

# DIPLOMATIC VOICE

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## 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference and Related Meetings

Malaysia hosted the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (48<sup>th</sup> AMM)/Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC)/16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting (16<sup>th</sup> APT FMM)/5<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> EAS FMM) and 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (22<sup>nd</sup> ARF) from 1 to 6 August 2015 at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. The 48<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMC was attended

by 27 Foreign Ministers and their representatives. The Foreign Ministers of Norway and Turkey also attended the opening ceremony of the 48<sup>th</sup> AMM as guests of the Chair.

The 48<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMC and Related Meetings were preceded by several preparatory meetings at the Senior Officials' level. These include the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), Meeting of the Executive Committee for the Treaty on Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Commission (SEANWFZ EX – COM),



ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting (APT SOM) and East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM).

This annual gathering, the most longstanding of all ASEAN institutions, brought together ASEAN Foreign Ministers and their counterparts from Dialogue Partner countries to discuss political, security and developmental issues that have significant impact on the region. As the ASEAN Chair for 2015, Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Malaysia, presided over the Meeting. There were a total of 27 Meetings which included one Working Group, one Committee of Permanent Representatives Meeting, eight SOM Meetings and 19 Ministerial Meetings.

The AMM kicked off with an opening ceremony address by the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Dato' Sri Najib in his address, em-

phasised that the establishment of the Community by the end of this year is very significant as it signals to the rest of the world how far and how well we have achieved in coming together as one community. It will be a historic milestone for Malaysia and the region as a whole and a culmination of ASEAN's resilience and dynamism throughout a journey that spans nearly half a century.

Dato' Sri Najib also highlighted that an increasingly integrated ASEAN will make ASEAN the world's fourth

*Continued to page 8*

### CONTENTS

1	48 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference and Related Meetings
2-11	Forum
12	News
13-20	In and Around IDFR
21-32	News

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## Statement by the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the General Debate of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 1 October 2015



UN Photo/Cia Pak

Mr. President,

Congratulations on your appointment as President of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. Your experience and wisdom will be invaluable in guiding us.

This session's theme – 'The United Nations at 70: the Road Ahead for Peace, Security and Human Rights' – is timely. For we urgently need to find new approaches, to rise above the political divide and put people first, in an age when the old ways are proving inadequate to the challenges we face today.

We are a world of nation states. But new conflicts and threats imperilling our peace and security do not recognise borders. Non-state actors, such as the so-called Islamic State, threaten to destroy sovereign states.

They don't confine their horrific acts of cruelty within official boundaries. Expert at using social media to recruit followers in faraway countries, they lure them with false promises, persuading many young people that their barbaric actions will bring them closer to God.

It is sickening, and there could be no greater a slur on Islam – a religion of peace, moderation and justice. But these extremists cannot be defeated by traditional military means alone.

Mr. President,

Five years ago I stood before this assembly and called for a Global Movement – of Moderates of all religions, of all countries – to marginalise extremists, reclaim the centre, and shape the agenda towards peace and pragmatism. We in Malaysia have followed up, both with practical action and by building intellectual capacity.

Central to this effort is reaffirming Islam's true nature, as we must acknowledge that we are not winning the propaganda war against the so-called Islamic State. Their twisted narrative is not being adequately countered to prevent many misguided people from joining or supporting from afar.

So it is more important than ever that we spread awareness of authentic Islam. Most especially when conflicts persist and people lose hope. For it is there that extremism finds fertile soil. And those who fight for extremism – for a perversion of true Islam – are one of the main drivers of the current migration crisis from the Middle East.

Islam unequivocally prohibits killing civilians during war. It explicitly protects minorities and respects those of other faiths. It urges the pursuit of knowledge, and stresses both justice and compassion. As the Prophet Muhammad said: "You will not enter Paradise until you have faith; and you will not complete your faith, till you love for one another what you love for yourselves."

This means there should be no strife among Muslims. Not between Shia and Sunni, who may take different paths, but seek the same destination.

Islam condemns the destruction of historical sites that are part of the world's cultural heritage. The lies of IS include the claim that it is their duty to destroy historical sites, because the Prophet Muhammad destroyed the idols that had been introduced into the Ka'ba in Mecca.

This is based on a false analogy. The Ka'ba was built by the Prophet Abraham for the worship of the One True God, and later generations added the idols. The Prophet Muhammad was commanded to purify the Ka'ba of these idols for its use by his followers, to bring it back to its original form.

The historical sites being destroyed by IS were never used for the worship of the One God and then later desecrated; so the argument for destroying them does not and cannot apply. Moreover, God informs us that these sites we travel by, and which denote past civilizations – some of which were global superpowers of their time, but are now no more – are signs to remind us not to be arrogant, but to walk the earth humbly.

We must combat IS' warped ideology in this way: explaining why their path is un-Islamic; why their actions are evil, theologically incoherent and a travesty of Islam – which commands us to be knowledgeable, compassionate and humble.

Mr. President,

The Malaysian Government has helped develop an important body of scholarship that does just that. An international group of Sunni and Shia scholars representing a cross-section of the global Muslim community was convened in Kuala Lumpur. Its mission was to define an Islamic State, based on the continuity of Islamic religious thought through the past 14 centuries.

It is nothing like the entity in Syria and Iraq that usurps that name. The scholars unanimously emphasized that an Islamic State must deliver justice in all its forms – political, economic and in the courts – to its citizens. It must be based on the objectives of Shariah, or Maqasid Shariah, which is to protect and enhance life, religion, intellect, property, family and dignity.

An Islamic State must defend the

different peoples under its rule, and preserve their religions, languages and historic sites – because God commands us: “Indeed, we have made you nations and tribes, that ye may know one another.”

He could have created us as one religious community, but He did not do so – in order to test us – and orders us to compete with each other in being virtuous. A true Islamic State therefore aids God’s Divine Intent in testing humanity, and urges us to compete in virtue, in knowledge, kindness, compassion and humility – but, crucially, not coerce us in this.

These are Islam’s true principles. The so-called Islamic State knows nothing of Islam’s noble ideals, of its compassion, or of the solemn duty to care for and learn about our fellow man. They are violating the Divine will. They are desecrating the name of our religion through their self-proclaimed caliphate – to which no true Muslim will pledge allegiance.

This is the message we must spread, to Muslims and non-Muslims. And I call on the Umma to rise with one voice, and let the world ring when we say to IS: You do not represent us.

Mr. President,

Let no one doubt how seriously Malaysia regards the problem of militants: both those who wish to use Kuala Lumpur as a transit point, and those who wish to sow violence and destruction at home.

Much of this work cannot be revealed for security reasons. This may lead some to think that because Malaysia has not suffered from a successful terrorist attack, we do not have national security challenges. That is not the case.

Our tireless, ever-vigilant security forces have intercepted many would-be IS recruits transiting through Kuala

Lumpur. It is because of our efforts that they have not fallen into the darkness that blights Syria and Iraq.

But some have. We have identified 39 Malaysians who have travelled to join IS. And we have arrested over 100 of our citizens suspected of links to IS. These threats are real.

There are people who want to bring terror to our streets.

We will not stand for it, neither will they succeed. For Malaysia has been, and will always be, a land where many faiths and ethnicities freely prosper and thrive.

But we must strive harder to combat this threat together. Militaries and intelligence services need to share information, and countries need to collaborate more, daring to pre-emptively arrest as necessary.

We have instituted legislation to allow this. When evidence is irrefutable, we will unhesitatingly take action. If our citizens’ lives are threatened by bombing a mall or a station, we would be negligent of their trust not to intervene before it is too late.

Mr. President,

2015 gave us examples of inspiring new approaches. For example, the United States restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba. This was a historic achievement, an exemplary display of moderation in action. It took courage. It would not have happened had those wishing to cling to old political divisions held sway.

Forward-thinking leaders put their people’s interests first. Similar courage, Mr President, is needed to permanently address the injustice suffered by the Palestinians since 1948.

Decades of impunity and the systematic dehumanisation of Palestinians has culminated in increasing violence,

increasing illegal settlements, and increasing violations of rights. The frustration and anger felt by Palestinians resonates with Muslims worldwide.

If the world continues to turn a blind eye to their sufferings, we risk another catastrophe in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We will also fail to uphold the right to self-determination, which was at the very basis of the United Nations when it was created 70 years ago.

