



# Annual Report **2021**

*'Celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary'*

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



IDFR stands on the site that housed the late Tunku Abdul Rahman's Residence when he was Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya. The site is also where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was located from 1966 until its move to Putrajaya in 2001.



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia





## IDFR 2021 Annual Report


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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia  
Jalan Wisma Putra  
50460 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

 <https://www.idfr.gov.my/>

 [info@idfr.gov.my](mailto:info@idfr.gov.my)

 <https://www.facebook.com/IDFRMalaysia/>

 <https://twitter.com/IDFRMalaysia>

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## Message from the Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



**I wish to congratulate the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for another colourful year with glorious achievements and success in maintaining a high performance work culture despite all the circumstances following the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**

This age of pandemic not only poses a challenge to the public health and the economy, but also has a critical impact on the emergence of a new era in diplomacy - a more dynamic, flexible and in line with the new normal. Recognizing this fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched Focus in Continuity: A Framework



for Malaysia's Foreign Policy in a Post-Pandemic New Normal on 7 December 2021 which among others gives priority to 7 key areas: (1) revitalize Malaysia's links to the global economy, (2) health diplomacy, (3) digital economy, (4) cybersecurity, (5) cultural diplomacy, (6) peaceful coexistence, (7) upholding multilateralism, and (8) sustainable development goals (SDG).

Along with the multitude of ever changing aspects that are taking place globally, as diplomats, we need to always be aware of current developments at home and abroad as well as to quickly adapt to various changes in the face of all possibilities.

In any situation, foreign service officers must also be prepared to prioritise, protect, and defend the Malaysian interests as well as to preserve the good name of the country while providing their best services both within the country and abroad. To achieve these goals, all officers must be properly trained and equipped with in-depth knowledge, diverse and solid skills, strong determination, creativity and innovation, critical thinking, resilience, and assertiveness to face the challenges of the future.

Since its establishment 30 years ago, IDFR assumes an imperative function to provide, strengthen relevant knowledge and skills in diplomacy, especially among

the foreign service officers. Through various courses, training and research activities conducted by IDFR, knowledge resources in the field of foreign relations have substantially increased over the years, becoming important references for practitioners to perform their duties at best, especially those related to diplomatic services.

On this occasion as well, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin, on her appointment as the new Director-General of IDFR starting from September 2021. Armed with diverse knowledge and vast experiences in the world of diplomacy and foreign relations, I am confident that she is capable of leading IDFR and its entire family to greater heights.

I would also like to thank Dato' Mohd Zamruni Khalid for his excellent service and outstanding contribution as the Director-General of this Institute for a period of two years from August 2019 to August 2021.

On behalf of the Ministry, I congratulate IDFR for her 30th anniversary and remarkable achievements and wish the Institution greater success in the year ahead.

**TAN SRI MUHAMMAD SHAHRUL IKRAM YAAKOB**



## Foreword by the Director-General, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)



**I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2021 for the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) which encompasses a summary of the programmes and activities undertaken by the Institute throughout the year.**

First of all, I would like to thank Dato' Mohd Zamruni Khalid for continuing the tradition of excellent service provided by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations. His tenure as the 12th Director-General of the Institute has built upon the blocks of success of our predecessors. It is a tradition I hope to maintain and contribute.



The year 2021 is a special year for IDFR as the Institution celebrates her 30th anniversary. Through close collaboration among IDFR officers and staff, various programmes were designed and successfully organised even within the new norm ecosystem.

In total, IDFR managed to host and organise 58 programmes – 36 virtual, 13 physical and nine in a hybrid fashion. We saw a total of 3,191 participants from various disciplines involved, be they diplomats, government officials, embassies, members of the ladies' association, academia, as well as students of International Relations. The Institution also managed to record a total of 22 publications that have been produced which include analytical papers related to key issues in and outside the country, research papers, newsletters and the Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (JDFR).

All programmes are a combination of activities organised by the four learning centres in IDFR, namely the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED), Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy (LNPD), Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD) and Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC), with support from the Management and Services Division (MSD).

In conjunction with its 30th anniversary, IDFR successfully held the inaugural IDFR-Albukhary Book Award 2021, and The Most Outstanding International Relations Book was awarded to Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Mohamad for his book titled *Malaysia-Singapore Fifty Years of Contentions 1965-2015*. The book was one of 80 books considered by the Book Award Committee.

This past year, the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) programme was organised in two cohorts: from 2 November 2020 to 7 May 2021 with 21 participants, and from 1 June 2021 to 2 December 2021 with 22 participants. A combined graduation ceremony was held

on 3 December 2021 to signal the completion of the programme.

The main highlight of all the programmes and events at this Institution for the year was the IDFR Royal Address 2021, organised on 18 November 2021. In this event, His Royal Highness Sultan Dr Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan and Royal Patron of IDFR, delivered a Royal Address titled *"Shaping A New Generation of Diplomats"*. The address was held in a hybrid fashion and will no doubt set the stage for the years to come.

I would like to seize this opportunity to extend my sincerest gratitude to His Royal Highness Sultan Dr Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan for His Royal Highness' patronage, wisdom, support and time. I would not be able to do all that needed to be done without the support and continued advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah and the quiet urging of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Kamarudin Jaffar. My deepest appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tan Sri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, for entrusting me with IDFR, and to all mentors, advisors and seniors who have lent a helping hand or provided constructive comments to IDFR's many programmes and activities.

It goes without saying that the Institute would not be where it is without the officers and staff, whose endless dedication, commitment, cooperation and hard work in conducting all programmes have been the backbone of the Institute.

**DATO' DR SHAZELINA ZAINUL ABIDIN**







IDFR IN  
30 YEARS

idfr



# IDFR IN 30 YEARS

**The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) was initially started as a centre and inaugurated as the Centre for International Relations and Strategic Studies in 1979. It operated as part of the Government Officers Training Centre of the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN). On 8 March 1991, it was rebranded as an institute, following a Cabinet decision on its establishment for a dedicated entity on all matters related to diplomacy and foreign relations. The institute was officially placed under the Prime Minister's Department and officiated as the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, thus the acronym IDFR, on 12 August 1991 by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Ambassador Albert S. Talalla, a freshly retired diplomat from Malaysia's Mission in Washington D.C. was appointed as the first Director-General.**

In 2001, the Institute was relocated to new premises on Jalan Wisma Putra, and officially placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As an anecdote, the premises was given by the British as the official residence to the Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya, Yang Teramat Mulia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj from 1955 to 1957. When the Ministry moved into the premise from the Sultan Abdul Samad Building in 1966, it decided to name it in Tunku's honour, hence Wisma Putra. Later, as the Ministry was expanded, the name was carried to the Ministry's new premises, which is Wisma Putra complex in Putrajaya. The premises in Bukit Petaling was handed over to the Institute, and after some renovations, was

officially opened on 8 January 2009, by Prime Minister Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, and designated as the campus of IDFR.



IDFR before its full completion in 2005

The Institute holds many poignant memories and seen many milestones. It has been visited by many statesmen, world leaders and distinguished politicians. A multitude of parliamentarians, congressmen and senior civil servants too have walked up the stairs into the lobby of the building. The Treaty Room was witness to many treaties – thus the name, that were negotiated and signed there. It had also witnessed many debates and information-sharing between Wisma Putra officials.

Serving as one of the key agencies under the Ministry, the Institute performs various critical functions, including as a training arm to the Ministry, research centre, event organiser and think tanker, mainly concerning diplomacy and foreign relations. Through its four centres, various programmes and activities



have been successfully implemented based on the niche areas of each centre. The programmes include lecture series, talk shows, forum, training and courses for junior, mid-level and top-level officers, training and courses for international participants and language courses. IDFR course participants and trainees have many opportunities to participate in workshops, seminars, roundtable discussions and public talks organised by the Institute.

Retaining the tradition, the Institute continues inviting and welcoming important figures in and outside the country. Among prominent figures who have addressed audiences at IDFR include the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan who is also the Institute's Royal Patron, His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al- Maghfur-Lah, His Royal Highness Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Tun Musa Hitam, Kofi Annan, Yasser Arafat, Benazir Bhutto, Nelson Mandela, Lee Hsien Loong, Haris Silajdzic, Ban Ki Moon, Gareth Evans, Helen Clark, Tan Sri Razali Ismail and Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, among others.

As research and training are the two main thrusts of IDFR, the Institute is also staffed by research and training officers who have extensive experience and expertise in their respective fields such as politics, economy, foreign languages and others. In terms of publications, IDFR consistently produces quality writings in discussing diverse national and multinational issues through various mediums, such as Diplomatic Voice, Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (JDFR) and research papers. In addition, IDFR also published a series of books starting with Number One, Wisma Putra in 2006, which contains stories and experiences of Malaysian diplomats.

In enhancing its purpose, IDFR has collaborated with various institutions at local and international levels. Among the Institute's collaborators are the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union (EU), the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), the Association of Former Malaysian Ambassadors, Mercy Malaysia, public universities in the country, media entities, as well as foreign missions based in Kuala Lumpur. To date, the Institute has been led by 13 Director-Generals who successfully brought it to another level of excellence.

Happy 30th anniversary to the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Malaysia!

“If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together.”



IDFR current photo (2021)



## List of Directors-General of IDFR

YBHG. DATO' A.S.  
TALALLA  
(1991 – 1994)



YBHG. TAN SRI  
GHAZZALI SHEIKH  
ABDUL KHALID  
(1995 – 1996)



YBHG. TAN SRI DATO'  
AHMAD FUZI HAJI ABDUL  
RAZAK  
(1997 – 1998)



YBHG. DATO' SYED  
NORULZAMAN SYED  
KAMARULZAMAN  
(1999 – 2001)



YBHG. DATO' DR. MOHD  
YUSOF AHMAD  
(2002 – 2004)



YBHG. DATO' DR.  
FAUZIAH MOHAMAD  
TAIB  
(2005 – 2006)





YBHG. TAN SRI HASMY  
AGAM  
(2007 – 2010)



YBHG. DATO' KU JAAFAR  
KU SHAARI  
(2010 – 2013)



YBHG. DATO' HUSSIN  
NAYAN  
(2013 – 2015)



YBHG. DATUK SALMAN  
AHMAD  
(2015 – 2016)



YBHG. DATUK MOHAMAD  
SADIK KETHERGANY  
(2017 – 2018)



YBHG. DATO' MOHD  
ZAMRUNI KHALID  
(2019 – AUGUST 2021)



YBHG. DATO' DR  
SHAZELINA ZAINUL ABIDIN  
(SEPT 2021 – CURRENT)









The  
IDFR TEAM

idfr

***CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES AND  
ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY (PSED)***



CIK HAFIZAH ABDULLAH



PROF MADYA DR.  
NORRAIHAN ZAKARIA



DR NAJWA ABD  
GHAFAR



PN. JASMINE  
MOHAMED JAWHAR



EN. MOHAMMAD IKA  
DANIEL ABDULLAH



CIK HANUN INSYIRAH  
ISHAK



CIK ADRINA  
ZULKARNAIN



EN. AHMAD KHIRIDIR  
LEMIN

**Not in Photo:**

- PN. NORAZIAH OMAR • EN. HARVIDER SINGH RAMDAY
- EN. MOHD SHA'ARIE AMRAN • PN. NORAZLIN MOHD TAHIR



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PUBLIC DIPLOMACY (LNPD)***



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EN. AMIRUL KHAIRI  
MUSTAFA BAKRI



PN. SUHAIZA  
SABRI



PN. HASNAH  
MOHD SHARIF

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EN. KHAIRUL KAMAL  
ABDUL RAHMAN



PN. SITHIRA DEVI A/P  
GOVINDAN



PN. AFIDA  
IBRAHIM



DR. RAIHAN DATO'  
DR. MARZUKI



EN. HARIS SYARWANI  
RAZALI



PN. HALIYATH ZAHYAH  
HAJI KAMAL MUSTAFFA



CIK NIK KHALILAH  
NIK AB. KADIR

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- PN. NORAINI AWANG NONG • EN. MUSLIM HANAFI MOHD JALIS



***CENTRE FOR COMPETENCY  
ENHANCEMENT (CEC)***



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EN. MOHD AZHARI BIN  
LATIF @ ABDUL LATIF



PN. NURUL ADNI  
ZAINUL ARIFF



PN. CARMALLIA  
BUDIATY CHE EMBI



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CHALILINA



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BIN MUHAMAD SEDEK



PN. IRMA ANEEZA  
SANI

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DIVISION**



PN. NURYANTE MOHD YAZID

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- EN. MOHD SHAHHIZAM CHE AHMAD • CIK GURNAM KAUR A/P HARI SINGH • PN. SOFIAZI ABDUL RAHMAN
- EN. AHMAD YANI KAMARUDIN



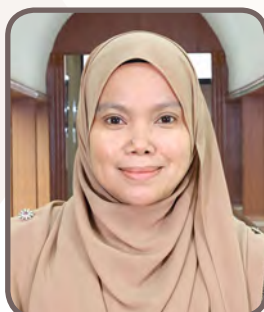
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ADUN



