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New Director General of IDFR



Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1996 to 1998.

In 1998, Dato' Hussin Nayan was appointed as Ambassador of Malaysia to Bosnia Herzegovina and thereafter as Under Secretary for Territorial and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000. From June 2003 to July 2005, he was the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Australia and was the Director General of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia from 2005 to 2009. The Director General was appointed the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore in 2009 and was also appointed the ASEF Governor for Malaysia in October 2011.

Dato' Hussin Nayan was also awarded the *Kesatria Mangku Negara* (The Most Esteemed Order of the Defender of the Realm) and the *Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri* (DSPN).

His knowledge and experience has been a great added value to IDFR to stay ahead and further develop its reputation as a prominent diplomatic training institute.

On 1 October 2013, IDFR warmly welcomed its new Director General, its ninth Director General since the Institute's establishment in 1991. Dato' Hussin Nayan succeeded Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari who was appointed as Malaysia's Ambassador to Egypt.

Dato' Hussin Nayan started his diplomatic career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia as Assistant Secretary of South East Asia Division in 1976 and later served in various postings including Second Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia Washington

D.C., from 1980 to 1984 and First Secretary, High Commission of Malaysia, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1984 to 1986. He was then appointed as Director (ASEAN II), Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1986 to 1989. He also served as Counselor at the Embassy of Malaysia in Austria and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) in 1989. He was subsequently assigned as Principal Assistant Secretary for Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1996 and was appointed Under Secretary for International Organisations at the

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Dato' Hussin Nayan Director General of IDFR



does it need to do to ensure young diplomats are prepared to tackle on issues?

First, it has to start with preparatory programme for officers new to Wisma Putra. Secondly, Wisma Putra needs officers who are ready with the basic foreign languages competencies, have the right aptitude, willing to learn new skills, not averse to working hard and is open-minded to learn and understand the reality of diplomatic life and adapt to the situations they are not used to at Wisma Putra or at posts abroad. Diplomatic life is very demanding, therefore it requires resilience, measured self-assertiveness and discipline officers.

Based on your experience as an Ambassador and Senior Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, what advice would you give to current and future diplomats?

Never stop learning and be brave in voicing out one's thoughts without antagonising others. The ultimate objective of being a diplomat is to influence others to your line of thinking.

What was the biggest challenge you have had to overcome and how has that affected your life today?

The biggest challenge for me to overcome was to appreciate the simple fact that human beings are not created equal and in reality it affected me in the way that I had become more tolerant, more patient and more forgiving towards others.

What was your best experience as a Malaysian diplomat?

To be greeted and hugged by a refugee upon noticing Malaysia's lapel pin on my jacket, as a show of gratitude for Malaysia's support and assistance. That single incident was forever etched in my mind and is unforgettable.

What was your reaction when you first learnt of your appointment as the new Director General of IDFR?

I welcomed the appointment partly because it fits in well with my own preference to be associated with a training or academic institution after retirement. I had made up my mind to share whatever little knowledge and experiences from 37 years of service to the nation. So, it was a case of "*pucuk dicita ulam mendatang*" and I thank God and Wisma Putra's management team who were aware of my strong pro-training and pro-learning attitude.

As the new Director General, what are some of your expectations at IDFR?

I have known for awhile that IDFR had indeed contributed much to the upgrading of skills and knowledge of Wisma Putra officers. My predecessors were quite creative and imaginative in their approach in establishing programmes at IDFR. I hope to continue that tradition with the hope that officials especially from Wisma Putra would continue to get the quality training they required at IDFR.

What would you like the Institute to be in future?

I hope IDFR will be assisted in its attempt to offer new courses and programmes covering the political, economical and social cultural subjects especially on issues currently being debated at regional and international fora. The new knowledge and insight gained by Wisma Putra officials through participation at seminars and conferences organised by IDFR would better prepare them to face current and future challenges.

How do you see IDFR and the role it plays in contributing to Malaysia's Foreign Policy?

IDFR has a primary role to prepare Wisma Putra officials to serve the nation more effectively in the execution of Malaysia's foreign policy.

Malaysia is becoming an important player in ASEAN, the United Nations, and other multilateral organisations, and this means we need to develop more skilled, professional and charismatic diplomats. Since IDFR is the training arm of the ministry, what

Bound by Shared Interests and Destiny Contributed by Nazery Khalid

Nazery Khalid argues in favour of promoting maritime economic cooperation as a means to diffuse tension in the South China Sea

*Bersatu kita teguh, bercerai kita roboh
United we stand, divided we fall*

Mankind's dependency on the sea is increasing in tandem with growing need for resources and global trade volumes. The sea inadvertently acts as a conduit for crimes such as piracy, trafficking and smuggling, and as a stage on which maritime disputes and strategic interests of nations are played out. Climate change is creating havoc, as underlined by the frequent occurrence of tsunamis, typhoons and rise in sea levels.

These bring with them a host of attendant issues and challenges for nations bordering the seas and the international community to face. Rising shipping traffic increases the risk of collision and pollution, and attracts pirates to attack ships in certain vulnerable areas. Land-based pollution and sea-based activities such as shipping, port operations and offshore energy exploration and production can cause adverse effects to the fragile marine environment. The insatiable global demand for food and energy fuels, the never-ending pursuit for fish and offshore oil and gas, raises concerns over their sustainability. The rash of natural disasters and extreme environmental impacts pose serious threat to not only the marine ecosystems and resources but also to assets and lives. The openness and security of certain strategic sea lanes are coming under pressure from maritime disputes and naval conflicts. All these highlight the fact that the maritime realm is not an entity that can be effectively managed by one country. The vastness of the oceans, their trans-boundary nature and the issues, challenges and threats therein that do not respect borders require close cooperation among littoral nations to confront, manage and address. The oceans also offer bountiful riches and

opportunities that can be optimally reaped through sharing and pooling of resources, data, information and expertise.

Against this backdrop, there is a growing need for nations to increase engagements in maritime cooperation. Our intensifying use of the sea generates ripple effects which are felt across maritime boundaries. The fluid expanse of the sea demands that nations collaborate to address common issues and safeguard mutual interests. This sometimes requires them to set aside differences and to compromise, which is not always easy to do amid them jealously protecting their interests.

To the fore of maritime cooperation

Being a nation surrounded by seas, and whose maritime area is larger than its land mass, Malaysia understands very well the need to forge cooperation at sea with its littoral neighbours and the international community. It has engaged actively in various maritime-related activities on the bilateral and multilateral platforms. In doing so, Malaysia is living up to its membership in the prestigious International Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for the safety and security of shipping and for preventing marine pollution by ships. Malaysia borders two of the world's most well-known and vital sea lanes, namely the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea (SCS). The importance of these two critical passageways from an economic and strategic standpoint also puts them in the radar of many countries including external powers. They are keen to have a say in matters pertaining to their interests in these sea lanes, which at times may run counter to Malaysia's interests. For example, international users of the Straits of Malacca would like to see the waterway being open, safe and secure at all times to suit their needs, sometimes without caring much

"Malaysia is a strong proponent of maritime cooperation with the littoral states of bodies of water with which it shares. This includes in areas of navigation safety, environmental protection, maritime security, shipping and marine science and technology".

to assist the littoral nations in the maintenance and upkeep of the Straits. This calls for Malaysia to manage both its interests and those of other stakeholders in these waterways in such a way that these interests do not collide, harmony is maintained and the needs and aspirations of all interested parties are attended to. This has to be done without undermining our national interests and compromising on our sovereign rights.

Take SCS which has been commanding international attention owing to the maritime disputes and complex strategic 'power play' that have caused regional tension. This sea of tremendous economic and geo-strategic importance is characterised by, among others, overlapping claims over maritime features and boundaries, unsubtle actions of regional and external powers to safeguard their interests in the sea, and high-handed conducts towards other countries involved in the disputes.

Such a complicated, vast theatre involving manifold parties and interests requires the actors to exercise utmost restraint, compromise and cooperation to untangle the disputes and work towards enduring solutions through peaceful and diplomatic means in accordance with international laws and norms. If the situation is not managed well, the disputes and tension may lead to conflicts that can threaten regional peace, prosperity, security

and stability. This is the last thing that this region – which depends heavily on the seas for its economic growth and to meet its resource requirements – needs.

One way of reducing the tension in SCS is to promote maritime cooperation among the disputed parties. Engaging in cooperation in areas such as trade, environmental protection, navigation safety, capacity building and security can act as an effective means to diffuse the tension arising from the disputes. It also enables the littoral nations to share resources, transfer technology and reap the economic opportunities that the sea provides in abundance. Nations which are engaged in close cooperation are more likely to seek peaceful resolutions to their disputes and avoid taking an adversarial position against one another that can lead to conflicts.

