, and guidance about school quality... One of his most important reminders is his continuous concern that students be proficient in new technologies including mastery through coding. He has made Singaporean schools the benchmark for the quality of education expected from SIS



such as make-up artist, a Youtuber and even (ethical) hackers!

Sekolah Indonesia (Singapore) Ltd, also actively supports the Indonesian Embassy's mission in Singapore especially in promoting the cultural fields. Frequently, Singapore institutions or regional events managers in Singapore ask the Indonesia Embassy to perform cultural Indonesian dances, music or songs. To support the Embassy's Education Attaché, SIS students successfully attend various events to carry out cultural performances. In this case, the school

cooperates with Rumah Budaya Indonesia who also support by providing the costumes and the instructors.

In Sekolah Indonesia (Singapura) Ltd, there are other learning activities on Sundays. The students are all Indonesian domestic workers who work in Singapore. These activities are grouped into four namely P3K, PKBM, UT and cultural activities. P3K stands for Pusat Pendidikan dan Pelatihan or Training Centre. PKBM stands for Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Mandiri or Self-study Centre. UT is a short form for Universitas Terbuka or Open University. Cultural

activities include *Pencak Silat* (self-defence), *angklung* (another traditional music form), and *talempong* (another traditional music). In these activities, Mr. Ngurah also regularly supports and motivates the students. The very special event at which all the students eagerly await his presence is Graduation. All of the graduates are happy to be congratulated by him. For some it becomes a memory of a lifetime. The last unforgettable thing for the students is when he announces the award for scholarships for those with excellent results and have plans to continue their study. 📖

Education – Opening New Frontiers of Cooperation

By Ibu Enda Wulandari, Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Singapore Education and Culture Attache



Ambassador HE Ngurah Swajaya meeting Nanyang Technological University, Singapore officials

Indonesia is actively promoting international relations, especially in the areas of higher education and R&D as well as vocational training. Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya raised awareness and initiatives to explore these potential fields of cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore in the wake of RISING 50

When many nations appear to be looking inwards, perhaps it is important to note the new approaches to building and maintaining international relations, especially bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore on higher education, research and development, including vocational training. These continued efforts in 'Educational Diplomacy' to engage other countries are meant to contribute to the progressive human resources development in Indonesia as well as address actual challenges of common concerns.

Presently Singapore's education system is considered as one of the best in the world. Singapore also consistently ranks at the top of the OECD's Program

for International Student Assessments (PISA) and university ranks based on QS World University Ranking.

Learning from the success stories in education of other countries is one of the top priorities for educational diplomacy and to promote enhanced collaboration for mutual benefit between Indonesia and Singapore.

This is critical since the Indonesian government seeks to upgrade its competitiveness through human resources development. President Jokowi's administration also realises it is essential to build up this cooperation to include direct ties among the universities in the two countries.

This will not only contribute to enhancing human resources

development, but also promote better understanding among the peoples of both countries, which could also help unlock many other potential areas of cooperation and understanding.

As both countries celebrated their 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2017, Indonesia also seized the moment to provide a unique momentum to develop a new paradigm for bilateral relations that will be mutually beneficial for both countries.

Towards this end, Ambassador HE Ngurah Swajaya implemented several initiatives in the area of education diplomacy by conducting a series of public lectures to explore several potential higher education collaborations among the two countries promoting especially direct



(Clockwise, from top left): Ambassador Swajaya spreading the message of RISING 50: at Diponegoro University (Semarang, Indonesia); audience at Bina Nusantara University (Tangerang, Indonesia); Bandung Institute of Technology (Bandung, Indonesia) and SP Jain School of Global Management (Singapore)

interactions between the higher education institutions of Indonesia and Singapore. These activities were organised in Singapore and also in several Indonesian cities and universities. They encompassed many sectors and a variety of different fields in education.


As part of his campaign to raise awareness and bridge cooperation, the Indonesian Ambassador for Singapore gave talks in different institutions of higher learning in both countries. They include: Gajah Mada University, Airlangga University, Sumatera Utara University, Sam Ratulangi University, Diponegoro University, Institute of Technology Bandung, Padjajaran University, Atmajaya University, Sampoerna University, Pelita Harapan University, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and SP Jain School of Global Management.

Besides having interactive discussions, and promoting potential cooperation on higher education, Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya also gave public

lectures in front of academics, practitioners, researchers, lecturers, journalists and students.

