



# IDFR 2016

ANNUAL REPORT

Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



## **IDFR 2016 Annual Report**

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Jalan Wisma Putra  
50460 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia  
Visit us at [www.idfr.gov.my](http://www.idfr.gov.my)  
Email us at [info@idfr.gov.my](mailto:info@idfr.gov.my)

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# Message

from the Secretary General,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for a successful 2016. Various training programmes have been conducted by IDFR. As the training arm of the Ministry, IDFR has steadfastly pursued its goals of arming the Malaysian diplomatic community with the essential tools to effectively protect and promote Malaysian interests abroad, as well as at home.

The global geopolitical horizon continues to pose challenges and obstacles to us. However, they are not insurmountable. They should instead inspire us to amplify our efforts, both at home and abroad, to ensure that Malaysia's strategic objectives are achieved. It is crucial that our Foreign Service continue to hone their skills to successfully meet, and devise effective solutions to today's complex challenges.

With this at the forefront of our minds, the training programmes conducted by IDFR continue to strive to fulfil the demands and challenges faced by our Foreign Service. More discourses and programmes have been, and will continue to be organised by IDFR, which will cover past, current and projected issues of interest to Malaysia. I am confident that such efforts will continue to further complement and strengthen IDFR's programmes.

While effective training programmes are enacted by IDFR, it is equally important that members of our Foreign Service are fully invested in them. They should grasp any opportunity to participate meaningfully in these programmes to enhance their personal and professional development, as well as to grow into a valuable asset to the Ministry. One such programme worth highlighting is the IDFR-UKM's Master of Social Science programme, which has successfully enhanced its graduates' skillset in the key areas of Strategy and Diplomacy. I also expect senior officers to mentor younger officers so that they can meet their optimum potential.



Today's geopolitical challenges and economic headwinds obviously have regional and international ramifications – not just for Malaysia. These give more reason for us to always deliver our very best. We must strive to be creative and innovative. We must think of what is in the best interest of Malaysia and the *rakyat*. We must adapt to change, remain focused on our priorities, deliver on our targets and meet the expectations of our stakeholders. Meaningful ROI (Return on Investment), so to speak, must be achieved.

On this note, it is clear that IDFR has another full and challenging programme of work in store for 2017. I am confident that the Institute will build upon the good achievements of 2016 and exceed expectations in 2017. After all, IDFR should always endeavour to be, and remain, Malaysia's premier Foreign Service training institute and leading foreign policy think-tank.

I wish IDFR all the very best for 2017.


Thank you.

**DATO' RAMLAN IBRAHIM**



# Foreword

by the Director General,  
Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations



I am very pleased that IDFR continues to perform to the best of its ability in 2016. For that, I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to all the staff for their hard work, commitment and team spirit.

As the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the core business of IDFR is the training of diplomats and diplomatic officers. In 2016, the Institute successfully conducted 41 courses and 13 discourses. The numbers did not match that of the previous years given the Institute's early stage of shift of focus to niche areas under its transformation exercise. In July 2015, IDFR repositioned itself to become a learning institute driven by subject matter experts under its four learning centres – the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy; Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy; Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy; and Competency Enhancement Centre. Presently, it is still in the process of engaging more subject matter experts and researchers from universities and the private sectors to be part of the academic team.

To complement that role, the Institute had also started to produce analytical papers on various topics of interest to IR practitioners. It is hoped that these papers can contribute to the Ministry in its role as the guardian of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Institute plans to produce more papers as more subject matter experts and researchers are welcomed into its fold. This will pave the way for IDFR to become Malaysia's foreign policy think tank.

The above notwithstanding, the Institute still upholds Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation by organising courses under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. Among the courses conducted in 2016 was the Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants; Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants; Intercultural Awareness and Diplomacy Course; and Public Diplomacy Course for International Participants. The Institute also displayed its Prosper Thy Neighbour spirit by, among others, organising the ASEAN Workshop for Lao PDR Officers, the objective of which was to share Malaysia's experience in chairing the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015 since Lao was the chair in 2016.

The Institute also hosted several lecture series including by Professor Martin Jacques, an expert on China and author of *When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order*, and Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of the Cordoba Initiative. IDFR also looks forward to welcoming His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan and the Royal Patron of the Institute at a Royal Address in July 2017.

On its publications, the Institute with the support of the Ministry, produced a coffee table book titled *Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN 2015: A Reflection*. It is a reflection of Malaysia's journey as Chair of ASEAN in 2015 and a guide for the Ministry's officers and other civil servants in organising such big scale events in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah for His Royal Highness' support. My deepest appreciation also goes to Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dato' Ramlan Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Ministry; and the Ministry for the support given to the Institute. I would also like to

thank Datuk Salman Ahmad, my predecessor, for his leadership, efforts and ideas while helming the Institute from November 2015 to November 2016.

Thank you.

## **DATUK MOHAMAD SADIK KETHERGANY**







# Overview



# Overview



The year 2016 was another productive year for IDFR. Under the four Centres, the Institute organised a total of 41 courses. They include courses for Malaysian diplomats and other members of Malaysia's foreign affairs community, as well as for officials under the MTCP recipient countries. The Institute also organised a special course for officials from Lao People's Democratic Republic, to assist them in preparation for their country to chair the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2016. A new course was also introduced in 2016; the Management Training Course for Locally Recruited Staff. It was the first training course of its kind for selected locally recruited staff at Malaysian Missions to enhance their knowledge in office management.

One of the Institute's two flagship programmes – the Diploma in Diplomacy – saw the participation of 15 junior diplomats. Besides attending the

daily lectures to enhance their knowledge and skills, the participants were required to organise panel discussions on current issues with the relevant authorities, and the topics covered include *Petroleum in the World Economy* and *Celebrity Diplomacy: Innovation in Diplomatic Practices*. They also went on a study visit to Genovasi Malaysia, an organisation that cultivates innovation and design thinking skills, and were also involved in a CSR programme which saw them visiting the Kajang Women's Prison in Sungai Buloh and interacting with some of the parolees. The Regional and International Affairs module organised under the programme saw the participation of junior diplomats from Australia, Canada, India, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

With regards to the other flagship programme – the Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy – IDFR is in its sixteenth year of collaboration with

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The programme which aims to equip students with a broad range of theoretical framework, conceptual tools and analytical competence to explore the nexus between strategy and diplomacy in international relations, has thus far produced more than 265 alumni. For 2016, nine students graduated from the programme and 11 students registered for the 2016/2017 session.

To complement its courses, the Institute conducted 13 discourses, including public lectures, round table discussions and forums on regional and international issues. Among the topics discussed were on ASEAN; South China Sea Dispute; Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; and Human Rights.

Cultural diplomacy is a new area that IDFR expanded into. Among the programmes initiated under the scope of cultural diplomacy were the Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series; Intercultural Awareness and Diplomacy Course; and Workshop on Intercultural Communication and Diplomacy. A Cultural Appreciation Day was also organised on 28 July 2016 in collaboration with the participants of courses taking place at IDFR then. A myriad of activities were organised by the participants including an exhibition on national costumes, music and other products and paraphernalia from their respective home countries, and a food demonstration.

To share and learn from other diplomatic training institutes, the Director General attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations at the Australian National University from 21 to 23 September 2016. The meeting discussed the challenges and opportunities for diplomacy in the "Asian Century".

IDFR also appointed its new panel of Distinguished Fellows for 2016-2020 which consists of ten esteemed former ambassadors and diplomacy practitioners. On 19 October, a meeting was held to discuss the way forward for the Institute and on 28 November, the Distinguished Fellows, together with the top management of the Institute, were granted an audience with His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah, the Institute's Royal Patron.

The month of November also saw the departure of Datuk Salman Ahmad, the Institute's tenth Director General. He was succeeded by Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany who had just completed his tour of duty to Hungary.









# **IDFR's Royal Patron and Distinguished Fellows**

# IDFR's Royal Patron



His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah  
ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah  
Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan

# IDFR's Distinguished Fellows for 2016-2020

**Tan Sri Razali Ismail**

Chairman, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia

**Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan**

Former Chairman and Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia

**Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Haji Abdul Razak**

Secretary General, World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation and Former Director General of IDFR

**Tan Sri Hasmy Agam**

Former Chairman, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and Former Executive Chairman of IDFR

**Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Mohamad**

Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia

**Professor Dato' Dr. Zakaria Ahmad**

Senior Vice-President/Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) HELP University

**Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad**

Former Director General of IDFR

**Dr. Chandra Muzaffar**

President, International Movement for a Just World

**Professor Dr. K.S. Nathan**

Principal Fellow, Institute for Ethnic Studies  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

**Associate Professor Dr. Sufian Jusoh**

Deputy Director, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia





January



## 5 January

### Let's Share@IDFR Programme

This is a platform for the staff and course participants to share knowledge and information gathered from books that they have read. Among the books shared by the presenters were *Grateful Leadership* by Judith W. Umlas; *Flying Off Course* by Rigas Doganis; and *Winning Minds: Secrets from the Language of Leadership* by Simon Lancaster.

Organised on a monthly basis starting from 5 January, the session was later expanded to include sharing of personal experience such as serving at post, travelling to a new country and learning a musical instrument.



## 13 January

### Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2016 titled *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*

On 13 January, IDFR held its first forum for the year. Held in collaboration with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), the panel discussion with the theme *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together* was organised under the Economic Diplomacy Series, one of IDFR's flagship discourses.



The Keynote Address was delivered by Dato' Steven CM Wong, Deputy Chief Executive of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies. This was followed by a panel discussion on *ASEAN Post 2015: Challenges in ASEAN Integration*. The panellists were made up of Professor Dr. Rashila Ramli, Director and Principal Fellow of the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, UKM; Associate Professor Dr. Bhanupong Nidhiprabha of Thammasat University; Associate Professor Dr. Toh Mun Heng of NUS Business School; and Mr. Michael Teoh, Founding Director and Lead Trainer of Thriving Talents Sdn. Bhd. The discussion was moderated by Dato' Muhamad Noor Yacob, Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for Economic Diplomacy.