Malaysia is a strong proponent of maritime cooperation with the littoral states of bodies of water with which it shares. This includes in areas of navigation safety, environmental protection, maritime security, shipping and marine science and technology. Examples of such cooperation are:

- i. Enhancing navigation safety and boosting environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca through the Cooperative Mechanism in the Straits of Malacca with Singapore, Indonesia and the international community. The establishment of the Cooperative Mechanism in 2007, with the support of IMO, represents a landmark achievement in cooperation between coastal states bordering a strait used for international navigation and user States as well as other stakeholders.
- ii. Establishing Joint Development Authority (JDA) with

Thailand to jointly explore and produce gas in the Gulf of Thailand. The JDA has been hailed as a model in bilateral maritime economic cooperation in a disputed area between the claimant states involved. Through this platform, Malaysia and Thailand agree to exploit the natural resources without extinguishing their legal right to claims over an area in which claimed by the two countries, and to share the proceeds equally.

- iii. Engaging with Singapore and Indonesia in an air-sea surveillance initiative over the Straits of Malacca called 'Eyes in the Sky'. Launched in 2005, this is a one-of-a-kind initiative that combines aerial and surface patrols by the air forces and navies of the littoral states. Upon its introduction, 'Eyes in the Sky' contributed significantly to the sharp drop in piracy cases in the sea lane. From 12 piracy cases in 2005, the year in which the Straits was declared as a 'war risk zone' by London-based marine insurance underwriters Lloyds Market Association, there were only two cases in 2008.

- iv. Engaging in formal co-operation with China in the field of marine science and technology through a Joint Committee. Malaysia and China signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology in Beijing on 3 June 2009. The Agreement serves as a platform for collaborative efforts between the two countries to discuss and address jointly issues and areas of concern in the maritime realm. Under the Agreement, Malaysia and China are committed to undertake five flagship projects on marine science and

technology including studying the distribution and evolution of the sediment in the South China Sea, ecosystem health and biodiversity, and marine and coastal zone management.

- v. Pursuing cooperation in the areas related to maritime transport at the ASEAN level through the Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG). MTWG provides a platform for ASEAN member nations to deliberate a range of issues such as shipping, port operations, maritime economy, maritime safety, regional cooperation and human capital development. Deliberations at MTWG meetings are forwarded to the ASEAN Senior Transport Ministers Meeting (STOM), the highest level in the ASEAN hierarchy of maritime transport discussion. In pursuing strategic measures to boost maritime connectivity, safety and efficiency under MTWG, Malaysia is contributing towards the creation of an ASEAN Economic Community which counts on maritime transport as one of its pillars.

Low hanging fruits

Given the plethora of threats and challenges at sea, littoral nations at sea must step up maritime cooperation to ensure that the seas are open, safe and secure for the use and benefit of all parties. Cooperation is especially needed in an area like SCS where disputes among claimant states and actions by external powers may lead to full-blown conflicts. They must step back from the brink of using coercive, aggressive measures to safeguard their interests if the sea is not going to be turned into an arena for altercation. They would do well to shift their focus, energy and resources away from matters that divide them to those that unite them.

“Although nations are separated by land, they are united by their dependence on the seas and the global commons. Many are bound by economic, political and social ties hence share common destiny in the sea”.

There are several areas which can provide ‘low hanging fruits’ that be easily harvested by nations and other stakeholders of the sea to engage in maritime cooperation. These areas are arguably not saddled too much by sovereignty issues or burdened by the weight of strategic interests that characterise issues such as maritime claims. These areas include:

- i. addressing illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- ii. boosting seaborne trade by enhancing cooperation in areas such as shipping and port operations;
- iii. combating maritime crimes and keeping the sea lanes safe from threats such as piracy, smuggling and trafficking;
- iv. enhancing navigation safety;
- v. conducting joint survey of marine resources and managing them to ensure sustainability;
- vi. establishing early warning systems for disasters such as tsunami and typhoons; promoting marine tourism including activities such as ecotourism, cruise, boating/ yachting and game fishing;
- vii. providing capacity building assistance especially to nations without adequate resources and expertise;

- viii. providing humanitarian assistance/disaster relief; and
- ix. protecting and conserving the marine environment. Although there exists cooperation in various degrees in these fields among nations and other stakeholders of the sea including the private sector, NGOs, the academia, the research community and the public, there is certainly a lot of room for improvement to enhance cooperation among them. Existing modalities for cooperation must be optimised and new, innovative ones explored to harness and strengthen cooperation amid the complex dynamics in the maritime realm.

All for one, one for all

Fostering maritime economic cooperation is crucial to the socio-economic wellbeing of littoral nations and to global interests. This is especially the case for the Southeast Asian and Asian regions which host some of the world’s busiest and most strategic sea lanes and contain rich marine resources. There are many opportunities for economic cooperation that can be explored in the regions’ seas to optimise their strategic location and optimise the available resources therein.

The interdependency among nations in today’s globalised economy and inter-dependent world necessitates economic cooperation, especially in maritime regions. In harnessing maritime economic opportunities, more heads are certainly better than one. In the case of the Southeast Asian and Asian regions, which host many developing countries which do not have the resources and expertise to fully explore and exploit their maritime advantages, engaging in maritime cooperation is even more important.

Engaging in maritime cooperation is not just about fulfilling economic needs though. In doing so, Malaysia can also contribute meaningfully towards protecting and managing the fragile marine environment and ensuring that the oceans can continue to provide its bountiful riches and passages for the benefit of mankind.

Although nations are separated by land, they are united by their dependence on the seas and the global commons. Many are bound by economic, political and social ties hence share common destiny in the sea. This dictates that they should cooperate as much as they can in areas pertaining to the use and management of the seas. In doing so, they would do well to be guided by the saying of Confucius, “He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own”.



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ASEAN Coming of Age: The Birth of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD)

Contributed by Nurhalida Dato' Seri Mohamed Khalil

Background

The adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) is a significant milestone in the arduous journey of ASEAN in the field of human rights.

The willingness on the part of ASEAN to engage in the human rights discourse was amply displayed in 1993, with its active participation in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, in 1993. In support of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action 1993 (VDPA), ASEAN Foreign Ministers adopted a Joint Communique on the occasion of the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), reaffirming the commitment of ASEAN to human rights, the respect of fundamental freedoms and aiming to establish 'an appropriate regional mechanism on human rights'.

ASEAN Communities

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a group of ten nations with a combined population of approximately 600 million people, comprising countries with different political systems, different degrees of development and different approaches to human rights. Consequently in 2003, the ASEAN Concord II underlined the goal to create three ASEAN communities, namely the Political-Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural Community whilst the Vientiane Action Plan (VAT) of 2004 mentioned human rights as part of the ASEAN Political-Security Community.

Upon the signing of the ASEAN Charter on 20 November 2007, the ASEAN leaders called for a strengthening of ASEAN institutions and the increasing of formal mechanisms addressing human rights issues.

The Drafting Process of AHRD

The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) was inaugurated on 23 October 2009.

AICHR is mandated to promote human rights within the regional context, bearing in mind national and regional particularities and mutual respect for different historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, and taking into account the balance between rights and responsibilities, in line with Article 1.4 of its Terms of Reference (TOR).

Under the direction of AICHR with the support services of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Drafting Group on the AHRD was mandated to formulate the basic draft of the AHRD in accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the said Drafting Group. Consequently, the Drafting Group submitted their Final Report together with their basic draft AHRD to AICHR in the first week of January 2012.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) Retreat on 10 January 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia then tasked AICHR to finalise the draft AHRD by 2012 and submit regular reports on the AHRD to the AMM.

The AMM noted that the AHRD is an important political document that should reflect the aspirations and commitments of ASEAN to the promotion and protection of human rights, representing a balance of rights and duties, echoing universal values while at the same time, taking into account ASEAN values and regional particularities as well as the national laws and regulations of each ASEAN Member State. The AHRD is not intended to be catch-all document, but rather one that is comprehensive yet succinct.

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, AICHR completed the drafting of an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration which was eventually endorsed by the ASEAN leaders on 18 November 2012.

ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD)

The AHRD has placed significant

safeguards to ensure that the entire AHRD is in line with the global standards for human rights.

In that regard, the AHRD clearly reaffirms the adherence and commitment of ASEAN to the ASEAN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Charter of the United Nations and the VDPA as well as other international human rights instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties.

This simply means that the AHRD is not a document that undermines such global standards but does in fact complement them. In fact, this reiteration of commitment is repeated in every segment of the AHRD such as the sections on civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

In sum, the AHRD enhances and adds value to existing international human rights standards as the AHRD reflects the realities and aspirations of the communities in this multifarious region.

To exemplify, General Principle No. 9 is a vast and all encompassing added value human rights protection, granted on the basis of the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-discrimination, non-confrontation and avoidance of double standards. The process to achieve this added value protection of human rights places the peoples' interest at the centre by considering their participation, inclusivity and the need for accountability.

Article 13 clearly is a value added provision where, among other conventional rights against slavery, the AHRD declares that smuggling or trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of trafficking in human organs, are forbidden. This issue is current and was not addressed by the UDHR.

In Article 29(2), in relation to

the enjoyment of physical and reproductive health and other medical facilities, the AHRD specifically addresses the lengthy plight of people suffering communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS by imposing upon Member States an obligation to create a positive environment in overcoming the issue of stigma and discrimination.

In the part on the right to development, the right to development as enunciated in Article 35 has been streamlined and juxtaposed in relation to human rights.

In Articles 36 and 37, other development rights in relation to human rights are provided for the first time and definitely add value.