On that note, given the Rosh Hashanah violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and aggression against its worshippers three weeks ago, I call on the Israeli government to live up to Judaism’s highest ethical principles, and the essential message of the Torah as succinctly expressed by the first century BC sage Hillel. When asked to describe the Torah in a soundbite, he said, “That which is hateful to you, don’t do to your fellow human being.”

This dictum, known universally in all religions as the Golden Rule, could herald the dawn of a much needed revised relationship between Muslims and Jews.

Currently Israel has forced its authority over Islam’s Third Holiest Site – in defiance of the jurisdiction of King Abdullah of Jordan, the lawful Custodian. It is therefore Israel’s duty to facilitate Muslims from around the world to visit. For this is an aspiration that all devout Muslims harbour and pray to be able to realise in their lifetime.

Mr. President,

Putting people first will not always be easy. But the problems of today require new and global solutions.

Malaysia will raise these issues as a member of the UN Security Council – and reforming the Security Council to

better reflect 2015's realities, not 1945's, represents a good start towards building a new, adequately responsive global architecture.

We in Malaysia know how much that is needed. We were extremely disappointed that the proposed resolution to set up an international tribunal into the shooting down of flight MH17 did not go through because a veto was imposed. We will continue to seek justice through other legal options, because we owe it to the families of those who perished in this outrageous crime.

But whether it be reform of the UN, tackling extremism or dealing with migration, greater mutual effort is necessary. We must look into ourselves and our own traditions to create new mechanisms. We believe that moderation is key.

Moderation is not about being weak. On the contrary, it is courageous and shows strength. The strength to push for peace and put the people first.

It is a principle that runs through all civilisations and faiths. Islam embodies it in the concept of "wasatiyyah", Confucianism as "chung yung" – both of which mean "middle path" or "the Golden Mean." But this is a principle we must rediscover, and at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Malaysia this April, we reaffirmed our commitment to this approach when we adopted the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates.

Malaysia stands ready to share its experience; of upholding Islam and marginalising extremism; of implementing the objectives of Shariah while practising democracy; of maintaining a multi-ethnic society where different faiths coexist and prosper; and showing that Islam can not only succeed, but drive progress and successful economic development.

Mr. President,

As we cooperate to solve the scourges of poverty, hatred, war and man-made and natural disasters that have given us the refugee crises we see today, we must draw from our spiritual traditions – and that generosity of spirit which goes beyond legal requirements.

Sura `Abasa, the 80<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, opens with God criticizing the Prophet Muhammad – whom we Muslims regard as God's Beloved – because he frowned and turned his face away when one of his followers, a poor blind man, interrupted to ask him a question while he was occupied preaching to a rich and powerful unbeliever.

If God promptly rebuked the Prophet Muhammad, how much more will we, the community of Muslim world leaders especially, stand to be rebuked by our Creator if we "frown and turn our faces away" from our fellow-Muslim poor and marginalized, now fleeing Syria in massive numbers – causing social and economic stresses in Europe? Don't we stand partly responsible for any ensuing European hostility towards Islam, the faith we love, and towards our fellow Muslims?

This is why Malaysia has taken, over the years, many people fleeing war, starvation and persecution. We currently have hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants, and we took in more earlier this year when there was a dire humanitarian situation in the Andaman Sea.

I am pleased to announce today that, to help alleviate the current refugee crisis, Malaysia will do its share, and open our doors to a further 3,000 Syrian migrants over the next three years.

New international solutions are needed to deal with the migration crises. The millions fleeing are people – like us. They should concern us all. We must respect our common humanity.

For it is only when we transcend the silos of race and faith;

Only when we look at images of desperate migrants, the victims of extremists, and those whose lives are degraded by hunger and poverty – and see not strangers, but our brothers and sisters;

And it is only when we see that dreadful picture of three year old Alan Kurdi washed ashore – and recognise our own children in that tragic boy's innocent face – that we will act as our better selves.

People around the world cry out for our help. We cannot – we must not – pass on by.

Thank you.



## Opening Address by the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Chairman of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting,

Your Royal Highness and ASEAN Foreign Ministers,

Invited Guest Foreign Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to address the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting. This is one of the most important events during Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you back once again to Kuala Lumpur, after we last met in April.

This ministerial meeting has always been one of the key gatherings throughout ASEAN's history, going right back to August 1967, when the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok. So much so that the five foreign ministers who met then to sign the Bangkok Declaration – Adam Malik of Indonesia, my father Tun Razak Hussein for Malaysia, Narcisco Ramos of the Philippines, S Rajaratnam from Singapore and Thanat Koman of Thailand – are widely thought of as being the founding fathers of ASEAN.

It was then a new structure for peace and cooperation in the region, and it has since had an admirable record in preserving harmony in one of the most diverse parts of the world. The work of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers has been vital in that, and I commend past and present holders of those offices for building and strengthening our regional cooperation and taking bold steps when necessary – such as when they acted swiftly to deal with the recent crisis of irregular migration in Southeast Asia. This was a considerable test for ASEAN, but all parties

concerned managed to handle it in a timely and effective manner.

This year provides another kind of test. At the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November we will adopt the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which provides us with a roadmap for the next ten years, and by the end of December we are due to establish a single community for our ten nation association. This will be a huge step towards making the ASEAN motto "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" a reality.

It is undoubtedly a milestone, and I would like to thank the High Level Task Force for all their efforts in drafting the Post-2015 Vision. For it to be a reality, however, the masterplans and the intergovernmental meetings are central – but they are not in themselves enough. As I said in April: "A People-Centred ASEAN is one in which our citizens feel that they are not just part of ASEAN – but that they are ASEAN, and its future is their future."

Through travel and tourism, we can reach out and know each other better – which is why in June Malaysia launched GOASEAN – a 24/7 travel channel dedicated to showcasing the kaleidoscope of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage our region has to offer. We can come together through sporting tournaments and sharing our delicious cuisines. And, of course, through trade.

Deepening business integration and taking advantage of our youthful, talented and increasingly skilled population of over 600 million people has potentially huge rewards. It has been estimated that if intra-ASEAN trade was boosted from 24 per cent to 40 per cent, the incremental impact on the ASEAN economy could be 2.5 trillion dollars annually.



But being a community also means placing appropriate emphasis on the development agenda. Our ten member states are at different stages – and narrowing these gaps is not optional. It is essential if we are to build a truly integrated ASEAN, which is why inclusiveness and sustainability must be at the heart of our policies going forward.

Ladies and gentlemen,

An increasingly integrated ASEAN is on course to be the world's fourth largest economy by 2050. Some even estimate that we could be the fourth-largest market after the EU, US and China by 2030 – only 15 years from now. We already have the third biggest workforce, after India and China, and it is entirely realistic for us to see ourselves as a "Third Force" in Asia.

Others are aware of this. A JP Morgan report referred to "ASEAN's bright future". It called us "an emerging hotspot located at the heart of the Asia-Pacific region and situated across major trade routes", and concluded, "in spite of challenges, ASEAN's economic performance continues to outpace the rest of the world."

A report by the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group published this April was even more upbeat. It said: "The numbers behind ASEAN's transformation are truly astonishing: Greater ASEAN integration and the creation of the ASEAN Economic

Community could drive annual regional GDP growth of 6-8 per cent. Over the same period, annual intra-regional trade could reach US\$1 trillion and G4 trade – trade with the US, Europe, Japan and China – could reach US\$3.7 trillion. Foreign direct investment into ASEAN from the G4 will continue to grow strongly to around US\$106 billion as companies look to expand production bases in the region.”

The report also observed that our “potential is greater than is commonly understood”. That is true. And if ASEAN is sometimes underestimated, we must be careful that we are not guilty of that ourselves. We should be confident about our future, and we should be vocal about our confidence.

We believe it is timely, therefore, for ASEAN’s united voice to be heard more frequently at multilateral fora. As you are aware, one of the eight priorities set by Malaysia as Chair this year is to enhance ASEAN’s role as a global player, and with an increasingly durable regional architecture in place, there is no reason why ASEAN should not take a more active role in the international community. We need to look beyond our borders, and do so together.

This is partly because there are many issues today, such as climate change, transnational crime, the threat of extremism, and migration, that cannot be resolved by individual nations alone. Region-to-region cooperation and dialogue is more effective at dealing with issues of such magnitude.

But it is also because it is time for ASEAN to fulfil its potential. Let me share with you some more assessments of what we are now and what

we could be. One recent study declared that “the smart manufacturing money is on ASEAN”. The Financial Times thinks that ASEAN’s FDI prospects are looking bright.