Dato' Muhamad Noor Yacob began the session by sharing the outcome of the ASEAN Economic Integration Forum 2015 at Oxford University which discussed a host of economic governance challenges facing ASEAN Member States. Professor Dr. Rashila Ramli, who was the first panellist, gave an overview of the Roadmap for ASEAN Community 2025 and highlighted the importance of a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community. Dr. Rashila also pointed out key political and socio-cultural issues facing the ASEAN Community and ways to overcome them such as rethinking the South China Sea issue and a better linkage of ASEAN Vision with global initiatives such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Associate Professor Dr. Bhanupong Nidhiprabha then spoke on Thailand's Perspective of ASEAN 2025. He focused on the economic issues and challenges faced under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) as well as highlighted the importance of the ASEAN nations' continued commitment in tackling the remaining measures from the AEC 2015 Blueprint.

Associate Professor Dr. Toh Mun Heng spoke on Singapore's perspective on ASEAN 2025, especially

from the economic point of view. He outlined some of the challenges that lie ahead which might delay the full realisation of the AEC Blueprint and concluded by sharing his view on ASEAN's future as a region with simplified rules, closer regulatory cooperation, greater transparency, a talented and well-educated pool of workers, and a large, vibrant consumer base.

Speaking on the role of youth, Mr. Michael Teoh stressed the importance of integrating values, culture and the history of ASEAN as part of formal education. He also urged the younger generation to be more collaborative rather than competitive, and stressed the importance of volunteerism among the youths.

## 18 January

### Speechwriting Workshops for Wisma Putra Officers



IDFR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised two speechwriting workshops for officers of the Ministry. The first workshop was held on 18 and 19 January for 16 Undersecretaries

and Principal Assistant Secretaries, and the second on 20 and 21 January for 38 Assistant Secretaries.

The workshops were conducted by Mr. Simon Lancaster, a full-time speechwriter for Tony Blair's Cabinet from 1999 to 2007. Mr. Lancaster has written speeches for many Britain's politicians on issues related to politics, defence, trade, aid, public service reform, education and health. He is the author of *Speechwriting: The Expert Guide* (Hale, 2010) and *Winning Minds: Secrets from the Language of Leadership* (Macmillan, 2015).

At the end of the workshops, the officers commented on how they now have a better understanding of the art, principles, styles and strategies of speechwriting, which include researching and finding new angles on old issues. They also felt that they have become better equipped with a wide range of practical speechwriting tools to make their speeches more effective and engaging.

## 22 and 26 January

### Courtesy Calls from Foreign Missions

In January, IDFR received courtesy calls from the Embassy of Georgia; the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya and the Foreign Service Institute of Kenya; as well as from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Iran.

Representing the Embassy of Georgia during the visit on 22 January was its Counsellor, Mr. Levan Machavariani. The officials from the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya who came on 26 January comprised Ms. Dorcas Rukunga, its Charge d'Affaires; Mr. Paul Mutha, First Secretary; and Ms. Judith Kathambi, Second Secretary. The Iranian delegates' courtesy call, also on 26 January, was led by Mr. Hossein Mahmoudi, Counsellor

from the Embassy here in Kuala Lumpur. The delegations were received by Puan Hajah Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects. Discussions were held on areas of possible cooperation; among others, people-to-people exchanges, sharing of expertise and research, and capacity building.

## 26 January

### Public Lecture on *Defining Islamic Statehood*

IDFR and the Cordoba Initiative of New York co-organised a public lecture titled *Defining Islamic Statehood* by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of the Cordoba Initiative on 26 January.

According to Imam Feisal, an Islamic State can be defined by three categories: demographic, penal code and legal (or *Maqasid Shariah*). A state can be considered Islamic simply by having a large population of Muslims that makes up the majority in the country. A state which implements a penal code that outlaws unIslamic practices can also be considered an Islamic State. Finally, an Islamic State can be defined as a state which upholds the *Syariah* law.

Imam Feisal added that an Islamic State is also composed of three key elements. The first is the declarative statement on the acknowledgement of the sovereignty of God. This is followed by legitimisation where collective vicegerency must comprise the following: Consultation, Consensus, and Allegiance to the Rulers. The final and most important element in an Islamic State is the outcome deliverables that should provide economic and social justice.

As part of its efforts to clear the misunderstandings surrounding the issue, the Cordoba Initiative is undertaking a monumental task of producing a *Syariah* Index which can delineate and index modern





Islamic States using quantifiable measures, and itemize Islamic principles of good governance particularly on the preservation of life, intellect, property, dignity, religion and lineage. The *Syariah* Index project seeks to reframe the discussion on a wide range of issues, including the relationship between religion and the state; the relationship between *Syariah* and constitutionalism; the relationship between Islam and communities from other faiths; Islam and international human rights instruments; as well as the judicial reform mechanism and the rule of law.

Imam Feisal maintained that Islam is by nature inclusive, as the religion recognises many prophets of religions that came before it, such as Judaism and Christianity, and he believed that this could be a good starting point for inter-religious dialogues.

Imam Feisal explained that a major challenge in applying the *Syariah* Index measurements was determining the value. This challenge proves difficult to overcome as different societies have

different values and expectations. However, he shared data showing that Malaysia is consistently in the top five positions in all areas of the measurement. In the final analysis, he discovered that states which are economically strong correlate positively with the *maqasid* of life and the *maqasid* of honour. He concluded the lecture by saying that more accurate data and extended research could assist further in defining Islamic Statehood.

## 29 January

### 'Everyone Can Borrow' Programme

This door-to-door book loan service by the Library started in 2014. The objective is to enhance the Library's delivery service by going to the staff while maximising the usage of its collection and promoting available materials. The first programme for 2016 was held on 29 January and in total, the staff borrowed 304 books.

To cultivate and foster reading habits among the staff, the person who borrowed the most number of books each month was given the Excellent Reader Award.





February

## 4 February

### French Language Courses

Six courses of various levels were conducted between February and October. The courses, namely, Level I, Level II, Level IV, Level V and Level VI received favourable response from officers from various Ministries and government agencies. Generally, the participants were keen to learn the language as they progressed from one level to another.

The main aim of the courses was to introduce the language to Malaysian participants and to create awareness of the French culture among them. The participants at the beginner levels were exposed to the basic aspects of the language's conventions, words and sentence structure. At this level, the focus was more on situational conversation and expressions. At higher levels, the focus moved further into more complicated expressions and grammatical rules. Generally, emphasis was also given to pronunciation.

In addition, all the participants were taken to cultural events and programmes conducted by Alliance Française or organisations related to French speaking countries. This gave them the opportunity to practise the language in real life contexts, and to be exposed to the custom, practices and tradition of the French culture.



## 10, 11 and 15 February

### Courtesy Calls from Foreign Missions

IDFR received visits from three foreign mission representatives in the month of February: H.E. Manuel Antonio Guzman Hernandez, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on



10 February, who was accompanied by Mr. Enrique Manuel Gonzalez Kong, the Embassy's Minister Counsellor; H.E Ibete Fernandez Hernandez, the Ambassador of the Embassy of Republic of Cuba on 11 February; and H.E Carlos Felix Corona, the Ambassador of the Embassy of Mexico on 15 February.

## 15 February

### Spanish Level II 2016

The course was conducted every Monday from 15 February to 22 August. The participants who attended the course were from the Ministry of Education; Ministry of International Trade and Industry; Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission; and National Archives of Malaysia as well as a government pensioner. All of them had successfully completed Level I in 2015.

The objective of this 42-hour part-time evening course was to equip the participants with the relevant expressions needed to talk about their daily routines, needs, wishes and preference. Interactive methods of role-play, simulations and games were employed to teach the language.

## 16 February

### Spanish Level III 2016

The course was held every Tuesday and Thursday from 16 February to 26 April. The participants were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education; Department of Forestry; and a non-governmental body associated with Tourism Malaysia, who had earlier completed Level II.

The objective of this 42-hour part-time evening course was to equip the participants with the required expressions needed to greet others in formal and informal situations; ask and provide information based on a schedule or itinerary; and furnish personal information regarding oneself such as name, age, family and favourite food. In addition, the participants learnt how to make phone calls; give suggestions; receive and decline invitations; describe a person; and talk about their health and wellbeing. The participants passed the exam at the end of the course and later continued to Level IV.

## 17 February

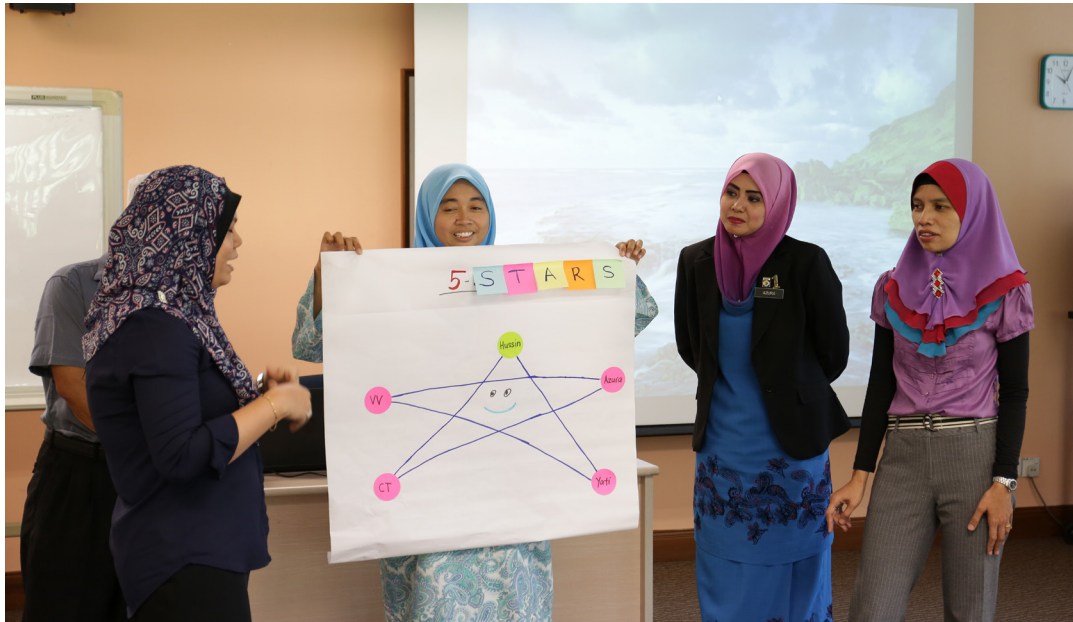
### Spanish Level I – I/2016

This first Spanish Level I course for the year was attended by 16 participants from the Ministry of Education; Prime Minister's Department; Royal Malaysian Police; Malaysian National News Agency; National Archives of Malaysia; National Security Council; Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; and Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia, among others. The course was conducted every Wednesday and Friday evening, from 17 February to 24 August.