The right to peace, spelt out in Article 38, which is not provided in the UDHR, forms the basis of a meaningful human rights to be achievable in an environment free from insecurity, instability, violence and war.

AHRD and Cultural Diversity

In particular, Article 7 of the AHRD provides:

‘All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. All human rights and fundamental freedoms in this Declaration must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. At the same time, the realisation of human rights must be considered in the regional and national context bearing in mind different political, economic, legal, social, cultural, historical and religious backgrounds.’

Thus, the realisation of human rights must take into account the historical, political, social, economic, legal, cultural and religious backgrounds of a society.

Accordingly, in determining the parameters of human rights under the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration

(AHRD), the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, must be borne in mind in compliance with the UDHR and Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993.

Malaysia has always made it known the observance and promotion of human rights must always take into account and acquiesce the particularities of countries at the national and regional level.

This tendency is very much evident in the Bangkok (Governmental) Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by Asian States including Malaysia in 1993, which provides:

‘(We) recognize that while human rights are universal in nature, they must be considered in the context of a dynamic and evolving process of international norm-setting, bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.’ (Item 8, Bangkok Declaration)

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993 declared:

‘All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and inter-related. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of states, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.’ (emphasis added)

In any case, the UDHR 1948, as ‘a common standard for achievement for all peoples and all nations’, is not

intended to exhibit any particular point of view of any one people or group of peoples or any particular political or philosophical system.

Article 29 (1) of the UDHR demonstrates that human rights cannot be applied in a vacuum. Consequently, how human rights are to be practised depends upon the vision of human communities to govern their parameters and manifestation.

In light of cultural and religious diversity, there cannot be a standard blanket approach, in every instance, on how to govern issues relating to human rights.

Thus, the Western model cannot be adopted in toto, by ASEAN, due to a significant variance in historical backgrounds, cultures and civilisations. As insisted by Kofi Annan, shortly after he became the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1997, that ‘no single model of human rights, Western or other, represents a blueprint for all states’.

Against this backdrop, the AHRD is a regional human rights document befitting the ASEAN societies.

Each regional human rights document has its own uniqueness. The AHRD is no exception.

In a plural society such as that of the ASEAN society, the AHRD rests on the fundamental values and assumptions which mirror the character of the society at large.

These in turn influence the parameters of human rights as embodied in the AHRD, determining their viability and progress.

The AHRD must be seen against the local backdrop and local setting of the Member States of ASEAN. It cannot be fully appreciated from the exterior, as it can from within. The ten Member States of ASEAN are diverse in its political, social, cultural, legal and

judicial systems, with the inclusion of commitments to Islam, Catholic Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, Marxist-Leninism, liberal democracy and pluralism.

The ability of ASEAN through AICHR to produce a practicable AHRD, speaks volumes on the commitment of ASEAN to inculcate human rights at the forefront in spite of diversity and poses an excellent beginning for this document.

While the AHRD acknowledges the universal nature of human rights, it also emphasises the importance of national and regional particularities in determining the parameters on the practice and implementation of human rights.

In sum, Article 7 of the AHRD is one of the key elements of the AHRD that provides input for further discussions within ASEAN on the next steps that will be taken while ASEAN maps its own distinctive human rights course.

The fact the AHRD impresses upon the need to factor in cultural diversity does not make the AHRD cultural relativist in its outlook.

Duties and Responsibilities and the AHRD

In the AHRD, human rights acquires meaning within the cultural context of duties and responsibilities of the individual in which other individuals, the community and the society, play a pivotal role.

Article 6 of the AHRD provides:

‘The enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms must be balanced with the performance of corresponding duties as every person has responsibilities to all other individuals, the community and the society where one lives. It is ultimately the primary responsibility of all ASEAN Member States to promote and

protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.’

Similarly, Article 29 (1) of the UDHR 1948 enunciates that the individual not only has rights but also ‘duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible’.

Article 29 (1) of the UDHR 1948 is perceived as a ‘pediment’ of the portico of a temple, as they bring under one ‘roof’ individuals, civil society, and the state, with all their respective rights and responsibilities and addresses the conditions that are necessary to the realisation of the rights and freedoms as enumerated in the Declaration.

The reference to “the community in which alone the free and full development of the personality is possible” is an important recognition of the role of the community in the UDHR, which is often considered as the epitome of individualism. In the words of Article 29 (1) of the same declaration, the community is not merely important, it is considered essential. The link between individual duties and the valorisation of the communal dimensions of life reflects the concerns that inspire the insistence on duties.

Since Article 29 (1) of the UDHR is silent on the meaning of ‘community’ in the context of ‘[e]veryone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible’, a community may be based on religious affiliation, cultural affinity, demography, the state, the international community or mankind and accordingly, the development of the human personality may not be applied in one specific manner for all communities.

It bodes well to remember, the formulation of specific human duties remains an issue of domestic law and catalogues of human duties differ from one state to another, reflecting state policies. The acceptance of

human duties is inextricably linked to the cultural or political discourse of a particular state.

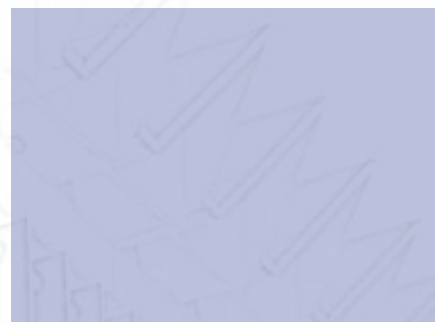
Article 6 of the AHRD is intended to offer a clear and concise relationship between human rights and human duties of the individual. Human duties of the individual play a pivotal role in determining the parameters of human rights of the individuals.

Now, it is generally stated by rights theorists that there can be no rights without duties; but this is generally regarded as stating the obvious, that a right is only wishful thinking unless it can be made good by the performance of someone else’s duty. The two are thus conceived as two sides of the same coin.

This symmetry, however, is incomplete. There is the idea of duty which recognises the interests of another, or others, as coming before one’s own. It is this duty that governs the parameters of human rights of a person claiming to exercise rights. For example, in enjoying one’s right to assembly, the participant has a duty to exercise this right peacefully, without endangering the lives of others and to not cause damage to public property. The third side of the same coin.



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Reaching the Youth in Countering the Terrorist Rhetoric: Challenges and Lessons

Contributed by Thomas Koruth Samuel

Introduction

That the young think and behave differently is probably an understatement.

Given this development, efforts to counter terrorists rhetoric, indoctrination and articulation among young people must be based on understanding their thinking, comprehending their world view and connecting with them at both the intellectual and emotional levels.

The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), in many of its engagements with young undergraduates from universities all over Malaysia via the *SEARCCT University Lecture Series* has had the opportunity to learn (and continues to learn) how to bridge the gap with this unique generation.

Allow me to share some of the challenges and lessons that we have learned thus far.

Our own actions matter

Emerson once highlighted a quote which best encapsulates this point; “what you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say”. Young people can smell hypocrisy a mile away. We cannot preach about moderation, expound tolerance and decry violence until and unless we ourselves practise what we preach. In the lingo of the young people; NATO – No Action, Talk Only.

The need to listen, listen and listen

“There is a reason why we were given one mouth and two ears”, my mother used to say, “so that we can listen more than we can talk”.

In terrorism, one of the major attractions that the extremists seem to offer young people is the perception that they are being heard. It is however sad to note that in many cases, the same cannot be said about the authorities

in power. The only way to rectify this problem is for the authorities in question to really start *listening* to the young people. No longer can we go, meet them and ‘present them facts and truths’ for them to listen and obey. Instead, we need to engage them and that involves listening to them, understanding their challenges, taking into account their aspirations and subsequently partnering them in developing a possible future.

Simply put, if they do not get our ears, we will not be able to get theirs.

The need to understand the audience and counter the message

Their brains are wired differently. Not wrong or bad; just different.

Until and unless we appreciate this variance, it will be ‘like the proverbial duck talking to the chicken’. Their access to information, their idealism and passion and their urgency for immediate action all shape the way they think and behave. Not being able to identify and subsequently understand these paradigms while simultaneously trying to change the ‘dangerous thinking and behaviour’ of the young will not get us far.

Having understood their thinking and their ways, we need to shoot down the story of the extremist.

We counter their story with our story.

We need to show that violence is not only illegal and immoral but it is also a tactically inferior strategy that brings about little good. We need to present case studies which indicate that the majority of the extremist groups that used violence very rarely achieved their objectives. We need to showcase the numerous non-violent approaches that have brought about tremendous positive changes.

From Model to Module

Understanding the psyche of the

young as well as the recruitment strategies of the extremists would allow us to develop a model of radicalisation that shows us how young people are radicalised. This model could provide us with valuable information on both the trigger factors and drivers of radicalisation, the conducive environment that breeds extremism as well as the actors that influence the young people.

Based on such evidence-based studies, we stand the best chance to then tailor-make intervention modules that could detect, deter, deny, disrupt or even destroy the ability of the extremists to reach our youth. These modules could address the terrorist rhetoric as well as the concerns of the young people in their efforts to do something and could also be fashioned in such a manner that is both interesting to the young audience while being easily understood and disseminated by the potential facilitators.