One such presentation by Ambassador Swajaya entitled “Indonesia–Singapore Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges in the 50-Year Reflection on Diplomatic Relations between Indonesia and Singapore”, (see accompanying box story) HE encouraged the younger generation to increase interactions and collaboration in the field of education, including on innovation

and entrepreneurship skills of the university graduates so that they are better prepared when entering their respective professions and work towards unlocking many untapped potentials between both countries.

His Excellency also hoped they will continue the theme of the 50th Anniversary - RISING 50 - which was an acronym of Republic of Indonesia and Singapore and contribute to the growth of a new paradigm to build on bilateral cooperation in the decades to come. 

RISING 50 Seize Opportunity for Greater Bilateral Cooperation.

In his presentation, Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya emphasised several points both countries can build on for Education ties arising from RISING 50:

- Geographical proximity provides no option but to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation for both nations and countries
- A paradigm shift is needed in the pattern of bilateral relations by increasing better perceptions in each country so as to enable more intensive interactions between them in the form of people-to-peoples contacts
- On regional and global issues, Indonesia and Singapore share many of the same perceptions and goals
- The potential for economic cooperation is still large enough to be further utilised optimally by leveraging each other’s strengths, both in utilising the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and in the global framework
- Some pending issues can be resolved through dialogue and negotiations aimed at providing mutual benefits for both countries

The Quieter Side of Batam: A Teaching Retreat

By: Chintalacheruvu Siddarth

Twenty-year old student Chintalacheruvu Siddarth first heard through his church about opportunities to help out at Sekolah Misi Bagi Bangsa (SMBB) in Batam. The mission school welcomed the group of Singapore junior college students who wanted to visit and assist as volunteer teachers

Sunset above the quiet neighbourhood outside of SMBB

All too often, there's a conception that there's nothing more to Batam than a quick two-day itinerary dominated by beach resorts, spas and shopping malls. What most people don't know is that there's a whole other side to the popular weekend getaway destination that's far from all the beaches and malls. My five days in Batam explored the more quaint, more rural side and came hand in hand with a fulfilling purpose: volunteer teaching at a mission school for underprivileged youth.

Forty-five minutes away from the Sekupang Ferry Terminal, Sekolah Misi Bagi Bangsa (SMBB) is located in the Sagulung district of Batam. We arrived in a group of five, excited to deliver lessons to Secondary 3 students as well as teachers. Instantly, the sights and sounds around us made it hard to believe that SMBB was a mere two hours away from Singapore. Vast sandy fields filled with children playing football, scooters sputtering along the narrow street as people returned to their humble homes by dusk... and chatter emanating from the nearby night market that glowed up the dimly lit vicinity. From the moment of arrival, one is treated to a much-needed sensory respite from Singapore's bustling streets and hectic pace of life.

Our accommodation was a large guestroom within SMBB itself and came with a scrumptious breakfast and lunch every day. The homely meals that came piping hot from the school's kitchen consisted of Indonesian favourites such as ayam penyet, nasi goreng and nasi uduk that all came



The entrance to the school



Sean giving a lesson to SMBB's teachers on how to make a PowerPoint presentation

with a generous portion of *kerupuk* on the side. The real highlight of the trip, however, was the time we spent inside the classrooms. Our main aim was to add value through lessons on concepts and ideas that weren't usually taught. This included basic business and economic ideas as well as more innovative ways of imparting dry math and science concepts. We also did impromptu Microsoft Excel lessons for teachers after receiving feedback that a lot of them had difficulty keying in term reports for their students.

Key Realisation

While teaching, there was a key realisation that struck us. At SMBB, students often asked questions and sought knowledge that they could tangibly apply to their lives right from the get-go. When teaching economics, students would ask bold questions like how they could open their own restaurant or help their parents' business and we had to adapt our teaching to fit the perspective on the receiving end.

The following days, we began every economics lesson with questions about the students' dream jobs and taught them concepts that were relevant to perhaps the restaurant or hotel that they wanted to open. Biology lessons began with "what's your favourite food?" following which we explored the nutrients contained in their favourite dishes like bakso or ikan bakar. A more personalized approach proved to be much more engaging than reading off the textbook or notes we had made. It was all worth it for the resounding "ohhhs" and "ahhhs" from the class whenever something we said had stuck. It was heartening moments like when the teachers kept requesting for more computer classes despite having to stay back after teaching, that fuelled us to give our best, regardless of the short time we had at SMBB.



