

SINGAPORE TO SHOWCASE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS AT ASTANA EXPO-2017, KAZAKHSTAN

1. Singapore will be participating in the large-scaled international exposition known as the Astana EXPO-2017, which will be held from 10 June to 10 September 2017 in Kazakhstan. The first Expo to be held in Central Asia, the theme of the Astana-EXPO is “Future Energy”. Singapore will have a self-built pavilion to showcase its innovative solutions in sustainable energy and share its experience in the future energy sector.
2. The Singapore Pavilion, themed “Small City, Big Ideas”, will highlight Singapore’s efforts in creating an ecosystem which supports the development of effective solutions for a sustainable future. Styled as a terrarium, it will feature various sustainable energy ideas and innovations by agencies including the Economic Development Board (EDB), Energy Market Authority (EMA) and Building and Construction Authority (BCA). The architect for the Singapore Pavilion is Mr Randy Chan, from Zarch Collaboratives, one of Singapore’s leading architects.
3. The Singapore Pavilion will also have a Capacity Building Programme specially designed to engage policy makers and regulators from Central Asia and neighbouring countries. Through the Programme, Singapore aims to promote best practices in sustainable development, urban planning and future energy, and encourage greater exchange of knowledge and expertise in new energy solutions.
4. The Singapore Pavilion will be officially opened on 10 June 2017, a day after the Official Opening of the Astana-EXPO. The Opening Ceremony for the Pavilion will feature a specially-choreographed dance performance and a preview tour of the Pavilion for invited guests, followed by a reception. There will also be a Singapore Day on 25 July 2017, where Singapore will showcase a 20-minute performance telling the Singapore Story to international visitors and the Kazakh audience. Astana EXPO-2017 is expected to attract around 5 million visitors from Central Asia and around the world.
5. Singapore’s participation at the Astana EXPO-2017 is testament to the close bilateral ties that we share with Kazakhstan. In recent years, there have been several and frequent high-level exchanges of visits between Singapore and Kazakhstan. In March 2016, Kazakhstan’s Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament Kassym-Jomart Tokayev visited Singapore and delivered the opening address at the Singapore Forum, an annual flagship event that discusses geostrategic, politico-economic and governance issues in Asia. Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong also made an official visit to Astana at the invitation of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev in September 2016.

6. Singapore has also commenced a Joint Feasibility Study of a potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union¹ (EAEU). The EAEU-Singapore FTA could give local businesses access to a common market of 180 million people with a combined Gross Domestic Product of S\$6 trillion².

7. More details on the Singapore Pavilion can be found at www.astanaexpo2017sg.com.

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Enclosures:

- **Factsheet on Singapore Pavilion & Capacity Building Programme**
- **Factsheet on Singapore-Kazakhstan bilateral and economic relations**

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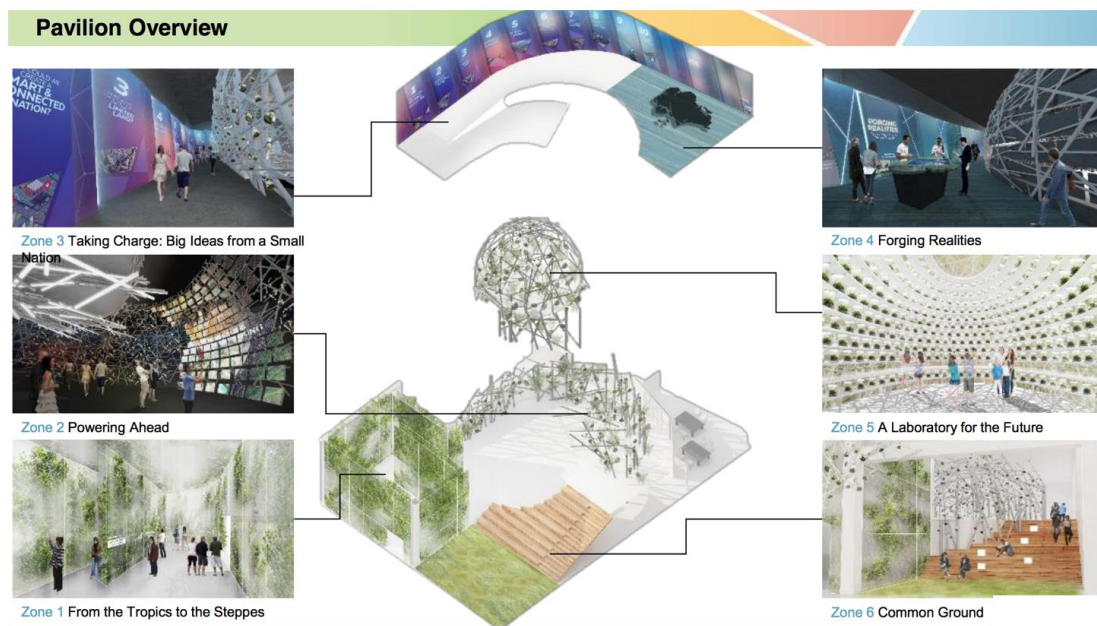
¹ The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an economic bloc comprising five countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Belarus.