The objective of the course was to equip the participants with the basic expressions in the Spanish language. They learnt how to greet and introduce themselves and others, and spell and write simple words. They were also taught the grammar and syntax of the language which enabled them to form simple sentences.

## 22 February

### Building Blocks of Good English



With the aim of enhancing the participants' skills in becoming competent users of the English language, IDFR organised the Building Blocks of Good English workshop from 22 to 26 February. The five-day workshop was attended by 30 officers from various Ministries and government agencies.

The structure of the workshop was designed in such a way that the participants were able to recall and review their language skills, and to apply them in the various group activities. During the first three days, the participants brushed up on the basics of the language and they were given the opportunity to apply their knowledge through a variety of activities such as speaking and writing. Accuracy also plays an important role in determining one's fluency: therefore, the last two days of the course were spent on addressing this.



**March**

## 1 March

### Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2016

The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2016 started on 1 March, with 15 participants. The participants were made up of 14 officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and one from the Research Division of the Prime Minister's Department.



The main objective of the DiD programme is to prepare the participants for their roles and responsibilities as Foreign Service officers by enhancing their knowledge and skills on aspects related to foreign policy, diplomacy and international affairs. The programme is compulsory for junior Foreign Service officers prior to their first posting at Malaysian Missions.

The Opening Ceremony for the programme was held on 2 March and was officiated by Dato' Kamilan Maksom, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Chief of Protocol, on behalf of the Secretary General.

Throughout the month of March, the participants went through the first module titled *Administrative and Service Matters as a Malaysian Foreign Service Officer*. They learnt various aspects related to consular; information technology; government procurement; financial management; inspectorate matters; auditing; security; human resource management; legal matters; protocol work and diplomatic correspondence. Most of the classes were conducted at the Ministry by the relevant divisions. The modules were delivered through hands-on training, analysis of case studies, simulation exercises and interactive lectures.

The participants were also exposed to grooming and social etiquette, English Language for Diplomacy and foreign language modules. They also had the opportunity to network with the participants of the Diplomatic Training Course as well as the participants from Lao PDR who were attending courses at IDFR under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), a platform for Malaysia to share its development experience with other developing countries, as part of its commitment to South-South Cooperation.





## 1 March

### Conversational Malay Course Level I – 1/2016

This course is part of the Institute's outreach programme and is specially organised for foreign diplomats based in Kuala Lumpur. In 2016, 15 participants from several embassies including Cuba, Sweden and Ukraine attended the 40-hour course, which was conducted from 1 March to 12 May, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The objective of the course was to expose the participants to the foundation of conversational Malay, whilst concurrently helping them to gain a better understanding of the Malay culture in Malaysia. At the end of the course, the participants demonstrated a good grasp of the basic expressions of the language and became more familiar with the Malay culture, custom and tradition.

## 7 March

### SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 1/2016

IDFR held the first Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses from 7 to 18 March. This mandatory course was conducted in line with the directive under the *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negeri* (SPKM) guideline. A total of 31 officers (Grade 41 and above) from various Ministries and agencies/department and their spouses, attended the course.

New and updated modules – namely, the self-assessment, management and administration of LRS; assets and expectations of the officers serving abroad – were introduced to further enhance the participants' knowledge and competency.

Throughout the two-week course, the participants were also exposed to the latest information and practices in diplomacy and international relations; various management and diplomatic skills; and different set of techniques related to their roles and responsibilities working at Malaysian Missions.

## 9 March

### Study Visit from Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Students

On 9 March, IDFR received a study visit from 42 students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah's International Relations Programme. The students were led by one of their lecturers, Mr. Nazri Nain. After a briefing on IDFR's functions and a question and answer session, they were taken on a tour of the Institute.



## 14 March

### Effective Presentation Skills 1/2016



The four-day course was offered from 14 to 17 March and aimed at exposing the participants to effective presentations, focusing on the preparation of speech text and ways for the participants to overcome their fear in delivering presentations. Fourteen officers participated in this course and they were from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture; Royal Malaysian Police; Federal Government Administrative Centre; Federal Department of Town and Country Planning Peninsular Malaysia; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Works; Ministry of Youth and Sports; National Sports Council of Malaysia; Terengganu Forestry Training Centre; National News Agency of Malaysia; and Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

During the course, the participants were also guided on how to handle nervousness during question and answer sessions. The different aspects in delivery were also highlighted and one of the methods used was peer critiquing of individual presentations, which was videotaped and later viewed together for discussion and feedback.



## 16 March

### MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2016

IDFR organised the Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2016 from 16 March to 1 April. The course, funded by the MTCP, was designed to expose aspiring junior diplomats to the various aspects of theories, practices and elements of diplomacy and international affairs.



The course was the first MTCP programme to be held at IDFR for the year. Twenty four participants from 19 countries underwent 17 days of training covering various issues including national and international security; economic diplomacy; media relations; counter-terrorism and international negotiations. The participants were from Azerbaijan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Cook Islands; Guinea; Jordan; Kenya; Lao PDR; Mauritius; Malaysia; Nigeria; the Philippines; Samoa; Seychelles; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

The course encouraged active participation and exchange of information between the participants through lectures, discussions and simulation

exercises. Throughout the course, the participants were able to gain a glimpse of Malaysia's experience in managing its foreign policy, economy and development matters, and were exposed to various diplomatic skills including public diplomacy, media relations and negotiations. The participants also learnt about Malaysia's involvement on the multilateral stage, and Malaysia's experience in planning for an inclusive development. Under the introduction to state-level governance module, the participants were taken on a trip to Negeri Sembilan and Melaka to learn about the unique blend of cultures in Malaysia as well as the working relationship between both the State and Federal Governments.

## 21 March

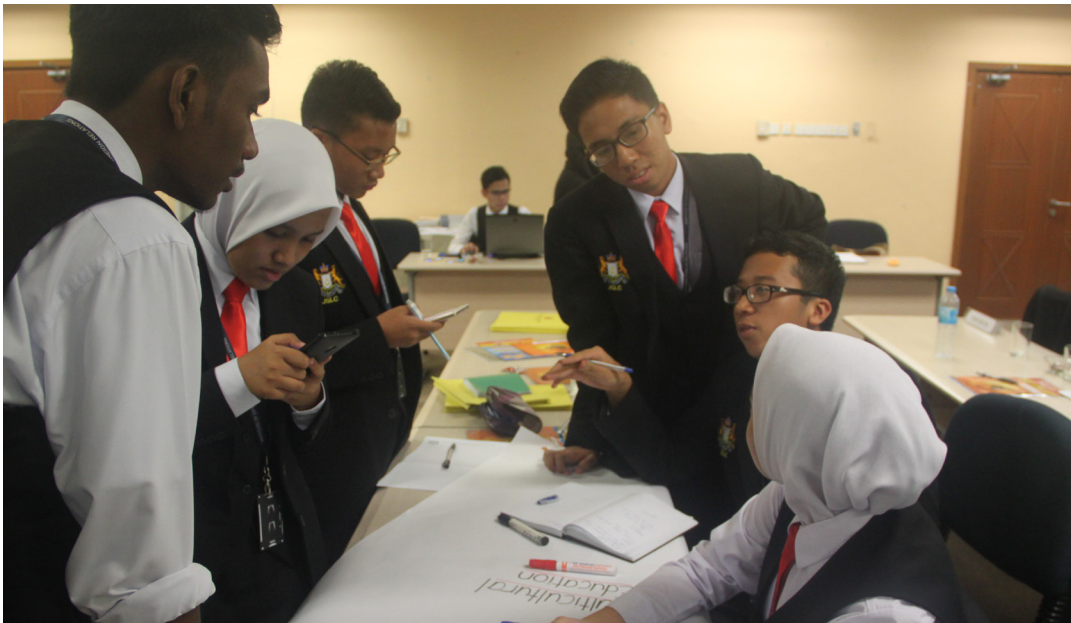
### The Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders' Council

This is the second year IDFR collaborated with the Johor Education Department and the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) to organise the Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders' Council for selected high-achiever students. The programme was held from 21 to 25 March.

The objective of the programme was to cultivate the participants' interest in diplomacy and to

provide exposure in international affairs and international diplomatic practices. Throughout the five-day programme, the participants attended lectures, held discussions, conducted group and individual presentations, participated in various simulation exercises and went on study visits to Foreign Missions in Kuala Lumpur.

The programme received positive feedback from the participants and IDFR looks forward to further collaborations with the Johor Education Department and IRDA on similar programmes in the future.





April

## 5 April

### Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 1

IDFR held the first event under its Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series on 5 April. With the theme *Cultural Diplomacy: Searching for ASEAN Common Values*, the objective of the discourse was to identify common values which can bridge the gap and lessen the tension among ASEAN citizens and to enhance closer ties among the member states.