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A. MANAF



PN. MAZULINA  
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ABDUL MANAN



PN. NUR HAFIZZA  
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- YM RAJA AZRIN RAJA AZMAN • EN. MOHD. FAIRUZ ASRAF ISMAIL • EN. HAMEZY AB MUAI • EN. SHAH RIZAL MOHD SALLEH
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- EN. MUHD. JAAFAR ABD KARIM • EN. NAZLI THAJUDIN • EN. ROZAIDI ABDUL RAZAK • EN. IBRAHIM NOR
- EN. MOHD. ZANI TUKIMAN • EN. AZRUL NIZAM ABDUL RAHIM • EN. RAIMI AMZAR ZAMALI • EN. ALIF AN NAZ NAZARUDDIN



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PN. HANRIYANI  
SAHMAWI





Centre for  
POLITICAL STUDIES AND  
ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY  
(PSED)



# CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY (PSED)

**The Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) focuses on diplomacy and international relations, bilateral and multilateral political, economic and trade relations as well as traditional and nontraditional issues. The Centre aims to promote and accomplish high standards of professionalism in discourse, research and publication as well as consultancy services in the Institute's quest to become a premier think tank in diplomacy and international relations.**

## ***Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2021***

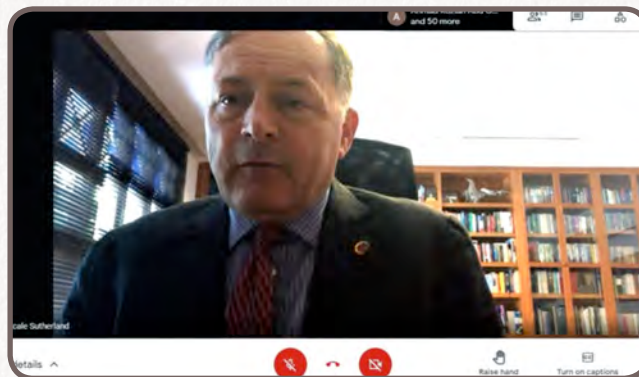
The British High Commissioner to Malaysia His Excellency Charles Hay MVO, was invited to speak on *Brexit & Its Implications for Southeast Asia* during IDFR's Ambassador Lecture Series (ALS) held on 8 March 2021. A total of 50 participants from embassies and high commissions as well as officials from the ministries, government agencies, and higher learning institutions attended the virtual session.

High Commissioner Hay began his speech by outlining the reasons for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the regional bloc. Among the reasons mentioned were concerns on the European Union (EU) that had become more inward thinking and imposed continual restrictions on the UK's trade policy. On top of that, he stated that the emerging discussion about sovereignty in the Brexit referendum was framed in terms of authority, competence, and ultimately, legislative freedom. The High Commissioner underlined that the UK sees

Brexit as a chance to forge new trade partnerships and revitalise old ones, notably with Southeast Asian nations through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) platform. For this reason, the UK will be focusing on pursuing initiatives to further engage and cooperate with ASEAN and become ASEAN's newest Dialogue Partner.

Sharing his thoughts on the implication of Brexit to Southeast Asia, H.E. Hay explained that the UK is keen to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) from potential investors in the region and the country's stable legal system and common law practice would be an advantage.

On UK-Malaysia relations, H.E. Hay emphasised that the UK-Malaysia education cooperation will not be affected by the Brexit move. In fact, the UK has just launched a new educational initiative aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. According to H.E. Hay, 80,000 Malaysians are now studying at tertiary education in the United Kingdom, in which 30,000 of them are pursuing their





postgraduate degrees. He added that at least 500,000 Malaysians have attended institutions in the United Kingdom.

H.E. Hay concluded his session by reaffirming the UK continued engagement with the region and highlighted the new opportunities that Brexit would bring including the new policies to be introduced by the government which were expected to upgrade the UK's relationship with other countries, particularly the Southeast Asian countries.

### ***Ambassador Lecture Series 2/2021***

On 6 May 2021, IDFR successfully hosted the second *Ambassador Lecture Series (ALS)*, titled *Shedding Light on the Palestine Question*, with H.E. Walid Abu Ali, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Malaysia. A total of 93 people from various embassies and high commissions, as well as officials from relevant ministries, government agencies, and universities, attended the virtual lecture held via Google Meet.



H.E. Walid commenced the lecture by highlighting the plight of millions of Palestinians living in different regions across the globe, including the Palestinian territories. He maintained that despite the compromise of a two-state solution, the Palestinians continue to experience constant discrimination and persecution by the Israeli army and illegal settlers.

H.E. Walid expressed his dissatisfaction with the failure

of the two-state solution in alleviating the Palestinians' suffering from continuous discrimination and violations of international laws. For example, Israel had refused to let the Palestinians living in Jerusalem vote in the Palestinian election that was to be conducted on 22 May 2021. He stated that elections can only take place if the Palestinians in Jerusalem are allowed to vote as per their political rights. He also added that the European Union and several Muslim nations had pledged to exert pressure on Israel in favour of Palestine.

H.E. Walid expressed his hope in attaining a peaceful environment for the Palestinian people during the current Biden administration. He proceeded to explain how the Biden administration may encourage effective accommodation and implementation of the previously negotiated two-state solution for the benefit of both states. The global community was asked to be more conscious of the fact that regional stability could only be realised if the Palestinians' rights to live in peace inside their own state, with Jerusalem as its capital, was recognised.

H.E. Walid continued to express his gratitude to the Malaysian government for its steadfast support for the Palestinians' cause throughout the years. He praised Malaysia for her unwavering commitment and support to help Palestine at all levels; politically, economically, monetarily, and emotionally, in the fight for justice. With a ray of hope on the horizon, His Excellency urged the audience to keep supporting Palestine until a change is achieved.





Several key questions were asked by the audience ranging from the political position between the political parties in Palestine, opportunities in education for international students, and the nation's diplomatic connections with other nations. Finally, he concluded the session by thanking the audience for their continued support and solidarity with Palestine.

### **IDFR Lecture Series 2021**

The Centre successfully hosted the IDFR Lecture Series (ILS) 2021 titled '*The Biden Presidency and US Policy in Southeast Asia*' on 9 June 2021. The lecture was delivered by the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Brian D. McFeeters, and moderated by Distinguished Fellow of IDFR and President of the Malaysian Association for American Studies (MAAS), Prof Dr K.S. Nathan. The lecture recorded an attendance of 186 guests from various embassies and high commissions as well as officials from key ministries, government agencies, think tanks, and universities.

Prof Dr K.S. Nathan started off by laying out several important presumptions, including the U.S. current relationship with China, the U.S. attitude towards economic regionalism within the Asian Pacific region, and U.S. initiatives to improve bilateral relations with several key ASEAN actors.

H.E. McFeeters began the speech by underlining Biden administration's commitment in expanding the American involvement in Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole. Based on various collaborations in the spheres of security, diplomacy, and economy, H.E. maintained his position throughout the lecture that the current government is focusing more on continuity rather than change.

H.E. further added that the Asian continent is becoming highly significant in politics and economy within the Indo-Pacific area. According to H.E., they have maintained their sovereignty and demonstrated their

capacity to retain economic growth while adhering to international law as well as fair and free competition despite the differences in size. Moreover, the 'open-door' policy within the territory has also convinced H.E. to strengthen the collaboration and maintain existing partnerships in order to address contemporary problems based on shared common values.

On United States' relationship with ASEAN, H.E. McFeeters added that the collaboration has inclined towards the issues of economic integration, maritime cooperation, youth and women's empowerment, as well as resolving transnational issues. He highlighted the importance of a partnership between ASEAN and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) in resolving those challenges.

On Malaysia-US bilateral relations, H.E. McFeeters mentioned that in 2019 the U.S. FDI with Malaysia was approximately USD\$353 billion, which was more than that of China, Korea, and Japan combined. Malaysia's collaboration with U.S. corporations has largely been in the development of high-tech equipment to preserve stable global supply chains and an open trade economy. This type of investment would enhance Malaysia's competitiveness and government service efficiency, especially in the digital realm.

During the Q&A session, questions were directed towards how the U.S. plans to increase engagement, capability, and commitment on education matters as part of its foreign policy towards Malaysia. On top of





that, H.E. also managed to address questions on U.S. visions with regards to the QUAD formation, the way forward of the U.S. with their efforts in addressing climate change initiatives, and inclination towards Asia. Finally, H.E. concluded the lecture by emphasising that the current Biden administration is more inclined towards maintaining current policies and programmes that have demonstrated continued progress in all areas.

### ***Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2021***

The Economic Diplomacy Series (EDS) 1/2021 titled '*Malaysia – China Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges*' was conducted on 7 July 2021 with Malaysian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, H.E. Raja Dato' Nushirwan Zainal Abidin, as the guest speaker. The virtual lecture was participated by 176 participants from various embassies and high commissions, together with officials from relevant ministries, government agencies, think tanks, and higher learning institutions.

H.E. began the session by describing the nature of Malaysia-China bilateral ties in which he said was first built on trade and economic principles. The good relationship between Malaysia and China extended to the matter of vaccination following the COVID-19 pandemic, as Malaysia was the first country to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on post-pandemic measures and secured a reciprocal vaccine arrangement with China.

The pandemic has affected countless economies thus solutions need to be made to curb its repercussions. H.E. Raja Dato' Nurshirwan addressed this issue and noted that due to the closing of borders and halt in mobilisation, economies must improve their operational efficiency and resiliency to offset the decreasing supply chains. H.E. discussed how China and the U.S. planned to enhance their technological reliance by which China must be able to design and manufacture semiconductor machines, while the U.S. must reacquire the lost skills when the semiconductor industry was relocated elsewhere.

In addition, digital marketing and e-commerce have risen remarkably following the COVID-19 lockdown

measures. As highlighted by H.E., Chinese online sellers and customers have succeeded in taking advantage of the situation to market their products through live streaming and other online business platforms. Having said that, H.E. also suggested branding, design, and innovation to be utilised by Malaysian businesses, together with the help of digitalisation in elevating the value chain.

Questions asked during the Q&A sessions included the bilateral development of Malaysia - China under the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strategy, the impact of the ratification of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) towards Malaysian enterprises and SMEs, and the extent of China's state-owned enterprises' contribution to the nation's agenda for an open economy, among other things. The lecture concluded with the emphasis that Malaysia and China have extensive bilateral relations that benefit both countries and are expected to continue in the coming years.

### ***Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2021***

Held on 10 November 2021 via online, the *Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2021* was an informative session focusing on the topic of The Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 presented by Senior Vice President of Investment and Brand from Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), Mr Raymond Siva.

*The Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint* is included in the MYDIGITAL initiative, a three-phase initiative set to be implemented until 2030 that corresponds with the national development policies and the Vision for Shared Prosperity 2030 (Wawasan Kemakmuran



Bersama [WKB] 2030). The blueprint within the digital transformation plan, according to Mr Raymond, is to strengthen the efficiency of digital operations that would allow the business sectors to compete on the global stage. Additionally, the government also hopes to boost the economy through investments in the initiatives.

Several key points such as FDI through 'MyDigital' transitioning to cashless transaction facilities, job opportunities in the digital industry and the use of e-commerce systems are some of the useful information brought up in the lecture. The session was held via Google Meet and attended by 80 representatives from various ministries, foreign ministries, think tanks, and higher learning institutions.



### ***Strategic and Security Analysis Course 2021***

The Centre successfully organised the *Strategic and Security Analysis Course* from 23 to 25 February 2021 via Google Meet. The objectives of the course were to expose the participants to strategic, critical, and analytical thinking skills with respect to the dynamism of the current security landscape and organisation management.

The modules on the first day included a briefing on *Malaysia's Foreign Policy and Strategic Interests* and a session on *Tools for Strategic Analysis in Decision Making*. Through these modules, the participants gained insight on various strategic approaches and decision-

making skills along with a practical session on strategic analysis.

The participants also attended several interactive sessions on *Malaysia's National Defence Policy & Strategy*, *Strategic Thinking in Organisation Management*, *Intelligence and National Security Analysis*, and *the Strategic Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism*. The course ended with an in-depth briefing session and discussion on *Crisis Management: A Fundamental Strategic Overview* and *Cyber Security: Current Cybercrime Threats and Strategic Implications*.

A total of 40 participants from different ministries and government agencies including the Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), RMP, Public Service Department (JPA), Malaysia Nuclear Agency (Nuklear Malaysia), Immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM) as well as the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) attended the programme.



### ***Orientation for Head of Missions and their Spouses***

The *Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses (HOMC)* was held from 15 to 21 March 2021 and attended by 14 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wisma Putra) and 12 spouses.



The program was intended to expose and prepare the participants and their spouses for their roles and responsibilities as future Heads of Missions at Malaysian diplomatic missions abroad. Through this course, the participants were equipped with the latest information and skills on diplomacy and international relations required for a practicing diplomat.