(From l): The volunteers:
Chintalacheruvu Siddharth, Eithan
Jahja-Loo, New Yew Chong, Rushil
Ramesh & Sean Low

Beyond volunteering, our post-teaching escapades were something to look forward to as well. From delectable street-side eats at the nearby night market to fresh seafood at restaurants by the sea, the eating options at Batam were second to none. Our favourite dish was, without a doubt, ayam bakar at a local joint that was a favourite even among the locals—Ayam Bakar Chaniago. The juicy chicken thigh was flawlessly charcoal grilled and featured a lip-smacking blend of spices that coated the meat evenly. Paired along with a glass of chilled Teh Botol and you had the perfect meal.

Batam was made all the more surreal because of its proximity to Singapore. It was a play in contrasts between a metropolitan city and the more laidback life that was just an hour or two away in Sagulung. There were stark differences even within Batam as most Singaporeans seek a quick getaway on the other side of the island that is home to the many seaside resorts. On the ferry back home, we were thoroughly soaked in wistfulness. Our experience was transformative because our connection with our destination was made infinitely more meaningful through teaching and the stories of the students and teachers we came across. 🇮🇩

More about SMBB Sekolah Misi Bagi Bangsa was established in 2009 in Sei Binti Tanjung Uncang, Batam under the Lima Roti and Dua Ikan Foundation. The school is intended for children, many who came from the squatter areas in Sei Binti Tanjung Uncang, who come from underprivileged families, most of whose parents work as labourers at the island's shipyards. The school's presence means that children living in illegal settlements are still able to attain a quality education for a better future. For volunteer opportunities or to sponsor a child, you can contact the school at smbbatam@yahoo.com



