

EDITOR'S NOTE

THE TIMES ARE CHANGING



It is our pleasure to present to you our second anniversary issue. We look back at the significant changes and opportunities that have presented themselves this year. Some were good and few others were great, but Team IndoConnect has more reason to celebrate and be merry. We have been warmly welcomed by the Indonesian diaspora and played a part in all the celebrations and festivities. Once again we bring you an issue with an impressive line-up of features, interviews, latest happenings and news from home!

While, there is a lot more to come before we greet the dawn of 2015, this issue of IndoConnect has also focused on several major new beginnings that have made headlines across the world. Top on the list of things to come is the swearing-in of Mr Joko Widodo as President of Indonesia on October 20.

There have already been announcements that the new administration will focus on cutting red tape and implementing major infrastructure projects such as new roads and ports. In the follow-up to his campaign slogan of a “mental revolution”, Mr Widodo also plans to overhaul the Indonesian education system and transform the way Indonesians think and work.

These are worthwhile aims and all of us at IndoConnect wish President Widodo every success.

We also hope for the best for another promising Indonesian. On October 1, Raisa Andriana will perform her first-ever solo concert at The Star Performing Arts Centre. She has had a remarkable year and is presently Indonesia’s most celebrated singer. Her audience marvelled at her deep soothing voice that won her the Indonesian Music Award for Female Singer of the Year.

In this issue, IndoConnect is also pleased to have real estate agent Jack Sheo share his views on the recent changes implemented by the Singaporean authorities to cool the property market. These have pushed down rents and values of homes. So much so that the hottest talking point among most expatriates is whether there is a better house going for a lower rental.

We also have tips on how to protect your self against cyber crime and features on fashion, travel, food and more. To celebrate our second anniversary, IndoConnect has undergone a makeover. So go on, have a great read and enjoy!

Nomita Dhar
Editor-in-chief

CONTRIBUTORS



**PRIYA
RAMAKRISHNAN**

She is a journalist who is passionate about travel, photography, adventure and the outdoors. Fortunately, her work gives her the right platform to indulge in these three interests. According to her, “One of the best thing about being a journalist, is that no one day is the same as the next. Every day, I get the opportunity to meet interesting people from diverse backgrounds.”



**MUHAMAD
ALAMSYAH**

He is with the Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Singapore’s Information, Social and Culture section and the embassy’s official photographer. He also teaches photography at the Sekolah Indonesia Singapura and is responsible for many of the photos in IndoConnect related to events and functions of the Embassy.



**DARLENE
MACHELL
ESPENA**

She is currently pursuing her doctorate in History at Nanyang Technological University. She loves to read, travel and dance to the beat of Latin music. When she’s not busy writing her dissertation, she writes poems, articles and others.