Hear things you do not like to hear

Young people are both passionate and idealistic. However, at times this passion and idealism could lead to expressions that are not very endearing and are more often than not, directed to the authorities and the way they are conducting their jobs. This could lead to situations whereby the authorities shy away from engaging in honest interactions with the youth. This is something that we cannot afford. We need to learn how to hear things we do not like being spoken, particularly from the youth for two very important reasons.

Firstly, if they are expressing their thoughts and opinions to you and subsequently the authorities are deemed to be both listening and addressing these grievances, there is little need for these young people to subsequently take their message to extremists. Secondly, having an audience of young people that is not on your side and critical to your

every action and words does at least indicate that the authorities have at least succeeded in getting the *right* audience. For this is precisely the group that are targeted by extremist groups; young, vocal and critical of the government's policies.

For too long, we have been preaching to a group that is either on our side or too fearful to voice out their true opinions and thoughts. This defeats the purpose of interacting with young people; which is to engage them and if possible, initiate behaviour modification on issues such as the propensity to use violence. If we are not listening to things that we do not like to hear, it could possible mean that we are 'preaching to the converted' which is a waste of precious resources. So, there is a need to actively find, interact and debate with the young people who have a 'bone to pick' with the authorities.

Make mistakes fast and rectifications faster

In the field of terrorism, making a mistake could have disastrous consequences. That being said, mistakes are nevertheless made. The reality of the matter is that in any field, regardless of the consequences and impact of a mistake, it is nevertheless often times being made.

While much has been rightly said on reducing the possibility of making the mistake in the first place, little has been said about developing mechanisms to identify mistakes and subsequently rectifying them. Given that mistakes will be made, we need to find ways to 'make this' mistakes at the very onset of the process, identify these errors, rectify them and subsequently 'roll out' the 'upgraded' versions faster. The further down the line the mistake is allowed to continue, the more crushing the impact and the consequences. It is important to note that the worst case scenario is not that a mistake is made but rather, a mistake is allowed to continue.

When dealing with young people, we need to evaluate what we have done right and also ask what we have done wrong, both in terms of content and delivery. We need to ensure that our content can withstand rigorous questioning and criticism and at the same time, our delivery method is both relevant and captivating to these young people.

Be humble, seek help and form alliances

James Bond, in all his exploits, exudes an air of arrogance, never seeks assistance and in almost all instances, saves the world from utter destruction by himself. This is of course why Mr. Bond remains a fictional character.

For developing an effective counter-narrative that targets the young people, there is a need to recognise that we cannot do it on our own. It is highly unlikely that any single entity would possess the knowledge, experience, technical know-how, resources, expertise, skill-set, audience and delivery mechanism to initiate, deliver and evaluate a counter-narrative programme in a sustainable manner over an extended period of time.

With that recognition, there needs to be a humble spirit that acknowledges the need to seek help and in certain cases form alliances. Hence, while counter-terrorist authorities are the leading agency when it comes to matters involving terrorism; in developing counter-narratives for young people, there is a need to involve youth leaders, behavioural psychologists, youth experts, social workers, teachers, lecturers, policy makers, communication specialists, media specialists, rehabilitated terrorists and also parents.

SEARCCT learned this the hard way. While we had the expertise with regards to the content of counter-violent extremism, we knew little in terms of delivering

such content to young people. So we sought help. We spoke to counsellors, youth workers and lecturers, and together with their ideas, developed a framework to engage with the youth. While we still have much to learn, what we have achieved clearly highlights the dictum that 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts'.

Conclusion

Young people make up only 18% of the global population, but never forget, they are 100% of our future.¹ Extremists at times seem to have a better understanding of this. To ensure that our youth do not fall prey to the ideology that political violence is both legitimate and advantageous, we need to both develop and deliver a counter-narrative that both appeals and resonates with the young people. Doing so would firstly require a deeper understanding on the psyche and aspirations of the young coupled with creative and strategic ways of reaching out to them and secondly a long hard appraisal on what has been done and how to subsequently make it better.

1 Kate Barrelle, Lecture on Individual Psychology & Behaviour Make-Up of a Violent Extremist, at the Countering Violent Extremism Course organised by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, 28 – 30 August 2012.



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International Security Symposium 2013



The International Security Symposium 2013 titled, *Regional Order and Power Dynamics in the Asia Pacific* was successfully held at the IDFR Auditorium on 23 October 2013. The Symposium was a smart collaborative effort between IDFR, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the Malaysian Armed Forces Defense College (MAFDC). The idea behind the collaboration was to enlighten the audience about the current regional situation with regard to the emergence of China in the East and the perceived power dynamics between China and the United States. The symposium was held with the objectives to provide a platform for the IDFR-UKM Masters Degree students and other participants to deliberate and discuss on contemporary security issues in the Asia-Pacific and also allows for the opportunity to update on information on security trends and issues in the region.

The guest of honour was General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin, the Malaysian Chief of Defense Forces who also delivered a keynote address. In his address, among others, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zulkifeli said, "the current regional situation occurred because of the economic prosperity that is being enjoyed by the countries in the region. Thus, it had sparked the interests of regional powers such as China and even India to jockey for positions in the region". ASEAN cannot ignore the rumblings beyond its region especially in the Asia-Pacific region because it would have an

impact on the well-being and stability of the ASEAN member states.

The symposium was formatted into three discussion sessions which were ably held by esteemed and distinguished moderators, discussants and speakers who were experts in their own respective fields. A number of topics were discussed and judging from the numerous questions put forth during the Question and Answer sessions, the participants were very eager to know more, especially from the speaker from China. Among the speakers who took part in the Symposium were Dato' Dr. Muthiah Alagappa from the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Senior Colonel Chen Fang Ming (retired) Research Fellow from China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS), Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore, Dr. Tang Siew Mun, Director of the Bureau of Foreign

Policy and International Studies, ISIS, Associate Professor Dr. Sity Daud, Chair of the School of History, Politics and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM and Colonel Apisak Sambutharoennon from the National Defense Studies Institute (NDSI) Thailand.

The three sessions were also expertly handled by the experienced moderators such as Professor Dato' Dr. Zakaria Haji Ahmad, distinguished diplomat Tan Sri Razali Ismail and Associate Professor Dr. Ravichandran from UKM. The discussants who assisted the panel discussion and also provided other information included Professor Dr. K S Nathan from UKM, Dr. K S Balakrishnan from University Malaya (UM) and Dr. Arjunan Narayanan from UKM.

Overall, the symposium had achieved its intended objectives and most of the participants to the symposium had enjoyed the sessions and gained a lot of knowledge and information about the strategic importance of the Asia Pacific region in terms of the power dynamics from China as the emerging power in the East and the United States role in maintaining the balance of power in the Asia Pacific.

The symposium was also attended by First Admiral Dato' Aris Adi Tan Abdullah, the Commandant of MAFDC and almost 200 people including students of the Masters Degree programme from IDFR and MAFDC.



Forum for ASEAN Young Diplomats on International Affairs



In collaboration with ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, the Training Division of IDFR organised a Forum for ASEAN Young Diplomats on International Affairs, from 2 to 13 December 2013. Participants came from various ASEAN member states such as Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The objective of this course was to provide exposure to the participants on current developments in diplomacy and international relations. It was also to enhance operational skills and expertise in the performance of duties as diplomatic officers and to encourage better understanding, networking and cohesion among young ASEAN diplomats for healthy cross-flow of ideas and contact for future cooperation. Besides that, it was also to promote an increased ASEAN identity among the participants that will contribute towards ASEAN community building, in line with the ASEAN Charter.

Course participants were exposed to all types of diplomacy, namely *Practices in Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy, Environmental Diplomacy, and Language and Diplomacy*. Prominent Malaysian Ambassadors, both former and current, gave talks and discussions on several topics such as the *Evolution of ASEAN and Malaysia's Foreign Policy*. The Malaysia's National Secretariat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia introduced the participants with a case study of

ASEAN and lectured them on *ASEAN Economic Pillar and External Relations*. The Director General of IDFR, Dato' Hussin Nayan dedicated his time with the participants by sharing his experiences as a Malaysian diplomat.

Other lectures and discussions include *Fundamentals of Collaboration, International Negotiations, Global Movement of Moderates (GMM), Globalising Mindset, and ASEAN-Republic of Korea Relations*.

The training course commenced with welcoming remarks by Mr. Lim Juay Jin, Director of Training Division, followed by a course briefing and familiarisation tour of the Institute.

Study Visits

The study visits played an important part of this training course in order to provide participants with an in-depth view on Malaysia. On 4 December 2013, participants received detailed insights from the respective ministries and government agencies in Putrajaya. They first visited the Prime Minister's Department to listen and acquire a better understanding on Malaysia's Government Transformation Programme (GTP), focusing on the National Key Results Area (NKRA). Participants then made their way to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, where Mr. Azhar Mazlan, Deputy Director General of Policy Planning and Strategy Department of the Ministry, explained on Malaysia's Foreign Policy.