Six of the sessions were presented by Wisma Putra's senior officials. The sessions included *Topical Global Issues Impacting Malaysia's National Interests* by Dato' Nadzirah binti Osman, *Leadership Begins at Home* by Deputy Secretary-General, Department of Management Services Datuk Rahimi bin Harun; *Moving Forward with ASEAN Post COVID-19* by Director General, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat (AMNS), Dato' Ahmad Rozian bin Abd. Ghani; *Strategic Plan, Key Performance Indicators & Key Government Initiatives* by Director General, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, YBrs Ambassador Shahril Effendi bin Abd Ghany; *Negotiation Tools for Heads of Mission* by Director-General, Department of Maritime Affairs, Dr Adina binti Kamarudin; and finally, *Malaysia's Public Diplomacy: How to Do More with Less* by Undersecretary, Communications and Public Diplomacy, Mr Azri bin Mat Yacob.

Luncheon talks were also held with Director-General of the Public Service Department, Tan Sri Mohd Khairul Adib bin Abd Rahman, as well as with Assistant Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia, Dr Norhana Endut.

The President of PERWAKILAN, Datin Sri Izdina Izaidin, also held a luncheon with the participants' spouses.

Apart from the sessions listed above, the participants had the opportunity to attend lectures on *Economic Diplomacy* by Senior Director, Multilateral Policy & Negotiation Division, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Mr Jaya Singam Rajoo; *Integrity in Leadership* by Senior General Manager, Institut Integriti Malaysia (IIM), Tuan Haji Hamilye Sham Harun; *Malaysia's Priorities Post COVID-19* by Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS, Malaysia), Mr Herizal Hazri; *Face-to-Face with Media* by consultant, Mr Nizal Mohammad; and *Leadership Psychology* by Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya, Dr Fonny Dameaty Hutagalung. On top of that, several interactive sessions such as Grooming Etiquette and Speaking with Persuasion and Charisma were tailor-made, especially for the spouses. Additionally, a session on *Leading an Organisation and Managing Stress in Everyday Life* was beneficial to the participants.

A dinner talk on *Investment in Foreign Countries* was also held with Chairman of Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Dato' Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, with the presence of President of Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Tan Sri Dato' Soh Thian Lai, and Executive Director of Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Dato' Hisham Hamdan as panelists. The constructive exchanges of views during the session were crucial in helping the future heads of mission understand the demands for government and private sector collaboration to advance the country's economic prospects.

A weekend working tour to Pahang was also included in the course to expose the participants to the state's economic developments as well as the state's crafts and heritages which may potentially be promoted at the international level as an investment opportunity to foreign investors. There were trips to the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park (MCKIP), Pusat Tenun Che



Minah Sayang, and the Institut Kemahiran Tenun Pahang Diraja. Mr Mohd Faizal bin Jaafar, the Chief Executive of Pahang State hosted a dinner talk for the participants. Official dinners were also hosted by Chief Minister of Pahang, Dato' Sri Wan Rosdy bin Wan Ismail and Pahang State Secretary, Dato' Sri Dr Sallehuddin bin Ishak.



### ***MTCP: Economic Diplomacy Course for International Participants 2021***

IDFR organised the *MTCP: Economic Diplomacy for International Participants 2021* from 31 May to 2 June 2021 via Google Meet. A total of 20 international participants attended the session. Among others, they were from Ghana, Iran, Kenya, Kiribati, Morocco, Oman, Samoa, Timor Leste, and Turkmenistan. Ms Norli Muadza Noor, Director of the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) presided over the programme with welcoming remarks. Lectures, discussions, and simulation exercises were included, which were designed to improve the participants' knowledge on economic planning and policies, negotiations, trade, and investments as

well as to expose them to Malaysia's efforts towards improving its economic growth, governance, and social development. This practice-oriented online course aimed to build participants' capability as well as to equip them with knowledge and skills required for effective involvement in economic diplomacy and international negotiations.

*Introduction to Economic Diplomacy, Strategic Thinking to ROI, WTO & Foreign Trade, Post-COVID Economic Recovery, Economic Diplomacy; Malaysia's Experience, Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Malaysia's International Trade Policy & FTA, and International Negotiations* were among the topics covered in this online workshop. Several notable speakers were invited to deliver lectures and share their experiences with the audience on the discussed topics. Among them were Distinguished



Fellow of IDFR, Prof Dr Sufian Jusoh, former World Trade Organization (WTO) representative, Dato' Muhammad Noor Yaacob and Chairman of MIDA, Dato' Abdul Majid Khan. Through these sessions, the participants were able to enhance their knowledge and skills in economic planning and policy development.

### ***MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2021 (Mid-Level Diplomats)***

The *Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)* was organised from 28 June to 2 July 2021. The course was held virtually and attended by aspiring young diplomats from various countries to improve their knowledge and skills on diplomacy and international relations. An attendance of 17 diplomats was recorded. They were from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyz, Madagascar, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Timor-Leste, among others.

Through various learning styles such as lectures, discussions, and case studies, the participants had an interactive teaching and learning experience. The modules were designed to uphold the idea that 'diplomacy is used as an instrument of good governance'. Among the modules covered during the course were *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Malaysia's Public Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy and its Practices, Malaysia's Bilateral & Multilateral Diplomacy Practices, Crisis Management, Strategic Leadership and Management for Officers, Malaysia & ASEAN, Media Relations & Media Skills, Diplomacy and Protocol Practices, International Negotiations, Personality Grooming & Diplomatic Etiquette, and Futurology & Scenario Planning in Diplomacy*.

The Diplomatic Training Course was made successful by the presence of guest speakers who shared their thoughts and valuable experiences to enrich the participants' knowledge on diplomacy and foreign

relations. Among the speakers invited were diplomats, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and experts of their fields from IKMAS, Cyber Security Malaysia, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), World Trade Organisation (WTO) Representative Office, and ACOVA Consultancy.



### ***The Economic Diplomacy Course***

The *Economic Diplomacy Course 2021* took place on 23 and 24 June 2021. The course aimed at strengthening the participants' understanding of economic diplomacy's concepts and techniques and the importance and challenges in advancing economic integration at regional and global levels.

The course was fully conducted via Google Meet and recorded the attendance of 43 participants (Grade 41 to 48) from various ministries including the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Ministry of Rural Development Malaysia (KLPB), and Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP), among others.

Among the modules of the Course were briefings on *Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy and Strategic Plan 2021-2025, Introduction to Economic Diplomacy in the Era of COVID-19 Pandemic, Roles of FTAs and FDIs in Malaysia's Economic Growth, and discussions on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), Malaysia's International Trade Policy: Issues and Challenges, the Malaysian Economy and Economic*



*Responses to COVID-19 and ASEAN and Regional Trade.* These discussions, along with few seminars, focused on the critical roles that FTAs and FDIs in the growth and development of our country.



### **ASEAN-EU Economic Diplomacy Course 2021**

Despite the constraint of the ongoing pandemic, IDFR successfully conducted the ASEAN-EU Economic Diplomacy Course 2021 from 13 to 16 July 2021, with the support of the office of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Malaysia. The course was aimed at providing the participants with an understanding of economic diplomacy practices in the real world and how it has progressed and changed due to COVID-19.

The course received more than 35 participants from various ministries and agencies including the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, as well as Economic Planning Unit (EPU), among others. Among the ASEAN member states that participated in the course were Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Aside from these countries, Timor-Leste also sent representatives to the course.

The course's welcoming remarks were delivered by the then Director-General of IDFR, Dato' Mohd Zamruni Khalid and Ambassador of the EU to Malaysia, H.E Michalis Rokas. Several modules were designed to

reflect the objectives. Among them were *Post-COVID Recovery: Global, Regional and National Challenges*, *EU's Recovery & Resilience Facility During the Global Pandemic*, *Overview and Main Features of EU Free Trade Agreements & EU-Malaysia Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA)*, *Economic Diplomacy: Future Direction for ASEAN-EU & Negotiating FTA's*, *Engaging State & Non-State Actors in Trade Policy Making and FTA's*, *WTO Rules in the Context of Global Health Pandemic: Trips & Trims*, *Access to Vaccines and Essential Drugs: Pharmaceutical IPR, Production and Import Regimes*, *Achieving SDGs in ASEAN Countries*, and *EU-ASEAN Economic Cooperation: The Case of the EU-Vietnam FTA*.

These important topics were delivered by various respected guest speakers, including Former Advisor and Research Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja; Dr Jorge Nunez-Ferrer, from Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels and European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Dr Willem Van Der Geest, formerly from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and EU Policy and Outreach Partnership (EUPOP), Distinguished Fellow at the IDFR and External Fellow of the World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Bern, Switzerland, Dr Sufian Jusoh, Senior Principal Assistant Director, ASEAN Economic Integration Division, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia



(MITI), Ms Rajeswari Veerasanai, Former Ambassador & Permanent Representative to World Trade Organisation (WTO), Dato' Muhammad Noor Yacob, Mr. Pierre Sauve from World Bank Group, Geneva and Former Dean, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Dr Andika Wahab from National University of Malaysia and Institute of Malaysian & International Studies (IKMAS), Senior Development Economist for UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, Dr Haniza Khalid, EU Ambassador to Philippines (2015-2019), H.E Dr Franz Jessen, EU Ambassador to Viet Nam (2011-2015), Professor of International Trade Law, Bocconi University, and Former Team Leader of the EU-Vietnam Multilateral Trade Assistance Programme (EU-MUTRAP), Prof Claudio Dordi, and finally, Director of Central Institute for Economic Management, Hanoi, Vietnam Mr Nguyen Anh Duong. Through this course, the participants had the benefit of exchanging their views and opinions in understanding related issues from different perspectives.



### **IDFR Forum 2021**

IDFR celebrated its 30th anniversary with a forum titled *“Post-COVID World: Mind the Gaps!”* which was organised on 14 September 2021. The forum featured the renowned President Emeritus of Jacques Delors Institute, and former Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Mr Pascal Lamy, as the Guest Speaker. This session was moderated by IDFR’s Distinguished Fellow and the Director of IKMAS,

Professor Dr Sufian Jusoh. The welcoming remarks were delivered by Malaysia’s Foreign Minister, Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah.

The online forum was attended by 140 participants from various embassies and high commissions, officials from relevant ministries, government agencies, think tanks and higher learning institutions and others.

In his welcoming remarks, the Minister began by congratulating IDFR for its sterling 30 years as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ training arm. Subsequently, the Minister shared his insight on the current crisis of global pandemic and the role of international state and non-state actors in addressing the politics and the economics of public health, medical supplies and vaccine diplomacy. He also highlighted the importance for Malaysia to lead the way in health diplomacy as the world manoeuvres its way in handling the pandemic.

Mr Lamy stated that COVID-19 has exposed a huge disparity between the different organisations (private and governmental), in providing the necessary cooperation. As a result, the post-COVID world will be more challenging than it has already been prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also elaborated on the three (3) major gaps that COVID-19 has created – ‘the North and South’, ‘the East and West’ and ‘the Haves and Have-Nots’. He hypothesised that the gaps would create an asymmetric economic and health shock as the developed countries have the advantage and resources to recover better and faster than the developing countries. Despite the virus’ equal impact on everyone, the health system and vaccine distributions were proven to be highly unequal. The “Haves and Have-Nots” asymmetry showed how COVID-19 has impacted those with lower quality of life unequally compared to those who have a better quality of life. This would further create disparity and generate social discontent, social unrest, and political disruptions, hence making international cooperation more challenging.



The Forum concluded with Mr Lamy's views on the post-COVID world and the new challenges facing the world due to the current imbalances between geopolitics and geo-economics. Additionally, various stakeholders such as multinational corporations, non-governmental organisations, and non-state actors have significant roles in addressing these challenges. He also noted that whilst the responsibilities of the diplomats would inevitably increase, the cooperation between various stakeholders would lead to more desirable outcomes in attaining global challenges beyond the capacity of the sovereign states.

### ***Young Scholar Diplomacy Attachment Programme***

*The Young Scholar Diplomacy Attachment Programme* was organised virtually via Google Meet from 15 to 17 November 2021. This programme was intended to nurture the participants' interest in Malaysian foreign policy and other important areas within the context of international relations. The three-day programme was filled with lectures, briefings, and discussions by Wisma Putra officers, the Malaysian Embassy in Bangkok, and Embassy of the Russian Federation in Kuala Lumpur, as well as the EU Delegation in Malaysia.

The participants comprised of 25 undergraduate students from the Department of International & Strategic Studies, University of Malaya. They were exposed to the theories, practices, and elements of diplomacy as well as the roles and functions of Wisma Putra. The participants also had a briefing session with a diplomat from the Embassy of the Russian Federation on Malaysia-Russia bilateral ties.

