

SINGAPORE CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY AT ASTANA EXPO 2017

1. Singapore held an early national day celebration at the Astana Expo 2017 in Kazakhstan. Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Dr Koh Poh Koon and Kazakh Vice Minister of Investments and Development, Yerlan Khairov graced the event today. More than 350 guests and Expo visitors attended the flag raising ceremony and cultural performance which told the story of Singapore's history and transformation.

2. Singapore and Kazakhstan share strong bilateral and economic ties. Trade relations between both countries are growing. In 2016, Kazakhstan was Singapore's top trading partner among the five Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan). Both countries recently concluded negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) which will open up more business and investment opportunities for Singapore and Kazakhstan businesses.

3. Singapore's participation at the Astana Expo 2017 further cements this relationship. Themed "Small City, Big Ideas", Singapore's Pavilion showcases our innovations in sustainable energy such as the SolarNova Programme, District Cooling Network at Marina Bay and NTU's EcoCampus. Singapore is also conducting capacity building workshops at the Expo for policy makers and regulators from Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries to promote best practices and encourage greater exchange of knowledge and expertise in new energy solutions.

5. Dr Koh said, "Singapore congratulates Kazakhstan on a successful Astana Expo. Singapore's participation at the Expo has provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our expertise and innovations in sustainable energy. The Expo also highlights the openness of Kazakhstan to engage and open its doors to the world. I encourage Singapore companies to take advantage of the opportunities presented by Kazakhstan's growth and venture boldly into the Central Asian market."

4. Dr Koh, who is in Kazakhstan for an official visit from 24 to 25 July, also called on Minister of National Economy, Timur Suleimenov, Vice Minister of Investments and Development, Yerlan Khairov and Mayor of Astana Asset Issekeshov. The Ministers reaffirmed the close ties between both countries and reiterated their commitment to working towards a free trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Singapore. Dr Koh also visited the Astana Solar Park, a solar photovoltaic modules production plant to learn about Kazakhstan's development in sustainable energy.

**Ministry of Trade and Industry
25 July 2017**

Enclosures:

Annex A - Factsheet on Singapore's National Day cultural performance

Annex B - Factsheet on Singapore-Kazakhstan bilateral and economic relations

Annex C - Factsheet on Singapore's top 5 sustainable energy solutions

Annex D - Photos & Captions

For media queries, please contact:

Janice Ong
Senior Assistant Director
Communications Division
DID: +65 9755 1597
Email: Janice_ONG@mti.gov.sg

Selene Chin
Managing Director, Pico Pixel
HP: +65 9616 3876
Email: selene.chin@picopixel.co

Patricia Yong
Consultant, Levitate Studios Pte Ltd
HP: +65 9007 3203
Email: patricia@levitate.com.sg

Annex A - Factsheet on Singapore's National Day Cultural Performance

1. Singapore commemorated National Day on 25 July in Astana, Kazakhstan. Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Dr Koh Poh Koon and Kazakh Vice Minister of Investments and Development, Yerlan Khairov graced the event and viewed a cultural performance.

2. Titled "A Celebration of Colours: A Singapore Story", the performance brings the audience through the journey that Singapore has taken while at the same time looking forward to the path that lies ahead. Produced by Rudolph Van Der Ven, choreographed by Eddy Rosdi and musically directed by Eddy Teo, this production features music band Jungledelics and a cast of 20 dancers and musicians from Singapore.

Storyline

3. Singapore was once known as *Temasek*, meaning "**Sea Town**". Located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, it was a natural meeting point of sea routes, and flourished as a trading post for vessels from around the world.

4. Legend has it that *Sang Nila Utama*, a **Prince from Palembang**, Indonesia's South Sumatra province, was hunting on the island when he caught sight of an animal he had never seen before. Taking it to be a good sign, he named the island "**Lion City**" or *Singapura*, from the Sanskrit words "*simha*" which means "lion", and "*pura*" which means "city".

5. In the 19th century **Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles**, a Lieutenant-Governor of the British Empire, landed in Singapore on 29th January 1819. Recognising the immense potential of the swamp-covered island, he negotiated a treaty with the local rulers and established **Singapore as a trading station**. The city quickly grew as an entrepôt trade hub, attracting immigrants from China, India, the Malay Archipelago and beyond, who formed the foundation of Singapore's multi-racial society today.

6. Singapore gained independence on 9 August 1965. Over the years, Singaporeans have worked hard and remained positive throughout the many challenges they faced, to build our nation. Under the astute leadership of Singapore's first Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore thrived as a free market economy with strong international trade links.

7. The Singapore of today is a modern, cosmopolitan and bustling city state that welcomes people of diverse cultures and beliefs. As we move ahead in the 21st century, we look forward to closer cooperation with our partners to realise our mutual dreams, hopes and expectations for the future.