² In Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms.

Factsheet on the Singapore Pavilion & Capacity Building Programme

Concept of Singapore Pavilion

1. In line with Astana EXPO-2017's theme of Future Energy and its efforts to find sustainable energy solutions to meet the growing global demand, the Singapore Pavilion will showcase various sustainable energy ideas and innovations by our Singapore agencies. Spanning 385m², the Pavilion will feature six zones, each providing visitors with a unique experience.
2. The Pavilion builds on Singapore's reputation as a garden city, as well as our efforts to create an ecosystem in generating effective solutions for a sustainable future. It will also showcase how ecological sustainability and living harmoniously with nature is the key to our future.
3. The Pavilion will be operational everyday throughout the 3-month period for 12 hours daily. Official operating hours for the pavilion is from 0930 to 2130 hrs daily.



Pavilion Designer

4. The Singapore Pavilion was designed by Mr Randy Chan, one of Singapore's leading architects.
5. Mr Randy Chan designed the Supergarden for the Venice Biennale in 2008, as well as the Singapore Pavilion for the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010. In 2015, he also curated Singapore Inside Out to commemorate SG50, Singapore's 50th year of independence.

The 6 zones in the Singapore Pavilion

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| <p>Zone 1: From The Tropics To The Steppes</p> | <p>Upon entering the pavilion, visitors will be immersed in an experience of what it feels like to be in Singapore’s tropical conditions – a slight heat coupled with fogged walls lined with plants transfer visitors to an otherworldly “white box” where they learn about Singapore’s context as a land-scarce country lacking in natural resources.</p> |
| <p>Zone 2: Powering Ahead</p> | <p>Visitors enter the “heart” of the terrarium. Here, they are surrounded by modular scaffolding carefully crafted into the walls of the chamber, and will be treated to a multimedia experience of Singapore’s Energy Story.</p> |
| <p>Zone 3: Taking Charge: Big Ideas From A Small Nation</p> | <p>Despite its small size, Singapore is a nation of innovation, and has developed many solutions to tackle the challenges it faces, and to lead the way into a sustainable future for the country. Visitors step into an elevated space and get an at-a-glance overview of these solutions. These include public sector initiatives to facilitate the implementation of solar energy and buildings which have been built with energy efficiency in mind.</p> <p>In addition, we will display approximately 250 terrariums hand-made by youths from Beyond Social Services, each containing hand-written notes and little clay models of what the youths think best represent Singapore.</p> |
| <p>Zone 4: Forging Realities: Securing A Future For The Nation</p> | <p>Visitors will get an overview of Singapore’s solutions through a rich multimedia experience that will showcase a vibrant ecosystem of ‘Cleantech’ companies based in Singapore. These companies provide solutions that cut across the generation, transmission and consumption of energy.</p> <p>The solutions, conceived and realised in Singapore, will be presented with high tech communication devices to start the conversation. Visitors place markers, symbolising the generation, transmission and consumption of energy on the interactive table top, and it will reflect both the unique challenges and corresponding solutions pertaining to these related processes. Navigation panels will appear to allow the</p> |