David Lipton, the Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, said earlier this year that ASEAN was “a magnet for foreign direct investment and portfolio flows”. He described ASEAN as “one of the success stories of the modern era. In two generations you have risen from poverty to prosperity. In doing this ASEAN has set an example for developing countries around



the globe that aspire to economic progress.”

And the US Council on Foreign Relations says that “ASEAN is the most significant multilateral institution in Asia” and that ASEAN has the capacity “to firmly establish itself as the essential regional organisation in Asia.”

Shouldn’t “the essential regional organisation in Asia” be a well-recognised and respected voice in all global settings, and one that is heard on every important issue – from the environment, to security, to development priorities, legal disputes, and even the future of great international institutions such as the UN, the World Bank and the IMF?

ASEAN should not be shy about reaching out and connecting with the

world. That is why it is entirely appropriate that this week of meetings and discussions includes those between ASEAN and Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the EU, America, China, Russia and India, as well as the East Asia Summit, which consists of 18 members, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, which brings together 27 member states.

The fact that these are not new relationships shows that ASEAN has a history of participating and collaborating with neighbours and friends from across the continents. The creation of the ASEAN Community is, however, an opportunity to transform our ten nation group and forge a new place in the world. To connect in a new way, with a new sense of identity born of having become a community.

For that transformation to take place it must begin at home, in the countries of ASEAN. We need to raise awareness of what ASEAN is doing and of how the ongoing changes will be of benefit to all – we must make ASEAN a tangible reality to all our citizens. If outside investors and banks can see our potential, we need to ensure that our peoples can too.

That is what lies behind the theme for Malaysia’s chairmanship for this year: “Our People, Our Community, Our Vision.” It is a vision to be shared at home and with the world so that we all play our part in making the Asian Century also the ASEAN Century.

And with that, it gives me great pleasure to declare the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the related meetings open.

Thank you.

## Speech by the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day Celebration



Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikumwarahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good evening.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs;

His Excellency Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN;

Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen and the young people of ASEAN,

Firstly, let me express my appreciation to YB Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, for inviting me here today to celebrate the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day together with all of you.

As you know, this is a day that has a special resonance for me, as my father, Tun Razak, was one of the five founding fathers who signed the Bangkok Declaration in 1967 which brought ASEAN into being.

I was a teenager then, but I was aware that this was a momentous occasion, and represented an important change in how countries in our region thought about each other and dealt with each other.

The declaration bound us to actively promote peace, stability, growth, progress and development, with an

emphasis on collaboration and mutual assistance. And since then, ASEAN has contributed towards tangible and significant progress, not only for the region as a whole but also individually for its member states and its peoples.

We are diverse in terms of culture and history, but we came together as one to chart a new approach to regional cooperation. Over the nearly five decades of ASEAN's existence, there have been many milestones along the way.

In 1976, ASEAN had its first summit, in Bali, Indonesia. Two years later, we had our first ministerial meeting with what was then the European Economic Community. That's 37 years ago, which demonstrates how long a history ASEAN has of international, region-to-region activity.

Over the following two decades, ASEAN welcomed new members. First Brunei, then Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, and Cambodia. In 1994, we established the ASEAN Regional Forum, followed by ASEAN Plus Three and later the East Asia Summit. And in 2007, we adopted the ASEAN Charter.

That led us to where we are today, on the verge of realising the ASEAN Community by the end of this year. That Community now consists of over 600 million people – the third largest workforce in the world, and poised to become a major global player.

According to one estimate, ASEAN could constitute the fourth-largest market after the EU, US and China by 2030. That is only 15 years away.

Greater integration has tangible rewards. Intra-ASEAN trade was US \$458 billion in 2008, when the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint came into effect. Last year, it had risen to \$609 billion. With further elimination of barriers, these figures will rise still more. Intra-ASEAN trade is expected to rise from 24 per cent of

the total at the moment to 30 per cent by 2020.

In case that still seems a little abstract, let me put it in very clear terms. If we manage to raise that level of trade from 24 per cent to 40 per cent, the incremental impact on the ASEAN economy could be \$2.5 trillion annually.

The more we strengthen the ASEAN Community, the more we will gain: both from working with one another, and also from being able to act as one on the global stage, forging new agreements with large countries and other groups to the benefit of all.

But, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me return to the Bangkok Declaration. It concludes with these words: "The Association represents the collective will of the nations of South-East Asia to secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity."

We have chosen to emphasise the idea of a "People-Centred" ASEAN in 2015 under Malaysia's chairmanship. But that sentence shows that ASEAN has always been about its peoples.

It may, at times in its history, have appeared to operate more at the inter-governmental level. But the interests of its citizens have always been paramount – and the peace that ASEAN helped bring about and maintain has been a very real prize for the hundreds of millions in our region.

Now, however, is the time to ensure that ASEAN is a part of our peoples' daily lives. We need to raise awareness of ASEAN, its great achievements of the past and the brighter horizons for all it should bring about in the future.

That is why I am delighted that the selection process has already begun for the first ASEAN People's Awards.

These will celebrate the inspiring achievements and contributions made by ten outstanding ASEAN organisations and individuals, and will be presented at the next ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November.

It is important that we recognise and showcase those who are making a real difference in community-building. They may be people or groups that are already well-known, or they may be unsung heroes.

But after they are honoured with these prestigious awards, I am sure that they will provide inspiration for the peoples of ASEAN, and be examples of what we can do when all of us – all of our many faiths and races - come together as one.

For just as unity is vital at home – and

here in Malaysia we know how necessary it is not to divide but to put the national interest first – ASEAN must continue to consolidate and build solidarity, unity and resilience.

In this way, we can make sure that ASEAN takes its place as “the essential regional organisation in Asia”, as a leading international affairs think tank recently put it.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us now join hands to forge ahead and build a long lasting, prosperous



and inclusive future for ASEAN and its peoples.

Thank you and happy 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day.

*Continued from page 1*



largest economy by 2050 and it is time for ASEAN to fulfil its potential. The ASEAN Community makes us stronger and more economically secure; more open to trade and outside investment.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers then had extensive discussions during the Plenary Session which was chaired by Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman. The

ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting deliberated on important political, security and development issues crucial to ASEAN and its Member States. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting covered issues regarding ASEAN community building, efficiency and coherence of ASEAN institutions, ASEAN's external relations and its centrality in the evolving regional architecture as well as regional and

international issues and developments of common concern.

This AMM was an important meeting for ASEAN in pushing forward the growing momentum towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community by end of 2015 and the development of its post-2015 vision. This meeting was also significant in forging strategies to enhance ASEAN centrality and unity in light of recent development as well as the shifting strategic landscape in the region.

Following the AMM, the Post Ministerial Conferences with the Dialogue Partners were held. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers met separately with Foreign Ministers and high level officials of ASEAN's ten Dialogue Partners; Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

The AMM was complemented by a Gala Dinner hosted by Dato' Sri Anifah

Haji Aman in honour of ASEAN Foreign Ministers, Dialogue Partner Ministers, ASEAN Regional Forum Ministers and invited guests on 5 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. During the dinner, Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman delivered his remarks, welcoming all Foreign Ministers and delegates to the 48<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMC. The dinner was emceed by popular actor and stand-up comedian Harith Iskander, who entertained the local and foreign guests with his signature brand of wit and humour. The opening act featured a Malaysian Borneo performance by the SK Bukit Damansara dance troupe. The Gala Dinner was also graced with a range of cultural performances and fashion shows, which showcased Malaysia's diversity.

On the final day, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers met with their counterparts from East Asia for the 5<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Meeting and the 16 ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting. The EAS countries consist of the ten ASEAN Member States and Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States, while the ASEAN Plus Three countries are the ten ASEAN countries plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The series of meetings concluded with the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) which was a consultative platform for promoting open dialogue on political and security cooperation in the Asia Pacific region. ASEAN established ARF in 1993 to foster constructive dialogue and make significant contributions towards confidence-building, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution in Asia-Pacific. Twenty six countries plus the EU participated in the ARF. The members of the ARF were the ten ASEAN Member States, the ten Dialogue Partners (Australia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Republic of Korea and the United States), ASEAN Observer (Papua New Guinea) as well as Mongolia, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers adopted a Joint Communiqué which, among others, outlined the deliberations by



the ASEAN Foreign Ministers comprising all areas of cooperation in the three pillars of ASEAN Community and external relations, including on regional and international issues.