### ***Talk Show Series***

*Let's Talk* is a talk show series that discusses the priority areas set out in the Focus in Continuity: A Framework for Malaysia's Foreign Policy in a Post-Pandemic World which was launched on 7 December 2021 by the Prime Minister of Malaysia,



Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob. Priority areas include Revitalising Malaysia's Links to the Global Economy, Health Diplomacy, Digital Economy, Cybersecurity, Cultural Diplomacy, Peaceful Coexistence, Upholding Multilateralism and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2021, IDFR had also successfully conducted 3 talk shows for the series: *Let's Talk: Human Rights*, *Let's Talk: SDGs*, and *Let's Talk: Health Diplomacy*. The series was pre-recorded and uploaded on IDFR's websites and social media platforms.

The *Let's Talk: Human Rights* featured three prominent panellists namely Dato' Cheong Loon Lai, Deputy Secretary-General of the Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Member of Parliament for Batu Kawan, Kasthuriraani Patto; and Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), Mr. Jerald Joseph. This session was moderated by Dato' Dr Shazalina Zainul Abidin, Director-General of IDFR.

The panellists for *Let's Talk: SDGs* were Deputy Secretary-General of Treasury (Policy), Ministry of Finance Ms Zakiah Jaafar; Principal Fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies, UKM, Datuk Dr Anis Yusal Yusoff and Senior Research Associate at Khazanah Research Institute (KRI), Mr Yin Shao Loong. The session was moderated by Distinguished Fellow of IDFR and Executive Director of Third World Network (TWN), Ms Chee Yoke Ling.



The final talk show for the series was *Let's Talk: Health Diplomacy*. The session was moderated by Professor and Executive Director of the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health in Malaysia, Professor Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood. The session featured three panelists. They were Member of Parliament for Bandar Kuching, Dr Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen; World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, Dr Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline and Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) Mr Mohd Daud Mohd Arif.



## RESEARCH

### *Committee of Research (CoR)*

The Committee of Research (CoR) was established in 2019 with the aim to institutionalise discussions on research between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IDFR. The CoR was convened twice a year and was brought within the purview of PSED to oversee the overall research direction, process, and outcome.

The first CoR meeting was successfully held on 19 April 2021 whereby 18 committee members comprising senior officers from both MFA and IDFR convened for the meeting. Director-General Dato' Mohd Zamruni Khalid chaired the CoR 1/2021 meeting on a constructive discussion on the proposed research topics for 2021. With the general acceptance of the sensitivity and complexity of researching some topics, the comments from the committee members usefully underlined some fruitful and significant areas of improvement.



CoR 1/2021 Meeting

Due to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the second CoR meeting was held on 19 August 2021 via an online platform. Nineteen committee members from Wisma Putra and IDFR attended the meeting, which was chaired by Ms Norli Muadza, the Head of Centre of PSED at that time. The committee endorsed the refined proposed topics and discussed the papers' progress.



CoR 2/2021 Meeting

### *Analytical and Research Papers*

By the end of 2021, IDFR successfully produced a total of 12 papers – analytical and research. Among the research topics identified in 2021 were Malaysia's development diplomacy in ASEAN, 2030 agenda for sustainable development, Malaysia-UAE economic



cooperation, South China Sea-related issues, cultural diplomacy, virtual learning in a diplomatic training institute, shuttle diplomacy, vaccine diplomacy, and food security.

### **RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING**

To ensure research competency skills were further enhanced among IDFR officers, PSED had conducted a workshop and a series of tutorials.

#### **Research Capacity Building Workshop**

A total of 18 officers participated in this workshop held on 3 May 2021. The workshop was facilitated by

Associate Professor Dr Norraihan Zakaria. Apart from the hands-on approach to document resources in paper writing, the participants were also exposed to the purpose, format, type, submission process, among others, of the IDFR's in-house papers.

#### **Short Video Tutorials**

Three video tutorials on *The Basics of Writing IDFR Paper*, *Mendeley for Customised Citation Styles*, and *Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID iD)* were produced by PSED's Research Unit. These short tutorial videos were uploaded to YouTube and Knowledge Management (KM) Portal for easy access to all IDFR officers.



Research Capacity Building Workshop



Centre for  
LEADERSHIP,  
NEGOTIATION AND  
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY  
(LNPD)



# CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP, NEGOTIATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY (LNPD)

**The Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy (LNPD) functions as the focal point for training and development as well as subject matter experts and research on leadership, negotiation and public diplomacy. The Centre is envisioned to hone leadership and diplomatic skills among Malaysian diplomats and places more emphasis on increased research and studies in the field of leadership as well as diplomacy.**

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## ***Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses (Series 1 to Series 5)***

The course is a mandatory course designed for government officers and their spouses to enhance and develop their diplomatic, administrative, and social etiquette skills as well as to expand their knowledge in international diplomatic practices applicable in their future postings. This is in line with the directive under a revised *Surat Pekeliling Am Bilangan 2 Tahun 2018 Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia (SPKM)* di Luar Negeri dated 8 November 2018 and the decision from the first meeting of *Jawatankuasa Penyelarasan dan Pemantauan Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia* di Luar Negeri on 23 September 2009.

In 2021, the Centre of Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy (LNPD) successfully organised five series of the course. Series 1 was held at the Institute from 11 to 12 January and was conducted online from 19 to 27 January; Series 2 was from 22 to 26 March; Series 3 from 31 May to 10 June; Series 4

from 6 to 10 September and Series 5 from 25 October to 3 November. The last four of these were conducted entirely online. A total of 400 officers from 30 ministries and government agencies and their spouses attended the course.

The course covered various aspects of management and diplomatic practices including aspects of diplomacy, administration, culture, security, integrity, protocols, and work ethics. Among the modules for the course were lectures on *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Cross-Cultural Awareness, Grooming and Social Etiquette, Fine Dining, Reception and Official Entertaining, Protocol and Consular Works at Mission, Auditing and Finance Matters, and General Administrative and Asset Management at Mission*. The participants also benefitted from briefings on Enhancing Personal Security, Counter-Terrorism 101, and Counter Espionage delivered by representatives from the Special Branch Division, Royal Malaysian Police, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) and the Research Division of the Prime Minister's Department.

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## ***Leadership Course for Mid-Career Diplomats 2021***

A course titled *Leadership Course for Mid-Career Diplomats* from 29 March to 6 April 2021 was held at Zenith Putrajaya Hotel, Putrajaya. This course was specially designed for officers of Grade 48 to 52 to enhance their understanding of the relevant and latest leadership concepts and improve their leadership skills



as Malaysian diplomats. This course was also organised to equip the participants with the skills to successfully prepare, undertake, and conclude negotiations in formal and informal settings with the government and non-government actors.

A total of 17 officers of various departments in Wisma Putra attended this course. Among the modules designed for them were sessions on *Malaysia's Foreign Policy and Strategic Plan for Wisma Putra*, *Digital Diplomacy: A Perspective on Malaysian Foreign Policy*; *Integrity Enhancement and Ethical Consideration at Work*, *Introduction to Leadership, Theory and Mechanics of Neuro-Linguistics Programming (NLP) to Improve Leadership and Relationship*, *Leadership Meta-Programme*, *Amazing Leader with Inspiring NLP Communication*, *The Power Zone of A Leader*, *Reframing Obstacles: Circle of Excellence*, *Swish*, *Perceptual Position*, *New Behaviour Generator*; *Managing Stress at Work*, *Understanding and Resolving Conflict*, *Building a Harmony Sanctuary*, *The Principle and Process of Negotiations*, *Negotiating Mindset and Managing Emotions*, *Negotiation Strategies and Tactics*, *The Power of Framing and Reframing in Negotiation*, *Negotiation Patterns: Proven Approaches*, *Role of a Spouse and Personal Grooming*, *Hosting Skills*, *Networking and Advocacy*, and *Fine Dining, Reception and Official Entertaining*.

Datin Sharifah Ikhlas Syed Ismail from the Ministry of Education Malaysia was invited to share her vast experience as a spouse to diplomat in hosting formal dinners and official entertaining in the *Fine Dining, Reception and Official Entertaining* session. Datin Sri Izzina Izaidin was also invited to share on *Role of a Spouse and Personal Grooming and Hosting Skills*, *Networking and Advocacy* sessions. The officers were joined by their spouses during these three sessions. The seven-day course covered the essentials of leadership and negotiation that will help the officers to build on their core competencies in those areas. The Director-General of IDFR, Dato' Mohd Zamruni

Khalid, delivered his closing remarks and presented the certificates to the participants during the closing ceremony on the last day of the course.



### **Leadership Course for Mid-Level Officers 2021**

Leadership can be defined as the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal. A leader is expected to establish a clear organisational vision, provide the information, guidance, and methods to materialise the vision, and coordinate the interests of all members and stakeholders within the organisation. A leader should also be resourceful, act as the point of reference, step up in critical times, and be able to think and decide creative solutions during difficult times.

From this perspective, IDFR organised the *Leadership Course for Mid-Level Officers: Developing Leaders Today for Tomorrow* from 7 to 9 April 2021 at the Institute. The



course was specially designed for government officers who are at mid-career level to cover the essentials of leadership that will help officers build on their core competency in this area. It was attended by 22 participants from nine different ministries and agencies/ departments such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Majlis Amanah Rakyat, National Audit Department, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Defence, and Malaysia External Trade Development.

The course was aimed at developing participants' understanding of the pertinent and latest leadership concepts as well as enhancing their leadership skills as civil servants. In addition, the course was intended to strengthen participants' analytical skills and abilities so that they will be able to lead an organisation with a high level of confidence and lastly, to equip the participants with the abilities to think critically and handle situations and issues faced at work diplomatically as mid-level officers. Among the modules designed for them were sessions on *Introduction to Leadership, Theory & Mechanics of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) to Improve Leadership and Relationship, Leadership Meta-Programme, Amazing Leader with Inspiring NLP Communication, The Power Zone of a Leader, Reframing Obstacles: Circle of Excellence, Swish, Perceptual Position, New Behaviour Generator; Managing Stress at Work; Understanding and Resolving Conflict, and Maintaining Workplace Harmony.*

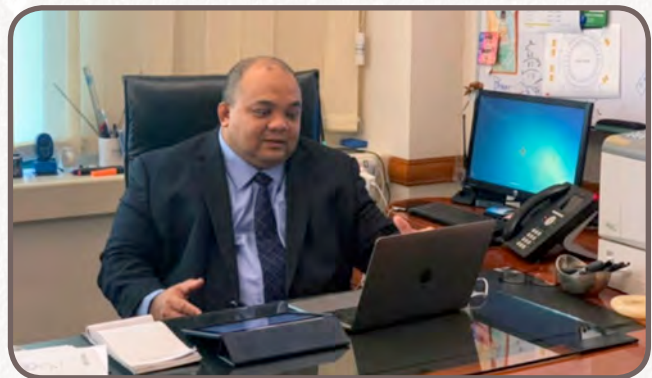
Overall, the course received positive feedback from the participants who had participated actively during the course. The consultants were able to display their mastery of the subject and had allowed interactive activities to take place during the sessions. Director of LNP, Mr Hamizan Hashim delivered the closing remarks and presented the certificates to the participants during the closing ceremony on the last day of the course.

### ***A Sharing Session with Diplomats: Things to Know Before You Go Abroad***

IDFR, in collaboration with the People Development Centre, Group Human Resource, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), successfully conducted a half-day programme titled *A Sharing Session with Diplomats: Things to Know Before You Go Abroad* on 22 June 2021 via CISCO Webex online platform.

15 participants from the outgoing TNB management and senior officers for global assignments in various countries such as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey participated in this programme. YM Raja Saifful Ridzuwan Raja Kamaruddin, Deputy Director-General of Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, and Mr Hamizan Hashim, Director of Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy have delivered their thoughtful presentations.

At the beginning of the session, YM Raja Saifful Ridzuwan presented on Overview of Malaysia Foreign Policy which covers our national aspirations to the global community, our national focus and interests with neighbouring countries in ASEAN and wider interrelation aspects with the United States, European Union, and China, as well as experiences dealing in trade and economic cooperation. Mr Hamizan, on the



YM Raja Saifful Ridzuwan delivering his presentation



other hand, shared his wide experiences in external assignments and interactively engaged with the outgoing participants on preparations and expectations to be made in their foreign assignments. Overall, the participants had gained insight into Malaysian Foreign Policy and the expectations of the upcoming posting abroad.

### ***International Negotiation Course for Junior Level Officers 2021***

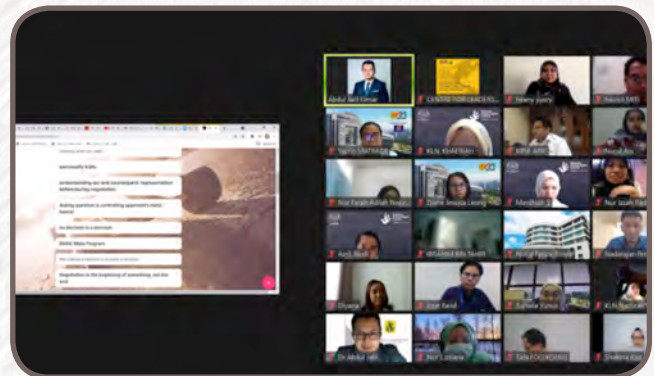
Negotiation is a method by which people settle differences, search for alternatives, as well as discuss further to achieve win-win objectives. It is a process where compromise or agreement is reached while avoiding argument and dispute. In any disagreement, individuals understandably aim to achieve the best possible outcome for their position or perhaps an organisation they represent. However, the principles of fairness, seeking mutual benefit, and maintaining a relationship are the keys to a successful outcome.