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| | visitor to experience even more multimedia content, giving them examples of application of those solutions. |
| Zone 5: A Laboratory For The Future | As a culmination of their journey, visitors end up at a reflective space reminiscent of a greenhouse or a herbarium. It is a space filled with terrariums neatly arranged on an array of shelves, and visitors are invited to write their wishes for a more sustainable future on seed paper, as a call to action. |
| Zone 6: Common Ground | A gentle set of stairs stretches out ahead, doubling as a vista towards the atrium, while at the same time inviting visitors to linger for a bit to read, rest and reflect. There will also be snapshots of Singapore companies, and revolving exhibitions throughout the three months. |

Capability Building Programme

6. The Capacity Building Programme will be delivered through modular training workshops each spanning one to four days. The workshops will be conducted by the Sustainable Energy Centre of Excellence (SECOE), an initiative of the Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS). SEAS is a non-government and non-profit business association that represents the interests of companies in the renewable energy sector.

7. Industry experts such as Dr Sanjay C Kuttan, Program Director of ERI@N, Nanyang Technological University and Mr Nilesh Y. Jadhav, Program Director of EcoCampus at Nanyang Technological University are among the lead trainers who will be conducting the workshops.

8. More details about the capacity building programme will be provided at a later date.

Factsheet on Singapore-Kazakhstan bilateral and economic relations

Singapore-Kazakhstan bilateral and economic relations

(A) Political relations

1. Central Asia occupies an important geostrategic position between Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Singapore has warm relations with the Central Asian countries. Despite historical, cultural and geographical dissimilarities, Singapore and the Central Asian countries are young nations with a common aspiration to play meaningful roles in the international arena. Central Asia and Singapore also share a continued interest in collaborating in the field of education and capacity-building. These common goals have fostered closer relations in recent years, especially with Kazakhstan.

2. Singapore's friendly ties with Kazakhstan are built on the legacy of the personal relationship between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Diplomatic relations were established in 1993. Kazakhstan established an embassy in Singapore in 2003. Mr Zulkifli Baharudin is Singapore's Ambassador to Kazakhstan since October 2014, resident in Singapore.

3. Capacity-building is one of the pillars of our bilateral engagement with Kazakhstan. For example, the Civil Service College organised a series of workshops for senior Kazakh officials in October 2016. These workshops were aimed at developing strategic leadership skills for officials who are involved in areas such as economic development and human capital management. Since August 2012, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy has also partnered with Nazarbayev University in offering Masters in Public Policy programmes to Kazakh students, amongst other initiatives.

4. Bilateral ties have enjoyed an upswing with several high-level exchanges taking place in recent years.

2017

- Senior Minister of State (Trade and Industry) Dr Koh Poh Koon led a business delegation to Almaty, Kazakhstan, in April. SMS Koh was accompanied by Senior Minister of State (Communications and Information and Health) Mr Chee Hong Tat.

2016

- Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) Goh Chok Tong made an official visit to Kazakhstan in September at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. In Astana, ESM Goh addressed the Senate of the Parliament.

- Governor of Astana International Financial Centre Kairat Kelimbetov led a study mission to Singapore in September.
- Senior Minister of State (Trade and Industry) Dr Koh Poh Koon visited Kazakhstan in May to discuss the Singapore-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Free Trade Agreement.
- Kazakh Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament Kassym-Jomart Tokayev visited Singapore from 31 March to 3 April at the invitation of Speaker of Parliament Halimah Yacob. Tokayev delivered the opening address at the Singapore Forum on 2 April.

2015

- Then-Prime Minister Karim Massimov visited Singapore in March 2015 to attend the State Funeral Service of Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

5. Other recent milestones in bilateral cooperation included the convening of the inaugural round of MFA-to-MFA bilateral consultations that were held in Astana in July 2016. Singapore and Kazakhstan have also enjoyed close cooperation in international fora, such as in the International Maritime Organisation, the International Civil Aviation Organisation, and the Universal Postal Union. Singapore has also formally applied to the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), of which Kazakhstan is the current chair.