The panellists for the discourse were Dato' Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, former ambassador and Director General of ASEAN; Dr. Farish A. Noor, Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University; Ms. Ng Yeen Seen, Chief Operating Officer of the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute; and Datuk Kenneth Luis, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Association of Malaysia. The discourse was moderated by Mr. Mohd. Suhaimi Jaafar, Deputy Director General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dato' Abdul Majid focused on the theme of *Prospering Thy Neighbour*. He gave a brief overview of ASEAN's current development up to the establishment of the ASEAN Community and how it created a new demand in diplomacy. He then suggested different approaches to prosper the ASEAN neighbours, for example, by having joint ventures that can benefit the parties involved. He

cited two examples – AirAsia and CIMB – which have successfully done so, and have brought about vast economic benefit.

Dr. Farish A. Noor then spoke on the theme of *Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy*. He said that to understand culture means to understand it in terms that are more dynamic and fluid, and not in terms of history, material or elements that

can be appropriated. He added that problems can emerge when states objectify and appropriate culture. However, states can play a role to facilitate the process by making it easier to make changes for learning, interacting and migrating, among others. Dr Farish also went on to state that very few of our historical syllabi today presents Southeast Asia as a region which the ASEAN

states emerge from, which is why there is a lack of sense of connectivity and homeliness among Southeast Asians.

The next panellist was Ms. Ng Yeen Seen who spoke on *Youth and Culture*. Ms. Ng stated that the ASEAN population consists of 60 per cent youths and that the feeling of connectedness to ASEAN is more important than building ties on economic matters. She was of the opinion that the ASEAN Community cannot be built solely on tangible interests; a sense of shared value is crucial and that will unite and drive the community together.

The last panellist, Datuk Kenneth Luis, spoke on how education can enhance cultural diplomacy. He suggested that current happenings must be included in the curriculum and the textbooks should mirror the changes. Datuk Kenneth also suggested





that we all work together through education to come up with universal shared values.

The discourse was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of NGOs, think tanks and academics.

## 11 April

### SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses Series 2/2016

IDFR successfully organised the second Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under the *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negeri* (SPKM) from 11 to 15 April. Eleven government officers (Grade 38 and below) from various Ministries and agencies/department, and their spouses, attended the five-day course.



During the course, the participants were exposed to key policies, guidelines and practical set of skills in the fields of diplomacy and international relations

with special emphasis on the enhancement of the officers' roles and responsibilities at Malaysian Missions.

Through interactive lectures, group discussions and simulation exercises, the participants were provided with the knowledge and set of skills useful in enhancing their abilities to perform effectively abroad.

## 12 April

### Say it Right: A Course on Pronunciation



The course aimed at giving the participants a greater awareness of the importance of correct pronunciation in order to communicate intelligibly. The participants were taken through some aspects of pronunciation problems among Malaysian speakers using the English language, and several simulation activities were conducted to build their confidence.

The three-day course began on 12 April and ended on 14 April. A total of 22 participants attended the course. Among them were officers from the

Ministry of Education; Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism; Department of Agriculture, Labuan; Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia; Federal Department of Town and Country Planning Peninsular Malaysia; State Education Department of Muar; and Department of Works.

## 14 April

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Ambassadors' Tea Chat

As part of their training, the DiD participants were required to organise intellectual discourses. They were responsible for the planning, preparation, coordination and implementation of the events.

On 14 April, the participants organised their first event, the Ambassadors' Tea Chat. Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman was the guest speaker for the session, where he shared his experience as a former ambassador and Secretary General of the Ministry.



During the semi-casual session, Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi shared his views and opinions regarding multilateral and bilateral issues by relating his experience in Geneva, New York and Vietnam. He also shared some of the challenges faced during overseas assignments and how he addressed those challenges and converted them into accomplishments. Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi dedicated his survival and success during challenging period solely to positive attitude, determination and responsibility.

He advised the junior officers to always be proactive and open-minded, and to continuously pursue knowledge and equip themselves with adequate skills to be at par with diplomats from other countries. He said that they must also be able to comprehend issues related to Malaysia's foreign policy. He stressed that in-depth knowledge and analysis on related issues are necessary during negotiations, decision-making and when advising relevant stakeholders.



## 18 April

### ASEAN Workshop 2016 for Lao PDR Officers



Lao PDR assumed the ASEAN Chairmanship on 1 January 2016. To prepare them in order to ensure the successful organization of the Summit that year, Lao PDR decided to send 14 senior officials to Kuala Lumpur to attend the ASEAN Workshop 2016. The tailor-made workshop was held from 18 to 20 April to learn from the experience and challenges faced by Malaysia when hosting the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015.

The Lao PDR delegation was led by Mr. Ekkaphab Phanthavong, Deputy Director General of the ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and consisted of officials from the Ministry of Post and Communication; Ministry of Public Security; Department of Civil Aviation; Department of Immigration; and Department of Public Health.

The modules during the three-day workshop included *An Overview of ASEAN Chairmanship 2015 including Summits and Meetings; Media and Publicity including Setting up the International Media Centre; VVIP Management and Protocol; Accommodation and Transportation; Security Considerations; Registration and Accreditation; Medical and Health, Spouse Programmes; Conference Facilities; and Gala Dinner and Performances*. The lectures were delivered by officials who were directly involved in handling the various tasks throughout the Summits and related meetings in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop also included a tour of and a briefing at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre where most of the meetings were held.

## 20 April

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Visit to Karangkraf Media Group



On 20 April, the DiD participants visited the Karangkraf Media Group, a reputable publishing company. The purpose of the visit was to expose the participants to the operations of publishing and media industries in Malaysia.

At Karangkraf, the participants visited its production sites, media room, and innovation and creative studio. The participants also had an dialogue session with the Group's Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Dr. Hussamuddin Yaacub who shared his 38 years' experience transforming Karangkraf from a humble enterprising printing company to a leading publishing company in Malaysia.

The visit to Karangkraf served as a platform for the participants to share their thoughts on the latest developments in the media industry and to understand the importance of public diplomacy in international affairs.

## 28 April

### Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2016: *Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement*

On 28 April, IDFR organised a round table discussion under its Economic Diplomacy Series on *Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement* (TPPA). Jointly organised with the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, the panellists for the session were Datuk J. Jayasiri, Deputy Secretary General (Strategy and Monitoring), Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Malaysia's Chief Negotiator to the TPPA; Dr. Zulkipli Omar, Senior Research Fellow at the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research; and H.E. Carlos Felix Corona, Ambassador of Mexico to Malaysia. The round table discussion sought to bring about greater understanding and knowledge on the much-debated free trade agreement that was signed in February.

According to Datuk J. Jayasiri, the TPPA presents new areas for Malaysia such as government procurement; labour; environment and state-owned enterprises excluded from Malaysia's past free trade agreements (FTAs); and Malaysia will be undertaking a few key commitments for the first time.

Another big move for Malaysia is the opening up of the government procurement market. This is a major concession and departure from Malaysia's policy to keep its government procurement market closed. Malaysia is also expected to amend ten of its labour chapters and agreements in compliance with the International Labour Organisation Declaration 1998. Three multilateral environmental agreements made enforceable by the TPPA mark another departure for Malaysia.

By signing the TPPA, Malaysia stands to gain new preferential access to markets in the US, Canada,



Mexico and Peru. By assuming the obligations under the investment chapter, Malaysia has a reasonable chance to attract more foreign direct investments and to ensure the current investors in the country stay and expand their operations. With new rules now outlined for 21<sup>st</sup> century issues such as e-commerce, the TPPA is a game-changer as it creates a platform for digital trade which can be leveraged by developing countries like Malaysia.

Datuk J. Jayasiri also emphasised the need for capacity building for small and medium enterprises as well as Bumiputera enterprises. He also highlighted the need for civil servants to be equipped with basic facts and obligations of the agreement as they will be its future implementers.

Dr. Zulkipli shared his analysis of Malaysia's trade and export. Malaysia's export to its top trading partners, namely, Singapore, the US, Japan and China is highly concentrated on selected commodities such as electrical and electronic goods as well as machinery and furniture. Manufacturing of electrical and electronic goods involves regional production networks and global value chain as Malaysia requires a lot of intermediary inputs to produce the exported final products. Dr. Zulkipli said that it is best for Malaysia to lessen its dependency on intermediary input in order to gain more value. Dr. Zulkipli also drew attention to the need to review the economic structure to better link trade and industrial policies synchronously. He strongly believed that Malaysia can benefit from the TPPA's non-tariff measures such as reforms in labour, commodity, operation and efficiency.

According to the final panellist, H.E. Carlos Felix Corona, the TPPA is a natural extension to Mexico's existing network of FTAs as it seeks bigger presence in Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam. He said that through the TPPA, Malaysia will also have access to the

other 45 countries that Mexico already has a free trade agreement with and can leverage on Mexico's connection with North America and Latin America, specifically its trade bloc, the Pacific Alliance. H.E. Corona also highlighted a few Malaysian products that can benefit under the TPPA, including automotive products, machinery equipment and rubber products. He also emphasised the need to prepare different sectors to compete in a globalized economy, and there is also a vital need to invest in human capital, technology and innovation so that the country can better reap the benefits that such an agreement offers. H. E. Corona also pointed to structural reforms as crucial to provide the conditions for companies to compete better.



May



## 4 May

### Conversational Malay Course Level I – 2/2016

The second Level I course was conducted every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 May to 10 June. It was attended by diplomats from Hungary and Germany based in Kuala Lumpur.

The syllabus for this Conversational Malay course focused on basic Malay communicative skills, and touched on the common uses of the language, its basic conventions and structures. The participants' basic Malay language communicative skills at home, the workplace and in public places were also honed through interactive sessions where they enhanced further their grasp of the language. In addition, the participants were exposed to the gracefulness and cultural aspects of the language. A bilingual approach of Malay and English was used during classroom interactions, to instill a better understanding among the participants.

## 11 May

### MTCP: Crisis Management Course for International Participants 2016

Crisis management is the ability of individuals and states to overcome challenges, threats and dangers with strategies and policy choices. With that in mind, IDFR organised the Crisis Management Course for International Participants 2016 from 11 to 24 May.