The 48<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMC concluded on a positive note. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers, the Foreign Ministers of the Dialogue Partners as well as participating countries had constructive discussions on regional and international issues of mutual concerns, consistent with Malaysia's overarching theme of a *People-Centred ASEAN*.



## Can Malaysia make an impact as a UNSC non-permanent member?

By Johan Arief Jaafar

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). Its main responsibility is maintaining international peace and security based on the UN Charter and is also authorised to establish peacekeeping operations, establish international sanctions and authorisation of military action through UNSC resolutions. To date, the UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

### Malaysia as a UNSC non-permanent member for the term 2015-2016

The Honourable Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, delivered a speech calling for leaders of the world to reject extremism and support a "movement of moderates" on 27 September 2010 during the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The term "moderation" was coined by the Prime Minister which continues to be promoted by Malaysia until today.

Prior to the UNSC elections in October 2014, His Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia travelled the world presenting Malaysia's candidacy, as well as lobbying for Malaysia to be nominated with at least two-third majority. During one of the lobbying campaign, Dato' Sri stated:

"We must not take it for granted. We have to work very hard and we have to engage and meet leaders from various countries to secure the seat, but I am quite confident that Malaysia has a very good name globally"

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, through the Multilateral Political Division, was tasked with the lobbying efforts with other member states. In addition, the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN participated in the UNSC open debates in New York and actively engaged in the campaign.

On 16 October 2014, Malaysia secured a seat in the UNSC as a non-permanent member for the fourth time, with its tenure from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016. It received 187 votes from the 193 member states in a secret ballot. The other non-permanent members are Angola, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain and Venezuela while the permanent members are China, France, Russia, UK and US.

The Prime Minister viewed the support from UN member states as an extension of approval for Malaysia's principle-based foreign policy and moderation. As a UNSC non-permanent member, Malaysia is determined to play its role in establishing the measures to be taken, in resolving conflicts based on international laws.

### Can Malaysia make an impact as a UNSC non-permanent member?

Malaysia can make an impact as a UNSC non-permanent member. Even though permanent members have veto power over decisions, non-permanent members including Malaysia can make an impact in the Security Council. There are certain tools that allow Malaysia to exercise more influence on UNSC's work and outcomes.

Upon joining the Security Council, Malaysia introduced the theme "Peace and Security through Moderation" with the aim to collaborate with UNSC members in promoting efforts towards maintaining international peace and security, as well as finding lasting solutions to conflicts through mediation and peaceful means.

On 1 June 2015, Malaysia became the President of the UNSC for the month of June. His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Ramlan Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia and President of the Security Council held a press conference with the interna-

tional media on 2 June 2015. Malaysia handled the press conference well, confidently answering queries on the programme of work which was agreed upon by the Council members. Even a query on Sepp Blatter and his role in the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was answered accordingly.

During that month, two Presidential statements were delivered, 15 Security Council press statements were issued and six UNSC resolutions were adopted. In addition, five national statements were delivered by the Permanent Representative and Deputy Permanent Representative.

One of the key events under Malaysia's Presidency of the council for the month of June 2015 was the UNSC Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict chaired by His Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on 18 June 2015.

The Open Debate discussed the 14<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict, as well as highlighted the issue of abduction of children. Over 75 member states participated in the Open Debate. The event was also attended by His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General and Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict.

The Foreign Minister in his statement called on the international community to take concerted efforts to alleviate the suffering of children harmed by warfare. In addition, he emphasised that the perpetrators of the crimes against children must be held accountable. Dato' Sri Anifah also announced Malaysia's endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration that was adopted in Oslo, Norway on 29 May 2015.

At the end of the Open Debate, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolu-

tion 2225 (2015) tabled by Malaysia and co-sponsored by 56 member states. The resolution aims to strengthen measures to identify perpetrators of abduction and hold them accountable, as well as to further strengthen the normative framework of the children and armed conflict agenda.

On 20 July 2015, Malaysia and Jordan co-chaired the Arria-formula meeting titled *Reflections One Year Later and Charting a New Course for Gaza*. It was the first Arria-formula meeting on Palestine since March 1997. The aim of the meeting was for the council to reflect on the 2014 Israeli offensive against Gaza, one year on, with a view to generating a new impetus for the Security Council to address the dire and unsustainable humanitarian situation in Gaza.

On 29 July 2015, Malaysia introduced a draft resolution calling for the establishment of an ad hoc international criminal tribunal to try those responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. The initiative was made on behalf of five countries participating in the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), namely, Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Ukraine and Malaysia. The Council received 11 votes of support from UNSC members but it was not adopted due to a veto from the Russian Federation.

Overall, Malaysia made an impact as President of the UNSC in June 2015 and continued to play a pivotal role until today. Malaysia is scheduled to become the President of UNSC again in August 2016. Malaysia is also determined to leave a lasting impact that will send an indication to other member states especially the Asia-Pacific region on why Malaysia should be re-elected in the future.

On UNSC reforms, there have been calls by UN member states for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council to reflect contemporary geo-political realities. Malaysia will

continue to work within the UNSC to strengthen its cause to reflect the realities of the present day. It is hoped that the power of veto by the Permanent Five (P5) consisting of the US, UK, Russia, China and France would be further revised. The veto by Russia on draft resolution calling for the establishment of an ad hoc international criminal tribunal to try those responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 has clearly hindered Malaysia and other member states from finding a closure and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Malaysia has over a year to further contribute as the non-permanent member to the UNSC. As Malaysia races to achieve developed status in the next six years under its Vision 2020 and its engagement on these multilateral platforms also evolves, Malaysia will most likely increase its ability to contribute and make a difference regionally and globally. The advancement of technology such as the UN Web TV allows other member states to review how Malaysia presides over the Council.

In 2016, the Security Council is scheduled to select the ninth UN Secretary General. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have already begun the process of finding a suitable candidate and it promises to attract scrutiny from a wide and diverse audience. Malaysia as a member of the Security Council will have a key role in the process of finding the right person for this important work.

In conclusion, Malaysia has achieved a number of accomplishments at the UN. Since the start of its peacekeeping operations and the famous Black Hawk Down incident, Malaysia has always been at the forefront of the UN and will continue to play an active role as the UNSC non-permanent member.



*Mr. Johan Arief Jaafar started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia on 1 April 2008. He is currently in his seventh year at the Ministry and has vast experience in the bilateral and multilateral department. He has also coordinated several working visits abroad at the level of the Prime Minister, namely, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2011 and 2012 (USA and Russia); Global Smart Partnership Dialogue (GSPD) in 2013 (Tanzania) and the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) in 2014 (U.A.E). He is also a two-time APC winner.*

*Mr. Johan Arief graduated with a First Class Honours Degree from Coventry University, United Kingdom in the field of International Business. He is currently in New York serving as a Long Term Delegate to the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from September to December 2015.*

## Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2015



On 11 August 2015, IDFR organised a workshop under the Economic Diplomacy Series titled *Negotiating International Economic Agreements* for participants of the *Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015* course.

The objectives of the workshop were to enhance the participants' skills in negotiating international economic agreements, develop their techniques for successful negotiation and desired outcomes, and promote coalition building in the context of international commerce and trade agreements.

Conducted by Associate Professor Dr. Sufian Jusoh, External Fellow at the World Trade Institute, the workshop commenced with a brief introduction on the topic of *International Economic Agreements and Psychology/Neuroscience of Negotiating*. Dr. Sufian spoke of the World Trade Organisation's failure in fulfilling the national interests of its 162 members at once since there are always diverging opinions. Hence, bilateral trade agreements in the form of free trade agreements (FTA) appear to be vital in upholding a particular state's interest. The differences between international trade agreements and international investment agreements were also discussed, as well as the steps and skills of negotiation such as planning, building relationship, exchanging information, persuasion, and agreement. One of the important steps elaborated was identifying the main

objective, national interest and position before engaging in a negotiation. Dr. Sufian also emphasised good negotiating habits such as listening patiently to all parties involved before moving into further discussions.

The workshop also discussed cross-cultural negotiations with a superpower such as the United States (US) and a major politico-economic union such as the European Union (EU), and the importance of understanding their dynamics and priorities. Dr. Sufian stressed that negotiations with the US and the EU involve protecting their key interests rather than meeting justice.

During the workshop, the participants were divided into groups and discussed ways to negotiate according to a variety of scenarios. The objectives of this session were to promote better understanding in coalition building, enhance the techniques of negotiating in a team and develop analytical thinking in identifying the interests that need to be upheld.

