

DIPLOMATIC VOICE

A TRIANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE
INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN
RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MALAYSIA

ISSN 2289-1277

Bon Voyage Director General



The Institute's Director General, Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, was recently appointed as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He received his Letter of Credence from Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah on 21 March 2019.

Other Ambassador-designates who received their Letter of Credence at the same ceremony were Ambassador Zainal Abidin Bakar, Ambassador to Indonesia and Mr. Westmoreland Edward Palon, Ambassador to Holy See.

Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik was previously Ambassador to Hungary (2014-2017) before being appointed as IDFR's Director General on 2 February 2017. He was also former Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran (2009-2014) and Consul General to New York (2004-2008). He also served in various capacities as a Malaysian diplomat to Australia and the Republic of Ghana. At the ministry, Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik also previously served as Undersecretary for the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Oceania Division, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Europe Division and Senior Assistant Secretary for the Policy and Planning Division, among others.

Among the Institute's achievements during Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik's leadership was co-hosting the eleventh edition of the Young Diplomats Forum in 2018, the first ever in Asia, with Global Diplomatic Forum (GDF), a London-based independent, not for profit organisation. The Memorandum of Agreements signed between IDFR and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in 2017 and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in 2018 marked its continuous efforts to collaborate with local universities in areas of academic excellence opportunities. Organised annually since 2016 to promote cultural diplomacy and multiculturalism, the second Cultural Appreciation Day was held successfully in 2017. In the following year, Cultural Appreciation Day 2018 attracted the attendance of more than 500 people and received overwhelming support for that event.

A farewell event was held for Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik on the afternoon of 25 April 2019, attended by the staff of IDFR as well as the participants of the ongoing Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2019 programme. The event ended with a photography session and a sending off event afterwards where all the staff bade farewell to the Director General.

Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik left for the United Kingdom on 26 April 2019. IDFR wishes the Director General all the best in London.

CONTENTS

1	Bon Voyage Director General
2-3	Highlight
4-9	Forum
10-14	News
15-16	In and Around IDFR

Follow us on
Facebook and Twitter
@IDFRMalaysia

Diploma in Diplomacy 2018's Graduation Ceremony



The Graduation Ceremony of the Diploma in Diplomacy programme was held on 22 November 2018 for 16 junior officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon completion of the 2018 Diploma in Diplomacy programme. The DiD programme, held from 2 April to 11 October 2018, aims to develop holistic diplomats by enhancing the participants' skills and knowledge in preparation for the various functions, roles and responsibilities at the Ministry, as well as Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions.

The ceremony began with welcoming remarks by Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, Director General of IDFR. In his Remarks, Datuk Mohamad Sadik congratulated the DiD participants upon completion of the six-month programme and expressed his hope that the graduands, through the trainings and exposures in IDFR, would be able to meet the high expectations and overcome the challenges that lie ahead. At the end of his remarks, Datuk Mohamad Sadik said that "graduation marks the closing of one journey and the beginning of another chapter" and wished them the best in their next chapter of professional life.

The guest of honour at the ceremony was The Honourable Dato' Marzuki Hj. Yahya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. In his Address, Dato' Marzuki congratulated the participants for completing the programme and hoped that they benefitted well from the programme. He stressed the importance of equipping the Malaysian diplomats with "all the relevant skills, diplomatic tools and know-hows to represent Malaysia effectively in the international arena". In addition, Dato' Marzuki Yahya also advised the officers to hold fast to "the value of humility and kindness", remain "respectful, transparent, professional, and more importantly, apolitical" and "be honest and sincere" in executing their duties.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of diplomas and certificates. Smartly dressed in their No. 1 suits, the officers went on stage at the Multipurpose Hall, IDFR to receive their Diploma in Diplomacy from The Honourable Dato' Marzuki Hj. Yahya. The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards: *the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Award for Best Overall Student*; *the Secretary*

General of Foreign Affairs' Award for Best Leadership; and *the Director General of IDFR's Award for Best Academic Achievement*. The recipient for the Minister of Foreign Affairs' award was Ms. Sarah Zahirah Ruhama; Secretary General's award was Mr. Muhammad Muhaimin Rasidi; and Director General's award was Ms. Farah Syafina Bahari. The Class Representative, Mr. Ahmad Radzi Mohd Zim, delivered their vote of thanks on behalf of the graduands.

During the ceremony, the 2018 graduates took the opportunity to reminisce on their DiD camaraderie with a video montage and a unique 'glowing hands' performance. Their success was also especially dedicated to the continuous support of their nearest and dearest who were present that day.

The ceremony was also attended by Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, the Secretary General, Heads of Department, other senior officials of the Ministry, representatives from the Public Service Department (JPA), lecturers and speakers, IDFR's Distinguished Fellows and staff as well as the graduands' family members.



The Trump Effect on the Global Nuclear Order

Ramesh Thakur

On 25 January 2018, the famous Doomsday Clock was moved to two minutes to midnight¹ – the closest it has ever been, matching the acute sense of crisis of 1953. Although it was not the only country blamed for the worsening situation, the United States featured prominently in the reasons for the backward movement. The list included upgrades in its nuclear arsenal; the lack of arms control negotiations with Russia; exchange of bellicose threats with North Korea; and doubts about its commitment to the Iran nuclear deal which were validated when President Donald Trump abandoned it on 8 May 2018.

The clock did not move in 2019. On the one hand, on 1 February Trump confirmed his October 2018 decision to suspend US participation in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) – an arms control agreement with Russia that contributed to the end of the Cold War² – to worldwide criticism. On the other hand, in 2018 he dialled down his bellicose rhetoric against North Korea and has met its leader Kim Jong-un twice, in Singapore last year and again in Hanoi on 27–28 February. Although the latter was a failure, the US and North Korea, as also South and North Korea, are now engaged in summit, high and working level discussions, and the fear of an imminent war has faded.

US actions under Trump have contributed to the deepening unease about the steadily increasing nuclearization of world affairs in this century. We are in the midst of a uniquely dangerous period in the atomic age. Geopolitical tensions have spiked across the world. No arms control negotiations are currently underway to reduce global nuclear stockpiles. A hostile security environment, proliferation of nuclear weapons, and emergence of new technologies have increased the risk of accidental or deliberate use of nuclear weapons. For the first time in history there are two international treaties for setting global nuclear policy directions and norms: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Nuclear-Weapon Prohibition Treaty (TPNW).