(B) Trade

1. Bilateral economic relations between Singapore and Kazakhstan have been growing over the years. Kazakhstan is Singapore's largest trading partner in Central Asia, with bilateral trade in goods between Singapore and Kazakhstan amounting to S\$23.5 million in 2016. In the same year, Singapore's exports to Kazakhstan were valued at S\$18.7 million and comprised mainly lubricating oil, magnetic stripe cards and floating docks. Singapore's imports from Kazakhstan amounted to S\$4.9 million, consisting primarily of petroleum oils, unwrought zinc alloys and chromium trioxide.

2. Total bilateral trade in services between Singapore and Kazakhstan stood at S\$40 million in 2015, up from \$18 million in 2014. Singapore's export of services to Kazakhstan was valued at S\$25 million, while our import of services from Kazakhstan amounted to S\$15 million.

Investment

3. Singapore's stock of Direct Investment Abroad (DIA) into Kazakhstan amounted to S\$180 million as of 2015. The stock of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Kazakhstan into Singapore amounted to S\$1.8 billion, and was concentrated in the financial and insurance services sector.

4. There are about 100 Kazakhstan companies registered in Singapore to date. Notable Singapore companies that have undertaken activities in Kazakhstan include Surbana Jurong and Educare, with the former undertaking several master planning projects in the country.

Tourism

5. Tourism flows between Kazakhstan and Singapore have grown over the years. In 2015, STB recorded 5,261 tourist arrivals from Kazakhstan. Since July 2015, Kazakhstan has removed the need for visa requirements for Singaporean Citizens holding a valid diplomatic, official, and national passport for up to 15 calendar days until 31 December 2017.

Existing Agreements between Singapore and Kazakhstan

6. An **Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (DTA)** was signed in September 2006 and entered into force in August 2007.

Bilateral Economic Engagement Platforms

7. The **Kazakhstan-Singapore Business Forum**, launched in 2009, was jointly organised by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and the Kazakhstan Embassy to feature investment and collaboration opportunities in both countries. The 4th Kazakhstan-Singapore Business Forum was held in September 2015.

Singapore's Interests in Kazakhstan

8. Singapore companies have established a presence in Kazakhstan since the early 2000s, in sectors such as engineering, urban/transport/industrial planning and education. Notable companies with projects in Kazakhstan include:

| Sector | Company Interests |
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| Engineering | <p><u>ST Engineering and Electronics</u> has embarked on ventures in Kazakhstan, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kaz-ST Engineering Bastau (KSTEB)</i> – Joint venture established by ST Engineering and Kazakhstan Engineering in 2004, providing services in IT, engineering, shipbuilding and defence. • <i>MERITS Technologies LLP</i> – Joint venture established by ST Electronics and Kazakhstan’s Glotur Technology Fund in 2008. |
| Transport Planning | <p><u>MSI Global</u> secured a contract to provide Technical Due Diligence for the proposed Almaty Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), the first ever project secured by a Singapore company with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2012.</p> |
| Industrial Planning | <p><u>Surbana Jurong</u> completed the Industrial Positioning Study and Master Plan for SEZ Astana Phase 2. Previous master planning projects it helmed in Kazakhstan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation agreement with United Chemical Cooperation (UCC) to plan, design and manage proposed petrochemical clusters development in Atyrau and Taraz. • <i>Strategic Market Study, Development Plan and Marketing Plan</i> developed by Kazakhstan’s National Agency for Export and Investment and Jurong Consultants. |
| Education | <p><u>Educare</u> has secured a contract with the National Centre for Professional Development of Kazakhstan (“ORLEU”), to conduct a professional development workshop for Kazakh educators. This included providing consultancy on best practices in professional development for early childhood teachers.</p> |

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| Urban Planning | RSP Architects embarked on a project with Jubilee Land Residential Development called “Orchard Residences”, a high-end residential apartment in Almaty. The targeted completion date is end-2017. |
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