## Economic Diplomacy Series 3/2015

IDFR, the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and the International Institute for Trade and Development, Thailand (ITD) recently jointly organised a panel discussion, titled *Regional Integration Towards A People Centric Community: Sharing the Experience of ASEAN and Latin America*.

With the objective of discussing the implementation of a people-centric ASEAN through the ASEAN Community and efforts to place the people of ASEAN at the forefront of the agenda for future community, pillars, strategies and programmes, the discourse also compared the ASEAN Community aspiration with another people-centric effort taking place in

Latin America, in particular the Mercado Comun del Sur or MERCOSUR.

Madam Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Director of Special Projects delivered the Welcoming Remarks on behalf of the Director General, while Professor Dr. Rashila Ramli, Director of IKMAS delivered the Opening Remarks. Dato' Muhamad Noor Yacob, former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) moderated the session which comprised two panelists – Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol, Executive Director of ITD and H.E. Gerardo Prato, Ambassador of Uruguay to Malaysia.

Dr. Kamalinne, in his presentation titled *People Centred, People Oriented*

ASEAN, explained that people-centred implies a mutual respect for the history and culture of diverse people in ASEAN. A people-centred ASEAN would be one in which ASEAN citizens feel that they are not just part of ASEAN but they are ASEAN, and ASEAN's future is their future. Therefore, a people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN Community is a community where everyone can contribute to and enjoy the benefits from a more integrated and connected community through enhanced cooperation for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development. In this regard, ASEAN can become a powerful vehicle for the realisation of its peoples' aspirations.

H.E. Prato, in his presentation titled

*Continued to page 21*



# 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference and Related Meetings



# 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting / Post Ministerial Conference and Related Meetings





# Economic Diplomacy Series 3/2015



*Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015*





*MTCP: Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015*



*Outreach, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme for UMS Students*



*SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 5/2015*



*Workshop on Public International Law*



*Merdeka Day Exhibition*





*Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy  
2015/2016*



Visits to IDFR



# IDFR's Director General's Farewell



Continued from page 12

*The MERCOSUR Experience*, provided an illuminating background on the sub-regional bloc and its evolution into a people-centric organisation. Also known as MERCOSUL or the Southern Common Market, MERCOSUR was, in its early years, very much market-, trade- and commercial-oriented. It has since then achieved many milestone agreements which contributed to the development of trade and social dimensions of the sub-regional bloc. The Convergence Fund, for example, was established in 2004 for the development of infrastructure and social cohesion. The fund is used to develop disadvantaged areas to better connect with other dynamic parts of the region and supports a social cohesion plan for communities displaced by measures of trade or consequent of free trade. Another interesting aspect of MERCOSUR is the phenomenon of Merco-cities. Starting with only 15 cities in 1994, today more than 300

cities in MERCOSUR member states are linked and they collectively tackle daily issues such as the problem of sewage and congested roads. In his concluding remarks, H.E. Prato said that MERCOSUR is far from fully achieving its goals but it has been quite successful in developing its social dimension, rights and constitutional views.

In the open floor discussion that followed, H.E. Maria Isabel Rendon, Ambassador of Argentina to Malaysia commented that she is proud of the integration process achieved by MERCOSUR, and attributed the smooth integration to a common language, which is Spanish, shared by all member states except Brazil. In ASEAN, there is no problem at the official level as English is used. However, for people-to-people contact at the ground level, there is a serious language barrier due to diversities found in ASEAN. H.E. Raul de Taunay, Ambassador of

Brazil then shared that Brazil has started offering Spanish lessons at schools as a way to promote the freedom of mobility in MERCOSUR, and Dr. Kamalinne noted that perhaps ASEAN member states should explore this option as another way to promote better understanding of culture and diversity among members.

Among the attendees were other Ambassadors from the Latin American countries, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, other members of the diplomatic corps, academicians, representatives from think tanks, students from IDFR-UKM Master programme, as well as representatives from the public and private universities.



## DiD: Panel Discussion on *Contemporary Political Issues*



In collaboration with IDFR, the DiD 2015 participants organised a panel discussion, titled *Contemporary Political Issues* on 3 July 2015.

The invited panellists for the session were Dato' Haji Irmohizam Haji Ibrahim, Member of Parliament, Kuala Selangor; Dr. Tunku Mohar Tunku Mohd Mokhtar, Assistant Professor at the International Islamic University and Ambassador Datuk Salman Ahmad, former diplomat with

over 30 years' experience with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The session was moderated by Mr. Firdaus Akhimullah Munir Al-Hakim Ramly, a DiD participant. In attendance was Ms. Romaiza Ab Rahman, IDFR's Director of Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC).

The focus of the session was on contemporary political issues, which included history, evolution as well as challenges in Malaysia's politics, from the viewpoint of a Member of Parliament, an academician and a former diplomat.

During the session, Dato' Irmohizam spoke on the concept of democracy and separation of powers of the executive, legislature and judiciary system. He believed that everybody is part of the civil society with freedom of expression. He further added that

social media has become the mainstream media for the youths which represents 43 per cent of Malaysia's population. As such, he urged the young generation to be critical in order to support the development of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tunku Mohar shared his knowledge on the structure of Malaysia's politics including Malaysia's constitution, principles of democracy and the concept of a two-party system. He highlighted that Malaysia's current economy including the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan is an important factor which could determine the future direction of the country's politics.

Ambassador Datuk Salman Ahmad, as the third panellist, elaborated on the important characteristic required in young diplomats prior to their

postings abroad, namely, the sense of responsibility to promote, defend and love our country. He added that young diplomats need to be equipped with as much knowledge as possible on Malaysia's policy in order to clearly

explain the country's position to their counterparts.

The participants took the opportunity to participate in the discourse and shared their opinion on the future of

Malaysia's politics. The session achieved its aim of enriching the participants' knowledge on contemporary political issues from various viewpoints.

## DiD: Talk on *Xenophobia, Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Issues*



On 9 July 2015, the DiD 2015 participants were privileged to attend a session on *Xenophobia, Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Issues* by Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Movement of Moderates.

In attendance at the session were Ambassador Aminah Tun Haji A. Karim, Director of the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) and Ms. Romaiza Ab Rahman, Director of CEC.

During the session, Dato' Saifuddin spoke on Malaysia's experience dealing with xenophobia and the public's sentiment towards immigrants. He reiterated that handling perception was the key to overcoming xenophobia, inter-cultural and inter-religious conflicts.

Dato' Saifuddin also shared his experience attending the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2013 and suggested for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia to continue engaging other Ministries and Agencies in order to improve Malaysia's position and policies on issues related to xenophobia.

The participants took the opportunity to ask various questions related to the

topic as well as on the National Unity Consultative Council. At the end of the session, Dato' Saifuddin expressed his well wishes to the participants who would be posted abroad in the future.

The session achieved its objective of enhancing and widening the participants' perspective on these issues. This would be an added advantage for the junior diplomats when they attend multilateral meetings such as at the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

## DiD: Charity Programme with Persatuan Rumah Kebajikan Baitul Kasih



The DiD participants, in collaboration with the Institute organised a charity programme, themed *Diplomacy Through the People* with Persatuan Rumah Kebajikan Baitul Kasih on 12 and 13 July 2015.

The programme

aimed to inspire as well as to bring cheer to the 29 children in conjunction with the *Eid* celebration.

Ms. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah, an officer from the Corporate Affairs Section, led officers from IDFR and Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional to the home on 12 July 2015 and registered the orphans with *Skim Simpanan Pendidikan Nasional* (SSPN-i), a savings scheme specially designed for higher education.

The next day, IDFR officers and the DiD participants visited the orphanage and spent time interacting and reading books to the orphans. A mini library was also set up during the visit. In the evening, the orphans were taken to IDFR to break fast together.

At the end of the session, Ms. Romai-za Ab Rahman, Director of CEC distributed *duit raya* and some goodie bags to the orphans, on behalf of the Director General.

This effort to reach out to the people

will continue to be conducted in the future, as part of IDFR's corporate social responsibility.

## DiD: Tea-Talk with Tan Sri Dato' Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak



On 30 July 2015, the DiD 2015 participants organised a Tea-Talk with Tan Sri Dato' Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia at the VIP Dining Hall. In attendance were Madam Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects; Ambassador Aminahun Haji A. Karim, Director of PSED; and Ms. Romaiza Ab Rahman, Director of CEC.