President Trump's narcissistic personality, abrasive style and disdain for international

institutions and rules have established him as the disruptor-in-chief of the global order, including the existing nuclear order. US nuclear policies both reflect and fuel the fraying regimes, provoking counter-measures by adversaries, sowing doubts in allies, and stiffening support among the non-nuclear states for the TPNW.

The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review³ (NPR) will shape the Trump administration's nuclear decision-making, modernization, targeting and signalling. Its vision of the role of nuclear weapons is expansive. The fourfold effect of the NPR is to enlarge the US nuclear arsenal, lower the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, and broaden the circumstances and contingencies in which the threat of nuclear weapons can be made as tools of diplomatic coercion. The altered US nuclear posture will inevitably have cascading effects on the arsenals, doctrines, and deployment practices of the other nuclear-armed states and also on the nuclear policies, including the balance of incentives and disincentives between non-possession and proliferation, of many of the non-nuclear weapon states.

This article examines the effect of the Trump administration's nuclear policies on four categories of states: the potential nuclear adversaries, in particular Russia and China; US allies that are dependent on the US nuclear umbrella for their own security; the two major countries of proliferation concern over the past decade, namely Iran and North Korea; and the non-nuclear weapon states who are outside the nuclear umbrella of the nine countries with the bomb (in alphabetical order, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK], France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, UK, and USA).

Potential Adversaries

On 1 March 2018, President Vladimir Putin boasted of a new array of invincible nuclear weapons⁴ that can penetrate any defences anywhere in the world. He noted that the US had not heeded Russian warnings when President George W. Bush pulled out of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty in 2002. "You didn't listen to our country then. Listen to us now⁵," he said. The language Putin

used in his address was reminiscent of the Cold War. After the US and Russian suspensions of the INF in 2019, Putin warned on 20 February⁶ that Russia could place hypersonic nuclear weapons on submarines deployed near US waters in order to match the timeframe in which US missiles based in Europe could strike Russia. He also warned of a radioactive tsunami that could be triggered in densely populated coastal areas by a new nuclear-powered underwater drone dubbed *the Poseidon*.

Meanwhile the official paper of the People's Liberation Army has called for China to strengthen its nuclear deterrence and counter-strike capabilities⁷ in order to match the developing US and Russian nuclear strategies. China is upgrading its considerably smaller nuclear arsenal. It has rejected Germany's request to save the INF⁸ by agreeing to trilateralize it, emphasizing that its warheads in the hundreds cannot be compared to the US and Russian arsenals in the several thousands each.

Expanding US and Russian nuclear weapons developments and deployments lead to the normalization of the discourse of nuclear weapons use. The more that Putin and Trump revalidate the role of nuclear weapons in strengthening their respective national security, the more they embolden calls of nuclear weapon acquisition in other countries. India and Pakistan are enlarging, and modernizing and upgrading stockpiles, while investing in battlefield tactical nuclear weapons and systems to counter them. Their sudden flare-up and aerial skirmishes at the end of February were a stark reminder of the stakes involved.

Umbrella States

The biggest spur to the unexpected and sudden debate on the merits of independent nuclear weapons among security specialists in America's European and Pacific allies, who hitherto have been content to rely on the protection of US nuclear weapons under policies of extended nuclear deterrence, has been Trump. His public scorn for and castigation of once-valued allies as unwanted burdens, plus his abandonment of core

Western values and interests on the altar of a purely self-serving transactional foreign policy that may be returning the US to the historical norm of isolationism, have been deeply unsettling. The net effect is to damage the major Western institutions and call into question US leadership as a responsible global power, the quality of US nuclear decision-making and its reliability as a nuclear guarantor.

This presents a double dilemma for America's allies. On the one hand, the mercurial Trump may provoke a nuclear war that destroys the world. On the other hand, a transactional president constantly berating his European and Pacific allies about not carrying enough of the budgetary and military burden for their own security may refuse to come to their defence should they be under attack from a nuclear-armed enemy.

The double dilemma in turn translates into contradictory policy implications. In response to concerns about the unreliability of the US nuclear umbrella under Trump, some political leaders and strategic analysts in some allies – Germany, South Korea, Japan, Australia – have begun to think the unthinkable about independent nuclear defence capability. There are still powerful constraints and arguments against an independent deterrent in each of these countries, but the fact that they have even begun to think of the possibility is due largely to the shock of Trump's policies.

Countries of Proliferation Concern

The 2015 Iran nuclear deal had established a robust dismantlement, transparency, inspections, and consequences regime. Trump pulled the US out of the deal on 8 May 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran on 5 November. With Iran still in compliance with its obligations, this puts the US in material breach of the multilaterally negotiated and UN-endorsed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action⁹ (2015). This will have reconfirmed North Korea's belief that the one thing standing between its security and a US attack is the bomb. North Korean leaders have been strongly motivated to get the bomb because of the cruel fate that befell no-bomb Slobodan Milosevic (Serbia), Saddam Hussein (Iraq) and Muammar Gaddafi (Libya). They told Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (1986–97)

that if these three leaders "had had nuclear weapons, their countries would not have been at the mercy of the Americans and their regime-change tactics."¹⁰

The Iran decision will also have reinforced every hardliner's conviction that the US cannot be trusted to deliver its end of an internationally negotiated deal. President Hassan Rouhani advised North Korea's foreign minister Ri Yong Ho, who was visiting Iran as the reimposed US sanctions came into effect, that Washington cannot be trusted to make and keep any nuclear deal that is reached¹¹. On 13 August, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rejected President Trump's offer of unconditional talks on the North Korean model. "America's withdrawal from the nuclear deal is a clear proof that America cannot be trusted," he said by way of explanation.

Meanwhile, after the 'historic' Singapore summit with Trump in June 2018 and Trump's 'Mission Accomplished' declaration that North Korea was no longer a nuclear threat¹², the latter gave multiple indications of just how unlikely complete denuclearization is. On 9 August, Foreign Minister Ri said: "we will preserve our nuclear science¹³ as we know that the Americans will not abandon their hostility toward us." Pyongyang has also demanded that the US must first declare that the Korean War is over before it provides detailed disclosure in writing of its nuclear-weapon stockpiles, production facilities and missiles as steps towards denuclearization.

For its part North Korea complains that it has taken many promised goodwill measures such as "practical denuclearisation steps as discontinuing nuclear test and ICBM test fire, followed by dismantling the nuclear test ground." In response, however, not only has Washington insisted on denuclearization first, it has also incited "international sanctions and pressure"¹⁴ contrary to expectations of lowering the high barrier of mistrust. South Korea's President Moon Jae-in would appear to have elevated the need to avoid a war on the Korean Peninsula that could easily cross the nuclear threshold, as his very top priority. He has persisted with deepening inter-Korean relations despite the flagging momentum of North Korea–US relations that culminated in the failed second summit in Hanoi on 27–28 February 2019.

The Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

The main drivers of the 2017 UN Nuclear Ban Treaty are the failure of the nuclear-weapon states to implement their nuclear disarmament obligation under Article VI of the NPT; the elevated nuclear threat levels over the last five-six years from Europe through the Middle East and South Asia to the Korean Peninsula and East Asia; the fraying nuclear arms control regimes; and growing awareness of the humanitarian consequences of any nuclear-weapon use, whether by choice or accident. Although the primary intended impact of the Ban Treaty is normative¹⁵ rather than operational, it has been fiercely resisted by all the nuclear-armed states. They are in denial on their own responsibility for interest in the treaty and, led by the United States, reject the call to pursue nuclear disarmament anytime soon.

Endnotes

¹<https://thebulletin.org/2018-doomsday-clock-statement/>

²<https://theconversation.com/the-collapse-of-the-us-russia-inf-treaty-makes-arms-control-a-global-priority-111251>

³<https://dod.defense.gov/News/SpecialReports/2018NuclearPostureReview.aspx/>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43239331>

⁵<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/01/vladimir-putin-threatens-arms-race-with-new-missiles-announcement>

⁶<http://time.com/5533297/putin-warns-us-missiles-europe/>

⁷<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-china-security/chinese-military-paper-urges-increase-in-nuclear-deterrence-capabilities-idUKKBN1FJ1AI>

⁸<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-security-china/china-rebuffs-germanys-call-for-us-missile-deal-with-russia-idUSKCN1Q50NZ>

⁹<https://www.state.gov/e/eb/tfs/spi/iran/jcpcpa/>

¹⁰<http://thebulletin.org/iran-nuclear-option-more-trouble-it-was-worth9064>

¹¹<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-northkorea/u-s-cant-be-trusted-irans-rouhani-tells-north-korea-idUSKBN1KU0NB>

¹²<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/1006837823469735936?lang=en>

¹³https://www.ft.com/content/0733c85e-9c4f-11e8-9702-5946bae86e6d?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1dObF6UTJZVEppWXprdyIsInQiOiJQTVJqRmZTVHViOEIId1BOOTNNd25leVZoeWhDbnlrMTgzU2QxU3FCVFBJSFgwMm5VWEIwV1JjcEQ0enM2dFNmQ3YzZlJZDQwK1wdFNidzd3Q1NlBxlgSFZnYjA1NFirdkZnpSc0JwY0F0VklcL2thXC9VFlxQWWhKNlVJN29xbyJ9

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0163660X.2017.1406709>

Professor Ramesh Thakur is Director of the Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Crawford School, The Australian National University and co-Convenor of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. He is a former member of the International Advisory Board of the IDFR. He can be contacted at ramesh.thakur@anu.edu.au.

Malaysian Women in DAESH: A Reflection of Their Roles & Recommended Counter-Measures

Siti Syahariyah Shaharuddin
Siti Fatimah Nurain Mohamad

Introduction

Daesh has adopted a rather secular approach with its stance on gender roles in its organisation. Their support for female militancy in terrorism sets them apart from other "religious-based" terrorist organisations. For example, they differ from Al Qaeda, whose relatively conservative use of women limits women to passive roles as simply mothers or wives of soldiers. Daesh, on the other hand, encourages the participation of women within the organisation, especially through the establishment of the Al Khansaa Brigade, which is an all-women police and religious unit.

Based on this approach, Daesh, as a patriarchal terrorist organisation, will selectively limit as well as encourage the types of women's participation according to the needs and benefits of the organisation. Its focus lies on two categories of female target audiences that the group appeals to. The first are those who oppose western feminist ideals, and wish to live a traditional and pious life serving their husbands and households. The second are women who desire combative roles. With this in mind, Daesh has expanded female participation in its organisation and has utilised different narratives to attract these women from all over the world to play specific roles.

The media has reported various occurrences of Malaysian women participating in Daesh activities, including travelling to the so-called 'land of the Caliphate' in Syria and Iraq. In essence, Malaysian women have undertaken supportive roles without any engagements in the "battlefield". However, a few terror-linked arrests made by the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) recently uncovered disturbing information in the intention of these women. Some were found with the desire to play active and aggressive roles, specifically planning to conduct attacks on non-Muslim civilians on Malaysian soil. At the same time, there are Malaysian women who are constrained within certain familial conditions that suppress their ability

to act independently. These women come from an extremist or terrorist family background, where they face challenges in living up to family expectations, which often make them victims or passive supporters of their families' extremist and terrorist ideals.

Therefore, this article illustrates the multifaceted roles that Malaysian women play in Daesh based on the reported terror-link arrests, as well as provides an insight on the motivational factors of these women to engage in extremism and terrorism, albeit within the limitations of the findings. The final section of the article offers several prevention and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) recommendations in addressing the issue of Malaysian women's involvement in extremism and terrorism.

The Multifaceted Roles of Malaysian Women in DAESH

A number of Malaysian women have been successfully recruited online to join Daesh. Some of these women further engage in Daesh activities, such as spreading Daesh propaganda and participating as online recruiters, travelling to Syria and Iraq, aiding in fund raising, marrying Daesh militants and also nurturing extremist ideologies in their children, in line with a carefully-selected, curated version of *salafi* jihadism and *wahhabism* teachings of their rendering of Islam.

Malaysian women in general can be deduced to these roles: (i) acting as wives of Daesh militants and upholding the duty to procreate the next generation of militants, (ii) masterminding and executing aggressive operations, (iii) spreading propaganda and recruiting women, (iv) being part of logistical support, and (v) being victims who are unable to break free from family constraints of a generation of Islamist extremists. They may also play passive roles as inactive supporters of their families' extremist ideologies.

With regard to the first role of women as wives of Daesh militants, women are

valued assets to Daesh that is facing a diminishing number of fighters resulting from the regular loss in continuous combat operations. Great honour and emphasis on the traditional roles of women as wives, mothers and nurturers are deliberately advertised and propagated in various social media platforms. The rhetoric and language used often romanticise *jihadi* marriages, which have been successful to resonate with women who are anti-feminists and aspire to live their life supporting their husbands as traditional wives, mothers and nurturers. Various arrests in Malaysia disclosed cases of women planning to travel abroad for the prospect of marriage. For example, a 27-year old Malaysian woman who planned to travel to southern Philippines through Sandakan, Sabah, to marry her Filipino recruiter. Another example is a 26-year old college student who was engaged to a militant in Syria. He promised her his hand in marriage upon her arrival but she was detained by the Turkish authorities and deported back to Malaysia.