Funded by the MTCP, the fourteen-day course was designed to provide insights into theories, strategies, elements and issues related to international crisis management as well as to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in the various approaches and techniques in managing crisis.

Eighteen participants from 16 countries underwent training covering, among others, national and international security; international humanitarian issues and challenges; scenario planning and future studies; environment and energy crisis; maritime diplomacy; counter-terrorism and crisis negotiations. The participants were from Bhutan; Cambodia; Egypt; the Gambia; Guinea; Indonesia; Lao PDR; Malawi; Malaysia; Palestine; the Philippines; Seychelles; Swaziland; Turkey; Uzbekistan and Vietnam.



Throughout the course, the participants gained a glimpse of Malaysia's experience in managing its foreign policy, economy and development matters, and were exposed to various crisis management skills such as scenario planning, strategic thinking, crisis negotiations and public diplomacy. The participants also visited Melaka to discover the unique blend of cultures in Malaysia, under the introduction to state-level governance module.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on 24 May. Datuk Salman Ahmad, IDFR's Director General, delivered the Closing Remarks and presented the certificate of attendance to the participants. The class representative, Ms. Maria Kristina Bernadette C. Mojica of the Philippines delivered the participants' vote of thanks. Also in attendance at the ceremony were the Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to Malaysia; the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Malaysia; the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Malaysia; and Minister Counsellors and Embassy Representatives of the other participating countries, as well as officials from the International Cooperation and Development Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## 16 May

### **SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home Based Staff and Spouses 3/2016**

The third Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses was organised from 16 to 27 May with the participation of 29 officers (Grade 41 and above) and their spouses.

During the two-week course, the participants were exposed to the relevant policies, guidelines and practical set of skills in diplomacy and international diplomatic practices. The officers and

their spouses were also updated on their roles and responsibilities at Malaysian Missions. Through interactive lecture sessions, group discussions and simulation exercises, the participants were also provided with a set of skills that are important in enhancing their abilities to perform effectively. The course also provided an avenue for the participants to enhance their networking and exchange of experience and knowledge with the speakers from both the public and private sector.

## 17 May

### **Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Panel Discussion on *Petroleum in the World Economy***

The DiD participants organised a panel discussion on economy with the title *Petroleum in the World Economy* on 17 May. The panellists were Mr. Abd Rahim Mahmood, Head of Strategic Research, Corporate Strategy, Petroliaam Nasional Berhad; YM Tengku Muhammad Taufik, Executive Director, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Capital Sdn Bhd; and Dr. Mohd Yusof Saari, Head of Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis, Faculty of Economics and Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia. The session was moderated by Ms. Nurul Syaza Azlisha, a DiD participant. Also in attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of International Trade and Industry; Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water; Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs; Malaysian Investment Development Authority; Economic Planning Unit and Malaysian Productivity Corporation.

The panellists discussed the development of the petroleum industry, including its contribution to Malaysia's economic development and global growth. They further deliberated on the strategic measures in addressing various challenges faced

by the petroleum industry such as its existing operations and coping with the high costs in the current economic situation. The discussion also looked into the alternative use of renewable energy.



17 May

## Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills

Public diplomacy is a fundamental part of international relations that aims to facilitate communication and understanding between nations, people and communities. Realising the importance of public diplomacy, the Institute organised a workshop on public diplomacy and media skills from 17 to 19 May.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the participants' awareness on public diplomacy in international diplomatic practices and the role of media in promoting Malaysia's interests at the international arena. A total of 18 participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Urban Well Being, Housing and Local Government; Prime Minister's Department; Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and Tourism Malaysia attended the three-day workshop.

The workshop provided the participants with the latest information and important tools used in public diplomacy as well as practical skills to effectively handle the media. During an experience-sharing session with a senior diplomat, the participants learnt about the diplomat's experience in handling the media during the MH 370 incident and his insights into the importance of public diplomacy in protecting and promoting Malaysia's interests abroad.

23 May

## Effective Writing Skills 2016



Writing competency comes with the ability to write accurate and meaningful sentences. To achieve this, the participants of the course were taken through the process of planning purposeful paragraphs and shaping strong sentences besides sentence skills, grammar, editing and proofreading. The course was conducted from 23 to 26 May with 16 participants from the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Sewerage Services Department; National Security Council; Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and Aminuddin Baki Institute.

## 28 May

### ASEAN Ambassador Lecture Series: Vietnam



On 28 May, IDFR organised a lecture under its ASEAN Ambassador Lecture Series. The lecture titled *Vietnam's Economic Security* was delivered by H.E. Pham Cao Phong, the Ambassador of Vietnam to Malaysia. The ASEAN Ambassador Lecture Series is one of IDFR's flagship discourses which aims to strengthen ties with fellow ASEAN countries and discuss recent issues in the region.

Despite the challenges and instability in the global economy, the steady and vibrant economic growth in Vietnam at more than six per cent per annum has placed the country as one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia. How does this then translate to Vietnam's economic security and what are the issues and challenges for that country in relation to this?

H.E. Pham began by enlightening the audience on the two schools of thought in economic security; emphasizing the internal or human dimension, and emphasizing the external dimension. The internal or

human dimension is the ability to satisfy people's needs and wants, and focuses more on the welfare of the people. The external dimension, on the other hand, emphasizes the external threats or factors affecting a country. It is the state's ability to protect against attack on its sovereign affairs and the absence of fear that such values will be attacked. H.E. Pham said that the two parameters commonly used to measure economic security are trade and investment. With the increased engagement of developing countries with the global economy, this has become a salient dimension to be addressed. Vietnam considers both dimensions as important and applicable to them, and tries to develop a new concept of economic security that includes both.

When it comes to issues and challenges in economic security, H.E. Pham mentioned several issues. The first one is poverty and hunger. In 2015, about five per cent of the Vietnamese households were considered poor. They are mainly from the ethnic minorities living in remote areas. Due to their remote location, the ethnic minorities have poor access to public and welfare services such as healthcare and education. The result of poverty eradication effort is not good enough and important income gaps still remain.

The second issue is economic integration with the world economy. H.E. Pham acknowledged this as a controversial issue as it involves the country's sovereignty but at the same time, it is to be balanced with commitments made with other countries. Given the current world situation, it is vital for Vietnam to integrate as it is not only pertinent to the external dimension of economic security but can also be one of the measures to solve issues from the internal dimension like poverty and hunger. However, there are challenges in integration with the world economy: one is securing foreign direct investments; two is securing domestic markets; and three is the threat of the foreign direct investments itself. Nevertheless,



these three challenges will not hinder Vietnam from joining the economic bloc as competition and cooperation are mutually reinforcing.

H.E. Pham further explained that various consistent efforts have been taken by the government to ensure economic security in Vietnam. The country aims to reduce the number of poor households at a rate of 1 to 1.5 per cent per year under two programmes; *Programme for Quick and Sustainable Eradication of Poverty in 61 Poor Districts* and *Programme on National Targets on Sustainable Eradication of Poverty 2016-2020*. To ensure economic security from the external dimension, Vietnam with the newly-elected National Assembly will start the ratification process of TPPA at the Assembly's first session. Vietnam also actively participates in bilateral and regional free trade agreements such as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

## 31 May

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Panel Discussion on *Celebrity Diplomacy: Innovations in Diplomatic Practices*

The second panel discussion organised by the DiD participants was held on 31 May. Titled *Celebrity Diplomacy: Innovations in Diplomatic Practices*, the session was deliberated by four panellists: Ms. Astanah Abdul Aziz, Deputy Director General, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat; Che Puan Sarimah Ibrahim, TV host; Ms. Deborah Henry, Miss Universe Malaysia 2011; and Mr. Suhaimi Sulaiman,

a seasoned journalist. The session was moderated by another DiD participant, Azri Hazwani Abdul Aziz. Also in attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya; Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA; Department of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Taylor's University; and the *New Straits Times Press*.

The panel discussion deliberated on celebrities' roles in promoting Malaysia's image and interests internationally, and discussed the credible use of celebrity forms of activism in international political affairs. The panellists examined the meaning of celebrity diplomacy and whether it is relevant to Malaysia as well as the possible role of Malaysian celebrities.





June



## 20 June

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Design Thinking Workshop



On 20 June, the DiD participants participated in a Design Thinking Workshop organised by Genovasi Malaysia, a prominent organisation established to propagate innovation and design thinking skills, creating services and solutions for a better Malaysia. The workshop was organised to expose the participants to the five-step creative thinking model developed by Stanford University Centre for Professional Development.

During the workshop, the participants were divided into four groups and were given tasks to redesign the learning experience for working adults. In order to complete the tasks at hand, they were taken to various commercial areas to interview working adults at random about their learning experience. The participants were later taught to use design thinking tools to solve the tasks. The participants also had an interactive session with Datuk Wong Sai Wan, Editor-in-Chief of *The Malay Mail*, who shared his knowledge on the changing landscape in news sharing, citizen journalism and the influence of social media in decision making.

The visit to Genovasi served as an excellent platform for the DiD participants to gain valuable experience on how to use innovation for social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development.

## 28 June

### Public Lecture on *The United States and China in an Era of Uncertainty*

On 28 June, IDFR, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Malaya jointly organised a public lecture titled *The United States and China in an Era of Uncertainty*. The guest speaker was Professor Dr. David M. Lampton, Director of SAIS-China and China Studies at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

In his deliberation, Professor Lampton highlighted the current situation and context in US-China relations and how the dynamic of the relations – from the economic, political and diplomatic aspects to the leaderships in both countries – has changed over the years.



## 30 June

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Visit to the Prison Department of Malaysia

The DiD participants organised a corporate and social responsibility programme at the Kajang Women's Prison on 30 June. The one-day programme commenced with the participants taking part in the cooking of *bubur lambuk* – a type of rice porridge normally consumed during fasting month – with the help



of the prison staff. The activity was also attended by the prison parolees as part of their intervention programme before their release and reintegration into society. This was followed by a briefing on aspects related to transfer of prisoners to and from our country. The programme concluded after the participants distributed the *bubuk lambuk* to the staff and the parolees.