From 6 to 9 December 2013, the participants went to Langkawi, Kedah for an *Exposure to Malaysia's State Level Governance: a Case Study on Kedah Darul Aman*, to give them hands-on observations on the historical and cultural aspects of the state. Some of the activities that took place at one of Malaysia's beautiful islands and tourist hotspots were island hopping to *Tasik Dayang Bunting* and tours to *Beras Terbakar* and *Makam Mahsuri*. They also visited the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (Northern Region). Two briefings were then held; first on the *State Development and Tourism* by Tourism Division Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) and secondly, on the *State Economy and Investment Opportunities* by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Kedah State. These activities gave them an in-depth look at the development of Kedah State through the transformation of Langkawi.

Course participants also had a courtesy visit to their respective High Commissions and Embassies in Kuala Lumpur, where they met their Ambassadors or High Commissioners, as well as the officers. They were also introduced to Malaysia's Visual Arts in Kuala Lumpur Craft Centre, had dinner with H.E. Cho Byungjae, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia, at his Residence and were briefed on *The Story behind the Twin Towers* at the PETRONAS Twin Towers.

Discussions, lectures, simulation exercises, study visits and project paper presentations form an integral part of this course. The training approach encompassed both theoretical and practical aspects to give participants a whole new learning experience.

The programme concluded with a closing ceremony held on 13 December 2013, which also marks the end of the year's training programme.

Diploma in Diplomacy 2013 Graduation Ceremony



Wearing a robe, receiving a scroll, throwing your hats high in the air are few signs that symbolises a graduation ceremony. Not this one. The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) is a six-month course that trains Malaysian junior diplomats in the field of diplomacy and foreign relations, with the objective to give in-depth exposure to course participants on the various angles of diplomatic affairs and international relations.

On 20 November 2013, IDFR hosted the DiD 2013 Graduation Ceremony. The Institute was delighted to welcome the guest of honour, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, as well as Ambassadors and High Commissioners, officers and staff of Wisma Putra and IDFR as well as the participants' family members who attended the programme.

The programme commenced with a *Doa* recital by Mr. Mohd Yunus Ibrahim, participant of DiD 2/2013, followed by the welcoming remarks by the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Hussin Nayan. He congratulated the DiD participants upon their successful

completion of the six-month course that aims to develop an all-rounded and versatile diplomats, as well as to give them "an in-depth exposure on the various aspects of diplomacy and international relations". Dato' Hussin Nayan then added that with the knowledge and insights they have gained, these young diplomats "have the necessary skills and confidence to embark on an exciting and demanding career".

Dato' Hamzah Zainudin in his speech, urged the DiD participants "to be well read, be inquisitive and

constantly challenge [themselves] to scale greater heights" in order to excel and ensure their "success in promoting and defending Malaysia's national interests". He also stated that the Ministry recognises the need to invest in human capital development and the "conduct of the DiD programme for our young diplomats is but just one clear evidence of the ministry's effort in enhancing human capital development", and as future leaders of the Ministry, the DiD participants will play a key role in "ensuring

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New Director General of IDFR



Lecture titled, Transboundary Pollution: What We Know and What We Can Do About It?



International Security Symposium 2013



Forum for ASEAN Young Diplomats on International Affairs



Training Courses



Diploma in Diplomacy 2013 Graduation Ceremony



Library's Open Day



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the realisation of the government's transformation agenda to make Malaysia a developed nation by 2020". After dinner, the Certificate of Attendance was presented to the DiD participants by the Deputy Foreign Minister, accompanied by the Deputy Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Dato' Ho May Yong and the Deputy Director General of IDFR, Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim.

Special awards were also given to individuals who excelled throughout the six-month course. Shazana Mokhtar received the Foreign Minister's Award for Best Student; Rozaime Mohamed Desa for the Secretary General's Award for Best Leadership; Mustapha Kamal Rosdi for the Director General's Award for Best Speech Writer; while the Best Overall Performance of the UNSC Simulation Award was given to Ms. Syahada Adnan, Mr. Johan Rosli, Ms. Shevonne Henry, Ms. Zaide S. Castro-Fuerzos, Mr. Mohd. Saifulnizam Zulkipli and Mdm. Adlina Baharil Ihzan.

Ms. Nur Azura Abd. Karim, Class President of DiD 2/2013 then delivered a touching and heart-warming speech on behalf of the DiD participants, thanking and acknowledging the



training and language divisions, saying that the "DiD Secretariat and Language teachers have worked day in and day out to ensure participants are groomed to become holistic officers". Furthermore, she stated that as diplomats in the 21st century, "we are at the forefront of this change". And "as the 'sun' has set on previous approaches to conducting diplomacy and foreign relations, we should aspire to add value upon our return to our respective ministries and agencies. We should aspire to be the new 'sunrise' of tomorrow today".

For the remainder of the night, the DiD participants entertained and

wowed everyone with performances of their respective foreign language courses. The French class recited a poem, Spanish danced to *Mambo Lupita*, Mandarin sang a Chinese love song, while Arabic presented a skit. Malay cultural performances by the Graduating Class of 2013 and RIAM participants concluded the programme.

Round Table Discussion titled, *The Regional Integration Processes in Latin America and the Caribbean*

IDFR had successfully initiated the first dialogue to further understand the Latin America and the Caribbean region through a round table discussion titled, *Regional Integration Processes in Latin America and the Caribbean*, held at the Treaty Room on 2 October 2013. The discussion, jointly organised by the Embassy of Ecuador, where five ambassadors from the Latin American continent, namely Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, shared their views and opinions about the progress on

the regional integration processes that included economic, trade, education and cultural exchanges in Latin America and the Caribbean organisations that have integrated well these countries.

The guests were privileged to have the presence of Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR, who in her Welcoming Remarks highlighted that the alliances and regional groupings have been very instrumental in elevating and

complimenting each other by lateral and multilateral relations. Through such associations, member countries can leverage and bargain with other economic blocs, promote political understanding, trade and economic stability in the region. Ambassador Aminahtun also quoted ASEAN as an example for having successfully fostered closer regional, economic and social integration. The grouping has achieved much and is now well on the way to building the ASEAN Community in 2015. H.E.

Christian Rehren, the Ambassador of Chile, began his presentation by acknowledging H.E. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the former Director General of IDFR, for his integral effort to craft this event to become a reality. In his speech titled, *Regional Integration: Conceptual Framework, History, Facts, the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean States (Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños - CELAC)*, H.E. Rehren briefed on the historical background of the Latin America and the Caribbean and emphasised that the CELAC establishment was based on respect and mutual understanding among the Latin American and the Caribbean states. Its objectives were to integrate and deepen the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the region through mechanism of consultation, integration and cooperation. To date, CELAC comprises 33 member states.

The session continued with the presentation on the *Union of South American Nations (Unión de Naciones Suramericanas - UNASUR)* by H.E. Marco Balarezo, Ambassador of Peru. Officially established in 2008, UNASUR is a collective effort to drive the South American Nations towards regional integration in cultural, social, economic, political, security and defense cooperation that were based on the principle of consensus, flexibility and graduation towards achieving its set objectives. According to H.E. Balarezo, the current focus of the organisation was on connectivity



and defense cooperation throughout the continent. About USD 100 billion has been invested in this project.

The third speaker, H.E. Gerardo Prato, the Ambassador of Uruguay, touched on the *Southern Common Market (Mercado Común del Sur - MERCOSUR)*, an economic and trade agreement that comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela with Bolivia soon becoming the six accessing member. Since its establishment from the 1991 Treaty of Asunción, the bloc has seen an exponential growth in trade. With the current positive growth in trade, H.E. Prato believes that the organisation would continue to grow stronger.

The Bolivarian Alliance for the *Peoples of Our Americas - Peoples' Trade Treaty (Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América - Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos - ALBA-TCP)* lecture was presented by H.E. Lourdes Puma Puma, Ambassador of Ecuador, is an organisation based on the idea of political, economic and social integration of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Initiated by H.E. Hugo Chávez in 2001, ALBA-TCP, comprised of a group of nine countries from the Caribbean, South and Central America, brings these countries together to establish an instrument based on unity among member countries with the objective to promote fairness, cooperation

and complementary of trade and production for their citizens. H. E. Puma Puma highlighted that the current focus of ALBA-TCP was on energy and food security.

The final speaker of the session, H.E. Rodrigo Querubin, Ambassador of Colombia, presented his topic titled *The Pacific Alliance (Alianza del Pacífico)*, a Latin America Pacific group that comprised of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The Alliance, H.E. Querubin informed, was a platform created with a clear objective for economic and business growth along with social welfare and devoid of politics.

The closing remarks were made by H.E. Manuel Guzman, Dean of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries and the Ambassador of the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela who summarised that the current Latin America and the Caribbean nations witnessed a rapid and pragmatic integration progress through the collaborative effort made by the countries through these various organisations. He also conveyed his deepest appreciation to IDFR for hosting this inaugural event.

The round table discussion was attended by 70 participants from various governmental agencies, universities and private sectors.

Round Table Conference on Strengthening Regional Integration in ASEAN through Multi-channel Dialogue

From 9 to 10 December 2013, the Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG), with Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and IDFR as joint sponsors, organised another two-day round table conference on *Strengthening Regional Integration in ASEAN through Multi-channel Dialogue* at the Treaty Room, IDFR.