The second role observed is women involved in planning and executing combat operations. Conventionally, "religious-based" terrorist organisations take a conservative stance on women's militaristic roles. For example, the wife of Al-Qaeda's leader, Umayma Hassan Ahmed Muhammad Hassan, in her letter to Muslim women, propounded for women to support their husbands and bear their children, dissuading women from seeking active roles in combat operations. Daesh, however, urges all Muslims to take up arms for defensive purposes irrespective of their gender, and encourages women's participation as propagators of violence and female *jihadi* warriors. In response, more women outside Daesh-controlled territories in Syria and Iraq, especially Malaysian women, have been found to plan and carry out lone-wolf attacks. Most recently, a 51-year old housewife was arrested for planning to ram a vehicle into voters at a voting centre during the Malaysian polling day on 9 May 2018. In 2016, four women, including a police official,

an aeroplane technician, a mosque cleric and a student were found to be taking orders from a Daesh-Malaysian man in Syria to launch attacks in Malaysia.

Additionally, there are Malaysian women who became online recruiters that influence other women to live under the Caliphate by migrating to Syria and Iraq under false pretences of better livelihoods, prospects of marriage, and a sense of belonging. A notorious case is Shams, a Malaysian woman and blogger known as "Bird of Jannah". She wrote the *Diary of a Muhajirah* on Tumblr which romanticised her personal life and marriage to a Daesh militant. Her appealing stories were successful in attracting young women to join Daesh. Another case is a Malaysian housewife and widow who was arrested in 2014 for recruiting undergraduates to travel to Syria for the purpose of joining Daesh. Their motivational drive was the belief that their actions was a form of *jihad*.

The fourth is women's logistical support role in Daesh that facilitates the operations of the group. In the Malaysian context, some of these women are professionals and officers in the workforce. In 2017, a Malaysian woman, who worked as an airport immigration officer, was arrested under suspicion of accepting payment for aiding individuals with invalid travel documents, including Malaysian and Indonesian Daesh followers, to enter and exit Philippines through Sabah. It is part of Daesh's advocacy to attract women from various professional and academic backgrounds to join the organisation under the notion that their skills are crucial and valued.

Lastly, Malaysia also faces challenges on the issue of women and girls who become victims to family constraints. These women and girls are considered passive supporters of their families' extremist and *jihadist* ideals. In some instances, they were forced into arranged marriages with men from similar extremist or terrorist families who were engaged in combat operations and relocated in conflict areas where wives were expected to follow suit. The common motivational push for these women to abide by family expectations is their fear of family disownment. There are also women who support their families' long-standing practice of religious extremism and do not perceive themselves as neither radicals

nor extremists.

Recommendations

There is a need to review the issue of gender in both counter-terrorism (CT) and non-CT policy frameworks. The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism or PVE Plan of Action, for example, highlights gender equality and women empowerment as part of the seven priority areas in addressing violent extremism that need to be included in the member states' own National Action Plan for P/CVE. All agencies, with or without CT in their agenda, need to recognise that their existing efforts in gender equality and women empowerment are also part of a larger national and global P/CVE initiative. Additionally, agencies in the field of CT need to create more integrated capacity-building programme modules that are inclusive of gender issues when discussing terrorism and counter-terrorism.

One of the methods in advancing gender equality and women empowerment is expanding the role of women in the safekeeping and monitoring of local communities or villages. The involvement of women in monitoring the community has been found beneficial in terms of early detection and treatment of radicalisation. Additionally, empowering women by equipping them with skills development to be financially independent has dampened "push factors" behind violent extremism. For example, women who are financially dependent on their husbands would face the loss of income when their husbands are detained. Some women may be pressured by the lack of emotional and financial support and turn to their extremist communities for financial aid.

In this regard, it makes it even more imperative to increase efforts in reintegrating families of terrorists or terrorist returnees back into mainstream society, especially wives and children who often face bullying and rejection by society. This is also a necessity in the long-term rehabilitation of groups of women and girls who were highly radicalised to prevent them from seeking refuge in their previous extremist communities.

Another important effort is building a social movement for societal change, especially in the attitude, the mindset

and the behaviour towards women's role in tackling P/CVE and society at large. Encouraging activism from women and girls at the community level has historically enabled the foundation for political change. This is crucial for gender issues to take centre stage in the P/CVE arena at the local and national level.

Conclusion

Malaysian women have proven to be susceptible to Daesh's appeal. In addition, they have illustrated their capability and willingness to conduct violent acts against civilians. For this reason, Malaysian women do demonstrate similar tendencies for violence as men, and their participation should not be regarded as merely indoctrinated, naïve victims. Therefore, stepping up efforts in including women in P/CVE in local communities or villages, encouraging female activism, aiding women, especially those affected by extremism and terrorism, by equipping them with the right skills to generate income and providing a safe haven for those who are in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration into society, are all crucial in diminishing women's vulnerability to extremism, radicalisation and terrorism.

The number of Malaysian women arrested for terror-linked activities may appear significantly lower than men, but there is a need to be mindful that most of their undetected extremist activities occur behind closed doors, unrepresented by discernible data. It is timely for Malaysia to consider issues of gender equality and women empowerment and increase efforts to include women at the local and national level of P/CVE initiatives.

Ms. Siti Syahariyah Shaharuddin is the Assistant Director with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Siti Fatimah Nurain Mohamad is the Assistant Director with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Assessing the Feasibility of Malaysia in Becoming a State Party to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention

Nur Atikah Anuar

In 1994, a majority of the 23 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide are from the third world undeveloped countries¹. Today, UNHCR in its annual Global Trends report 2017 stated that 68.5 million people including refugees were displaced as of the end of 2017. Within a period of 13 years from 1994 to 2017, there is a tremendous increase in the number of refugees and displaced person worldwide. A trend that needs serious cure. Even in countries which are state parties to the 1951 Refugees Convention, an asylum-seeker may become an orbit refugee² due to restrictive refugee policy practices³.

