

Prince Alois, ministers gather for opening of Liechtenstein Consulate

The ceremony was witnessed by members of the Liechtenstein royal family, ministers and top business leaders from around the region at a lunch reception held at Raffles Hotel. -Plush

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SINGAPORE - The Hereditary Prince of Liechtenstein, Prince Alois Von und Zu Liechtenstein witnessed the appointment of Mr Loo Choon Chiaw as the Honorary Consul of the Consulate of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Singapore on Thursday.

The ceremony was also witnessed by the members of the Liechtenstein royal family Prince Philip, Prince Max and Princess Angela, guest-of-honour Senior Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mayor of Central Singapore Sam Tan Chin Siong, Minister for Tampines GRC Baey Yam Keng, Minister for Jurong GRC Desmond Lee and Minister for Potong Pasir SMC Sitoh Yih Pin.

Ambassadors and delegates from 28 countries and business leaders from around the region were also present at the lunch reception held at the ballroom of Raffles Hotel.

During the ceremony, Liechtenstein's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture Dr Aurelia Frick addressed the international guests on the importance of having a strong Asian presence for the European nation.

Minister Frick said the similarities between the two nations such as political stability, liberal government and strong international ties with their neighbouring countries, made Singapore the choice location to open their Consulate.

At a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong the same evening, he said that the opening of the Consulate is a reflection of Liechtenstein's commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation, and raise the profile of the European nation in Singapore.

Deputy Prime Minister Shanmugaratnam and Minister Frick also signed an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) between Singapore and Liechtenstein to enhance bilateral ties and trade relations.

During his three-day stay, Prince Alois, an avid art collector, also inaugurated the 'Princely Treasures of the House of Liechtenstein' exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore.

The exhibition which runs from Jun 27 to Sep 29 2013 features a selection of 91 masterpieces from the Liechtenstein Royal Family's art collection.

This is Prince Alois's second official visit to Singapore.

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