FPSG, a non-profit private limited company, was set up in January 2011 with a primary objective to “strengthen ASEAN integration by enhancing NGO linkages to complement the excellent government-to-government cooperation”. According to FPSG, the purpose of the round table conference was to provide a “platform for important stakeholders to discuss issues and suggest ways to consolidate bilateral relations between ASEAN member countries”. Speakers from all ten member states of ASEAN; Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia presented their arguments, proposed ideas and findings based on four themes.

Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of FPSG commenced the session with his welcoming remarks, followed by the Director General of IDFR, Dato’ Hussin Nayan, who hoped the ideas and suggestions put forth would be translated into workable and achievable projects. The Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and President of FPSG, YM Tengku



Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Ahmad Rithauddeen then delivered his opening speech. He said that this conference can “contribute in a meaningful way to ASEAN’s overall objective” because the “people-centred approach incorporating youth, members of the academia, journalists, analysts and some senior citizens will contribute to creating a greater awareness of ASEAN’s aims in our countries”.

On the first day, the themes were *Extremism and the Need for Moderation on Region-Wide Basis* and *Role of Media in Fostering Greater ASEAN Integration as ASEAN Moves towards ASEAN Community in 2015*. It was a heated debate as many have and shared their own views and opinions. Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah, CEO of Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) believes moderation should be used as the new international relation

approach for it provides balance and moderates must speak up against the louder extremists in the region.

Human Trafficking and Migrant Workers in ASEAN and Role of Youth: Harnessing Youth to Participate More Fully in ASEAN’s Domestic and Intra-regional Work were discussed on the second day. Dr. Lian Kwen Fee, Professor of Sociology, Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam stated the migration policies in most ASEAN states are for temporarily needs, however, migrants tend to stay for a longer period of time and governments fail to recognise that.

The highlight however, was when Mr. Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Yangon, Myanmar, agreed to share the point raised by Tan Sri Razali on the crimes caused from human trafficking to the government of Myanmar.



The two-day programme concluded with closing remarks from Tan Sri Razali Ismail. He announced that this will be the last round table conference organised by FPSG. However, with the impact these conferences have had over the years, he promised to organise more in the near future. The Chairman also hoped the respective governments will respond to some measures of the issues discussed.

Speech Writing Workshop for IDFR Officers



The speech writing workshop for IDFR's officers was successfully held at Swiss Garden Spa and Resort, Kuantan, Pahang on 22 to 24 November 2013. The workshop was conducted for 26 participants. The workshop was conducted by Puan Rozanah Ibrahim, former Director of Language Division.

The workshop was initiated in lieu of the current need that all officers must be capable of producing an excellent speech. In this challenging new era, speech plays a huge role in confronting the people. It is also a medium to deliver the message directly to the

target audience. This workshop is a must for all officers in order to equip them with the perfect speech writing skills.

The objectives of the workshop was to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in writing excellent speeches, providing ideas and concepts in writing and preparing speeches and enabling cooperation and team spirit in writing and preparing the text. The methodology used was integrated teaching and learning. Participants learnt through classroom lectures, discussions and group practical exercises. A balanced approach to

effective training and learning was applied during the session.

The three-day course commenced with a short briefing on the workshop, followed by the Opening Remarks from Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR. The second day focused on planning and structuring the speech. The participants were also being introduced to the guidelines to write a speech, which includes many elements such as language, strategies, choice of words, style and tone. They were later brought on to analyse a few sample of speeches. The participants were divided into groups and were tasked to do a group activity which is to produce a speech. On the last day of the workshop, the participants were asked to present their speeches and to let others critique their drafted speeches.

The participants found that the course was very useful for them as the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop could not be earned through experience, but needs to be learned, built and polished through practice.

Lecture titled, *Transboundary Pollution: What We Know and What We Can Do About It?*

A lecture titled, *Transboundary Pollution: What We Know and What We Can Do About It?* was held at IDFR on 11 November 2013. It was delivered by Professor Euston Quah of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore and attended by policy makers, academics, students and representatives from various government agencies, universities, non-governmental organisations and members of the media.

Besides being Head of Department at NTU, Professor Quah is also a prolific writer, having published 60 papers in several journals including *World Development: Environment and Planning*; *Applied Economics*;

Journal of Economics, *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and *Journal of Environmental Management*. His most recent work is a paper in an international publication on *Cost Benefit Analysis* by Oxford University Press, 2013. His expertise is also much sought after by the Singapore Government. He has also been invited by Stanford, Princeton and many reputable international organisations to share his intellectual knowledge at seminars, forums and conferences.

Prof Quah's lecture discussed the issue of transboundary pollution related to special cases and externalities that involve environmental issues among neighbouring countries in

Asia. The lecture also showcased a model to incentivise cooperation and collaboration amongst affected countries and at the same time, touched on the role of third party countries as a means to come up with a workable solution that cuts across national boundaries.

The lecture was formatted into five important outlines; the economics of transboundary pollution, examples of transboundary pollution, transboundary air pollution in Southeast Asia, what we can really do to mitigate this issue and the conclusion.

In his lecture, Professor Quah provided



several examples of areas affected by transboundary pollution, including the Pearl River Delta in Hong Kong where the actual pollution and smog originated from Guangdong, China,

and the Mekong River in Southern Vietnam.

He further highlighted that the annual occurrence of haze in Southeast Asia, which is caused by the slash and burn technique in the plantation sector, was the main contributory factor. He also underlined the lack of coordination as well as limitations of the political, social and legal institutions as reasons for why the issue of transboundary pollution has yet to be successfully addressed after nearly two decades. He also underlined the lack of coordination as well as limitations of the political, social and legal institutions as reasons why the issue

of transboundary pollution has yet to be successfully addressed after nearly two decades.

The solutions identified by Professor Quah included policy reviews, institutional reform, reaffirming corporate responsibility, application of punitive measures on errant corporations, investment in research for better management of crops and enhancing the authorities' capabilities and stakeholder approach to cost sharing. The conclusion was that it was vital to look at the level of incorporation and reconciliation among stakeholders and institutions in both victim and polluting countries.

Strategic Persuasion Workshop: The Art and Science of Selling Ideas

From 21 to 24 October 2013, an officer from IDFR, Puan Rafizah Zahri attended a short course on Leadership Development titled, *Strategic Persuasion Workshop: The Art and Science of Selling Ideas*. This course was conducted at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, United States of America by two prominent lecturers, Professor Richard Shell and Dr. Mario Moussa. They are co-writers of *The Art of Woo* book.

The course involved group work, coaching sessions, interactive lectures and exercises. The participants were introduced to the woo process which involved four steps i.e: survey your situation, confront the five barriers (relationships, credibility, communication, beliefs and interest), make your pitch and lastly, secure your commitments.

The participants also were personally assessed with their persuasion and bargaining styles, as it reflected on how one plays one's role in some stress and conflict situation or how does one use one's influence when getting things done in one's organisation.

The course also involved persuasion simulations between the participants. This is to incorporate the ideas and concepts presented in the programme into the participants' work environment.

The writer found it to be a very interesting and beneficial course and can help participants generate new approaches to meet their challenges and opportunities.

Last but not least, the lecturers had recommended 12 books for further reading:

- i. *The Art of Doing: How Superachievers Do What They Do and How They Do It So Well* by Camille Sweeney
- ii. *Bounce: Mozart, Federer, Picasso, Beckham and the Science of Success* by Matthew Syed
- iii. *Contagious: Why Things Catch On* by Jonah Berger
- iv. *Give and Take: A Revolutionary*

Approach to Success by Adam M. Grant, Ph.D.

- v. *Managing With Power: Politics and Influence in Organizations* by Jeffrey Pfeffer
- vi. *The Art of the Pitch: Persuasion and Presentation Skills that Win Business* by Peter Coughter
- vii. *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business* by Charles Duhigg
- viii. *To Sell is Human: The Surprising Truth About Moving Others* by Daniel H. Pink
- ix. *Just Listen: Discover the Secret to Getting Through to Absolutely Anyone* by Mark Goulston, M.D.
- x. *Power: Why Some People Have It and Others Don't* by Jeffrey Pfeffer
- xi. *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman

IDFR-UiTM Colloquium

A colloquium jointly organised by IDFR and the Faculty of Information Management (FPM), Universiti Teknologi MARA titled, *Ensuring Sustainability of Library and Information Science Professional* was held on 25 November 2013 at the Institute. The idea behind this collaboration is to improve the performance of the library; to improve practices that will ensure the sustainability of library professionals; to equip students with the medium and skills needed to face growing environmental changes and to run a programme as an initiative to produce efficient and sustainable information professionals.

The colloquium commenced with welcoming remarks by Prof. Dr. Norasiah Hj. Haron, Deputy Dean (Academic) of FPM, followed by a keynote address by Ambassador Aminah Hj A. Karim, IDFR's Deputy Director General.

Four papers were presented as follows:



- i. *New Demands and Challenges of Information Profession* by Encik Dahlan Samad, Director, Human Resource Development, National Library of Malaysia;
- ii. *Creativity and Innovation* by Tuan Haji Azizi Jantan, Senior Librarian, Department of Strategic Planning, Tun Abdul Razak Library, UiTM;
- iii. *Tools and Technology* by Puan Sharifah Fahimah Saiyed Yeop, Senior Executive, IP, Copyright and Records Management (KMU), Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS; and
- iv. *Skills and Competencies* by Puan Hajah Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director of IDFR Library.