Realising the importance of mastering effective negotiation skills, IDFR hosted *International Negotiation Course for Junior Level Officers* for the year 2021. The course was held online from 9 to 12 August 2021 and was intended for Malaysian diplomats as well as Malaysian government officials at the junior level of Grade 41 to 44, who are involved in negotiations in formal and informal settings with the government and non-government actors, both locally and internationally. Forty-five participants who attended the course were officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Science and Technology Research Institute for Defence, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, and Majlis Amanah Rakyat.

This course was designed to enhance participants'

understanding of the principal rules of negotiations in any environment, strengthen participants' negotiation skills in getting ahead, resolving conflicts, and creating value at the workplace, as well as provide participants with an up-to-date experience of negotiation strategies, processes, tools, and tactics in preparation to be a successful negotiator. During the course, the participants were exposed to the modules such as *Understanding Negotiation; Knowing What You Want and Preparing to Get It; Mapping Your Opposition; Knowing the Marketplace; Setting and Enforcing Limits, and Negotiation Canvas*. They also had the opportunity to actively engage with the experts in the field of negotiation on Sharing of Experience in Negotiations, Breakout Sessions, and Group Presentation and Reflection sessions.

In his closing remarks, the Director of LNPD, Mr Hamizan Hashim congratulated all participants for their commitment to completing the course and wished them the best in their future endeavours. Based on the participants' feedback, they had benefitted immensely from the course and look forward to applying their newly acquired knowledge in representing their organisation both locally and internationally.



### ***Media and Malaysia Foreign Policy Course: Synergy in the Global Frontier***

IDFR, in collaboration with the Malaysian Press Institute (MPI), successfully organised *Media and Malaysia*



*Foreign Policy Course: Synergy in the Global Frontier* via Zoom from 12 to 13 August 2021. 18 participants who attended the course were among media practitioners from the New Straits Times, Alhijrah, Malaysian National News Agency, Suara Sarawak, New Sarawak Tribune, Astro Awani, members of the academics from Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and Malaysian government officers from Prime Minister's Department.

This two-day course was specially designed to provide exposure on foreign policy and issues especially to local media practitioners in the preparation of reporting on current affairs relating to international matters and diplomacy. The participants were exposed to modules such as *Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy*, *ASEAN-Malaysia Relations: Contemporary Issues*, *Bilateral Relations: Issues and Challenges*, *Multilateral Relations: Issues and Challenges*, *Maritime Issues in Malaysia*, *Islamophobia*; and *Consular Matters*. These lectures were delivered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, namely Mr Nazarudin Ja'afar of the Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, Mr Mohd Suhaimi Ahmad Tajuddin of the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat (AMNS), Dato' Mohd. Khalid Abbasi Abdul Razak Khan Abbasi of the Department of Bilateral Affairs, Ms Murni Abdul Hamid of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Division, Mr Shahrudin Onn of the Department of Maritime Affairs, Ms Farlina Said of ISIS Malaysia; and Mr Saravana Kumar of the Consular Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The opening remark was delivered by the Chairman of MPI, Datuk Dr Chamil Wariya who himself participated in the entire sessions throughout this course. During the closing ceremony, the Director-General of IDFR, Dato' Mohd Zamruni Khalid expressed his highest gratitude to the Chairman of MPI for the IDFR-MPI partnership as well as his best compliment to all participants for their commitment throughout the course.

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### ***International Negotiation Course for Mid-Level Officers 2021***

Negotiation requires the ability to meet challenges and deal with the unknown. Skilled negotiators know how to analyse each situation, set up negotiations in ways that are advantageous for their side, cope with cultural differences, and manage the negotiation process to reach a deal. They also know how to provide value in the negotiation process and how to find the quickest way for a win-win agreement.

In accordance with this, IDFR successfully organised *Negotiation Course for Mid-Level Officers* held online from 24 to 26 August 2021. The course is intended for Malaysian diplomats as well as Malaysian government officials at the mid-career level of Grade 48 to 52, who are involved in negotiations in formal and informal settings with the government and non-government actors, both locally and internationally.

A total 39 participants who attended the course were officers from various ministries, departments, and agencies of the Malaysian government. They were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Audit Department, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Transport, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, and Majlis Amanah Rakyat.

This course was designed to enhance participants' understanding of steps and approaches towards effective negotiation to gain favourable outcomes, equip participants with the skills to successfully prepare, undertake, and conclude negotiations in formal and informal settings with the government and non-government actors, both locally and internationally, and strengthen participants' negotiation skills so that they



will be able to develop their personal negotiation style in a challenging, actor-oriented, international environment. The course was also designed to inspire, illustrate, and ignite important key strategies and tools to enhance the negotiation and influence favourable outcomes. During the three-day course, the participants were exposed to modules such as *The Principles and Process of Negotiation; Different Negotiating Types and Styles; Negotiating Mindset and Managing Emotion; Negotiation Strategies and Tactics, and The Power of Framing and Reframing in Negotiations*. They also had the opportunity to actively participate in various activities in *Group Dynamics, Breakout Session: Simulated Activities, Group Discussion, Group Presentation and Reflection, and Negotiation Patterns: Proven Approaches*.

At the end of the course, Director of LNP, Mr Hamizan Hashim delivered his closing remark whereby he expressed his special appreciation and gratitude to the experts for delivering and sharing with the participants their views and invaluable experiences. He also congratulated all participants for their commitment and active participation throughout the course.



### ***Public Diplomacy Workshop for Junior Level Officers 2021***

As the main goal of the interaction is to influence the public thinking at the international level and promote one's national interest, effective public diplomacy activities help to promote and contribute towards

a better understanding of Malaysia's foreign policy and trade and economic policies, both regionally and internationally.

In line with this, IDFR successfully organised *Public Diplomacy Workshop for Junior Level Officers* for the year 2021. The course was held online from 28 to 30 September 2021 and was intended for Malaysian government officials from the Management and Professional Group, grade 41 to 44 who are involved in public diplomacy and the media in delivering information and government policy to the target local and foreign civil society.

A total of 17 participants who attended the workshop were officers from various ministries, departments, and agencies of the Malaysian government. They were from the Department of Chemistry Malaysia, National Audit Department, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Malaysia Nuclear Agency, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Defence.

The participants were exposed to modules such as *Media and Public Diplomacy, Press Release Writing (English); Handling Media During Crises; Press Release Writing (Bahasa Melayu); Press Release Writing (Discussion and Presentation), Mastering the New Media; Managing Public in Social Media Platform (Practical), Basic Live Interview (TV and Radio); and Script Preparation and Mock-Up Online Interview*. The modules were delivered by Ms Salbiah Mohd Said, Mr Nordin Abdullah, Mr Mohd Razman Abdullah, and Mr Gerard Ratnam, alongside colleagues Ms Jessy Chahal and Ms Sonia Ayesha.

Throughout the three days, the participants had gained a lot of information and obtained the necessary skills required to better communicate diplomatically with the public in the traditional media and new media. Additionally, the course helps to increase their awareness of public diplomacy and make them



understand the importance of public diplomacy in promoting Malaysia's interests.

On the last day of the workshop, Mr Hamizan Hashim expressed his special appreciation and gratitude to the experts from BERNAMA for sharing their views and invaluable experiences with the participants. He also congratulated all participants for their commitment and active participation throughout the course.



### ***A Briefing Session for Malaysia Future Leaders School 2021 Programme***

On 15 October 2021, IDFR, in collaboration with the Institute for Leadership Excellence and Development (i-LEAD), Ministry of Youth and Sports successfully organised the second briefing session on the topic of Youth Ambassador for participants of the Malaysia Future Leaders School (MFLS) 2021. This strategic collaboration between IDFR and the i-LEAD has started in 2020. This is a youth-based programme specially designed for training and shaping Malaysian youths in becoming strategic partners in the national development and role actors both in national and global settings. Among the main objectives of MFLS are character building, leadership, citizen awareness, entrepreneurship, volunteerism, communication, and internationalisation of the youths. The first-ever MFLS programme was held in February 2020.

A total of 157 selected participants from Tier 1 and Tier

2 of the programme took part in the specially organised briefing session held via the Zoom platform. The briefing session aimed to provide exposure to the participants on several topics related to diplomacy and international relations. The first session was on the *Overview of Malaysia's Foreign Policy* delivered by Mr Nazarudin Ja'afar, the Deputy Director-General of the Policy and Strategic Planning Division, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination.

Next was *Introduction to IDFR and Strategies for Developing Leadership Skills* by Mr Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri and Ms Nuril Fathihah Mazlan, officers of the Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy. The final briefing was on *Malaysia's Public Diplomacy and Social Media* by Mr Mohammad Hosnie Shahiran Ismail, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Communications and Public Diplomacy Division.

The briefing sessions went smoothly and were positively appraised by the participants. Active and lively two-way interactions between presenters and participants took place during the sessions, especially when they put forward questions on the current issues such as economies, social welfares, and initiatives taken by the government in addressing youth's challenges of education and employment. IDFR looks forward to more collaborations with i-LEAD in preparing youths for their future role at the national and international levels.





### IDFR-Albukhary Book Award 2021

IDFR successfully organised IDFR-Albukhary Book Award 2021 on 9 December 2021, as one of the events to commemorate its 30th years anniversary. The award ceremony was held to celebrate and recognise Malaysian authors and writers for their publications on the topics of diplomacy and international relations. Apart from that, this book award also aimed to inspire these authors and writers to continue producing high-quality books on diplomacy and international relations.

In his opening speech, the Honourable Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia congratulated IDFR for organising the first IDFR Book Award and expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Tan Sri Sayed Mokhtar Albukhary for his profound act of kindness. He went on to highlight that the basis of becoming world-class diplomat is by having specialisation, accreditation, and sharing of certain areas of knowledge as well as acknowledging the implications of having such knowledge. The Minister then quoted Prof. Sayed Najib Alattas, "knowledge is the arrival of meaning that comes from information that is true and beneficial" and highlighted the three pillars of knowledge culture: 1) recognition, selection, and appointment of knowledgeable people to certain positions of significance; 2) the continuous pursuit and 3) sharing of knowledge.

The ceremony resumed with the presentation of the Outstanding International Relations Book Award 2021 by the Minister. Upon receiving this award, the author and winner Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Mohamad stated his two main reasons for writing his book *Malaysia-Singapore*

*Fifty Years of Contentions 1965-2015*. Firstly, in the context of Malaysia's bilateral relations with other countries, he felt that the strategic, economic, and other issues that exist between Malaysia and Singapore would remain among the most important to be dealt with long into the future. Additionally, he wished to demonstrate that complex stories can indeed be told in simple language. In his speech, Tan Sri Abdul Kadir expressed his hope that the book will be able to help officers of the ministry to embark on their own journey as a writer of their career and experience as a diplomat.

Shortly after the book signing ceremony, Tan Sri Abdul Kadir personally granted a signed copy to the Minister and 50 copies to IDFR. This hybrid mode event was attended by 60 guests – the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Albukhary Foundation representatives, IDFR's Distinguished Panels, members of the media and 52 online guests. The recording of Tan Sri Abdul Kadir's interview can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuFPTzgkSo>









Centre For  
LANGUAGES AND  
CULTURAL DIPLOMACY  
(CLCD)





# CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY (CLCD)

**The Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD), continues to offer language courses – Bahasa Melayu, English, German and Arabic. They also introduced two programmes on cultural diplomacy to provide participants with a better understanding of cross-cultural elements, geared towards tolerance and moderation. The programmes conducted by the Centre are rooted in the primary objective of helping participants to broaden their personal horizons in languages and cultures and to succeed in the global community.**

## ***German Language Course for Diploma in Diplomacy 2021***

The general objective of the course is to equip the participants with sufficient German language proficiency to fulfill the basic requirements while socialising or working in any German-speaking environment.

The German language course for the DiD was conducted in two cohorts. Cohort 1 was held from 5 January to 7 May 2021 with four participants. Cohort 2 was conducted from 2 June to 21 October 2021, also with four participants. Each cohort was held for five months, equivalent to a total of 100 hours each. All the participants successfully completed the course and exceeded the passing mark in the final examination.

At the end of the course, the participants were able to acquire basic German language skills and able to read and understand short and simple texts. They were also

able to comprehend basic conversation using common German phrases.