To date, the 1951 Refugee Convention has been acceded by 146 out of the 193 Member States of the United Nations, with South Sudan most recently acceding both the Convention and Protocol in 2018. Within ASEAN, only Philippines and Cambodia are State Parties to the Convention. The lack of ratification does not mean that Malaysia does not abnegate its obligations to protect and has no responsibilities over the issue. Malaysia is still subject to any customary and international law related to refugees. Though international law does not promise refugees 'asylum' but it does promise non-refoulement⁴. The non-refoulement principle is now enshrined in Article 33 of the Refugee Convention in which no reservations are permitted and whether one is a refugee in international law is a question of fact. This principle is now considered a rule of customary international law and all countries regardless state party to the Convention or not have to adhere to it, including Malaysia. Malaysia continues to do its part and uphold the non-refoulement principle. In normal practice, asylum seekers are not deported until they are proven to be not a genuine refugees. Those who have been recognised as refugees in accordance with the Refugee Convention by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are termed by Malaysia as "UNHCR Cardholders" and are issued with UNHCR card.

While Malaysia does offer de jure protection to refugees, the absence of any legal framework for refugee protection makes the status of refugee in Malaysia a precarious one. This status is usually based on the goodwill and tolerance of the government in power. But how long will this sustain? The ad hoc approach adopted by the Malaysian Government towards refugees lies in the fact that most refugees have not been granted with uniform rights and privileges or legal status. For example, the Pilot Project which was introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs only covers for Rohingya refugees in Malaysia while neglecting other groups of refugee. With the new government at the helm, it is now the right time for Malaysia to seriously look for a solution to address the poor condition of refugees in Malaysia. Would becoming a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention better address the problem?

It is a matter of concern for the Malaysian Government that the influx of refugees has resulted in the persons of concern registered with UNHCR in Malaysia accumulating to 163,864 as of 31 December 2018 while irregular migrants are over 2 million people. In this context, Malaysia underscores the absolute urgency to address the gravity of the humanitarian situation of refugees. On top of that, the barriers to the entry of immigrants and refugees have created a traffic in illegal immigrants and become an avenue for criminal organisations to gain illegal profit. Result of this is that those who have successfully made their way to the country of destination are heavily indebted and face the risk of being exploited and ill-treated.

Customarily, national and regional authorities of the state parties to the Refugee Convention, which are also host countries for refugees would allocate considerable resources and manpower for the urgent task of keeping refugees alive, alleviating their sufferings and ensuring the security of the whole community. Economic factor is such a dilemma for a small and middle-income

country like Malaysia. The amount spent on refugees is an opportunity cost that could be spent for infrastructure development in Malaysia. The economic impact of refugees on the country, however, is not always negative. The presence of refugees also contributes to the creation of employment benefitting the local population, directly or indirectly. Some refugees indeed bring skills and knowledge with them that can be utilised to the benefit of local people.

The arrival of large number of asylum seekers and refugees, especially from different social or cultural backgrounds than the receiving communities may affect social cohesion. In many refugee situations, problems are intensified when refugees compose sizeable proportion of the local, if not national population⁵. In Malawi, a refugee influx which began in 1986, had led, by 1993, to one million Mozambican refugees in the country, some 10 per cent of the national population⁵. In future, the major concerns of continuing influx of refugees into Malaysia would give rise to a 5th major race in Malaysia and add on to existing citizenship issues.

However, it is to be noted that a legal obligation does not impose on states parties to the Convention to admit refugees on a permanent basis, integrate them or naturalise them since state sovereignty cast a shadow on all these issues⁶. Even though it is not mandatory for state parties, they have to set aside certain amount of resources to provide basic needs and protection to refugees. With the new government in place emphasise more on reducing debt and boosting Malaysia's economic stance, it is best for Malaysia to "put on our own oxygen mask before assisting others." While in the long-term ratification to the UN Refugee Convention remains a worthy goal, in the short-term it may not be the best way forward for a country like Malaysia.

Looking at the domestic practices among few State Parties to the Convention,

most of the European countries offer the best protection to refugees but it seems that most of them are reviewing the current benefits offered to curtail the mass influx of refugees. This is also done to reduce the attractiveness of their country as destination for refugees. Some State Parties even have performed badly and below the requirement of the Convention. There are few countries that acceded to the Convention since 1980s, are still in the process of harmonising the Convention into their national law.

As a dualist state, if Malaysia wishes to accede to the Convention, the existing national laws need to be amended or new legislations need to be introduced in order for the Convention to be fully effective within Malaysian territory. The existing laws that might require amendments are Immigration Act 1959/63, Passports Act 1966, Employment Act 1955, Workmen Compensation Act 1952, Workers' Minimum Standards of the Housing and Amenities Act 1990, Employment (Restriction) Act 1968 (Revised 1988) and Education Act 1996.

The Government of Malaysia may wish to explore ways to exercising the power granted under Section 55 of the Immigration Act 1959/63⁷ to exempt refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons as a "class of persons" from prosecution and detention. This move would help to improve the refugees' situation in Malaysia due to the absence of formal, legal frameworks for the recognition of refugees and asylum seekers which seriously compromises the right to move, the physical security, and the dignity of such persons. It would be a beginning for a country like Malaysia in amending its domestic laws towards upholding the rights of refugees. Ideally, a state should not ratify a treaty until its domestic laws and policies are in compliance with the international legal requirements.

A holistic approach is essential in ensuring the welfare of refugees, especially those in protracted situations,

are addressed. Primarily, governments have the main responsibility, but very often, governments cannot act alone. Thus, the protection of refugees and their welfare requires a multifaceted approach, whereby the active participation of civil societies and private sectors are important elements. In this regard, the Government of Malaysia may consider collaborating with the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, SUHAKAM in upholding the rights and safety of refugee communities in Malaysia. SUHAKAM has been known to advocate for several marginalised refugee groups in Malaysia due to their non-recognition status by the Government.

With the absence of legal framework on refugees and the escalating need for better management of refugees in Malaysia, the country has to do more to improve the situation of refugees in Malaysia. It is suggested for Malaysia to focus on alternative means of advancing human rights of refugees in Malaysia instead of ratifying to the UN Refugee Convention since it is not ready domestically. This is in line with the fact that the international human rights treaty should operate as a backup monitoring system rather than the primary enforcement mechanism for human rights protection.

Instead of rushing into ratification, the Government may consider having a combination of stronger domestic means to protect and promote human rights of refugees and also empower its national human rights institution to promote the rights of refugees in Malaysia. Alternatively, in response to the growing calls by a broad cross-segment of international community and Malaysian society to ratify the said Convention, it is advisable for the Government of Malaysia to conduct a comprehensive review regarding its position on the said Convention. The review process might also take into consideration the outcome of engagement and consultation with civil society stakeholders to ensure that it could reach a consensus that will meet Malaysia's international commitments

as a responsible state actor.