Mr. Johan Arief Jaafar, President of DiD 2015 in his opening remarks highlighted that the DiD participants were very fortunate to have activities and academic sessions with personalities such as Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah from the Global Movement of Moderates and Dato' Haji Irmohizam Ibrahim, Member of Parliament for Kuala Selangor. Mr. Johan Arief recalled having had the opportunity to work closely with Tan Sri Fuzi and the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation last year during the 10<sup>th</sup> WIEF in

Dubai, UAE. He considered the 10<sup>th</sup> WIEF a huge success when 11 MOUs were signed with extended cooperation of investment close to RM2.7 billion. Mr. Johan Arief then expressed his utmost gratitude for Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi's presence and willingness to share his experience and knowledge with the DiD participants. He concluded by extending his best wishes to the WIEF Foundation in hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> WIEF in Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 5 November 2015.

Having vast experience as a Ministry of Foreign Affairs' officer, Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi stressed the importance for a diplomat to be equipped with good traits, passion, and analytical and creative thinking skills in order to stay relevant and to protect our national interests at the international fora.

Touching on the accessibility of social media such as Facebook and WhatsApp, as well as the current information and communication technology, he emphasised the need for the younger generation to be utilising this technology for the benefit of closer engagement with the public and pave the way to many excellent achievements. Highlighting his own recipe for

success, Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi then listed down 11 traits of a successful diplomat, among others, firm; well-articulated; knowledgeable; proficient in writing and speaking; confident; innovative; and have good negotiation skills. Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi believes that as long as the Ministry is vested with competent diplomatic officers, it will stay relevant to the government in many years to come.

The Tea-Talk then continued with a Q&A session, where the participants had the opportunity to put forward their thoughts, views and questions, ranging from foreign policies/matters to the management of human resources particularly at the Ministry. Overall, the session was insightful and beneficial for the participants, especially in gearing them up to become future Malaysian diplomats.

The participants hoped that more of such engagement can be organised in the future as it serves as a platform for the young diplomats to learn from and share thoughts with senior officers from the Ministry as well as other organisations.

## DiD: *Regional and International Affairs Module 2015*



A three-day *Regional and International Affairs Module (RIAM)* was held from 11 to 13 August 2015, with the aim of giving exposure to the 18 DiD 2015 participants and seven international participants from Argentina, Indonesia, Russia, Singapore, South Africa and the United States of America to the history, mechanism, roles and functions of the United Nations (UN), particularly the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Ambassador Tan Sri Hamidon Ali, former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN in New York, was the facilitator throughout the simulation exercise.

On the first day, Tan Sri Hamidon delivered a lecture on the *United Nations System and Balance of Power*. He also shared his vast working experience at the UN on the rules, regulations, challenges and intricate details of the UNSC. At the end of the first day, each of the participants was assigned to a different role, such as President of UNSC, Secretary General of UNSC, non-permanent member to the UNSC and an international organisation.

The second day started with an Informal Council Meeting that saw Mr.

Jackson Kwakwa of South Africa and Mr. Johan Arief of DiD representing the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) tabling a draft resolution on the *Situation in Syria*.

In his remarks, Mr. Jackson urged the Security Council to carry out its responsibility to address the escalating peace and international security situation. He concluded his remark by urging members of the Security Council to support the draft resolution. In essence, the non-permanent members expressed their support on the draft resolution in line with preserving unity, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and social harmony of Syria. However, most members were of the view that the operating paragraph could be further improved in line with the latest development in Syria.

During the Working Group of Experts, the non-permanent members discussed the text of the draft resolution focusing on key issues such as humanitarian assistance, chemical weapon, terrorist organisations in Syria, negotiation process between Syrian Pro-Governmental and Opposition Forces as well as the role of the UN Special Envoy to be appointed as a moderator of the negotiations.

On the third and final day, the latest draft resolution was brought to the attention of members during the Formal Meetings of the Council. The majority of the non-permanent members were pleased with the latest text of the draft resolution as it has a clear

direction on the way forward in preserving the territorial integrity of Syria. Among the key operational paragraphs were the proposal for a negotiation process to begin in October 2015 and the principle of non-interference from other countries. This was further supported with the appointment of five observers from UN States including New Zealand, Malaysia, Russia, United States of America and Jordan. Overall, all the non-permanent members supported the draft resolution with the exception of China which abstained from voting. At the end of the Formal Meetings, the President of the UNSC adopted the resolution, titled *Situation in Syria*.

Overall, Tan Sri Hamidon was pleased with the conduct of the UNSC simulation meetings. The participants found the exercise beneficial and was an essential platform to learn about the UNSC system. On the way forward, more simulation exercises need to be conducted in the future among participants to further enhance their knowledge in various multilateral fora.

*IDFR would like to congratulate DiD 2015 participants; Mr. Johan Arief Jaafar, Ms. Sharifah Nurul Fariheen Syed Mohd Allimin and Ms. Grace Rebekah Teh Mei Shan on their appointment as Long Term Delegates to the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). We hope your experience during RIAM 2015 will further enhance your knowledge of the UN system and the UNSC.*

## The New Intake for the *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy*

IDFR welcomed the new intake for the *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy 2015/2016*, a joint programme between IDFR and UKM,

which is in its 16<sup>th</sup> year of collaboration. Eleven students registered on 1 September 2015 and this was followed by the orientation programme.

The four-day orientation programme was conducted at IDFR and UKM, and was packed with briefings, visits and interactive sessions. On the first day,

Ms. Romaiza Ab Rahman, Director of CEC gave her welcoming remarks and shared some information on IDFR. Then, Associate Professor Dr. Kuik Cheng Chwee, UKM's Programme Coordinator and also one of the programme's instructors, took the floor to brief the new students on academic related matters and details of the programme.



During the orientation programme, the students also had the opportunity to have interactive sessions with Professor Dr. Hazita Azman, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM, Professor Dr. Siti

Daud, Chairperson of the School of History, Politics, and Strategic Studies; and Dato' Hussin Nayan, IDFR's Director General. The programme also included a session on *Academic Writing* by Ms. Zaidah Mohd Hashim, Lecturer from Universiti Teknologi MARA and a lecture on

*Strategy and International Security: Concepts and Theories* by Professor Dato' Dr. Zakaria Haji Ahmad, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) of HELP University.

As part of academic support, the students visited the IDFR, UKM and ISIS libraries for a familiarisation programme and they commenced their classes at IDFR on 7 September 2015.

## Workshop for Liaison Officers

In conjunction with the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers' Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference, IDFR organised a *Workshop for Liaison Officers* from 1 to 3 July 2015. The three-day workshop was attended by 42 liaison officers from various ministries.

The main purpose of the workshop was to evaluate and assess the competency of the liaison officers to be assigned to respective principals amongst Ministers and Senior Officials of the meeting and conference. It was also an exercise for the liaison officers to understand their duties and respon-

sibilities, and ensuring the smooth running of the ASEAN meetings.

Among the modules were *Introduction to the ASEAN/Malaysia's Role as ASEAN Chair 2015, Roles and Functions of a Liaison Officer, Introduction to International and ASEAN Protocol, Handling Events, Personal Grooming and Etiquette, Interpersonal Skills, Cross Cultural Awareness and Communication, Preparation of the Checklist Liaison Duties, Speaking Skills, Listening Skills* and *Simulation of Summit Proceedings*. There was also a site visit at KLIA, which included a

walkabout and a simulation exercise. Most of the speakers were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The workshop received positive feedback from the participants who would be serving as liaison officers for the first time. They were enthusiastic to begin their tasks, especially at such a prestigious meeting.

## Outreach, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme for UMS Students

A three-week *Outreach, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme* organised under the purview of *Diplomatic Training Course* was recently held at IDFR for University Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Student Ambassadors.

Held from 27 July to 14 August 2015, the programme involved 14 UMS students from various academic backgrounds who are active in the university's co-curricular activities. Two of them are *Perdana Fellow* from the University of

Sheffield and UMS respectively.

The idea behind this programme is to create a pool of talented and versatile students to assist the university in performing tasks and duties such as welcoming foreign visitors to the



university and taking them for tour around the campus. The UMS' Centre for International Affairs Management is the focal point for foreign visitors to the university.

The objective of this programme is to provide the participants with knowledge and skills in the conduct of diplomacy and foreign relations as well as exposure to basic theories of public diplomacy and international relations. The participants were able to gain first-hand experience in understanding the programme and agenda for the related ASEAN Ministerial Meetings, while at the same time to have a platform for networking and exchanging of views between the participants and the speakers for the programme who are mostly diplomats.