July

## 20 July

### MTCP: Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2016



IDFR organised the Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants 2016 from 20 July to 5 August. Also funded by the MTCP, the course was designed to enhance the participants' knowledge on strategic thinking and security analysis, as well as to expose them to the changing political, security and strategic environments.

Twenty one diplomats and officials from 18 countries participated in the 17-day training

covering topics such as *Discourse of Strategy; National and International Security; Non-traditional Security; Maritime Law; and International Humanitarian Issues*. The participants were from Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Ecuador; Egypt; Georgia; Jordan; Kenya; Malawi; Malaysia; Mauritius; Palestine; the Philippines; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan and Zambia.

A visit to the state government of Johor enabled the participants to learn about Iskandar Malaysia – the main southern development corridor – and to find out more about the strategic planning by the Iskandar Regional Development Authority and the Johor Economic Planning Unit in charting a balanced and sustainable development in the state. As peace and harmony are equally vital in ensuring continued prosperity, the participants also learned of the proactive roles played by Johor's Royal Malaysian Police and the Southern Region's Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency during the state visit.

A joint Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on 5 August 2016 with the participants of the Intercultural Awareness and Diplomacy Course 2016.

## 21 July

### MTCP: Intercultural Awareness and Diplomacy Course 2016

IDFR conducted the Intercultural Awareness and Diplomacy Course from 21 July to 5 August. Funded by the MTCP, it was attended by 14 international and two local participants. The aim of the course was to create mutual understanding among the participants towards fostering global peace and stability in various fields including business, intercultural dialogue and exchange, human rights and religion.

Among the modules conducted were *Introduction to Culture and Diplomacy; Language and Diplomacy; Diplomacy in Crisis Management; Media and Multiculturalism; Negotiating Across Cultures; Cultural Diversity: Education as the Unifying Force; and Intercultural Awareness through Sports*. Besides going on a tour of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Cyberjaya, the participants also went on a state cultural



awareness visit to Negeri Sembilan. They also dabbled in batik painting at the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex and gained insight into the different ethnic cultures of Malaysia at the Malaysian Tourism Centre.



## 28 July

### IDFR's Inaugural Cultural Appreciation Day

In line with IDFR's aim of promoting cultural diplomacy, the Institute organised its first ever Cultural Appreciation Day on 28 July. The event was held in collaboration with the participants of the three programmes taking place at the Institute then; the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD), the MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course and the MTCP: Intercultural Awareness and Diplomacy Course.

The event was graced by Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Others in attendance were several Heads of Department of the Ministry and members of the diplomatic corps of the MTCP participating countries.

Each country was given a booth to decorate with items and paraphernalia from their home country. The participants donned beautiful traditional/national costumes and took turns to present about their culture during a walkabout session. The DiD



participants showcased their command of the foreign languages that they are learning at IDFR – Arabic, French, Mandarin or Spanish – through a food demonstration. Among the food served were *baklava*, *dim sum*, *tacos* and *salade niçoise*.

This was followed by performances by participants from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Malaysia, which, among others, featured a mock Malay wedding ceremony. The Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Dr. Muzaffar Muhammadi, then took to the stage for an impromptu performance on the *dutar*, a traditional long-necked two-string lute.

Since it was still the month of *Syawal*, the Institute took the opportunity to also organise a small *Eid* celebration lunch. The afternoon allowed everyone present to learn and appreciate the culture of other countries, besides getting to know each other better and enjoying good food.

## 30 July

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Study Visit to the Selangor State Government Office

Concluding the activities in July was the study visit to the Selangor State Government Office on 30 July, which is part of the programme's State Level Governance Module. The visit enabled the participants to understand the function of the state government office in state administration, stimulating the state's economic growth, infrastructure development and delivery of services to the public.

The participants had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, the Selangor Chief Minister. Dato' Seri then shared his insights into the current challenges in Malaysia's

foreign policy and advised the participants to enhance their knowledge and skills in promoting Malaysia's image abroad. He elaborated on the various programmes carried out by the state government as well as the need to empower civil servants to help generate greater growth for Selangor and Malaysia. The participants were later briefed by Mr. Mohd Yazid Sairi from the State Economic Planning Unit on *Smart Selangor Programme*, which highlights various initiatives such as *Smart Governance*, *Smart Development*, *Smart Digital Infrastructure* and *Smart Waste Management*. The visit to the State Government Office ended at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly where the participants had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Hannah Yeoh, the State Legislative Assembly Speaker. Ms. Yeoh elaborated on the functions of the State Legislative Assembly of Selangor and the reforms that were introduced by the government, which put the state's interests first and promote healthy debates between different political representatives.

Before heading back to IDFR, the participants visited the Sultan Abdul Aziz Royal Gallery where the participants learnt more about the life of the late Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, the eighth Sultan of Selangor and the eleventh King of Malaysia.





**August**



## 8 August

### SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 4/2016

The fourth series of the Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negeri* (SPKM) guideline was held from 8 to 12 August. A total of 31 officers (Grade 38 and below) from various Ministries and agencies/departments, and their spouses, attended the course.

Throughout the five-day course, the participants attended lectures on *Malaysia's Foreign Policy; Cross Cultural Awareness; Grooming and Social Etiquette; Consular Works at Mission* as well as *Administrative and Security Matters at Mission*. They also learned various diplomatic skills and practices relevant to their work at Mission.

## 17 August

### MTCP: Public Diplomacy Course for International Participants 2016

IDFR organised the Public Diplomacy Course for International Participants 2016 from 17 to 26 August. Funded by the MTCP, the course was designed to enhance the participants' knowledge on public diplomacy and improve their skills in handling the media. The course was the sixth MTCP training held at IDFR in 2016.

Eighteen foreign diplomats and officials from 14 countries participated in the ten-day training covering various topics on public diplomacy as the integral part of international diplomacy, effective media relations and media crisis management, and the role of new media and civil society in

public diplomacy. The participants also had the opportunity to learn about Australia's public diplomacy efforts in the ASEAN countries. The participants were also encouraged to share their country's public diplomacy activities. Through this knowledge-sharing session, the participants were able to learn about the public diplomacy efforts used by other countries.

Apart from the classroom lectures, simulation exercises and discussions, the participants also had the opportunity to experience Malaysian culture through a familiarization visit to the historical state of Melaka.

## 18 August

### IDFR Lecture Series titled *South China Sea Dispute: Post-Arbitration Ruling and Beyond*



The South China Sea is one of the most important and busiest sea ways in the world. Thousands of commercial vessels ply through this waterway

every day. It is estimated that USD5 trillion in trade value passes through the waters each year and the value is on the increase. The sea is also home to rich fishing grounds and a potentially vast wealth of oil, gas and other natural resources. This maritime area has generated a lot of interests and discussions especially after the ruling by the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration on 12 July 2016.

Accepting the challenge to deliberate this topical issue, the Institute organised a lecture titled *South China Sea Dispute: Post-Arbitration Ruling and Beyond* on 18 August. Organised under the IDFR Lecture Series, the lecture was delivered by Professor Dr. Vivian Louis Forbes, Distinguished Research Fellow and Guest Professor with China Institute for Boundaries and Ocean Studies, and Collaborative Centre for Innovation and Territorial Sovereignty and Maritime Resources, Wuhan University, China as well as Maritime Institute of Malaysia's Visiting Fellow. Professor Forbes is also a professional and practising cartographer; a marine political geographer; a lecturer in spatial sciences and marine affairs; and a former Merchant Naval Officer.

Professor Forbes enlightened the audience on the geography and history of the South China Sea from 1947 to 2016. He then focused on the crux of the lecture; the findings and rulings of the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration on 12 July 2016. Professor Forbes was of the opinion that these were only the beginning of more contentious issues and potential conflicts in the region.

Professor Forbes further shared with the audience the mixed initial reaction and acceptance of the dispute by all the parties involved and the international community to the rulings. China's reaction and consternation were one of the main highlights as China is seen as an emerging Asian superpower in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He also highlighted the importance of the ruling to the current dispute.

## 25 August

### Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 2

Following the first lecture titled *Cultural Diplomacy: Searching for ASEAN Common Values* on 5 April, IDFR concluded two more lectures under its Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series since then.

On 25 August, the second lecture with the title *Cultural Diplomacy within ASEAN and Its Extramural Relations through Multilateral Organisations* was held. It was delivered by Associate Professor Christopher Roberts from the University of New South Wales, Australia.



Several important issues were highlighted during the session, including cultural diplomacy and the ASEAN Way; the regional order of Southeast Asia at the time of ASEAN's formation; traditional and non-traditional security cooperation; external engagements; challenges in the strategic and economic domains; and intramural unity in the face of great power influence in the region.

Associate Professor Christopher Roberts shared some crucial information on cultural diplomacy.



The keywords used to highlight cultural diplomacy, among others, were aimed at building a robust understanding of a nation through cultural ties across the globe. One of the interesting viewpoints brought forth was the concept of ASEAN solidarity in a diverse social context with the Bangkok Declaration being introduced as the unifying factor within ASEAN, by empowering economic growth, social progress and cultural development.

He highlighted some institutional challenges that occurred between Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, focusing on Vietnam as the case study. The speaker also touched on the Economic-Strategic Nexus in the case of the South China Sea and the 2012 Joint Communiqué.

## 29 August

### Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 3

The third lecture under the Culture Diplomacy Lecture Series was held on 29 August. With the theme *Culture and Diplomacy*, the speaker was Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, who is the Special Adviser to the Malaysian Government on Socio-Cultural Matters with Ministerial Status.

In his lecture, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais explored the definitions of culture and diplomacy, relating them to the Malay language as a regional language and the conceptual thinking in the form of ASEAN Community. He further took a stand that virtual diplomacy is a new spectrum of diplomacy aiming directly to the digital age community at a global stage of technology. This new digital platform should be implemented within the ASEAN Community, especially in education. The speaker also suggested that the implementation of new elements like humour in delivering thoughts on culture to the public would be beneficial.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais also touched on the three ASEAN Pillars; political, economic and socio-cultural. He said that within the social-cultural context, it is essential for people to learn about *adat* or tradition which he regarded as local wisdom that can be presented in subtle versions, such as in *pantun* or Malay poetry.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais ended his lecture with the view that ASEAN's culture could be defined through identifying similarities and differences, and working together for the prosperous growth of ASEAN.