Eithan delivering a lesson on economics

Harmoni in the Archipelago



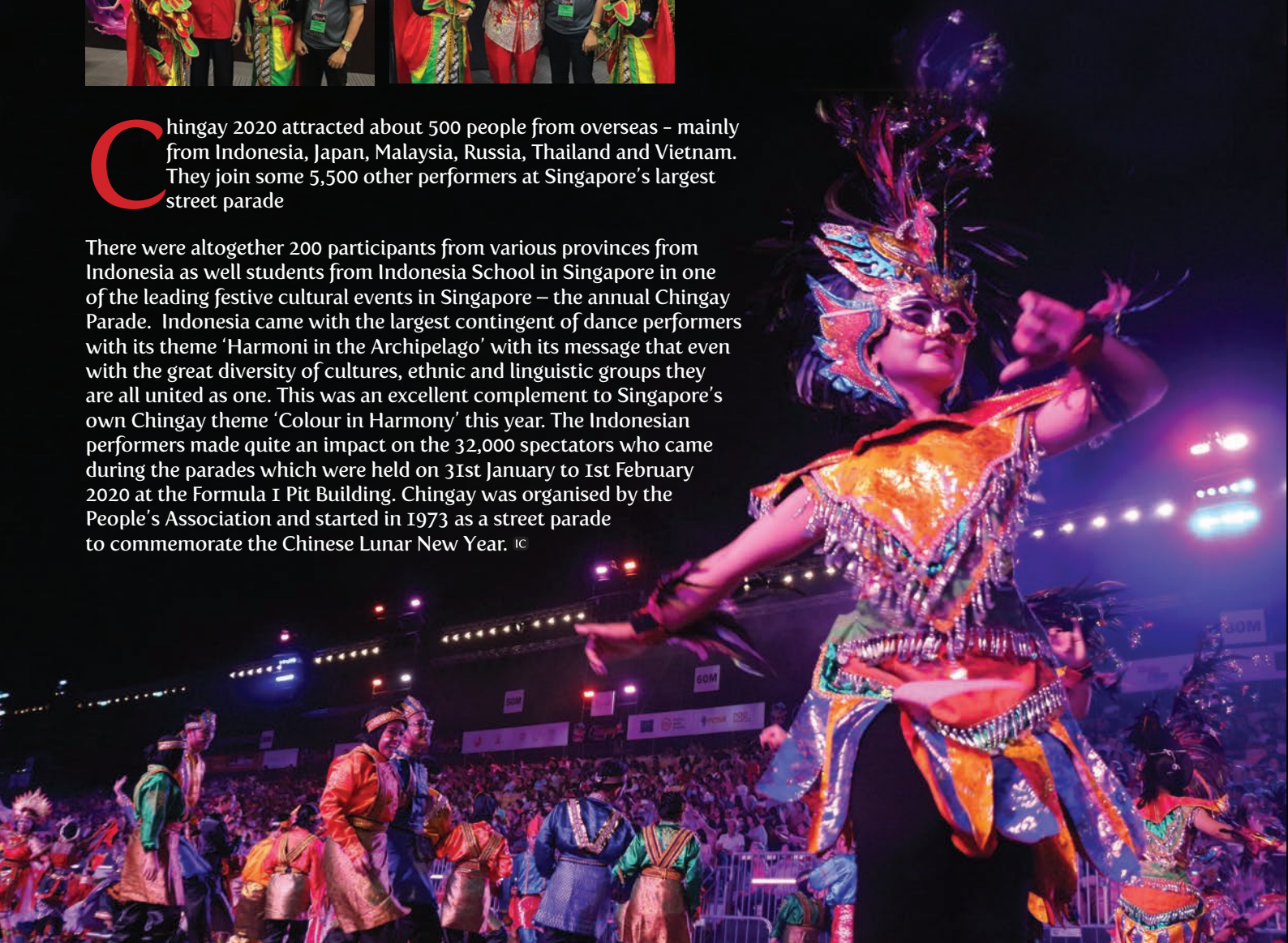
Photos by KBRI and Michael Ozaki



(Far left & left): Several lucky Indonesian Chingay participants managed to get a photo with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee

Chingay 2020 attracted about 500 people from overseas – mainly from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. They join some 5,500 other performers at Singapore's largest street parade

There were altogether 200 participants from various provinces from Indonesia as well students from Indonesia School in Singapore in one of the leading festive cultural events in Singapore – the annual Chingay Parade. Indonesia came with the largest contingent of dance performers with its theme 'Harmoni in the Archipelago' with its message that even with the great diversity of cultures, ethnic and linguistic groups they are all united as one. This was an excellent complement to Singapore's own Chingay theme 'Colour in Harmony' this year. The Indonesian performers made quite an impact on the 32,000 spectators who came during the parades which were held on 31st January to 1st February 2020 at the Formula 1 Pit Building. Chingay was organised by the People's Association and started in 1973 as a street parade to commemorate the Chinese Lunar New Year. ¹⁰







My Jakarta: An Alternative Itinerary

By Chintalacheruvu Siddarth

Jakarta has rapidly developed into Indonesia's booming business capital and the world's second most populous urban area after Tokyo. While many think of Bali's beaches or Jogja's temples when thinking about tourism in Indonesia, the capital city also has its own charms with hidden gems that are beyond the mainstream. We would like to burst the bubble that Jakarta is merely an overcrowded business hub as we invite you to skip the tourist traps and head straight to these off-piste attractions and savour a slew of exciting new activities



Museum di Tengah Kebun

It is called the Musuem in the Middle of a Garden and chancing upon a serene garden in the heart of a concrete jungle is a delight to many; but imagine the thrill of spotting a bucolic museum that peacefully lies within the same garden. Located in the fashionable and trendy district of Kemang the Museum di Tengah Kebun is a tranquil haven amidst the crowded streets that line the neighbourhood.

The neatly arranged interiors boast a collection of over 4000 antiques and Indonesian artefacts bought from auctions across all over the world as well as the archipelago. After finishing a personalized tour of the museum, one can then relax at the spacious garden outside of the building which completes the experience. Do note that the museum is only open on the weekends and a visit requires prior reservation.

Address: Museum di Tengah Kebun, Jalan Kemang Timur Raya Nomor, RT.7/RW.3, Bangka, South Jakarta City, Jakarta, Indonesia; Phone: +62 217196907. The museum is open for reservations from 9.30 to 2.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays.





Colorful bicycles lined up on Fatahilah Square in Jakarta's Old Town or Kota Tua - a popular tourist haunt where you can still discover some other unexpected photo ops such as the eerie 'Root House' (see page 34)



Shop and Dine at Pasar Santa

For the foodies out to get their culinary fix as well as for those adventurous shopaholics, Pasar Santa is a former traditional market turned hipster bazaar that invites you to flee the local malls and get a unique local experience instead. The Modern Market features new and creative vendors who pride themselves in innovative food experiences or vintage clothes and items that they may be up for sale. For food, our favourites include the ice cendol oreo at Beyond Cendol and the black martabak brownies at Mabro.