German Language Course



Instructor and participants of German Language Course



## Arabic Language Course for Diploma in Diplomacy 2021

The course was designed to equip the officers with basic knowledge of Arabic language and culture to cope with the requirements of traveling and working in Arabic-speaking countries. It also provided the participants with a useful foundation to develop their communication skills in Arabic.

The course was conducted in 2 cohorts, with a total of 100 hours each. The first cohort was held from 5 January to 7 May 2021 and the second one was held from 2 June to 21 October 2021. All 6 participants participated in the activities and tasks given to them and successfully completed the course.



Arabic Language Course

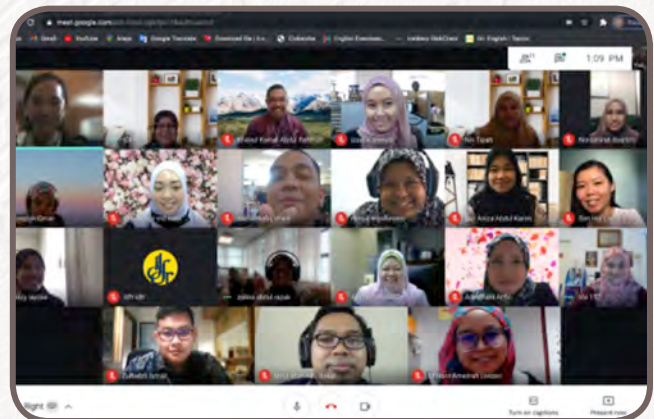


Instructor and participants of Arabic Language Course

## Say It Right: A Course on Pronunciation

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, CLCD took the initiative to conduct its courses online. The 'Say It Right: A Course on Pronunciation' was a three-day course held from 9 to 11 February 2021. Spanning four hours per day, the course aims to aid the participants to be intelligible in what they wish to convey in oral communication. The objectives of the course are to raise the participants' awareness of the English sound system, elements influencing effective speech such as intonation, word and sentence stress, and rhythm which then combined, illustrate better communicative skills. The participants will demonstrate confidence through practice as they improve their pronunciation at the end of the course.

The course was attended by 18 participants from various ministries. Among them were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, and IDFR. The course was well-received by the participants as it encouraged them to speak in English intelligibly. It helped them to focus on the problem areas Malaysian speakers of English might encounter in pronouncing certain sounds not found in their native language. The interlocutors also evaluated the stress, rhythm, and intonation patterns of the English language.



Instructor and participants of Say It Right Course



The participants were given the opportunity to practice English pronunciation through various online teaching and learning methods to gauge their understanding of speaking skills. Thus, the course encouraged better communicative competence in speaking English in the participants' respective careers.

### ***Cultural Diplomacy Roundtable Discussion 2021***

On 1 April 2021, the CLCD organised an intellectual discourse named *Cultural Diplomacy Roundtable Discussion*. Held for two days, the aim was to establish the fundamental direction of cultural diplomacy practice in Malaysia. It also aimed to discern the Dasar Kebudayaan Malaysia, to determine the guidelines for the ministries in their cultural diplomacy practice and to identify the essential elements to be adapted in the institute's training in cultural diplomacy. Among the highlights of the roundtable discussion was the ministry's policy on soft power, Malaysia's stance on culture and identity, the importance of culture in Malaysia's international relations practice and training plans for diplomatic officers and other targeted training participants.

The roundtable discussion saw the participation of practitioners from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and academicians from Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM).



### ***Fundamental English Language Course for Administrative Assistants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

The general objectives of the course are to improve the English language proficiency of the support staff serving at the Ministry and to prepare them for their postings to Malaysian Missions abroad. Held from 6 to 8 April 2021, the course saw the participation of 17 administrative assistants. The course content covered the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing and four instructors from the Centre were involved in the planning and running of the course.

### ***Basic Conversational Malay Course***

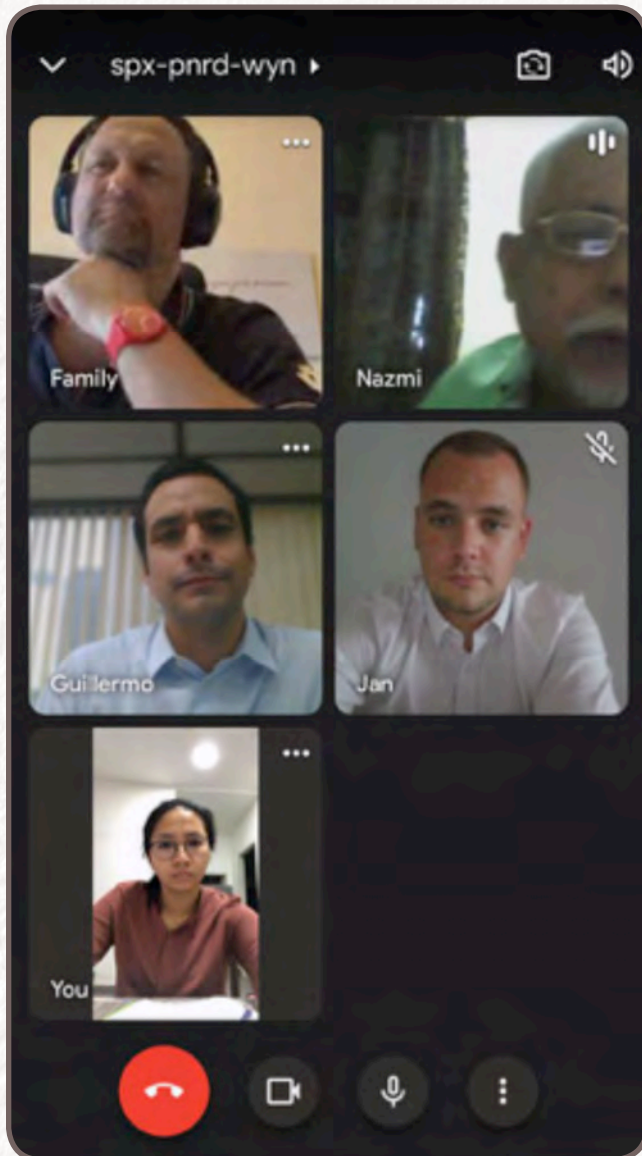
The Basic Conversational Malay course, held from 20 April to 12 June 2021, was the continuation of the 42-hour course that began on 8 September 2020. Physical classes were halted due to the surge of Covid-19 cases in Malaysia. The course continued online after the participants requested to complete the course prior to their three-month summer holidays.

Due to the gap between physical and online classes, the number of participants decreased as some had returned to their respective countries or were unavailable to attend classes due to busy schedules. The foreign diplomats who continued their quest to learn Malay were from the Royal Embassy of Cambodia, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Embassy of Italy, Embassy of Ukraine, and Embassy of the Czech Republic. The objectives of the course are to expose the participants to the basics of conversational Malay and to help them gain a better understanding of the Malay culture in Malaysia.

The diplomats gave favourable feedback on the achievement of the course objectives and the general management of the course. They were also appreciative of IDFR for conducting the course for them and stated



that they are now able to grasp the Malay language and culture better. They also highlighted the fact that the class was conducted in a fun and interactive manner.



### ***German Language Course Level III***

The German language is spoken by 120 million native speakers worldwide and is the European Union's most widely spoken language. Learning German can give an added advantage to anyone who wishes to have a good international career.

The general objective of this course is to equip and prepare the participants with sufficient German language proficiency to fulfill the basic requirements while socialising or working in any German-speaking environment.

The course was conducted from 17 August to 11 November 2021 with nine participants. It was held through the Google Meet platform for two hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for three months. The participants were able to acquire basic language skills and able to read and understand short and simple texts. They also managed to comprehend basic conversations using various common phrases. In the end, all participants successfully completed the course and exceeded the passing mark for the final examination.



Instructor and participants of  
German Language Course Level III

### ***Arabic Language Course Level II***

The Arabic Language Course Level II was successfully conducted from 17 August to 11 November 2021 in a total of 21 sessions. The course was held every Tuesday and Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Public Service Department, National Transplant Resource Centre, Royal Malaysia Police, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka attended the course.



At the end of the course, all the participants showed a commendable grasp of the language during their speaking and reading test. They opined that the course was beneficial in helping them to differentiate and pronounce Arabic words and read basic sentences in their daily life. The participants who successfully completed the course can continue learning Arabic at the next level.



Instructor and participants of Arabic Language Course Level II

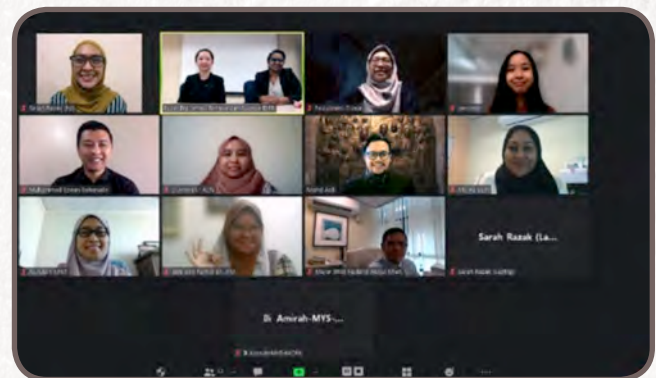
### ***Presentation Skills at the Workplace***

CLCD conducted an online course aptly named 'Presentation Skills at the Workplace' to cater to the mounting interest of not only having to present in person but also having to present through various online platforms since the new normal of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although the manner of delivery may vary, the importance of delivering an effective presentation is substantial. The course aims to equip the participants to be effective public speakers in their respective departments or organisations.

Public speaking is an artful skill that can have an impact on the audience. If done well, it can convince, inspire, or disseminate information that can influence change. This course takes into consideration that for most people, speaking in public is indeed a very challenging yet unavoidable task. This four-day programme explores ways to help the participants

to overcome their fear of presenting to an audience and be better prepared to do oral presentations. The programme not only enhances their public speaking skills; it also raises their awareness of the role of verbal and non-verbal strategies for effective presentation which also helps them gain confidence to speak eloquently.

Participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Housing and Local Government joined the course held from 13 to 17 September 2021. An integrated teaching and learning methodology through lectures, discussions, practical and group activities were carried out online to guide the participants in planning their work-related presentations. At the end of the four-day course, the participants were able to successfully follow the correct process of preparing and delivering their respective presentations. Their presentations were evaluated and given constructive feedback by the instructors and their peers.



Instructor and participants of Presentation Skills at the Workplace Course

### ***English Language (Writing) Development Course for Officers of the Bilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

IDFR, through CLCD and the Bilateral Department of the Ministry co-organised the above course with the



aim of improving the writing skills of the participants. Held over a period of eight sessions of two hours each from 8 October 2020 to 22 January 2021, the course was attended by 28 officers from various divisions under the department. The course content was designed by the Centre after an analysis of the participant's performance in a profiling test and a study of their job responsibilities, as well as discussions with senior officials of the Ministry. The participants' final evaluation was graded against the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), a worldwide standard guideline for language abilities.

### ***English Language (Writing) Development Course for Officers of the Multilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

A total of 30 officers from various divisions under the Multilateral Department of the Ministry attended the above course from 8 October 2020 to 22 January 2021. Co-organised by IDFR through the Centre, and the Multilateral Department of the Ministry, the course was held in 8 sessions of 2 hours each. The course content was designed by the Centre after an analysis of the participants' performance in a profiling test and a study of their job responsibilities, as well as discussions with senior officials of the Ministry. The participants' final evaluation was graded against the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).



Participants of English Language (Writing) Development Course

### ***English Writing Workshop***

The English Writing Workshop is one of the core courses held by the Centre, to develop the participants' competence and skills in writing. It also enables them to apply the principles of effective writing as well as to improve their ability to draft, write and edit their own writing and the writing of others. The workshop adopts an integrated teaching and learning methodology through lectures, discussions, practical exercises, and group activities.

A total of 14 participants from, among others, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Forest Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Department of Mineral and Geosciences Malaysia, Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia, Ministry of Rural Development, and Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives attended the workshop which was held from 25 to 28 October 2021. The participants were able to apply the principles and techniques of effective writing into their own thought and writing processes to come up with their own version of the article. On the last day of the workshop, the participants presented their writing material and had other participants, as well as the instructors, give constructive comments.



Participants of English Writing Workshop



### ***Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series***

On 19 November 2021, HE Ambassador Oka Hiroshi, the then Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia, delivered a lecture titled *Discovering the Influences from the Land of Inventions and Serenity*. The Japanese ambassador is the first ambassador from the foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur to be invited to speak at the lecture series.

Ambassador Hiroshi defined cultural diplomacy as a type of public diplomacy or soft power that wins the hearts of others. He also stated that it is through culture, including arts and language, that we can foster mutual understanding. The ambassador then shared that Japan's image had sparked worldwide interest in its evolving culture, which the top three being Japanese food, the people's lifestyle, and its anime industry.

