

DIPLOMATIC VOICE

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INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN
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MALAYSIA

DYTM Raja Nazrin Shah ibni Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Royal Patron of IDFR

IDFR has the honour to announce that Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah D.K., D.K.II (Selangor), D.K.S.A, S.P.C.M, S.P.T.S, S.P.M.P. (Perlis), Ph.D (Harvard) has consented to be its Royal Patron beginning July 2011.

His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin Shah, born on 27 November 1956, is the Raja Muda (Crown Prince) of the state of Perak. He is the eldest son of the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah and the Raja Permaisuri of Perak, Tuanku Bainun. He served as the Regent of Perak from 1989 to 1994 when his father became the ninth King of Malaysia.

His Royal Highness holds a B.A. (Hons) degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University; a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government and a Ph.D in Political Economy and Government, both from Harvard University. His research interests are in the areas of economic and political development in Southeast Asia, economic



growth in developing countries and economic history. He has written articles and spoken on a wide range of issues including constitutional monarchy, nation building, Islam, Islamic finance, ethno-religious relations, education and socio-economic development.

His Royal Highness is the Financial Ambassador of the Malaysian International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malaya. He is the President of the Perak Council on Islam and Malay Customs; and Eminent Fellow of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia; and Eminent Fellow of the Malaysian Institute of Defense and Security. He is also Member of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford University; Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Malay College of Kuala Kangsar; and Royal Patron of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club.

His Royal Highness was conferred an honorary Master of Business Administration by the Cranfield Institute of Technology, United Kingdom in 1993, an honorary Doctor of Economics by Soka University, Japan in 1999 and an honorary membership of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom in 2005.

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Datuk Richard Riot Anak Jaem Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

Q. The people's uprising against their government has changed the landscape of politics in Egypt and Tunisia, while the situation in Libya, Syria and Yemen are still uncertain. What lessons can Malaysia learn from these developments and whether the issue of the people's uprising is relevant in Malaysia, or other countries in the Southeast Asia region?

A. It is well known that factors which sparked the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa are internal political, social and economic problems, including inequalities in distribution of the respective country's wealth. These countries have also been ruled by the same leader and regime for a long period of time without transparency. As a consequence, the general population is facing hard times with high rates of unemployment, poverty and inflation and lack of basic facilities and infrastructure.

The condition is very different in our country, where the government practises democracy and good governance. Malaysia's leadership is very responsive and approachable in addressing the people's needs. Our government has also initiated various programmes such as the Malaysian Economic Plan, the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) and the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) designed for the people's benefit.

For the Southeast Asia (ASEAN) region, the socio-economic conditions are far better than that in the Middle East and North Africa, where the uprising occurred. We have seen tremendous improvements in economic and social living conditions as well as high achievement of economic transformation that have brought prosperity to the people in this region. I therefore, believe that



any uprising to call for leadership change in ASEAN is unlikely as we have witnessed in North Africa and Middle East.

Q. Under the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), the focus is on the six areas of development of the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs). What role can the Ministry contribute towards addressing the challenges in the six key priority areas with respect to Malaysia's foreign policy?

A. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is at the forefront of advancing and protecting Malaysia's interests abroad through strengthening and cooperating with other countries in areas of mutual interests and benefits. The Ministry is also responsible for ensuring the welfare of Malaysians abroad. In focusing on our tasks abroad, the Ministry is committed to contributing to the achievement of the six NKRAs and NKEAs to attain the nation's objective of becoming a developed nation by the year 2020. Even though none of the NKRAs fall directly under the Ministry's purview, the Ministry actively and continuously advise, collaborate and participate in initiatives related to the NKRAs and the NKEAs in Malaysia as well as abroad.

Furthermore, the success of the GTP is imperative in attaining the aspirations of the people and is in direct accord with the 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now concept. In this regard, the Ministry is continuously improving its public delivery system, including launching e-Consular which allows users of the service to submit their applications on-line. The establishment of the Regional Office in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and Kuching, Sarawak as well as the Consulate-General Office in Melbourne marked another historical milestone for the Ministry in putting Malaysia as top priority while remaining close to Malaysians either at home or abroad. Beginning this year, Malaysian envoys taking up their assignments abroad have been given their respective Key Performance Indicators as part of the Ministry's continuous efforts and innovative measures to improve its public delivery system.

Q. What is your view on the progress of our foreign policy and to what extent has Malaysia's interests been safeguarded at the international fora?

A. Throughout the years, we have seen how our foreign policy has evolved as the nation went through various stages of development since

we achieved independence 54 years ago. The emphasis in our foreign policy reflected the transitions in our domestic policies as our nation progressed from a post-independent state dependent on primary resources to the fast-developing modern and progressive state that Malaysia is today. Our foreign policy has been shaped by our own national characteristics as well as the dynamics of the regional and international environment.

In this inter-connected world, every nation plays its part to create a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous international community. Malaysia is recognised for its principled stance on international issues, be it in its diplomatic engagement with other countries at the bilateral level or in its participation in regional and international organisations such as ASEAN, the United Nations (UN), the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Commonwealth and other organisations. Malaysia's opinion and views are well respected by the international community and we continue to contribute towards achieving global peace and stability.

Q. The concept of 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now is the thrust that is being upheld and practised by the Government of Malaysia. How do

you see the implementation of this concept in carrying out your responsibility as a Member of Parliament and duty as Deputy Foreign Minister?

A. The concept of *1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now* which was introduced by our current Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Najib Tun Hj. Abd Razak is a clear roadmap that guides us towards Vision 2020. With the overwhelming response from the *Rakyat* (people) and strong commitments from all parties, I believe that Malaysia will be able to transform and compete in the global arena.