Once done eating, hunt for rare vinyl records at Laidback Blues Record Store or shop for clothes at Tokio Fuku, a clothing joint with T-shirts that have a unique Japanese spin on pop culture icons.

Address: Jalan Cisanggiri II, RT.5/RW.4, Petogogan, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta, Indonesia. Most of the vendors open from 2 to 9pm from Tuesday to Sunday

Café-hopping at Panglima Polim

The hip neighbourhood Panglima Polim is a must-do on your list if you fancy winding down at hipster-inspired cafés with an exquisite cup of coffee and a good read by your side. The trendy spot is home to many such coffee shops, restaurants and even concept stores - just perfect for those who enjoy an off the beaten track experience. Panglima Polim's quirky vibe also makes it home to Jakarta's hipsters and creative folk.



Recommended places to try include Woodpecker Coffee. It's a cosy hangout with chic minimalist interiors and artisan coffee made from selected local coffee bean blends.

Address: Jl. Panglima Polim V No.23, RW.7, Melawai, Kec. Kby. Baru, Kota Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta I2I60, Indonesia. Opening hours: Monday to Sunday from 7am-9pm.

Another Panglima Polim favourite is Mayhaps Gelato & Coffee which is a relaxed hangout serving creative coffee drinks, light cafe fare and a variety of snacks as well as ice cream.



Address: Jl. Panglima Polim V No.21, Melawai, Kec. Kby. Baru, Kota Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta I2I60, Indonesia. Opening hours: Sunday to Thursday from 7am-9pm, Friday to Saturday from 7am-10.30pm.



Finally, Convivium is a cheery, contemporary cafe serving creative coffee, pastries and light fare in warm environs.

Address: Jl. Panglima Polim V No.8A, Melawai, Kec. Kby. Baru, Kota Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta I2I60, Indonesia. Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 7.30am-10.30pm. Closed on Mondays.



Photoshoot at Rumah Akar

Kota Tua the historical district containing stylish European-style buildings and centuries-old museums also contains perhaps the most ominous looking building in Jakarta. Rumah Akar, or 'Root House', is an abandoned building that has long been taken over by Mother Nature.

Massive roots and vines creep up on the sides of the building and imbue an eerie ambience to the place, making it

reminiscent of jungle huts in the Borneo rainforest. Regardless, the building has become a popular photography spot amidst the locals. From being constantly featured in Instagram posts to wedding photoshoots, the unique building now carries a nostalgic warmth for locals and tourists alike.

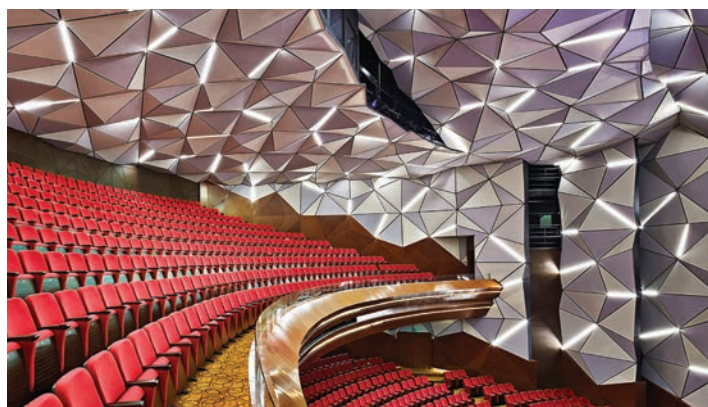
Address: Kota Tua Jakarta, Jalan Kali Besar Timur 4, RT.7/RW.7, Pinangisia, West Jakarta City, Jakarta, Indonesia



Art Appreciation at Ciputra Artpreneur

Ciputra Artpreneur is an innovative art concept space that combines gallery, museum and theatre and is the perfect spot to spend a day for any art aficionado. The mission of the multidisciplinary arts venue is to celebrate Indonesian culture and empower the local arts scene. The gallery displays contemporary art as well as the private collection of its founder, the late property magnate Ir. Ciputra, which includes 32 paintings and 18 sketches of the legendary Indonesian painter, Hendra Gunawan.

Moreover, the in-house theatre has played host to a myriad local and international shows which include Broadway musical Beauty and the Beast among others; so do check their events and program listings before visiting.