Endnotes

¹Richmond, A. H., (1994) *Global Apartheid: Refugees, Racism, and the New World Order*, New York: Oxford University Press.

²Orbit refugee is refugees who have escaped intolerable conditions in one place but can find no state including countries that are state parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention that are willing to offer them asylum or resettlement opportunities.

³Melander, G. (1987) *Refugees with No Country of Asylum: Strategies for Third-Country Resettlement* in John R. Rogge (ed), *'Refugee: A Third World Dilemma'* New Jersey: Rowman & Littlefield.

⁴Asylum seekers must be presumed refugees for the purposes of Article 33 unless and until their claims are finally rejected on their merits. According to this principle, host countries should not return a refugee to a country where he faces a serious threat to his life.

⁵UNHCR (1997), *Social and economic impact of large refugee populations on host developing countries Social and economic impact of large refugee populations on host developing countries*, 6 January 1997, EC/47/SC/CRP.7, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/en-my/excom/standcom/3ae68d0e10/social-economic-impact-large-refugee-populations-host-developing-countries.html> [Accessed 1 October 2018]

⁶Chowdan, A. N, *Signing the refugee convention*, the express tribune newspaper, 4 July 2011, available at <https://tribune.com.pk/story/202214/signing-the-refugee-convention/>, [Accessed 7 July 2018]

⁷Section 55 of the Immigration Act provides that the Minister may by order exempt any person or class of persons, absolutely or conditionally, from any of the provisions of the Immigration Act.

Nur Atikah Anuar is a Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) graduate from the class of 2018. She developed her profound passion in humanitarian issues during her three years (2015 to 2018) tenure as the desk officer at the Human Rights and Humanities Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing on humanitarian and civilisation. She currently serves at the Finance Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the Forum section are entirely the authors' own and not those of the Institute.

Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 1/2019 - Culture and Art: A Diplomatic Experience

IDFR was honoured to have Dato' Mohd Yusof Ahmad, a former Malaysian Ambassador, to pave the way for the first 2019 Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series held on 10 April 2019. The discourse, titled Culture and Art: A Diplomatic Experience, seeks to instill awareness and boost understanding on how cultural diplomacy as a tool of soft power could be harnessed to help promote global peace, stability, and prosperity.

At the outset of his lecture, Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof expressed his interest in art and culture that started very early in life, circa from his schooldays and he later becomes very passionate about them. He claims that curiosity is the key that sparks one's interest for foreign art and culture. It was highlighted that his insights for the lecture is based on his own experiences of 22 years serving as a Malaysian diplomat; and this has availed to him the opportunities to enlighten himself on the local art and cultural scenes in the seven different countries where he was posted.

Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof postulated that the definition of art and culture is broad, almost endless, and that numerous things could be considered as art and culture, depending on how one views them. According to him, "art is regarded as the manifestation of something beautiful and aesthetic visually or in a behavioural form while culture is seen as the way people live their life, manifested through the artistic and aesthetic, to make it interesting, entertaining and an art form". Culture will always be the cornerstone of human lives because, according to him, culture enriches lives and without it, life would be mundane and empty.

Art and culture is constantly evolving and developing without sacrificing any of its essences, and is regarded as a vital aspect around which human civilisations have evolved since time immemorial. Quoting Datuk Ramli Ibrahim, Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof indicated that culture and art has the potential to be a diplomatic tool in enhancing international relations and ties between countries. Historically, art and culture has significantly played a role in bringing countries together through



various means and is still predominantly in use until today. People's knowledge also broadens from the various cultural interaction of the world. In fact, it is also seen promising as an economic tool, generating income and revenues especially for the tourism industry.

Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof's interest and curiosity towards art and culture deepened further when he joined the Malaysian Foreign Service. Serving Malaysia in various parts of the world, namely Vietnam, Italy, Poland, Australia, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Switzerland, boosted his interest to study and deepen his knowledge on the art and culture of these countries. He stated that his interactions with diplomats from developing countries in itself is a cultural experience, giving him insights into the perceptions of others on religion, customs, tradition and way of life. He also expounded that his visits to museums and art galleries in other countries were another form of exposure to art, albeit an ancient one. One could learn more about a nation and her people through the display of art.

The next part of the lecture touched on how the city of Rome is viewed as the cradle of civilisation and how Italy utilised food, music, the clothing industry and outdoor lifestyle to generate economic incomes for her citizens. Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof pointed out that Italy is highly supportive and appreciative of her

art and culture. In this regard, Malaysia he said, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture should emulate Italy in the preservation of the Malaysian heritage, art and culture. Malaysia should look into this avenue as another mean to boost the economic growth of the country.

Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof then shared his thought on the representation of culture through visual and performing art. He highlighted Italy as an example, where operas and concerts performed there during the summer months helped to showcase the musical culture of the country. He then talked about his experience while in Poland, a poor socialist country under the communist regime, but art and culture in the country was on prolific display. He also made comparison between Poland and other socialist countries, which used art as a channel to promote socialism, but for the Poles art is not the mean to propagate socialism. He underlined that the success of Italy and Poland in promoting their art and culture, lies in the willingness of the government to support the cultural and art activities within the nations. On the other hand, when he spoke on Russia, a country rich in historical and cultural artefacts, he looked more towards how Russia used cultural diplomacy as a tool for bilateral and international relations.

Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof ended his lecture by talking about Switzerland, a successful country, rich in natural

resources with a high standard of living, but the people are modest, with diversity in art and culture but the two entities are well preserved. He also reiterated that not only has culture and art sparked his interest in becoming a diplomat and experiencing diversity around the world but more importantly it was the exposure that has made him a better informed and cultured person.

The lecture concluded with a question and answer session, where questions were posted on the role of the Malaysian Embassy in promoting the Malaysian culture and art abroad, the necessity



of learning the local language of the host country when posted there, the importance of nurturing young diplomats to love the art and culture of their native country rather than loving a foreign culture, and what are the modality needed to be employed by diplomats in people to people interaction. Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR then presented a memento to Ambassador Dato' Mohd Yusof Ahmad as a gesture of appreciation for his valuable contribution to the lecture series.

Seminar on Malaysia-China Trade and Investment: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised its first seminar of the year under its Economic Diplomacy Series entitled, "Malaysia-China Trade and Investment: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward" on 6 March 2019. This event brought together experts from the government and private sectors to deliberate about the impacts of China's trade and investment on the Malaysian economy.