His Excellency also added that "culture, generally, is defined as the mirror of the society, which embodies the current society's traditions, values, and lifestyle," and when the culture is further described broadly and experienced by others, it will be considered useful. The ambassador also spoke about the Look East Policy, Ambang Asuhan Jepun, Japan International Cooperation Agency in Malaysia, Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths, and Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, which are among the many initiatives that offer language, arts, and culture exchanges and intellectual exchanges to Malaysians.



The year 2021 marked 40 years of bilateral relations between Malaysia and Japan, and he highlighted that the people-to-people exchange between the two nations was close-knit, where various opportunities to work together have hugely benefited both countries.

The lecture, which was conducted in a hybrid mode, recorded 30 participants attending physically and 50 virtually.

### ***Royal Address 2021***

His Royal Highness (HRH) Sultan Dr Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan and the Royal Patron of IDFR, consented to deliver the Royal Address on 18 November 2021.

With the theme *Shaping a New Generation of Malaysian Diplomats*, the Address saw the attendance of 120 guests at IDFR's auditorium and approximately 220 guests via the online platform. The guests include officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, dignitaries from the state of Perak, selected representatives from the diplomatic Missions, former ambassadors, members of think tanks, and IDFR course participants. The event was also honoured by the attendance of Dato' Albert Talalla, the institute's first Director-General.

The event commenced with Welcoming Remarks by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah who addressed, among others, the need for diplomats to be digital diplomats, and for IDFR to play its role in equipping diplomats with the right skills and knowledge, as they are the country's valuable assets.

In his Address, HRH Sultan Nazrin stressed the fact that being the new generation of diplomats requires each one of them to be historians, scientists, communicators, and bureaucrats. Understanding history is the most vital aspect as it provides a background as to how the



world was shaped the way it is today, without which diplomats will struggle to comprehend and analyse foreign policies. HRH also stated that they must also be scientists as it is through science that we progress and make crucial developments. Thus, policymakers who understand science can respond effectively to the most pressing and complex foreign policies such as 'non-traditional' security threats which include the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and new technologies, and engage in international discussions and policymaking.

HRH also emphasised that diplomats must also be skillful communicators, who are sensitive to the impact of media coverage on the national development agenda and are able to deal deftly with domestic and international media to ensure accurate and effective messaging on foreign policy issues. They must also be bureaucrats. The Foreign Ministry and its diplomats play a primary role in crafting Malaysia's foreign policies. They should work even closer with private sectors locally and abroad. They should also continue

to work alongside like-minded states, especially those within the region. HRH added that Malaysia and other states in Southeast Asia have shown positive results in maximising their political and diplomatic skills as small to medium powers by relying on productive regionalism to strengthen their positions.

HRH concluded his Address by underscoring the fact that Malaysian diplomacy must be committed to boosting its efforts in engaging with other government and non-governmental organisations. Considering that challenges in confronting diplomacy continue to evolve and change, institutions like IDFR need to constantly adapt and upgrade their skills training to meet future challenges.

Prior to his departure, HRH consented to mingle with a select group of attendees at a Meet and Greet Session. The event was covered by RTM, BERNAMA, AWANI, and the Malaysian Reserve.









COMPETENCY  
ENHANCEMENT CENTRE  
(CEC)





# COMPETENCY ENHANCEMENT CENTRE (CEC)

**The Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC) is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Institute's two flagship programmes: the IDFR-UKM Master of Social Science (M.Soc.Sc.) in Strategy and Diplomacy and Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD). For the year under review the Centre had also organised two courses: Introduction to Diplomacy Course for officers from the State Administrative Service and Diplomatic Training Course for assistant administrative officers from Wisma Putra.**

## *Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2021*

The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) is a flagship programme of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) devised to equip junior officers with the essential knowledge and skills of an effective diplomat. Successful completion of the programme is a prerequisite for junior officers prior to their first posting abroad. The participants in 2021 underwent specially-designed modules namely; Diplomacy and International Relations, Diplomatic Skills; and Management Services. Strong emphasis was also given to English Language skills. Participants were also required to learn the basics of a foreign language, either Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Russian or Spanish.

In 2021, the DiD programme was held in two cohorts: from 2 November 2020 to 7 May 2021 with 21 participants, and from 1 June 2021 to 2 December 2021 with 22 participants. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent implementation of the Movement

Control Order (MCO) in the earlier part of the year meant that lectures could only be conducted through online platforms to ensure the continuity and completion of the programme as planned. Physical sessions of the programme were conducted towards the end of 2021 with strict adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) set forth by the Ministry of Health.

Participants were also exposed to leadership and diplomacy courses through various practical skills, lectures, briefings, simulation and role-play exercises and excursions. As part of the programme, participants also underwent On-The-Job-Training at their respective Ministries or Departments. During this module, participants were exposed to the functions and responsibilities of various departments and divisions at the Ministry/ Department.

In addition, IDFR also incorporated elements of interactive learning sessions into the programme through various simulations, role-play exercises and drafting tutorials. The participants were given the opportunity to for interactive discussions with eminent speakers, invited guest lecturers, senior officials of Wisma Putra and retired Malaysian ambassadors throughout the duration of the programme. These valuable interactions further enriched the participants' learning experience.

One of the highlights of the programme was the Defending National interest (DNI) Module, which consisted of a simulated press conference exercise on



issues related to Malaysia's interest. Participants also took part in negotiation and the drafting of international process resolutions. These simulations were designed to enhance participants' analytical thinking, negotiation skills and capabilities.

The participants were conferred with the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) in a graduation ceremony held on 3 December 2021. The event was graced by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Kamarudin Jaffar, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Y.B. Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah. This ceremony was also attended by Secretary-General of Wisma Putra, Tan Sri

Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, former Malaysian ambassadors, undersecretaries of the Ministry, representatives from the Prime Minister's Department, DiD lecturers and speakers, and family members of the graduates.

During the ceremony, three (3) officers from each DiD cohort were honoured with the respective awards, namely the Foreign Minister's Award for Overall Best Student, the Secretary-General's Award for Outstanding Leadership and the Director-General's of IDFR Award for Academic Achievement. The recipients of the awards were as stated in the table below:

Awards	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Minister of Foreign Affairs Award for Overall Best Student	<i>Nizhan Faraz Rizal</i>	<i>Nidyakala Manian</i>
Secretary-General Award for Outstanding Leadership	<i>Shivanand Sivamohan</i>	<i>Nur Farahliza Putri Naa'im Yazid</i>
Director-General Award for Best Academic Achievement	<i>Lutfi Sheikh Ghazali</i>	<i>Amirah Che Endut</i>





### ***Introduction to Diplomacy for State Secretary Officers***

Introduction to Diplomacy for State Secretary Officers course is the first IDFR course especially designed for officers from the State Administrative Service. The course conducted from 1 to 3 November 2021, is meant to enhance and strengthen state officers' knowledge as well as skills in the field of diplomacy and international relations. The inaugural programme was attended by 17 participants from 11 states, namely – Terengganu, Perlis, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Johor, Kelantan, Perak, Kedah, Pahang, Sabah and Pulau Pinang.

Among the modules conducted were an *Introduction to Wisma Putra, An Overview of Diplomacy and Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Discussion on Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Consular Issues and Cross Border Consular Cases, Diplomatic Practices for Outgoing Visits, Challenges and Opportunities of Consulate Offices – Sharing of Experience with a Malaysian Diplomat* and *The Role of State Offices in Dealing with Foreign Consulate Offices*. The participants also had the opportunity to interact with H.E. Ambassador Oka Hiroshi, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia and Director-General of IDFR, Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin.

It is hoped that the participants benefited tremendously from the three-day course particularly on aspects related to Wisma Putra, consular and protocol practices.



### ***Diplomatic Training Course for Assistant Administrative Officers (DTC for AAOs) 2021***

A Diplomatic Training Course for Assistant Administrative Officers (DTC for AAOs) was conducted from 8 to 19 November 2021. The course was attended by 14 participants from eight departments/divisions from Wisma Putra. The participants consisted of assistant administrative officers of grade N29 and N36.

The programme was focused on enhancing the participants' knowledge and practical skills in diplomacy, international protocols, etiquette and consular affairs. It also aimed to provide the participants with the requisite skills, knowledge and the right attitude to ensure excellent performance of their duties at a post and within the diplomatic community at large.

The participants were exposed to various topics such as *Introduction to Diplomacy, Leadership in the Foreign Service, Personal Grooming, Introduction to Protocol, Introduction to Negotiation, Integrity, Handling Consular Cases, Public Diplomacy and Media Relations, Basic Speaking Skills, Presentation Skills, Cross-Cultural Awareness and Event Planning Management*. The participants and their spouses also underwent training modules on Fine Dining and Etiquette as well as session with Persatuan Wanita Kementerian Luar Negeri (PERWAKILAN).





### ***Master of Social Science (M.Soc.Sc.) in Strategy and Diplomacy***

The *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy (M.Soc.Sc in Strategy and Diplomacy)* is a collaborative programme between IDFR and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). This programme aims at providing a comprehensive understanding of the core issues related to the theories and practices of strategy and diplomacy. It prepares and equips students from diverse backgrounds with the ability to explore the relationship between strategy and diplomacy within the context of the changing global environment. Both compulsory and elective courses are offered in the programme, in addition to the requirement of writing a 30,000 word dissertation.

The programme requires all students to attend classes

encompassing strategic and security issues, diplomacy, interstate relations, foreign policy, international political economics, international law, defence policy and regional issues. Students are also given the opportunity to participate in seminars and round table discussions with experts and prominent figures organised by IDFR and UKM.

The 2020/2021 Master of Social Science students, consisting of 9 Malaysian students and 2 international students (from Somalia and Zimbabwe) successfully completed their studies in September 2021. The next batch of 2021/2022 consists of 14 students, 9 local and 5 international (China, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Yemen and Kazakhstan) commenced their studies on the 1st of October with an orientation programme conducted online with the Director-General of IDFR and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, UKM.









MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES DIVISION  
(MSD)





# MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION (MSD)

The Management Services Division (MSD) comprises of three sections, whose roles are to facilitate the smooth running of the Institute. It provides support and administrative services to IDFR and ensures the efficiency of all management and operation activities of the Institute. The three sections are:

- Administration and Finance Section
- Library and ICT Section
- Corporate Affairs Section

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE SECTION

### Staffing

As of 31 December, 99 out of 135 posts were filled while the remaining 36 posts were still vacant. The breakdown of IDFR's staffing is as follows: -

Grade	Posts	Staffing	Percentage Filled (%)
<b>TOP MANAGEMENT</b>			
Director-General Premier Grade B (Open)	1	1	100
Head of Centre Premier Grade C	1	1	100
Head of Centre Premier Grade C (Open)	2	0	0
<b>PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGEMENT GROUP</b>			
Grade 54	3	3	100
Grade 54 (T)	1	0	0
Grade 52/54 (T)	5	1	20
Grade 52/54	1	1	100
Grade 52	2	0	0
Grade 52 (T)	2	0	0
Grade 48/52 (T)	9	5	55.6
Grade 48	6	3	50
Grade 48 (T)	2	2	10
Grade 44	1	0	0
Grade 41/44/48/52/54	3	3	100
Grade 41/44/48 (T)	2	1	50
Grade 41/44	15	9	60
Grade 41/44 (T)	12	7	58.3
<b>SUPPORT GROUP</b>			
Grade 01 – 32	67	62	92.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>73.3</b>



### Staff Achievement

In 2021, seven staff were awarded the Excellence Service Award 2020 by the Ministry. The certificate presentation ceremony was held at the Ministry's Excellent Service Award Ceremony on 5 November 2021. The recipients were:-

No	Names	Centre
1.	En Haris Syarwani Razali	CLCD
2.	En Harvinder Singh Ramday	PSED
3.	Pn Iliza Ismail	MSD
4.	En Mohd Shahhizam Che Ahmad	MSD
5.	Cik Nik Khalilah Nik Abdul Kadir	CLCD
6.	En Mohd Saiful Anuar Yusof	MSD
7.	En Zaimi Ahmad	MSD

### Financial Allocation and Expenses

IDFR received an operating budget of RM 9,899,600.00 in 2021. Its total operating expenditure for the year was RM 10,457,773.58 (105.64 %). The actual expenditure exceeded the initial allocation by RM 558,173.58 (5.64%).

Year	Operating Budget Allocation (RM)	Actual Expenses (RM)	Expenses in percentage (%)
2021	9,899,600.00	10,457,773.58	105.64

### Courses

In 2021, two courses were conducted under the Administration Unit namely the Bengkel Pengurusan Perolehan Kerajaan 2021 and Kursus Keselamatan Perlindungan (CGSO).

