

## Does Sabah merit ASEAN's attention?

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

### EYE-TO-EYE STILL?

Another factor is whether the Malaysian response is judged to be reasonable and proportionate in accordance with international law and human

rights standards. This is especially as the ASEAN Charter upholds goals in human rights and promises more emphasis on the peoples of the region, and not just the governments.

But the third and perhaps key factor remains whether the Malaysian and Philippine governments continue to see eye to eye.

Some suggest that Malaysia's tough stance is motivated by Prime Minister Najib Razak's efforts to gain kudos in the run-up to the general election. In

contrast, Mr Aquino — although he has so far stood firm — faces mounting pressure to protect Filipino citizens, especially with senatorial elections upcoming for his party candidates.

ASEAN has many issues on its agenda, from economic integration to thorny issues such as the South China Sea. Provided that Malaysian actions are sufficiently constrained and the Aquino administration continues to cooperate, the group would do well to defer to the two govern-

ments and not to visibly intervene.

Yet continuing attention must be given to the Sabah conflict so that ASEAN remains a relevant presence that, if circumstances shift, can be readily available.

● Simon Tay is Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) and Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. Yap Kwong Weng is an Associate Fellow with the SIIA and a World Economic Forum Young Global leader.

### ART AND THE CITY

# What will make S'pore a world arts hub

SUNDARAM TAGORE



● Sundaram Tagore is the owner and curator of Sundaram Tagore Galleries in Singapore, Hong Kong and New York City.

Singapore's art scene is a post-modern experiment, in that the Government has helped to jump-start it. And when the Government moves, it is at lightning speed.

In March last year, it announced that it would spend S\$274 million over the next five years to develop arts and culture, and it has done a remarkable job of presenting art in a serious context, achieving something similar to what grew organically in New York City's SoHo and Chelsea arts districts, and in the 678 district in Beijing.

The Affordable Art Fair and Art Stage Singapore are both established on the Singapore art calendar, as was ARTS Singapore before them. There are more and more galleries and museums opening all the time, and that means more jobs for everyone. In 2005, Singapore counted 568 visual arts exhibitions over the year; this jumped to 999 in 2010.

In Asia, the buying and selling of contemporary art — which has a long tradition in the West — is a relatively recent phenomenon. Even so, Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei now produce higher sales volumes than traditional marketplaces such as Paris, Berlin, Milan and Geneva, according to art information source Artprice. According to Artprice's Art Market Trends 2011, Singapore posted 22 per cent growth in auction revenue for 2011.

### AN EAST-WEST DIALOGUE

We were invited to start our gallery in Singapore not too long ago. We had opened our first gallery in New York in 2000, followed by locations in Beverly Hills and Hong Kong, and we are among the tiny percentage of galleries with multiple locations.

I always knew there was tremendous potential in Singapore, and I

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

### Culture boost

● Last Friday, it was announced that from May, Singaporeans and permanent residents will enjoy free entry all year to national museums and heritage institutions.

● To help build up museums and institutions' collections, the Government will invest

S\$62 million over the next five years.



## Forging Ahead

Join our network of more than 44,000 to get ahead. The SIM Membership helps extend your network of professional contacts and hone your development, taking your career — and your mind — to new heights!

**ONLY**  
with SIM Membership!

### SIM Membership Activities

12 April, 7pm – 8.30pm  
**Self Leadership – Lead Yourself to Success and Others are Sure to Follow**

Learn this valuable approach and toolkit that can help individuals and organisations improve the quality of life and work. Receive a copy of *Self Leadership: How to Become a More Successful, Efficient and Effective Leader from the Inside Out* when you sign up.

13 April, 9am – 12pm  
**Raise Your Influence with Etiquette and Networking Advantage**

This workshop will reveal your body language and networking quotient and show you what constitutes "right behaviour" in any given situation so as to get positive response and improve rapport.

20 April, 9am – 12pm  
**Office Politics I – From Victim To Victor**

Won't we all love to wear a smile to work, get our job done and be recognised for our efforts and ideas - without getting entangled in office politics? Learn to achieve workplace effectiveness and take home actionable tips on how to be politically savvy with integrity. Participants are encouraged to share an actual case or a description of a situation with the trainer upon registration.

26 April, 7pm – 8.30pm  
**Seeing Red Cars**

Learn how to make the shift to affirmative thinking, shake destructive habits and achieve personal and organisational goals. Receive a copy of *Seeing Red Cars: Driving Yourself, Your Team and Your Organization to a Positive Future* when you register.

11 May, 9am – 12pm  
**The Power of Positive Self-Talk**

Learn to use positive self-talk to consciously transform negative thoughts, change your paradigm, alter your conduct, and become an influencing character that people remember!

### Membership Promotion

Sign up as an SIM Member and get\*:

FREE  
Stylux 4-Litre  
Mini Fridge  
worth \$99



FREE  
ONE SIM  
Membership  
Event Pass



Get NTUC Membership<sup>A</sup>  
too when you become  
an SIM Member!