Address: Ciputra World I, Retail Podium Level 10, Jalan Professor Doktor Satrio Kav. 3-5, Setiabudi, Ciputra World Jakarta I, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta, Indonesia. Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 9am-6pm.

COVID-19 Notification

For the duration of the COVID-19 Outbreak many business and retail outlets may be temporarily suspended or travel and quarantine restrictions may be enforced. Please check with the travel advisories issued by the Government of Singapore or enquire with the Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Singapore (www.kemlu.go.id) to receive the latest updates when the restrictions on travelling and visiting to Indonesia has been eased or lifted.

More Makan Places

Sederhana

A popular chain restaurant offering authentic Indonesian food from Padang. Address: We recommend the outlet at Rumah Makan Sederhana, Jalan Kebon Kacang Raya no. 19

Soto Betawi H Husein

The best place to get Soto Betawi, a deeply flavorful beef soup rich with coconut milk and spices. Affordable and popular; so try getting here before noon or be prepared to wait! Address: Jl. Padang Panjang No 6B – 6C, Manggarai

Ayam Goreng Suharti

Famous fried chicken chain in Jakarta that has perfected the ayam goreng kremes style, which uses an indulgent chicken batter containing crispy flour bits (kremes). There are 13 locations throughout Jakarta

Nasi Goreng Kambing Kebon Sirih

The original street eatery that serves arguably the most famous nasi goreng in Jakarta. Known for its signature nasi goreng kambing aka goat fried rice spiced with their special in-house blend. Address: Jalan Kebon Sirih Barat Dalam 1, RT.3/RW.2, Kb. Sirih, Menteng/0811 190775



Bandar Djakarta

Beautiful seaside restaurant with a fish market concept, where diners can select their seafood right from the aquarium and personalize their meals with the chef. Address: Jalan Kawasan Wisata Ancol, Ancol, Jakarta

Le Quartier

Conceptualized by the renowned restauranter Chris Janssens, Le Quartier serves non-pretentious French fare with bespoke quality and presentation. Address: 34 Gunawarman, Jakarta

Nusa Gastronomy

A contemporary restaurant set in a charming colonial house, Nusa Gastronomy prides itself in serving elevated Indonesian cuisine with an ever-changing menu. Address: Jl. Kemang Raya No.81, South Jakarta

Martabak Boss

A must-try for their martabak manis, a thick pancake-like confection slathered with butter and various toppings like chocolate sprinkles, nuts, and cheese. For those with a sweet tooth! Martabak Boss has multiple locations throughout Jakarta

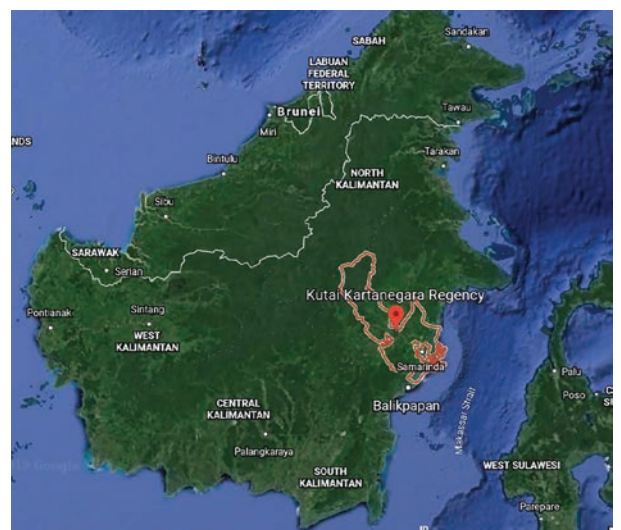
PICTURE
POST

READY FOR TRANSFORMATION



Penajam Paser Utara, Indonesia. This aerial photograph of the Sepaku District, slated to be the location of the new Indonesian Capital, was taken on 1st October 2019. Photo by Luthfi Fatur

The new capital will be situated in a location that will join two separate districts, the North Penajam Paser Regency and part of Kutai Kartanegara Regency in the East Kalimantan Province. President Joko Widodo announced this after the government conducted an intensive three-year-study on the possibility of the move of the administrative capital. There will be several stages by which the capital city will be moved from Jakarta. The government will begin to finalize its regulations, masterplan and its complete design by this year. ©



(Source: Google Earth)



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