## 29 August

### Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy 2016/2017



On 29 August, 11 students registered for the one-year Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy programme. The group comprised of nine local and two international students; from Yemen and Sri Lanka. In order to assist the students in their new environment, IDFR and UKM organised a three-day orientation programme which included briefings and familiarization tours.

The first semester commenced on 5 September 2016 and ended on 13 January 2017. The second semester classes will run from 13 February to 23 June 2017. The third and final semester which involved the preparation of their Research Project is scheduled between 25 July and 23 August 2017. The students are required to complete three main components: compulsory subjects, elective courses and a dissertation. On top of this, the students are also encouraged to participate in round table discussions, forums and seminars which are held at IDFR and UKM throughout the programme.





September

## 19 September

### Spanish Level II 2016

This second Level II course was held from 19 September to 29 November, with nine participants from the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; National Archives of Malaysia; National Security Council; Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Veterinary Department and Department of Wildlife. This part-time evening course was carried out every Monday and Wednesday and upon passing the examination at the end of the 42-hour course, the participants will proceed to Level III in 2017.

## 20 September

### Arabic Level I 2016



The Level I course was designed for beginners who wish to acquire basic Arabic language skills. Thirteen participants, including from the Ministry of Human Resources; Department of Environment; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations International Children's Fund; and Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism, attended the course. The 42-

hour course was conducted twice a week from 20 September to 29 November.

The objective of this evening course was to equip the participants with basic Arabic words and expressions used to introduce oneself and greet others, and conversational skills needed to state wishes and preferences. The course also gave the participants the opportunity to learn the basic skills of listening, speaking and understanding simple conversations in Arabic.

By the end of the course, the participants showed a commendable grasp of the language through oral presentations on the topics learned. Based on their feedback, the participants found the course very useful and it instilled in them the interest and desire to learn the language further.

## 23 September

### Visit from International Relations Students, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin

On 23 September, IDFR received a visit from students of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UNISZA), Kuala Terengganu. This is UNISZA's second visit to IDFR, the first being a different group of students last year.

Led by Mr. Ahmad Sharif Haron, a lecturer, the group of 75 second-year International Relations students came to IDFR on the final day of their three-day IR academic visit to Kuala Lumpur. Other than IDFR, the students also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Universiti Malaya; the Centre for Human Rights Research and Advocacy; and the office of the United Nations Development Programme.

Upon their arrival at IDFR, the students were greeted by the staff of the Institute's Corporate



Affairs Section. A briefing on IDFR was then held by Puan Barathi Muniyandi, head of the section, followed by a sharing session by Puan Kamsiah Kamaruddin, Deputy Director General for ASEAN Socio Cultural Community, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat of the Ministry.



Puan Kamsiah shared with the students her experience being posted to Bangkok and Singapore, and also as a spouse to Buenos Aires since her husband is also an officer with the Ministry. She regaled them with some unforgettable incidents but also shared with them stories of trials and tribulations as well as challenges and realities that come with the job of a diplomat, which the students initially thought was always associated with glamour. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session as Puan Kamsiah, who is passionate about her work, kept it very lively and meaningful for them.

The students were then taken on a tour of IDFR's facilities and they had light refreshments before leaving for another appointment.

## 26 September

### Effective Presentation Skills 2/2016

The second Effective Presentation Skills Course was held from 26 to 29 September to help the participants overcome their fear and to be better prepared to speak in public.

During the four-day course, the participants went through various aspects of and techniques in public speaking and presentation skills. They were also exposed to the use of a clear structure, good sense of timing, imaginative use of visual aids, and most importantly, enthusiasm on the subject matter. The course also helped the participants to pace their speech and use their voice to create impact in their delivery through the use of stress, pause, intonation, volume and silence. Another aspect touched on was the strategies that could be adopted to conquer nervousness and speaking anxiety, systematic ways to field different types of questions and effective ways to deal with subjects raised by the audience.



## 26 September

### MTCP: Management Training Course for Locally Recruited Staff 2016

IDFR and the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the first Management Training Course for Locally Recruited Staff under the MTCP from 26 September to 7 October. Twenty-five locally recruited staff (LRS) from 25 Malaysian Missions in 17 countries – Brunei Darussalam; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Lao PDR; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; the Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Timor-Leste; Thailand and Vietnam – attended the training.



The first training course of its kind by the Ministry targeted for LRS set out to enhance the participants' knowledge in office management. The participants are then expected to share the knowledge gained from the training with fellow LRS at their respective Missions. The course also aimed to acquaint the participants with Malaysia, its people and its culture to facilitate their interactions with Malaysian visitors to their respective Missions.

Among the modules conducted were *Roles and Functions of LRS*; *Service Matters of LRS*; *Introduction to Sistem Perakaunan Luar Negeri*; *Security Administration at Mission*; *File Management at Mission*; and *Protocol Matters in Handling Official Visits*. In addition, the participants were introduced to the rich history and culture of Malaysia through a visit to Melaka's historic landmarks, and tours around Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur.

## 27 September

### Leadership Course for Mid-Level Diplomats and Attachés

Following the Transformation Programme, IDFR successfully conducted the first Leadership Course for Mid- Level Diplomats and Attachés from 27 to 29 September. Twenty participants, comprising mid-level officers from various Ministries and agencies/departments, attended the course.

The three-day course was designed through collaboration with experts from the National Institute of Public Administration. Throughout the course, the participants were given the tools to identify their potential as future leaders and were exposed to a set of skills that would enhance and strengthen their leadership qualities as Malaysian diplomats.

Modules covered in the course included *Characteristics of Effective Leaders and Types of Followers*; *Risk Management at an Organisational Level*; *Blue Ocean Leadership*; *Identifying Weakness in Leadership and Organisational Management*. In addition, *Thinking Skills and Essential Models in Problem Solving* were discussed in great detail.

Designed to be practical with lectures, discussions and simulation exercises, the course encouraged active participation and exchanges of knowledge between the participants and the speakers who are experts in their respective fields.





## 30 September

### IDFR's Transformation Workshop



IDFR organised a one-day workshop on 30 September to relook at the Institute's direction in 2017. Attended by representatives from all the Centres, IDFR was able to do so with the assistance and guidance of Puan Wan Nurshima Wan Jusoh of the Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so that it will be in line with the Government Transformation Programme.





October

## 4 October

### Spanish Level I – 2/2016

Six participants from the Ministry of Education; Royal Malaysian Police; Ministry of International Trade and Industry; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and National Service Training Department attended the second Level I course held from 4 October to 15 December. Held twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the second course maintained the same content as the earlier course held in February.

## 4 October

### Conversational Malay Course Level II 2016

The Level II course was the first one to be organised since the inception of the Basic Conversational Malay course. The part-time evening course ran from 4 October to 13 December, every Tuesday and Thursday.

A student-centred approach was adopted during the course in order to enhance the participants' confidence in using the language. They were given the opportunity to practise using the language by doing oral presentations and were encouraged to ask questions on aspects of the language they had trouble understanding. The participants were also given the opportunity to practise writing simple sentences in Malay, thus consolidating their understanding of its grammar.

## 6 October

### Diploma in Diplomacy 2016: Graduation Ceremony

The Diploma in Diplomacy 2016 Graduation Ceremony was held on 6 October to confer the Diploma and awards to the 14 participants who had successfully completed the in-house training programme for junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Held at the Multipurpose Hall, the Graduation Ceremony was officiated by Tan Sri Othman



Hashim, the Secretary General of the Ministry. The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Ministry, former diplomats, foreign embassy representatives which participated in the Regional and International Affairs Module, lecturers, representatives from various agencies involved with the programme, and parents and spouses of the junior officers.

Tan Sri Othman Hashim, in his speech, among others, expressed hope that the knowledge and skills acquired during the six-month course have enhanced further the officers' understanding on diplomacy and international relations, thus better preparing them for the challenges ahead.

Among the awards conferred at the ceremony were the Foreign Minister's Award (Best Student Award) to Mr. Tham Whye Long; the Deputy Foreign Minister's Award to Ms. Nurul Syaza Azlisha; and the Secretary General's Award to Ms. Kalpana Devi a/p Rajanthran.

## 10 October

### SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 5/2016

IDFR organised the final series of the SPKM Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses for the year from 10 to 19 October. The course was attended by 69 officers (Grade 41 and above) from various Ministries and agencies/departments, and their spouses.



For this series, IDFR introduced further improvement to the modules to be in line with the current challenges in international diplomacy as well as to better prepare the officers and spouses for their varied functions and duties at Missions.

Throughout the eight-day course, the participants went through interactive lecture sessions, group discussions and simulation exercises. They were also provided with a set of skills that are important to manage and ensure better public service delivery at Missions.

## 19 October

### Panel of Distinguished Fellows' Meeting

On 19 October, IDFR organised its first meeting for the ten newly-appointed Distinguished Fellows. The meeting discussed the way forward for the



Institute, and the steps that needed to be taken to propel the Institute further.

## 26 October

### Workshop on Training Needs Analysis for English Language in Diplomatic Correspondence

The workshop was conducted on 26 and 27 October. It aimed to brainstorm ideas to improve the English language programmes at the Institute and to ensure their effectiveness and relevance to the contemporary training needs in the usage of the English language. The workshop also aimed to find implementable suggestions to make the English language programmes more relevant to the usage of the language in the field of diplomacy and international relations. It was attended by academicians, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IDFR, and former Directors of the Institute's Language Division (now the Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy).

The workshop focused on six main aspects of language learning and its coordination: Learners, instructors, and stakeholders; Course design, programme content, and curriculum; Training, teaching, and learning methodology and approaches; Testing, assessment, and measurement; Management of training programmes; and Collaboration and partners.