The Colloquium was attended by lecturers and final year students from FPM; librarians from various agencies including BERNAMA and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), as well as IDFR officers and staff.



Training of Trainers Course



The Training of Trainers: Introduction to Training Skills Course was successfully conducted from 10 to 13 December 2013 for senior officers of IDFR. The course, certified by City and Guilds, UK was conducted by its appointed consultant in Kuala Lumpur, Language Works Sdn. Bhd. and attended by ten officers. The overall objective of the course was to train the officers to become professional trainers. The course enabled them to reflect on their current learning beliefs and practices and consider ways to improve their learners' learning experience.

The officers were also exposed to a variety of ideas, strategies and skills for learning effectiveness.

The four-day programme included both theoretical and practical sessions on training delivery. The theoretical part, areas related to identifying learners' needs, planning and preparing learning sessions and delivering training, was

covered on the first and second day. The officers learnt through interactive lectures, individual activities and group work. On the third and fourth day, the officers were required to deliver a thirty-minute training session based on what had been covered earlier. The training session and a multiple-choice question quiz were the compulsory elements as part of the requirements for the certification by City and Guilds.

In conclusion, all the officers expressed their satisfaction with the content and delivery of the course. It gave them the opportunity to reflect on and identify their own strengths and weaknesses to further improve their skills and competencies as trainers.



Library's Open Day



On 9 October 2013, the Library successfully organised its Open

Day called the 'Information Day'. The objective of the programme was to strengthen the ties between the library and IDFR staff, various agencies around the institute as well as members of the public, and also to promote the library's collections, services and facilities.

The programme started with welcoming remarks by Puan Hajjah Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director

of Library. The event was then officiated by Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR. In his speech, he said that the library must take the initiative to reach out to the community, so that people will know the function of the library. Programmes like the 'Information Day' provides a space for the library to introduce their services and collections, as well as facilities to their visitors. Apart from that, it can

also be a platform for exchanging ideas on how to improve the quality of the library's information services.

A variety of informative and interactive activities were conducted, such as library tour, health screening, health and motivation talks, first aid demonstrations, indoor games competition, quiz, jumble sale, book stalls and lucky draws.

With cooperation from the Ministry of Health Malaysia, the Health Screening activity includes measuring on Body Mass Index (BMI) and high-blood pressure. The programme followed by the first talk titled, *The Importance of Health Screening*, presented by Dr. Razilah Farah Razali from the Ministry of Health Malaysia. The second motivational talk titled, *Inspiring*

Yourself was delivered by Mr. Azmil Abrar from Content Development Manager, AlHijrah Media Corporation.

Among those who participated in this programme were officers and staff from the Ministry of Health Malaysia, Malaysia Red Crescent Society, National Library of Malaysia, Librarians Association of Malaysia, Emerald Publisher and IDFR itself.

The programme attracted more than 200 guests, included staff of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Puspanita, Malaysia Red Crescent Society, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Malaysia, National Library of Malaysia, BERNAMA, lecturers and students from Faculty of Information Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and also members of the



public, together with all IDFR officers and staff.

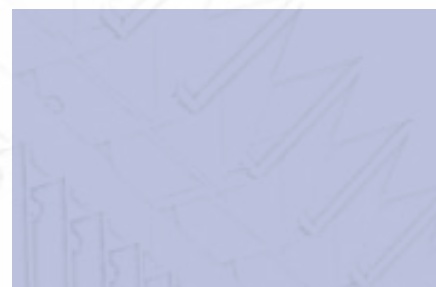
International Relations Module



IDFR and the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) jointly organised the International Relations Module for the Diploma in Public Management (DPA) 1/2013. With a total of 722, participants from the DPA 1/2013 were divided into three large groups, first at INTAN Southern Regional Campus (IKWAS) from 23 September to 4 October 2013, second at INTAN Eastern Regional Campus (INTIM) from 6 to 24 October 2013 and third at INTAN Northern Regional Campus (INTURA) from 27 October to 7 November 2013.

The objective of the module is to develop the knowledge and understanding of the concept of diplomacy and international relations and to provide an overview of the roles and functions of Malaysian diplomats. Topics in the module included *Malaysia's Foreign Policy*, *Vienna Convention and Consular Relations*, *ASEAN Regional Cooperation*, *Public Diplomacy and Media Relations* and *Malaysia's Position on Counter Terrorism*. The participants were also given the opportunity to grasp various nuances and approaches

of international relations such as International Negotiations and English and Diplomacy from IDFR's experts. During the module, the participants were also required to participate in a group presentation on issues such as *Roles and functions of Malaysian diplomats in the 21st Century*, *Global Movement of the Moderates*, *Malaysia and ASEAN*, *Human Trafficking*, *Climate Change*, *Terrorism*, *Piracy*, *North Korean Nuclear Crisis*, *International Financial Crisis*, *Israel and Palestine conflict*, *Malaysia-Singapore bilateral relations*, *Challenges to ASEAN regional integration* and *United Nations* and 'global leadership'. The group presentations were evaluated by the officers from IDFR respectively.



The Pivoting Arena of the 21st Century Diplomacy

By Amir Hamzah Mohd Nasir

The steady and constant cycle of globalisation for the last few decades has not shown any sign of slowing down. If anything, we could only envisage for the flattening rate of the world to be quicker than ever before. And being in the diplomatic arena, we are not at all exempted from being counted in the equation.

The wave of globalisation has greatly influenced the way countries conduct their diplomacy. The usage of information technology, for example, has slightly altered the roles of face-to-face physical diplomacy which previously served as the only means of official engagement. The technological advancement has opened up a wide array of opportunities for governments to tap into towards achieving their goals, be it promoting a country's good image to the world or exchanging bilateral intelligence for mutual benefits.

There is no denial that governments always try to gather as much information of the others as possible. The uncovered espionage done by several governments as publicly revealed by Edward Snowden is but one proof of this proposition. And yet, one could be led to believe that Mr. Snowden has thus far only touched the tip of the iceberg.

Surely governments and intelligence agencies in the current days and age are fully capable of performing spying activities on their immediate neighbours as well as targeted countries far away. And the same old argument remains that the espionage is crucial for military and security purposes while also preventing potential international crimes and terrorism attacks.

The biggest question that must be answered is where we should draw the line when it comes to collecting intelligence and spying on other sovereign countries? At what point do we put a full stop and declare to a particular country that it is too much

for you have transgressed way too far beyond the line?

Of late, we were shocked by the news of irresponsible spying activities by an Australian government agency towards the leaders of perhaps their most important partner, Indonesia. It was not long before the revelation took its toll on the hitherto established diplomatic ties between the two countries. With just a small misstep that completely breached the trust, Indonesia made the call of hiatus in major bilateral cooperation such as on military, security and people-smuggling. Despite immediate initiatives taken as potential panacea, independent observers have generally agreed that it would take a while before the bonds between the two countries could be rejuvenated again.

The recent episode involving Australia and Indonesia should serve as an ideal case study for other countries to better understand the overall implications from breaking any bonds of trust and spirit of neighbourliness. Stemming from this principle, Malaysia should remain firm and steadfast in sending the message to our partners out there, regardless of how strong and powerful they are, that we should strive at all times to fully honour our ties of friendship and nothing less.

The recent revelation of irresponsible spying activities could not come about at a better time. It helped to serve as an important wake-up call for all those within the diplomatic circle that it is time for us to rethink about the way we conduct our diplomacy. Also, all diplomatic practitioners must be reminded time and again that the ways and means of information technology could be utilised in performing our official duties but should never be abused.

Instead of conducting illegal espionage or violating the sovereign privacy of other countries, one could still perform discreet work of intelligence collating while at the same time, fully abiding by

the standard code of ethical conducts. Diplomats from neighbouring countries should now come together and collaborate symbiotically and put away any animosity, suspicion or distrust. And if we could prepare ourselves well enough before meeting our enemies at the battlefield, then rest assured that Malaysia's stake and interest internationally will be strongly championed as we continue to march forward on the pivoting arena of the 21st century diplomacy.



Amir Hamzah Mohd Nasir is the Assistant Secretary of Consular Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

Promotion of Malaysian Tourism at Destination Malaysia Qatar Airways Golf Tournament

By Ahmad Amiri Abu Bakar, Embassy of Malaysia, Madrid



was decorated with Tourism Malaysia banners, bunting and Malaysian traditional kite, *Wau Bulan*.

Counsellor, Ahmad Amiri Abu Bakar gave a short welcoming speech at the prize giving ceremony and invited the players to play in Malaysia next year. He also mentioned that there are more than 200 golf courses in Malaysia with many of them of international quality. He also provided a brief information about tourism and business potential in Malaysia.

The event was a success as most of the participants had truly enjoyed the local Malaysian delicacies that was prepared by the Embassy and had shown interest in participating in the same event scheduled next year in Malaysia. This was the second attempt by the Embassy to promote golf tourism in Spain.

The Embassy of Malaysia Madrid, with the support of Tourism Malaysia Paris together with Qatar Airways, successfully organised a golf tournament in Real Sociedad Hipica Espanola Club de Campo, Madrid on 24 October 2013. The main objective of the event, which saw the participation of 104 golfers from all over Madrid, was to promote Malaysian Tourism as well as golf tourism to the business society of the region.