\*Applicable to new Individual Membership sign-ups till 30 April 2013. Limited quantities available. SIM Membership Event Pass can be used to attend a Membership/ Interest Group event unless otherwise stated. <sup>A</sup>Applicable to SIM Ordinary Members who are not existing NTUC Members only. Terms and conditions apply.

To sign up, call 6248 9489 or visit [www.sim.edu.sg/ms](http://www.sim.edu.sg/ms)

For information on our executive training programmes, visit [www.sim.edu.sg/pd](http://www.sim.edu.sg/pd)



**SIM Membership**  
SIM Management House, 41 Namly Avenue, Singapore 267616  
Email: [membership@sim.edu.sg](mailto:membership@sim.edu.sg)

# What will make S'pore a world arts hub

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

believed our global outlook would be a good match for such a diverse city. Our mission is to create dialogue — a multi-cultural, East-West dialogue. We developed that idea in 1999 before the term “globalisation” was even in circulation.

It was a natural outgrowth of my living in the West but coming from the East, and multiculturalism was my reality. I wanted to bring together a global community of artists, with the basis of intercultural exchange. That is what I felt globalisation was — that point of intersection where the energy exists.

The same energy exists in some of the art that our gallery represents — for example, the sound installations by Mr Taylor Kuffner. He takes a traditional Asian instrument — the gamelan — and tries to preserve it, but not in a static sense. He brings in robotic technology, so that a tradition-tension exists, and that is why it becomes interesting and unique.

With a large number of local and expat collectors, a powerful collector base is taking shape in the city. There is already a global community here, and now world-class artistic infrastructure as well in the form of Gillman Barracks, a cluster of international galleries which opened late last year.

By importing an international artistic presence and curatorial know-how, the bar for artistic presentation in Singapore has been raised. That is the power of having art galleries gathering together in a central hub; it is a rich resource that will ultimately draw people.

## ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM?

Now that the Government has been doing its part, the local and international galleries must do their part.

A gallery is just bricks and mortar. It is what is inside that is important. Galleries must mount shows that have strong and interesting points of view and a narrative built around the art. They need to provoke thought and dialogue.



**VOICES  
EXTEND FREE  
ADMISSION TO  
ARMY MUSEUM,  
ISTANA TOURS** 19



The Republic has museums such as the Singapore Art Museum, but it is time to set up additional institutional infrastructure — another large international museum. TODAY FILE PHOTO

It is also time to set up additional institutional infrastructure — another large international museum, to build up a collection of significant cultural products. Singapore has the Asian Civilisations Museum, the National Museum, the Singapore Art Museum and the upcoming National Art Gallery. But world-class cities have not just a handful of museums of international importance, but dozens.

Now is the time to start looking for the right kind of people to activate it.

Do you have creative people? Are they pushing the envelope? Art exists in creative ferment. It does not flourish in a corporate environment, so there must be will and space to support that.

The community must be supportive as well, and not just in the purchasing of art. Parents must be as willing to schedule family visits to Gillman Barracks as they would be to bring their children to watch the latest hit movie. They must say: “This is of value to us.”

It should be commonplace to have

young students stopping by. The interest in the intellectual side of the story should be just as strong as the enthusiasm for popular culture.

When will Singapore be an international art hub? When people come from all over the world to look at the art here. Singapore is not yet part of the equation but can gain ground quickly if it makes the right decisions. It is definitely getting close to achieving this status, but everyone has to play his or her part.



**Standard Chartered**  
Here for good



**It's good when your loan is just a few clicks away.**  
Get a loan of up to \$200,000\* with CashOne and enjoy the flexibility of choosing from a range of repayment periods from 12 to 60 months.

Apply online now and receive a **\$100** instant voucher\*\* upon approval. Sign up in two simple steps:  
1. Complete the CashOne online application form  
2. Upload all supporting documents online

**Plus, receive one of three attractive gifts\* upon approval of the applicable CashOne loan amount with tenure of 36, 48 or 60 months, while stocks last.**

<p><b>\$40,000 and above</b></p>  <p>HP 3000 Desktop PC + 2300 2400 Mouse (worth \$80)</p>		
<p><b>\$10,000 to \$35,000</b></p>  <p>Samsung 24" LED TV (worth \$200)</p>	<p><b>\$5,000 to \$10,000</b></p>  <p>HP 3000 Desktop PC (worth \$170)</p>	<p><b>\$4,000 and below</b></p> <p><b>\$20</b> instant voucher</p>

[standardchartered.com.sg/cashone](http://standardchartered.com.sg/cashone)




\* Offer is limited to one gift per customer and is valid for new CashOne applications with loan tenure of 36, 48, or 60 months approved before 31 March 2013 on a first come, first serve basis, while stocks last. Accounts must be in good standing and not overdue to qualify for the gift. Terms and Conditions apply. Visit our website for the full Terms and Conditions.

\*\* Offer is limited to one gift per customer and is valid for new CashOne applications with loan tenure of 36, 48, or 60 months approved before 31 March 2013 on a first come, first serve basis, while stocks last. Accounts must be in good standing and not overdue to qualify for the gift. Terms and Conditions apply. Visit our website for the full Terms and Conditions.