The programme commenced with the welcoming remarks by Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR. In his speech, he highlighted how the rapid growth of the historical relationship between Malaysia and China has reflected in the encouraging trade and investment trends in recent years. He also expressed his hope for greater mutual benefits and a stronger strategic partnership between both countries amidst a challenging global economic landscape compounded by the US' nationalistic and protectionist trade sentiments.

The panellists for the first session entitled, "Malaysia-China Trade and Investments from the Government's Perspective" were Mr. Unny Sankar Ravi Sankar, Director of the Belt and Road Initiative National

Secretariat (BRINS Malaysia) at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia, Ms. Li Yabin, First Secretary at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia and Dr. Tham Siew Yean, Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, Director of the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED), IDFR acted as a moderator. An overview of current trends, policies, challenges and opportunities with regard to Malaysia-China bilateral economic relations was presented by the panellists. During this session, Mr. Unny Sankar reiterated the commitment of the Malaysian Government to participate in and benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Apart from that, trade dispute settlement mechanisms, capital flows and trade facilitation were discussed.

In the second session entitled, "Malaysia-

China Trade and Investments from the Private Sector's Perspective", the panellists were Mr. Lee Heng Guie, Executive Director of the Socio-Economic Research Centre (SERC), Dato' Ong Chong Yi, Chief Executive Officer of Port Klang Free Zone Malaysia, Mr. Ong Chee Tat, National Deputy President of the SME Association of Malaysia and Dato' Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, President of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association. It was moderated by Datuk

M. Supperamaniam, Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. The theme focused on the experiences of Malaysian SMEs in the Chinese market and outlined the contributing factors to the hurdles these firms face to conduct business in China. Consequently, the speakers recommended solutions that could facilitate better trade cooperation, including offering beneficial tips to Malaysian SMEs on how to enhance their business practices and competitiveness. The session also examined the role of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) in defining trade incentives for SMEs.

This was followed by a question and answer session, before the event ended with a memento presentation to the panellists by Datuk Mohamad Sadik. The event was well attended

by representatives from the relevant Malaysian Ministries and Agencies as well as the diplomatic missions in Kuala

Lumpur, IDFR course participants, think tanks, and students from various public universities. Judging from the positive

feedback from the audience, the event succeeded in meeting its objectives.

Diploma in Diplomacy 2019: Opening Ceremony

On 11 February 2019, IDFR welcomed 21 officers to participate in the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2019. All the officers make up the aspiring batch of junior diplomats who will be undergoing a six-month training programme, designed to give an in-depth exposure to participants on the various angles of diplomatic affairs and international relations as part of their professional preparation in performing their duties and responsibilities as Malaysia's representatives at Missions abroad.

The Opening Ceremony of the programme was officiated by Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, Director General of IDFR. Datuk Mohamad Sadik, in his opening remarks, said that IDFR has lined up a wide range of topics as well as a number of distinguished speakers for the programme as it aims to provide the finest intensive diploma programme for the country's future diplomats. He later highlighted the three main points in guiding the participants to becoming Malaysian diplomats of high quality, which are attitude, skills and knowledge.



In his speech, Datuk Mohamad Sadik also stressed on several qualities that diplomats ought to have to be of high competence, including the ability to have a good grasp of important issues; mastering Malaysia's history and culture; and understanding the dynamics of the political and economic issues of the country. The importance of learning foreign languages, building passion in the career, and developing communication, networking as well as writing skills were

also emphasised.

The participants were glowing with enthusiastic vibes at the end of the ceremony as they promised their dedication and commitment to the programme. The DiD, which currently runs for six-months, is seen as a premium training programme organised by IDFR which would help pave the way for a brilliant beginning for our upcoming diplomats.

Diploma In Diplomacy: Corporate Social Responsibility and Outreach Programme In Kuching, Sarawak

Sarawak, the Land of the Hornbills, paid hosts to twenty-one (21) officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 31 March to 5 April 2019. The officers are currently undergoing a six-month Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) course at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Kuala Lumpur. The DiD course is a preparatory course for officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to being eligible for posting to Malaysia's 106 Missions in 85 countries abroad. Kuching, Sarawak has been selected as the venue for the DiD 2019 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Outreach

Programme as part of the Ministry's public diplomacy effort.

The DiD participants began their journey in Sarawak on 31 March 2019 at Telok Melano village, Tanjung Datu, the south-western tip of Sarawak. Once accessible only by sailing through the South China Sea for two hours from Semantan in a fishing vessel, the scenic area is now accessible by road via the Federal Government funded Pan Borneo Highway which was officially opened on 26 January 2019. They stayed for one night at the Telok Melano village, the

last residential point in the southwest of Sarawak which shares a common border with the Temajak village of Indonesia. Also known as Kilometer 0 of the Pan Borneo Highway, the 2.5-hour journey from Kuching provided participants with an experience on how Malaysian citizens in remote areas benefitted from the government projects. During their brief stay at the Telok Melano village, the participants not only experienced the serene and exquisitely beautiful Telok Melano Beach but also conducted an outreach programme and engagement session with the villagers of Telok Melano.



Through the session, the DiD participants shared with the villagers the roles and functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly on consular matters and assistance rendered to Malaysians abroad. During the interactive session, they were also able to listen first-hand to issues faced by the residents of Telok Melano prior to the construction of the Pan Borneo Highway and observed how it has changed the life of the villagers of Kampung Telok Melano for the better.

Before heading back to Kuching on 1 April 2019, the DiD participants stopped by the Lundu District Office. An engagement session was held with Mr. Gustian Haji Durani, the District Officer of Lundu and his officers, whereby, they learned about the history, administrative matters and socio-economic development planned for the Lundu District. On 2 April 2019, the DiD participants visited University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) which is located in Kota Samarahan. They paid a courtesy call on Professor Datu Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni) of UNIMAS and was briefed about the history and achievements of UNIMAS since its establishment 27 years ago. In the afternoon, the participants visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Sarawak Regional Office, whereby, Mr. Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh, Director of the office, briefed the participants on the roles and functions of the Ministry in Sarawak. The DiD participants then visited the Sarawak Federal Secretary Office and were given an overview of the works of the office relating to Federal Government jurisdiction in Sarawak by Mr. Norizan Bin Jili, Deputy Sarawak Federal Secretary.