Qatar Airways and complimentary stay at three hotels in Kuala Lumpur, namely Palm Garden Resort Putrajaya, Marriot Putrajaya and Seri Pacific Hotel Kuala Lumpur. With the support of Tourism Malaysia Paris, the Embassy also provided t-shirts, mugs and promotional materials on Tourism Malaysia for 200 players. Malaysian cuisine such as *Mee Goreng*, *Popiah* and Curry Puff were also served during the prize giving reception.

As part of the gifts for the tournament winner, the Embassy of Malaysia Madrid managed to get two return tickets to Malaysia sponsored by

The Embassy also handled the registration of players with 3 Locally Recruited Staff dressed in traditional Malay costumes. The registration hall

What They Say...

I have found that this course is quite beneficial and relevant to the current work of all participants from ASEAN countries regarding recent developments in diplomacy and international relations.

My expectation is to attend such a useful and significant forum with a view to bring the knowledge and experience gained through this two-week course back to my country so as to make some changes by applying effective measures and mechanisms for the development of my home country as well as joining hands with other ASEAN countries to prepare for ASEAN community building in 2015.



Chea Somaly
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia

(Participant of Forum for ASEAN Young Diplomats on International Affairs)

Usman Adil
International Relations,
National Productivity Organization,
Pakistan

(Participant of Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2/2013)



This programme was really effective and I feel honoured and lucky to learn from the well known ambassadors from Wisma Putra. All the lessons were equipped with up to date information. This course was exactly as I expected, where it not only focuses on the theoretical part but also gave importance to the practical part as well.

Besides that, this course improves our understanding in the field of diplomacy, economic development and also cultural communication. Overall, this programme was well managed and I really appreciate the efforts of IDFR and MTCP for organising this programme.

IDFR's New Deputy Director General (T)



In October 2013, IDFR welcomed its new Deputy Director General (T), Puan Norani Ibrahim. She was with the Malaysian Development Institute, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department before her attachment here.

We welcome Puan Norani Ibrahim to the IDFR family.

Puan Norani's brief biodata is listed:

Dates	Duties
March 2012 – October 2013	Served as Director of Malaysian Development Institute, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department
October 2009 – February 2012	Served as Director of Corporate Services and International Section, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department
August 2007 – September 2009	Served as Director of International Cooperation Section, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department
April 2006 – February 2007	Served as Deputy Director of National Implementation Directorate, Prime Minister's Department
August 2002 – February 2007	Served as Research Officer of Special Consultancy Team on Globalization, National Economic Action Council (NEAC), Prime Minister's Department
November 1993 – July 2002	Served as Senior Project Coordinator at the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) and Head of the Economic Management Unit under the ECONOMICS Programme
December 1981 – August 1991	Served as Assistant Director of Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU), Prime Minister's Department

IDFR 2013 Calendar of Activities

January

- The Director General's *Majlis Amanat*
- Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills
- A talk on *Fire Safety Measures* by Mr. Jeff Tan from Safety Protection Academy
- Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2013: International Trade in Green Technology Products
- Visit of The Delegation from Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- Round table discussion on *Euro Zone Crisis: The Outlook for Europe in 2013 and Its Global Impact*
- Forum titled, *Middle East Revisited: Geo Strategic Implications, Democratic Transformation Challenge and the Economic Development Potential (Case of Egypt)*
- Arabic Level IV
- Arabic Level IX
- Spanish Level IX

February

- Say It Right 1/2013
- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia Di Luar Negara (SPKM)* 1/2013
- Visit by Professor Bae Geung-Chan, The Director of The Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) Republic of Korea
- IDFR Distinguished Fellows Meeting
- Mandarin Level I

March

- Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013
- Building Blocks of Good English
- Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants 1/2013
- Workshop on Diplomacy for the International Institute for Muslim Unity (IIUM)
- Seminar on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA)
- Commonwealth Day 2013 - *Commonwealth: Opportunity Through Enterprise*

April

- Visit of the Thai Delegation Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- Workshop on Public International Law
- French Level II
- French Level IV
- Effective Presentation Skills 1/2013
- Speech Writing Course for Intermediate Level
- Orientation Course for Secretaries
- Spanish Level II
- Spanish Level IV
- Speech Writing Course for Advanced Level

May

- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia Di Luar Negara (SPKM)* 2/2013
- Workshop on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP), IDFR 2013-2015 (Series 1)
- Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Roundtable
- Peace and Security Forum 2013
- Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for Myanmar Officers in Nay Pwi Taw, Myanmar
- Say It Right 2/2013
- 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue

June

- Crisis Management for International Participants (MTCP)
- English Language Development Programme for Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- International Relations (IR) Module for DPA Participants
- Workshop on International Negotiation for Mid Career and Senior Officers
- Workshop on International Negotiation for Junior Officers
- The Deputy Foreign Minister's First Visit to IDFR
- Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2/2013
- Kick-Off Meeting on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP), IDFR 2013-2015
- Effective Writing Skills 1/2013
- Spanish Level VII

- Visit by the Minister of Civil Service and Insurance, Republic of Yemen
- Training of Trainers (ASs & EOs)
- Workshop on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP), IDFR 2013-2015 (Series 2)

July

- Roundtable Conference: *Strengthening Regional Integration in ASEAN Through Multi-Channel Dialogue*
- Orientation Course for Future Heads of Mission from the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste
- Forum on OIC Trade Integration
- English Training Programme for Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- Seminar on Library Transformation, Innovation and Creativity

August

- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia Di Luar Negara (SPKM)* 3/2013
- Study Visit to Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) Headquarters
- Director General's Farewell
- Effective Presentation Skills 2/2013
- Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for the Diplomats from the Pacific Island Forum Member Countries
- Arabic Level V
- Arabic Level X
- French Level III
- French Level V
- French Level IX
- Spanish Level III
- Spanish Level V

September

- Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and Their Spouses 1/2013
- Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants
- IDFR-UKM Masters of Social Sciences (Strategy and Diplomacy) Programme Session 2013/2014
- Workshop on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP), IDFR 2013-2015 (Series 3)
- Mid-Career Course for Diplomats
- Lecture on *Strengthening Diplomatic Ties Between the European Union and Malaysia in The Face of The Eurozone Crisis* by His Excellency Jacques Santer
- Visit by the Delegation from the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs (DVIFA)
- Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants 2/2013
- Conversational Malay - Beginner

October

- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia Di Luar Negara (SPKM)* 4/2013
- IDFR's Library Open Day
- The International Security Symposium 2013 titled, *Regional Order and Power Dynamics in the Asia Pacific*
- Round table discussion titled, *Regional Integration Process in Latin America and the Caribbean*

November

- Diploma in Diplomacy - Regional and International Affairs Module (RIAM)
- Diploma in Diplomacy 2013 Graduation Ceremony
- Speech Writing Workshop for IDFR Officers
- Lecture titled, *Transboundary Pollution: What We Know and What We Can Do About It?* by Professor Euston Quah
- IDFR-UlTM Colloquium
- Effective Writing Skills 2/2013

December

- Forum for ASEAN Young Diplomats on International Affairs
- Round table conference on *Strengthening Regional Integration in ASEAN Through Multi-Channel Dialogue*
- Training of Trainers (KPSs & SUBs)

Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR*

French Level IV	15 January 2014-16 April 2014
French Level VI	16 January 2014-17 April 2014
Spanish Level VI 1/2014	6 January 2014-2 June 2014
Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills	20-21 January 2014
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2014	3 February-2 May 2014
Arabic Level I	3 February 2014-26 June 2014
Spanish Level IV	4 February 2014-15 April 2014
Spanish Level I	5 February 2014-16 April 2014
Arabic Level VI	4 February 2014-26 June 2014
Arabic Level XI	7 February 2014-26 December 2014
Say It Right 1/2014	10-12 February 2014
Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home Based Staff and Spouses under <i>Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara</i> (SPKM) 1/2014	10-21 February 2014
MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 1/2014	3-21 March 2014
Basic Conversational Malay	4 March 2014-16 May 2014
Building Blocks of Good English 1/2014	10-14 March 2014
Economic Diplomacy Series: <i>Enhancing the Economic Value of Our Heritage through Geographical Indications</i>	21 March 2014
Workshop on Public International Law	24-27 March 2014

* Subject to changes

Best Wishes

To our colleagues, who left us with pleasant memories

Wong Cheng Yew – transferred to the Ministry of Finance, Malaysia
 Zuraida Zainol – transferred to the Penang State Secretariat Office
 Nurul Huda Azmi – transferred to the Ministry of Education, Malaysia
 Mohd Azlan Mohd Safwan – transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
 Nadhirah Mohd Zanudin – transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
 Khairul Bariah Che Amat – transferred to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
 Hetty Dzurin Mohamed On – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia, Rabat
 Muhamad Idham Hairudin – transferred to the Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Mohd Masri Awang – retired from the service

To our colleague who recently took the vow of matrimony

Ligong Anak Baja

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Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the late Mr. Isaac Peter on his demise on 21 December 2013.

May God bless his soul and bestow him a good afterlife.



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