8. Singapore and Kazakhstan enjoy a strong bond between our nations. Thank you for hosting us at Expo 2017.

Annex B - Factsheet on Singapore-Kazakhstan bilateral and economic relations

Singapore-Kazakhstan bilateral and economic relations

(A) 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
Engineering	<p>ST Engineering and Electronics 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>MSI Global 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>Surbana Jurong 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	Educare 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.
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.

(B) 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.

Annex C - Factsheet on Singapore's Top 5 Sustainable Energy Solutions

Singapore Pavilion Zone 3: Big Ideas from a Small Nation

1. DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN SOLAR

With Singapore's high average annual solar irradiance of about 1,500 kWh/m², solar photovoltaic (PV) is the most feasible renewable energy option. However, with limited available land, high cloud cover and urban shading, Singapore has to look at creative ways to harness the energy it needs, such as installation of solar panels on the rooftops of our public housing blocks and integrating PV modules in the design of buildings.

Singapore is also home to the world's largest floating solar PV test-bed. Launched in Oct 2016 by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and national water agency PUB, the test-bed measures 1ha and contains 10 different solar PV systems and is located at Tengeh Reservoir in Tuas.

Separately, to build up the solar ecosystem in Singapore and accelerate solar deployment, the government is providing lead demand with the SolarNova programme. The programme promotes and aggregates solar demand across public agencies to achieve cost savings from economies of scale. In December 2015, the first SolarNova tender with three public agencies was awarded, covering 76 MWp of solar PV on 831 public housing blocks and eight government buildings. The participating agencies will enjoy cheaper electricity without any subsidies. The second SolarNova tender of 40MWp with nine participating agencies was awarded in June 2017, and will see solar PV systems installed at 636 blocks of public housing blocks and 31 government sites island-wide.

2. GREENING BUILDINGS

Singapore launched the Green Mark Scheme in 2005, to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise environmental awareness in the industry. As a leading green building rating system in the tropics and sub-tropics, the Green Mark facilitates reduction in energy consumption and potential environmental impact. New buildings and existing buildings undergoing major retrofit are required to achieve minimum Green Mark standards. One of the energy efficient practices encouraged under the Green Mark Scheme is the use of vertical greenery systems on building facades to reduce heat gain through the building envelope. Examples of buildings that have embraced this include CapitaGreen, a commercial building in the heart of the business district with 55% of the building's exterior covered with foliage; and Tree House, a residential development which is home to one of the world's largest vertical gardens.

Over the past decade, various green building research and innovation initiatives have also been implemented to realise the aspiration of having

Positive-energy Low-rise, Zero-energy Medium-rise and Super Low-energy High-rise buildings in the tropics.

These include the Zero-Energy Building (ZEB) @ BCA Academy and BCA SkyLab, which test-bed and accelerate industry adoption of new green building technologies.

3. STAYING COOL AT MARINA BAY

The world's largest underground district cooling network runs at the Marina Bay financial district, where the centralised production of chilled water is piped to buildings for air conditioning, and services nearby buildings as a communal utility.

Customers using district cooling enjoy energy savings of more than 40 per cent and the energy saved could power 24,000 three-room public housing units.¹

4. NURTURING A GREEN SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

Under the EcoCampus initiative, the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and adjoining Jurong Town Corporation (JTC)'s CleanTech Park will transform into a test-bed for campus-level green technologies that can potentially be commercialised and adopted in Singapore and beyond. Led by NTU in partnership with JTC and the Economic Development Board (EDB), it aims to reduce waste, energy and water usage by 35 per cent by 2020, making it one of the world's most eco-friendly campuses.

5. ENERGY FOR THE REGION

The Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator-Singapore (REIDS), a microgrid initiative led by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), tests and demonstrates the integration of various energy sources such as solar, tidal and wind energy, as well as energy storage and rational energy end-use technologies, to meet a wide palette of industrial, commercial and residential loads.

The Pulau Ubin Microgrid Test-Bed is another microgrid test-bed piloted by the Energy Market Authority (EMA), which aims to assess the impact of intermittent energy sources on the reliability of power supply.

Taken together, these initiatives strive to provide off-grid communities in South East Asia with access to sustainable and affordable energy.

¹ Source: "World's biggest underground district cooling network now at Marina Bay" (TODAY online, 3 Mar 2016)

Annex D - Photos & Captions



Caption: (Left to right) Chairman of “Astana Expo 2017” National Company JSC Board, Akhmetzhan Yessimov, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Dr Koh Poh Koon and Kazakh Vice Minister of Investments and Development, Yerlan Khairov at the Singapore Pavilion.



Caption: Cultural Performance at Singapore’s National Day.



Caption: The Singapore and Kazakshtan delegation at the Singapore Pavilion on Singapore's National Day.