The DiD participants spent their fourth day in Sarawak on 3 April 2019 by

organising an 'Outreach Programme and Engagement Session with UNIMAS's International Studies Students'. Held at the Main Lecture Hall of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UNIMAS, the one-day event was divided into 2 sessions. The first session was a plenary session attended by 100 International Studies students, whereby, the DiD participants engaged and interacted with the students on the following topics: 'What is an Administrative and Diplomatic Officer (PTD) and how to become one?', 'Overview of the works of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and 'Insights of the role and contribution of a 4 years old Foreign Service Officer'. The second session was held in the afternoon. During the 'Breakout Session', students were divided into 7 groups. Each group was facilitated by 3 DiD participants and discussed the following topics: 'The Bangsamoro Peace Process: Malaysia's Involvement in the International Monitoring Team (IMT)', 'The Southern Thailand Peace Talks: Malaysia's Role as Facilitator', 'The 2015 Helicopter Crash in the Gilgit-Baltistan Region of Northern Pakistan: Identification and Repatriation of Remains', 'Malaysia's contribution during its non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 2015 – 2016', 'Malaysia's Foreign Policy Priorities under the Second Mahathir Administration', 'Effect of the Kim Jong-nam Assassination on Malaysia-DPRK Bilateral Relationship' and 'The Situation in Myanmar: Malaysia's Position on the Rohingya Crisis'. Additionally, the DiD participants also shared with the students interview tips specifically with regard to personal grooming and etiquette to help prepare the final year students for their future job interviews.

The DiD participants held their third and

final CSR programme entitled 'Adopt a Borneo Orangutan at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, Kuching, Sarawak' on 4 April 2019. As part of their CSR effort, the participants created and launched the 'Adopt an Orangutan at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre' promotional video. The promotional video is available in the Ministry's social media platform and IDFR website. The DiD participants chose to collaborate with Semenggoh Wildlife Centre to nurture and support efforts towards educating and promoting the role of Semenggoh Wildlife Centre as a key stakeholder in sustainable forest management and conservation of flora and fauna. During the programme, the DiD participants were also briefed on the rehabilitation and conservation efforts undertaken by the Government of Sarawak. The programme at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre was highly impactful to the DiD participants as it gave a better understanding on the relationship between our palm oil industry and the conservation efforts on our flora and fauna. The DiD participants were enriched with useful first-hand information through this programme for their future undertakings. The CSR programme also received press coverage and was reported in various media, namely, *Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM)*, *The Borneo Post*, *New Sarawak Tribune*, *Dayak Daily* and *Utusan Borneo*.

Before heading back to Kuala Lumpur, the DiD participants made a courtesy visit to the Sarawak State Secretary Office at Wisma Bapa Malaysia, Petrajaya on 5 April 2019. During the visit, the participants were briefed about the historical, political and economic development of Sarawak. In conclusion, the CSR and Outreach Programme in Sarawak is an eye-opener for the DiD participants in many aspects and had successfully provided various first-hand insights and information that are not available through the internet and mass media. This newly received information is crucial to equip the participants with relevant knowledge prior to their overseas assignments. Given the success of this programme, it is recommended that similar programmes should be undertaken regularly in various states especially in remote areas to promote the Ministry and its works to all Malaysians.

MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course for Malaysian Participants 2019



The Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy recently concluded its first training programme for 2019. The Strategic Analysis Course for Malaysian Participants was held at IDFR from 4 to 8 March 2019.

The course was designed to enhance the participants' knowledge on strategic thinking and security analysis, as well as

expose them to the changing political, security and strategic environments of the modern world.

The course contents covered, among others, *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Introduction to Strategic Analysis, Malaysia's Approach to Innovative Service Delivery, Strategic Choice Process and the Art of Choosing in*

Diplomacy, Negotiation Tools for Strategic Analysis, Migrating to Opportunity – Labour Mobility in Southeast Asia Around the Globe, Law of the Sea Convention 1982 and its Impacts on Recent Development in South China Sea, Intelligence and National Security, Traditional and Non-Traditional Maritime Security, Cyber Security-Digital Analysis and Risk Analysis.

The programme was attended by 11 officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Council of Trust for the People, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Ministry of Health, National Institute of Public Administration, Royal Malaysian Police, Department of Islamic Development, Malaysia, and National Security Council respectively.

The course received positive feedback from the participants, and they look forward to applying what they have learned from the course in their daily work.



Realizing this need, Wisma Putra and IDFR have been and will continue to provide cutting-edge programmes and various specialized trainings in crucial areas such as leadership, science, culture, environment, human rights, international law including Law of the Sea and many more to our officers. We believe that only by providing our diplomats with these skills and knowledge, would we be able to uplift our image internationally as one of the Asian tigers to be reckoned with, while at the same time able to contribute towards greater regional and global peace and security.

The dynamics of International Relations and diplomacy have evolved significantly with the advancement of science, technology and telecommunication specifically in the field of social media. Therefore, it is also important for our officers to be skillful and techno-savvy in handling social media tools, which would be useful in carrying out daily task. However, we have to be mindful that while tools can be helpful, human relations and personal bond of friendship are still of the utmost importance in the discharge of our diplomatic responsibilities.

Excerpt from the Speech by The Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Marzuki Hj. Yahya at the Diploma in Diplomacy 2018's Graduation Ceremony, 22 November 2018

News Contributors

Wan Faizah Wan Yusoff, Dr. Wan Liyana Mariah Dato' Zainal Abidin, Norlela Samad, Nadzira Abd Razak, Nor Ayu Zie Muhammad Khairul Anuar, Ariffin Gadait Jr, Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin



Courtesy Call by H.E. Dr. Adel Mohamed Ali Ba Hamid, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Malaysia, 15 February



The Panellists for the Second Session, Seminar on Malaysia-China Trade and Investment, 6 March



Foreign Minister at the Roundtable Discussion for Youth Groups, 14 February



Strategic Analysis Course for Malaysian Participants 2019, 4-8 March



Second Place (Group Activity), IDFR Retreat 2019, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong, 16 February



DiD Participants, Farewell Ceremony for the Director General, 25 April



Dr. Gilles Carbonnier, IDFR-ICRC Luncheon Talk, 15 March



Courtesy Call by H.E. Manuel Balaguer Salas, Ambassador of Argentina to Malaysia, 27 February



Roundtable Discussion for Youth Groups on Malaysia Baharu's Foreign Policy Framework with the Foreign Minister 2019, 14 February



Practical English Language Usage for Executive Officers of the Ministry of Foreign Officers, 23-25 April



DiD Participants' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Outreach Programme, Kuching Sarawak, 31 March to 5 April



IDFR Staff with the Director General, Farewell Ceremony, 25 April



Ambassador Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, Director General of IDFR



SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 1/2019, 5-14 March



Group Photography, IDFR Retreat 2019, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong, 16 February