For the first two weeks, the participants were assigned on-the-job training with the Ministry's Main Logis-

tics Secretariat (SILA) to assist at the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting/Post Ministerial Conferences and Related Meetings held at Putra World Trade Centre. During their stint with SILA, they learnt about logistics arrangements and elements of managing international meetings and other events which involved senior officers, ministers and dignitaries.

The participants also had the opportunity to assist in organising the ASEAN Day 2015 celebration, held at the Pavilion Shopping Centre. The 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was intended to raise awareness about ASEAN, and foster and strengthen ties between ASEAN citizens. The celebration also gave significance to Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN with the theme, *Our People, Our Community, Our Vision*.

During the last week of the pro-

gramme, the participants attended classes covering a wide range of topics including *ASEAN Chairmanship 2015*, *Cross-Cultural Awareness*, *Malaysia's Foreign Policy: Issues, Challenges and The Way Forward*, *the Roles and Functions of Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions*, *Malaysia's Non-Permanent Seat in the UNSC 2015-2016*, *Practices in Protocol*, *Practices on Consular Work*, *Media Relations and Media Skills* and *Public Speaking and Presentation Skills*.

Throughout these classes, the participants were given in-depth exposure to bilateral and multilateral negotiations, Malaysia's Foreign Policy, diplomacy, consular work and protocol. These were done through interactive lectures and presentations by the participants. One of the highlights of this course was a tea-talk sharing session with Ambassador Aminatun Hj. A. Karim, Director for the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy, who shared her experience on the traits of becoming a good diplomat. The closing ceremony and certificate presentation was held on 14 August 2015 at Istana Hotel, and was graced by Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

The programme received positive feedback from the participants in terms of the quality of the modules, the credibility of the speakers and the facilities provided.

## *MTCP: Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015*

Twenty two participants from 18 countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Cuba, Guinea, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uganda and Uzbekistan – recently took part in a

three-week *Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015* course organised by IDFR, through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

Held from 27 July to 14 August 2015,

the programme aimed to enhance participants' knowledge on strategic thinking and security analysis, and to expose the participants to the changing political, security and strategic global environment. During the programme, the participants took part in

several substantive sessions such as *Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Communicating Across Culture, Law of the Sea Convention 1982 and its Impact on Southeast Asia, Strategic Choice Process and the Art of Choosing, National and International Security, Countering the Terrorist Narrative, International Negotiations: Analytical Tool for Thorough Preparation, Balancing, Bandwagoning and Hedging, Strategic Issues and Challenges on Human Rights, Scenario Planning/Strategic Future, Strategic Communication: Dealing with Media and Environmental Crisis: Strategic Solution.*

During their stay in Kuala Lumpur, the participants were introduced to Malaysia's federal government administration by a visit to Putrajaya. In addition, the participants made a visit to the Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC) in Cyberjaya



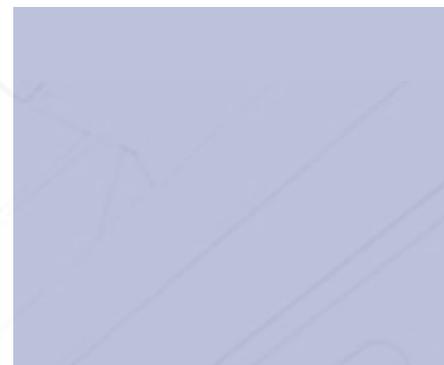
and were briefed on its mission to catalyse the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Malaysia. They were also introduced to Malaysia's rich history and culture through visits to the National Palace, Batu Caves, National Monument and Independence Square.

Under the *Introduction to Malaysia's State Level Governance* module, the participants made a four-day visit to the states of Negeri Sembilan, Melaka and Johor to learn the roles and responsibilities of Federal and State Governments in shaping and developing the nation. In Negeri Sembilan, the participants visited the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson and enjoyed the state's beautiful beaches. Their stay in Malacca was filled with visits to the state's historical and popular tourist sites such as the Stadthuys, A Famosa Fort and Harmony Street. The participants were also brought to

delight in the breathtaking aerial view of Malacca from the top of Menara Taming Sari and the energetic night market at Jonker Street. In Nusajaya, Johor, the participants received an in-depth briefing on the state's political, economic, social

development, security and environment aspects from the Economic Planning Unit, Johor, Royal Malaysian Police of Johor and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (Southern Region), and gained an insightful knowledge on the fast-growing city of Iskandar Malaysia from the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA).

The closing ceremony and certificate presentation for the programme was jointly held with the *Diplomatic Training Course for Universiti Malaysia Sabah Student Ambassadors and Perdana Fellows* on 14 August 2015 at Istana Hotel. The ceremony was graced by Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Embassy representatives from the participating countries, senior officials of the Ministry and Universiti Malaysia Sabah, as well as members of the media.



## *Workshop on Public International Law 2015*

According to Assistant Professor Dr. Haniff Ahamat of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Public International Law refers to a "law that governs relationship between States in their relations with one another". It also "governs other players such as international organisations, non-governmental organisations, multinational corporations and peoples or individuals". The reach on the subject of Public International Law such as

international trade and human rights is pervasive today. Therefore, it is important for government officers, especially those involved in the handling of international affairs, to acquire knowledge of at least the basics of Public International Law to meet the challenges in discharging their day-to-day responsibilities.

On this basis, IDFR conducted a *Workshop on Public International Law*

from 8 to 10 September 2015. The workshop is aimed at introducing participants to the basics and main aspects of Public International Law such as questions of state responsibility, the law of treaties, the law of the sea and issues relating to diplomatic immunity, trade, human rights and environmental protection.

This annual workshop is among IDFR's popular courses and well



received by participants from various ministries and government agencies over the years. It has given the participants a good opportunity to learn or relearn about the theoretical and practical understanding of Public Interna-

Ahamat himself and Dr. Mohd Hazmi Mohd Rusli, senior lecturer at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

The workshop was attended by 19 participants comprising government

tional Law, gain insights into its application in international legal and diplomatic practice, and network with the speakers and among themselves. Among the speakers were Assistant Professor Dr. Haniff

officers at Grade 41 to Jusa C drawn from the lower and high courts of Malaysia, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, the Royal Malaysian Customs Department and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency. They received their certificate of attendance from Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman, Deputy Director of PSED on the last day of the course.

## Visits to IDFR



In the month of September, IDFR hosted two visits to the Institute. The first visit was by 20 students from the University of Malaya and the Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan on 10 September 2015. The other was a visit by Lembaga Ketahanan Nasional (LEMHANNAS), Indonesia on 15 September 2015.

The delegation from the University of Malaya and the Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan was led by Professor Dr. Washio Tomoharu, a lecturer from the University and Mr. Masao Okuno, Director of ASEAN Project. The purpose of the visit was to enable students from both universities to complete the development of the

ence to ASEAN related to socio-economy, regional political systems, and social values of the region.

The session commenced with welcoming remarks by IDFR's Director General. After an overview of the Institute, Mr. Nazarudin Jaafar, Director, High Level Task Force of the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, briefed the students on the topic of *Malaysia Chairman of ASEAN*. After the briefing, the students were brought for a tour of IDFR.

The LEMHANNAS delegation were at IDFR part of their visit to relevant Malaysian Ministries and Agencies

ASEAN Project which was inaugurated by the School of International Studies at Kwansei Gakuin University. The visit also aimed to impart to the students new insights on pertinent features and issues with refer-

including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Institute Strategic and International Studies to gather information and learn their roles and functions.

The delegation comprised 41 participants of Program Pendidikan Regular Angkatan and was led by Dr. Ardi Partadinata, Director of LEMHANNAS. Madam Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects, delivered the welcoming remarks and this was followed by the address by Dr. Ardi Partadinata who expressed LEMHANNAS's interest to learn more about IDFR's programmes.



## Farewell to our Director General

Wednesday, 30 September 2015 marked the last work day for the Institute's Director General, Dato' Hussin Nayan. He left the service after serving IDFR for two years and the government for close to 40 years.

The staff of the Institute organised a farewell for Dato' Hussin on that day, and the event commenced with a doa recitation. This was followed by an opening address by Madam Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects who is now the acting Director General. In her address, Madam Norani spoke about Dato' Hussin's able leadership and his focus



and drive, especially in leading the way for IDFR's transformation programme.

Dato' Hussin then took to the floor and began his speech by thanking Madam Norani for her kind words. He then reflected on his journey in the civil

service and shared that his first post was with the Social Security Organisation. Dato' Hussin concluded his speech by thanking everyone for their contribution during his tenure as Director General and he wished IDFR the best.