Listed as a National Training Institute (ILA), IDFR received a training allocation of RM40,679 from the

Public Service Department (JPA) for the year 2021. The courses coordinated by the Human Resources Unit under this fund are detailed below:-

No.	Programmes	Date
1	<i>Kursus Reka ePoster &amp; Infografik: Ms Powerpoint</i>	14 Jun 21
2	<i>Ceramah ICT Siri 1/2021: Current Cyber Threats in Malaysia and the Best Practises</i>	18 Jun 21
3	<i>Critical Thinking in Problem Solving &amp; Decision-Making Virtual Workshop</i>	13 - 14 Sep 21
4	<i>Kursus Pengurusan Masa dan Pengurusan Stres</i>	5 - 6 Oct 21
5	<i>Kursus Pengacara Majlis (Master of Ceremonies)</i>	21 Oct 21
6	<i>Kursus Windows 365: Ms Word dan Ms Excel</i>	25 - 26 Oct 21
7	<i>Kursus Kemahiran dan Tatacara Menggunakan Aplikasi ZOOM</i>	2 Nov 21

### LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

The Library serves to provide information and reference services especially for the Institute's staff and course participants. The services have also been extended to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysian ambassadors at missions, researchers as well as foreign missions in Malaysia.

The Library has a vast collection of reading materials related to IDFR's core business, including in the fields of international relations, diplomacy, and strategic studies. Efforts continue to be taken to enhance the Library's collection of materials and to provide efficient and effective reference service. In 2021, efforts were also taken to inculcate reading habits among the staff and course participants.



### 1. 'Lets Read Together for 10 Minutes'

The programme aims to nurture a reading culture among the IDFR community. It is hoped that through this programme, the staff will read daily and that reading will be their daily habit. This course was held on 22 April involving the participation of 50 staff of IDFR.



### 2. u-Pustaka Briefing

The u-Pustaka briefing is a collaborative effort between IDFR and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture (MOTAC) and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), with the support of the National Library of Malaysia (PNM). This course was held on 21 October involving 23 participants of IDFR-UKM Master of Social Science, with the objective of inculcating interest and creativity among the course participants to use the u-Pustaka services.

Other programs organised by the Library unit were *Monthly Excellent Reading Award*, *IDFR Library Friendly Card*, *Online Workshop Whole BrainSpeed Reading* by Mr Akbar Ali Abdul Razak, the principal, consultant & master trainer of *Accelerated Learning Consultancy*, *Workshop Grooming for Success* by Mr Rudy Ludinata Misnun, the Deputy Director, Centre of Entrepreneurial Development and Graduate Marketability (CEM), Universiti Putra Malaysia and *Bicara Buku Bersama Penulis* by Dr Asri Salleh, Special Duties Officer to the Deputy Minister of Education II, Ministry of Education Malaysia.

### ICT Unit

The ICT Unit aims to ensure effective deployment and support of secured, reliable and robust business applications, e-services and infrastructure to the end-users in IDFR. The Unit is also responsible for strategizing and deploying ICT solutions through close collaborations with the various users and stakeholders, in line with the initiatives on Electronic Governance by the Government.

On 18 June and 23 September, in collaboration with Cybersecurity Malaysia, the Unit organised two series of ICT Awareness Programmes. The objectives of the programmes are to educate the staff on current cyber threats in Malaysia and to enhance awareness of the cyber security challenges in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0).

Due to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the mode of training in IDFR, especially on the aspect of teaching and learning, has been changed to online. In July 2021, the Unit procured a Video Conferencing



System consisting of a Smart TV, speaker, webcam, and Zoom Pro software to support IDFR's programs and courses which were conducted via online and hybrid.



ICT Awareness Programme 1/2021



ICT Awareness Programme 1/2021

On 20 October, IDFR upgraded its internet bandwidth from 50 to 100 Mbps, to avoid intermittent drops in transmission especially during online sessions, which require strong audio and video.

Furthermore, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Operational Budget, the Unit managed to secure a budget for the rental of ICT equipment consisting of 135 desktops, 20 laptops, 15 multi-functional colour printers, 27 black/white printers and 21 LCD projectors for 5 years.

Throughout the year, the Unit has carried out several scheduled maintenances on the ICT infrastructure,

hardware, software, and application system. These scheduled maintenances also encompassed the Local Area Network (LAN), wireless access, computer lab, course application system, website, servers, and data centre. The maintenance is done to ensure that the system is operating and functioning well and meet the requirements of the clients and stakeholders.

### **CORPORATE AFFAIRS SECTION (CAS)**

The Corporate Affairs Section (CAS) is a unit that coordinates the institute's quarterly achievement for the Ministry's Strategic Plan. It provides a range of services, including public relations, media, publicity and promotion, programme coordination, strategic partnership, as well as publications. In the year 2021, as the Institute marks its 30 years of establishment, the unit organised a logo design contest with the theme, "Shaping a New Generation of Malaysian Diplomats".

IDFR started the use of two social media platforms: Instagram, and YouTube in the middle of the year with the objectives to reach a broader audience and increase brand awareness. The Institute aims to provide timely information and higher exposure to the public and potential collaborators. As such, the unit manages the Institute's social media platforms in promoting multiple events and programmes by preparing live updates and sharing public service announcements to raise awareness and understanding of social issues of interest.

In addition to the yearly periodicals, the unit also published two non-periodicals this year. The first is *Malaysian Diplomats: Our Stories, Volume 2*. It is an 80-page book of recollection of experiences by 12 serving and retired diplomats. It follows the footsteps of its well-received predecessor, *Number One Wisma Putra*. The second is a photo book that commemorates the Institute's 30th anniversary. *Commemorating IDFR@30 (1991-2021)* contains the images of personnel, course participants, programmes, and events dating back to

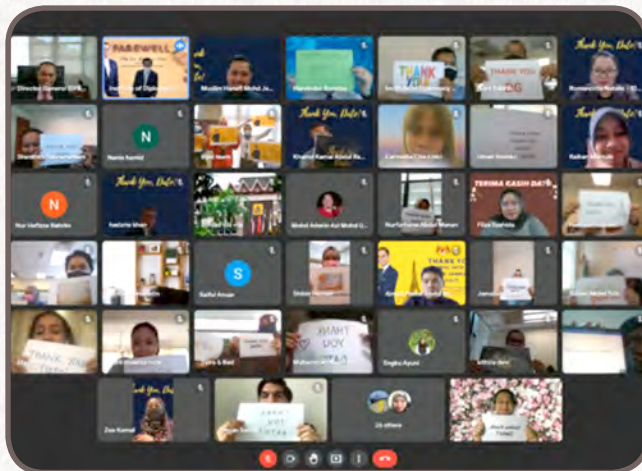


1991, the year the Institute was established.

Apart from the addition in publication, IDFR also established several promising cooperation. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) was signed on 10 March 2021 and exchanged notes with the United Kingdom's International Academy on 8 November 2021, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States on 12 October, and with Argentine Foreign Service Institute on 2 December.

Other activities coordinated and arranged by CAS in 2021 were the annual *Program Perancangan Strategik dan Penyediaan Kertas Kerja Tahunan IDFR 2021/2022* from 24 February to 2 March 2021, visit by the delegates from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) on

8 April 2021, the 15th Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of ASEAN+3 on 9 March 2021, the IDFR Distinguished Fellows Meeting on 23 April 2021, the online meeting between IDFR and the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) on 23 June 2021, the Director-General's session with students from the Faculty of Law and International Relations of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Uzbekistan on 11 August 2021 and 31 March 2021 respectively, Virtual Farewell for the former Director-General of IDFR on 11 August 2021 and also *Sesi Amanat Ketua Pengarah IDFR bersama Warga IDFR* on 8 October 2021, welcoming the newly appointed Director-General, Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin.



Virtual Farewell for Dato' Mohd Zamruni Khalid, former Director-General of IDFR

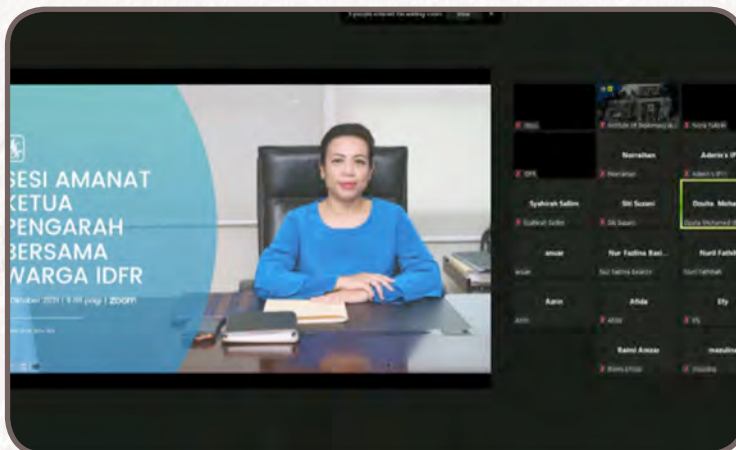


Sharing session with students from the Faculty of Law and International Relations of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA)





The production team behind Commemorating IDFR@30 (1991-2021)



*Sesi Amanat Ketua Pengarah IDFR bersama Warga IDFR  
organised on 8 October 2021*



Exchange of Notes event on 8 November 2021







# SUMMARY OF PROGRAMMES





# SUMMARY OF PROGRAMMES

## *CENTRE OF POLITICAL STUDIES AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY (PSED)*

Programmes/Events	Dates	No. of Participants
Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2021	8 March	50
Ambassador Lecture Series 2/2021	6 May	93
IDFR Lecture Series	9 June	186
Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2021	7 July	176
Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2021	10 Nov	80
Strategic and Security Analysis Course	23 – 25 Feb	40
Orientation for Head of Missions and Their Spouses	15 – 21 March	26
MTCP: Economy Diplomacy Course for International Participation 2021	31 May – 2 June	20
MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2021 (Mid-level Diplomats)	28 June – 2 July	17
Economic Diplomacy Course	23 – 24 June	43
Asian-EU Diplomacy Course	13 – 16 July	63
IDFR Forum	14 Sept	140
Young Scholar Diplomacy Attachment Programme	15 – 17 Nov	25
Research Capacity Building Workshop	3 May	18



### ***CENTRE OF LEADERSHIP, NEGOTIATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY (LNPd)***

<b>Programmes/Events</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
Pre-posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses (Series 1 to 5)	11 Jan – 3 Nov	400
Leadership Course for Mid-Career Diplomats	29 Mar – 6 Apr	17
Leadership Courses for Mid-Level	7 – 9 Apr	22
A Sharing Session with Diplomats: Things to Know Before You Go Abroad	22 June	15
International Negotiation Course for Junior Level Officers	9 – 12 Aug	45
Media and Malaysia Foreign Policy Course: Synergy in the Global Frontier	12 – 13 Aug	18
International Negotiation Course for Mid-Level Officers	24 – 26 Aug	39
Public Diplomacy Workshop for Junior Level Officers	28 – 30 Sept	17
A Briefing Session for Malaysian Future Leaders School School Programme	15 Oct	157
IDFR-Albukhary Book Award	9 Dec	112

### ***CENTRE OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY (CLCD)***

<b>Programmes/Events</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
German Language Course for Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD)	5 Jan – 7 May	4
	2 June – 21 Oct	4
Arabic Language Course for Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD)	5 Jan – 7 May	3
	2 June – 21 Oct	3
Say It Right: A Course on Pronunciation	9 – 11 Feb	18
Cultural Diplomacy Roundtable Discussion	1 – 2 Apr	11
Fundamental English Language Course for Administrative Assistants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	6 – 8 Apr	17
Basic Conversational Malay Course	20 Apr – 12 Jun	9
German Language Course Level III	17 Aug – 11 Nov	9
Arabic Language Course Level II	17 Aug– 11 Nov	8
Presentation Skills at the Workplace	13 – 17 Sept	8
English Language (Writing) Development Course for Officers of the Bilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 Oct '20 – 22 Jan '21	28
English Language (Writing) Development Course for Officers of the Multilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 Oct '20 – 22 Jan '21	30
English Writing Workshop	25 – 28 Oct	14
Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series	19 Nov	80
Royal Address	18 Nov	340



### **COMPETENCY ENHANCEMENT CENTRE (CEC)**

<b>Courses/Programmes</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) – 1st Cohort	2 Nov '20 – 7 May '21	21
Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) – 2nd Cohort	1 June – 2 Dec	22
Introduction to Diplomacy for State Secretary Officers	1 – 3 Nov	17
Diplomatic Training Course for Assistant Administrative Officers (DTC for AAOs)	8 – 19 Nov	14
Master of Social Science (M.Soc.Sc) in Strategy and Diplomacy		
Batch 2020/2021	1 Oct '20 – Sept '21	11
Batch 2021/2022	1 Oct '21 – Sept '22	14





## Enquiries

All enquiries should be directed to:

Director-General  
Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia  
Jalan Wisma Putra  
50460 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia  
Tel: +603 2149 1000  
Fax: +603 2144 5640  
[info@idfr.gov.my](mailto:info@idfr.gov.my)  
[www.idfr.gov.my](http://www.idfr.gov.my)






Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia  
Jalan Wisma Putra  
50460 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

 <https://www.idfr.gov.my/>

 [info@idfr.gov.my](mailto:info@idfr.gov.my)

 <https://www.facebook.com/IDFRMalaysia/>

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