During the two days, the panellists contributed their expertise and insights. Among the significant outcomes of the brainstorming session is the suggestion for IDFR to adhere to a standard reference in language learning. Professor Dr. Nuraihan Mat Daud, Dean of the Kulliyah of

Languages and Management at the International Islamic University Malaysia, suggested for IDFR to use Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for teaching, learning and assessing its training programmes. This is in line with the framework proposed by the Ministry of Education for language learning.

Another suggestion is for IDFR to focus on integrated skills approach in delivering training, by using authentic materials related to diplomacy and international relations. The panellists also agreed that focus should be given to officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in enhancing their English language skills and proficiency, as the Ministry is the major stakeholder for IDFR's programmes. The workshop provided many implementable suggestions which could be realised at the short, medium and long term. The suggestions and insights were compiled into a comprehensive report for future reference. IDFR is indeed very thankful to all the panellists and looks forward to a continuous collaboration with the panelists.







**November**

## 5 November

### Lecture: *China and the World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

IDFR, in collaboration with the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), organised a lecture titled *China and the World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* on 5 November. Professor Martin Jacques, an expert on China and author of *When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order* was the guest speaker. His session was moderated by Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, President of JUST and one of IDFR's Distinguished Fellows. The event drew a strong crowd of more than 270 participants from the government and private organisations, embassies, think tanks, academics and media.

This was Professor Martin Jacques's second visit to IDFR; the first was on 15 September 2009 when his book *When China Rules the World: The Rise of the Middle Kingdom and the End of the Western World* was launched by Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



## 9 November

### IDFR Bids Farewell to its Director General



On 9 November, IDFR organised a farewell high-tea for Datuk Salman Ahmad, its tenth Director General whose contract was ending. Held at the Multi Purpose Hall, the event was attended by all the staff.

Puan Hajah Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects, who will be the Acting Director General, gave the Welcoming Remarks and then invited Datuk Salman on stage to give his farewell speech.

In his speech, Datuk Salman encouraged the officers, especially the junior ones, to start writing reports, case studies and research papers. His usual teasing aside, Datuk Salman reminded the staff to always give their best to IDFR and thanked them for all their hard work, cooperation and commitment.

After his speech, Datuk Salman was joined by Puan Hajah Norani and other Heads of Centres on stage. He was presented with some books, a framed collection of his photos taken during his tenure at

IDFR, as well as a basket of flowers and a cake. This was followed by a video presentation of the staff bidding farewell to Datuk Salman, and a *sajak* recital by Mr. Ahmad Kamal from the Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy.

Before the high tea ended, the staff took the customary group photo on the stage. The staff then congregated at the Main Lobby for Datuk Salman's clocking out ceremony.

## 14 November

### Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Attachment Officers 2016



IDFR was once again requested to organise the Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Attachment Officers from 14 to 25 November. This follows Malaysia's successful chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015 and the success of a similar diplomatic training course in October 2015. Eleven government officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam who are attached for one year to the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, were at IDFR to enhance their understanding of the theories, practices and elements of diplomacy, ASEAN and international affairs. Three officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the course.

Themes covered included regional issues; diplomacy; negotiation skills; presentation skills and communication skills. The officers also went on visits to the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, SME Corporation Malaysia and the Urban Transformation Centre in Melaka.

## 14 November

### International Negotiation Workshop 2016



The workshop was organised from 14 to 16 November and was attended by 18 officers (Grade 44 and above) from various Ministries and agencies/departments.

The workshop was designed to provide the participants with the latest negotiation skills that can help to enhance their awareness on the problems, barriers and pitfalls encountered during negotiation and ways to address them effectively. The participants were also able to effectively examine their own strengths and gaps as negotiators, and develop an action plan for their own skill enhancement as negotiators and global players.

The workshop was conducted through classroom lectures, simulation exercises and group discussions where the participants were given in-depth knowledge and set of skills related to international negotiation styles. During the debriefing sessions, the participants were provided with their individual negotiation profile that would help them to better evaluate their strength and gain insight about themselves as negotiators.

## 15 November

### Workshop on Intercultural Communication and Diplomacy

IDFR welcomed 24 participants from various Ministries and government agencies, as well as one each from the Royal Embassy of Cambodia and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur, for the Workshop on Intercultural Communication and Diplomacy held from 15 to 17 November.



The three-day workshop aimed to raise awareness on aspects related to cultural diversity; to enhance the participants' understanding on the connection between culture and diplomacy; and to expose them to cross-cultural communication management. The focus of the workshop was mainly on aspects and features within the ASEAN context.

During the workshop, the participants were exposed to the various aspects related to intercultural communication and diplomacy, including the impact and scope of culture in

diplomacy; cross-cultural communication styles; cultural intelligence; negotiating across cultures; module on ASEAN; and the intercultural awareness within the ASEAN region.

Mr. Freddy Martin Panggabean, Minister Counsellor from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, was invited as one of the speakers to share some insights into Indonesia's Cultural Diplomacy and how it became the medium of soft power for Indonesia. He also highlighted the cultural diplomacy efforts made by Indonesia, as well as the challenges in effective cultural diplomacy.



## 28 November

### Audience with IDFR's Royal Patron

IDFR's Distinguished Fellows were granted an audience with His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah, IDFR's Royal Patron on 28 November at Istana Perak. The Distinguished Fellows were accompanied by Puan Hajah Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Director of Special Projects and Acting Director General, and Datuk Salman Ahmad, former Director General of IDFR.



During the audience, His Royal Highness indicated his interest to have more intellectual discourse sessions with the participants of the Master and the DiD programmes. His Royal Highness also consented to deliver a Royal Address at IDFR on 12 July 2017.

## 30 November

### Courtesy Call from Foreign Mission

On 30 November, H.E. Ibrahim Ansar, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Malaysia paid a courtesy call on Puan Hajah Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Director of Special Projects and Acting Director General. H.E. Ibrahim was accompanied by Mr. Majintha Jayasinghe, Minister at the High Commission.





**December**



## 8 December

### Human Rights Day 2016



IDFR, in collaboration with the United Nations Association of Malaysia (UNAM), Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and United Nations Country Team Malaysia, organised the Joint Commemoration of the 2016 Human Rights Day on 8 December. The theme was *Human Rights in Malaysia: Towards a Developed Nation Status*.

The event commenced with Welcoming Remarks by Puan Hajah Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Director of Special Projects and Acting Director General and Opening Remarks by YM Tengku Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Rithaudeen bin Tengku Ismail, President of UNAM, which were then followed by two panel discussions.

The first panel discussion was on the topic of *Accession to Core International Human Rights Treaties – Where We Move From Here*. The three panellists were Mr. Danial Lo Soo Jeng, Special Officer for Human Rights, Office of Senator Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department; Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, former Chairman of Human Rights Commission of Malaysia; and Mr Andrew Koo, Co-chair of Bar

Council's Human Rights Committee. The session was moderated by Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. C P Ramachandran, Vice President of UNAM.

The topic for the second panel discussion was *Human Rights in Malaysia – Towards a Developed Nation Status*. It was moderated by Dato' M. Santhanaban, Chairman of UNAM's Human Rights Committee, with three panelists; Mr. Richard Towle, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Professor Dr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram from ISIS Malaysia; and Ms. Zainah Anwar, Director of A Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family.

Also held on the same day was SUHAKAM's Human Rights Award Presentation Ceremony. The award ceremony was part of the Commission's efforts to promote human rights and to honour the contributions made by individuals, groups, organisations, the media, government agencies and business entities. Among the recipients were Dr. Madhusudhan Shammugam (Individual Award); Malaysia Handicraft Development Corporation (Government Agency Award); Ms. Boo Su-Lyn (Media Award); Mydin Mohamed Holdings Berhad (Business Entity Award); Centre for Environment, Technology and Development Malaysia (Civil Society Organisation Award); and Senator Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Special Human Rights Recognition).

The event provided a platform for the audience to discuss human rights challenges in the Malaysian context and to identify practical and incremental ways to move towards ratifying and acceding to the various UN Conventions on Human Rights. The event also recognised and celebrated the extraordinary contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights in this country.

The event ended with Closing Remarks by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of SUHAKAM.



## 15 December

### Courtesy Call from Foreign Mission

On 15 December, H.E. Ambassador Nongnuth Phetcharatana of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand paid a courtesy call on Puan Hajah Norani Ibrahim, Acting Director General of IDFR. H.E. Nongnuth was accompanied by H.E. Damrong Kraikruan, Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia, as well as Ms. Nipa Nirannoot, Minister Counsellor and Mr. Louismongkol Sapkul, First Secretary at the Royal Thai Embassy.







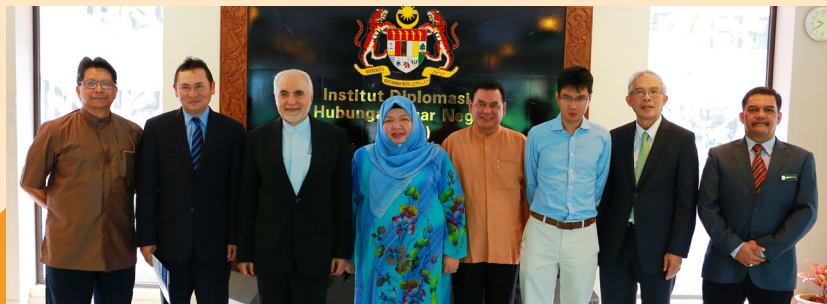
# In and Around IDFR



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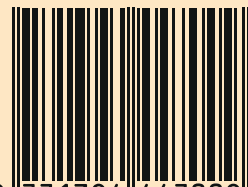






Institute of Diplomacy  
and Foreign Relations (IDFR)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia  
Jalan Wisma Putra  
50460 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia  
Visit us at [www.idfr.gov.my](http://www.idfr.gov.my)  
Email us at [info@idfr.gov.my](mailto:info@idfr.gov.my)

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