The afternoon ended with the presentation of memento and flowers to Dato' Hussin and a photography session. The staff then congregated at the lobby to see Dato' Hussin clock out and to bid him farewell.

## International Conference on the *Plight of the Rohingya, Part II: Crime against Humanity*



Sarah Zahirah Ruhama, an officer with IDFR, attended an international conference on the *Plight of the Rohingya, Part II: Crime against Humanity* organised by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) on 12 June 2015 at the Islamic Arts Museum, Kuala Lumpur.

Tan Sri Norian Mai, Chairman of PGPF delivered the welcoming address while Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of PGPF delivered the keynote address. His address was

both bold in its stance and purposely provocative to draw urgent attention and action on the issue.

Comprising two plenary sessions, distinguished speakers of the first session were Mr.

Mohamed Naeem@Khin Maung Myint of the National Democratic Party for Development, Myanmar; General Tan Sri Mohd Azumi Mohamed (Rtd) of PGPF; Dr. Abdul Malik Mujahid of Burma Task Force USA; Dr. Hla Myint of Rohingya Intellectual Community Association of Australia; and Mr. Matthew Smith of Fortify Rights; with Professor Salleh Buang, Deputy Chairman of Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War (KLFCW) as moderator. The second session was moderated by Dato' Ahmad Talib, Trustee of PGPF; and invited speakers

were Mr. Mohammad Abdoel Malik Rizal of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia; Dato' Dr. Ismail Noor from Malaysia; Reverend Alan Rey Sarte from the Philippines; Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree from Thailand; and Mr. Jason Kay of KLFCW.

The two plenary sessions were followed by some observations made by a group of NGO representatives on the plight of the Rohingyas and related issues. Finally, the conference ended with the adoption of a resolution presented by Chief Rapporteur, Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, Trustee of PGPF and IDFR's Distinguished Fellow. The resolution contained calls for appeal to the governments of ASEAN Member States, Bangladesh, the USA, the EU and Australia as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International

Organisation for Migration to, among others, provide direct socio-economic assistance to the Rohingyas in Myanmar, open up opportunities for the Rohingyas to be resettled in third countries, and for the Rohingya issue be made a permanent item in the

ASEAN agenda in order to work towards reaching comprehensive solutions in the interest of regional peace and stability.

The conference was attended by members of the diplomatic corps,

government officials, representatives from various local and international non-governmental and civil society organisations, members of the media as well as academicians.

## My Internship Experience at IDFR

By Nur Filzatunnafsi Rahmat



outside my area of expertise, particularly in the area of information technology. The experience I gained at IDFR will assist me in working life.

In addition, I was privileged to be involved in organising a wide range of courses run by CLCD including *Say It Right 2/2015* and *Effective Presentation Skills*. A lot of

I started my internship at IDFR on 29 June 2015. Since I am majoring in English Study, I was placed at the Centre for Language and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD).

Throughout the programme, I was grateful to be surrounded by colleagues who were very supportive and provided me with guidance and assistance at all times.

I also gained a lot of knowledge

preparatory work had to be done prior to each course such as confirming the number of participants, accommodation, food and classroom setting. The opportunity to meet and mingle with the participants also helped to expand my networking and enhance my social skills.

Besides being involved in organising courses, I also joined in the *Iftar* and *Eid* celebration. It was a wonderful memory for me as everyone in CLCD

prepared a meal together for the *Eid* celebration.

I was also fortunate to be given the opportunity to share my experience of participating in a six-month mobility programme to South Korea organised by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia with the staff through the 'Let's Share' programme organised by the Library. The opportunity to speak about my experience in the 'Kimchi' country helped to enhance my confidence in public speaking.

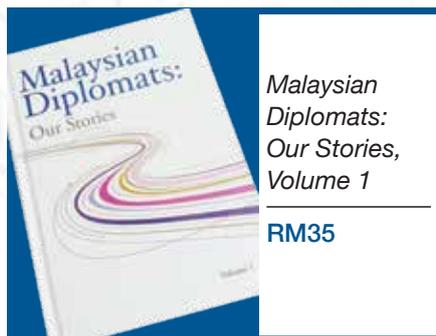
I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the cooperation and guidance extended to me. I also hope that the good relations between the staff and myself will last and we will meet again in the future. It was my honour to meet with each and every one of the staff.

## IDFR Publications for Sale



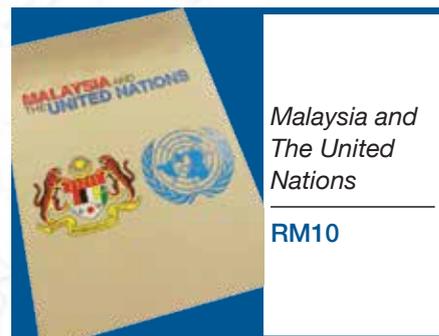
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## What They Say...



**Brigadier General Dato' Hj. Sanusi Hj. Samion**

Ministry of Defence, Royal Malaysian Airforce  
(Participant of the *SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 5/2015*)

“The course was very relevant for all the participants who will be posted abroad, especially on the elements of knowledge and integration among various agencies; because at Mission, we are one. Networking among the participants and getting to know key personalities were among the benefits that I gained from the course.”



**Ala'uddin Baharom**

Legal Officer, Federal Court of Malaysia  
(Participant of the *Workshop on Public International Law*)

“Overall, I absolutely loved this course. I think it is probably the right course for anyone who has never participated in a public international law course before. It was well structured and well organised, and its modules and

content were appropriate and were presented in a supportive atmosphere. The amazing part was that the participants who already had some knowledge about international law also actively contributed to and enjoyed the course. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. Getting to know fellow participants who came from various Ministries and organisations was the most beneficial for me.”



**Mohd Risdi Surij Zainudin**

Leader of UMS Student Ambassadors  
(Participant of the *Outreach, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme for UMS Students*)

“The programme was an eye opener. We were not briefed thoroughly about it beforehand, so when the programme commenced, the 14 of us who are from different background and courses, felt that it was something new and exciting. We also asked a lot of questions. The exposure here was different from UMS and the programme taught us what most students would not be able to learn at university. If I have the chance, I would take part in this programme again.”

participants and facilitators, as well as having a platform to exchange views and opinions involving spouses so that they could have a better understanding of their roles.”

“The course was very relevant and we were able to learn a lot of new things. Other advantages included sharing of experience and useful tips by the facilitators, having an opportunity to build networking among



**Zakaria Mohd Nani**

Tourism Malaysia  
(Participant of the *SPKM Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 5/2015*)

## Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR <sup>\*</sup>

<i>Teaching, Training and Assessing Learning (TeTra) Advanced Diploma Programme</i>	1 October–1 December 2015
ASEAN Community 2015 and Beyond	3-4 October 2015
<i>Effective Writing Skills 2/2015</i>	5-8 October 2015
<i>ASEAN Briefing and Refresher Course for Liaison Officers</i>	12-13 October 2015
<i>MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Junior Diplomats 2015</i>	12-30 October 2015
Public Lecture on <i>Sustainable Development Goals: Key Considerations for a People Centred ASEAN</i>	19 October 2015
<i>Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Secretariat Attachment Officers (AO) 2015</i>	19–30 October 2015
ASEAN Anniversary Forum	28 October 2015
<i>Workshop on Intercultural Awareness</i>	3-5 November 2015
<i>MTCP: Crisis Management for Senior Government Officials</i>	3-9 November 2015
<i>Workshop on International Negotiation</i>	24-26 November 2015
Palestine Solidarity Day	29 November 2015
Human Rights Day	10 December 2015

\* Subject to changes

### Best Wishes

#### To our colleagues, who left us with pleasant memories

Dato' Hussin Nayan - end of contract  
 Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah – resigned from her contract  
 Nik Nazarina Nek Mohamad – resigned from her contract  
 Norhawati Ismail – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia, Dili, Timor Leste  
 Mat Basir Jaafar – retired from the service  
 Azizah Saad – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia, Hanoi, Vietnam

#### To our colleague who received an award recently

Kamaruddin A.Hussin who was conferred  
*Pingat Pangkuan Negara* in conjunction with  
 the official birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong

#### To our colleagues who recently had a 'visit from the stork'

Norfatimah Othman  
 Zaleha Zakaria

#### Editorial Committee

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**Advisor** : Norani Ibrahim  
**Editorial Team** : Noraini Awang Nong, Azmah Mahmud

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