Having been a Member of Parliament for more than 20 years, I have always given my best and have never failed to carry out my responsibilities. I am glad that I am able to spend much of my time on the *Rakyat's* affairs and I visit my constituents on a weekly basis since my appointment in 1990.

Being a Deputy Foreign Minister is something new and challenging in my political resume. I was given the trust and appointed as Deputy Foreign Minister in a minor cabinet reshuffle on 1 June 2010 which came as a special *Gawai* gift to me and the Bidayuh community in Sarawak. To ensure that my responsibilities as a Member of Parliament and Deputy



Datuk Richard Riot sitting next to Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak at the 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam on 28 October 2010

Foreign Minister respectively are well managed, I have had to tighten my time management and push all my schedules to the maximum. When there is no official event or meeting related to the Ministry during weekends, I will spend my time with the *Rakyat* in my constituency.

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, move forward and progress beyond its traditional roles and functions as a training institute?

A. IDFR plays a significant role as the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by producing thousands of first class Malaysian diplomatic officers since its establishment in 1991.

IDFR has successfully carried out many training programmes and courses throughout the years to enhance the professionalism of the serving officers. I learnt that IDFR is also in collaboration with other local and international agencies for postgraduate studies and training courses.

Nonetheless, IDFR still has many things to offer in moving forward and progressing beyond its traditional roles. In my opinion, IDFR could play a major role as a foreign policy think tank through extensive Research and Development (R&D) programmes and publications.

Since Malaysia is a developing country and active in the global political arena, it is important to generate more public awareness on its Foreign Policy and Public Diplomacy. Hence, IDFR could also act as a focal point for international conferences on international affairs, particularly within the ASEAN region. With the international linkages that IDFR has established, I strongly believe that IDFR will be able to attract very prominent speakers and distinguished scholars as well as participants from all corners of the world.

IDFR would like to express its appreciation to Datuk Richard Riot Anak Jaem, the Deputy Foreign Minister, for agreeing to be featured in the Diplomatic Voice.

Q. How do you see IDFR, being the training arm

Honolulu's East-West Center : Global Movement of the Moderates

Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak's speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2011, Honolulu, Hawaii, 12 November 2011

"E pluribus unum" - out of many, one. The creed that appears on this nation's Great Seal is a simple one but it describes, beyond the gift of any philosopher or orator, the common spirit that for almost 250 years has United your States and inspired your people.

For half a century the East-West Centre has applied the same principle to relations between Asia and the United States, bringing us together to learn from each other, work with each other and better understand our world.

It is vital work. There are now more than seven billion men, women and children squeezed onto this crowded little planet, and with so many different cultures in such close proximity we can only survive if we learn to live alongside each other in peace and harmony, focussing on what we have in common, rather than what divides us.

Hawaii has long been a very real example of how this can be achieved. It is a cultural melting pot where people from wildly different backgrounds live, work and socialise together. Go down to Aloha Stadium on Pro-Bowl Sunday and you won't see crowds of Europeans, Asians and native people, but an arena filled with 50,000 Hawaiians.

The same is true of my country. Malaysia is home to Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and an almost countless array of smaller religious groups and denominations. We speak many languages and have many religions, but for half a century since independence we have been One Malaysia, striving together to make our home the modern, progressive, successful nation it is today.

If Malaysia and Hawaii have shown that this can be achieved, the challenges facing the international community in the 21st century show why similar understanding and co-operation must be achieved on a global scale. Now, more than ever, different nations have to come together to plot the way forward. The global financial crisis, international terrorism, drug smuggling and people trafficking are all problems that no one government can successfully tackle alone.

But at the very moment when East and West can least afford to be divided, small but vocal groups of extremists are seeking to drive a wedge between us. On one side are the handful of misguided Muslims acting under the false assumption that their faith justifies conflict and violence. On the other are those who allow themselves to believe that all terrorists are Muslims, all Muslims are terrorists, and the East cannot be a trusted partner of the West.

When Timothy McVeigh brought mass slaughter to the streets of Oklahoma City, nobody suggested that all Christians were somehow responsible. To do so would have rightly been seen as absurd, yet that is the situation the world's 1.3 billion Muslims find themselves in today. When a great evil visited Oslo earlier this year, so-called experts filled the airwaves to assert that the attack bore all the hallmarks of Muslim extremists. We swiftly discovered that the awful truth was very different, yet around the world politicians, journalists and commentators remain committed to the idea that terrorism and Islam are two sides of the same coin.



I have said this many times, but it bears repeating again and again and again: Islam is a religion of peace. Islam abhors violence. And Islam has no place, no respect and no love for those who sully its name to further their own, extremist, ends. Islamic scholars have been very clear that those who commit acts of violence are not true Muslims – their twisted ideology is not grounded in any theology.

As a human being, as a Prime Minister and, above all, as a Muslim I outright condemn any and all acts of terrorism, regardless of the religious doctrine of perpetrator and victim. There is never – never – any justification for taking innocent lives.

But extremism is not about good religions and bad religions, or good beliefs and bad beliefs – it's about good people and bad people. I am talking about groups and individuals from every nation, every political school of thought, people of every

religion and no religion who use whatever means are at their disposal to push forward their own ideas while hiding their ulterior motives behind a “righteous” façade.

Think of the Christian who says he is acting on God’s behalf when he shoots dead an abortion provider. Think of the militiaman who claims that plotting to overthrow the federal government is his constitutional duty. Think of the violent anarchists whose manifestos state they are justified in firebombing labs where experiments are conducted on animals.

These are the bigots. These are the extremists. They take advantage of freedom of expression to mislead and exploit the ignorant, the weak and the poor.

Whatever they may say, they do not represent us. Yet for far too long a lack of collective action on the part of the moderate majority has ceded the floor to the extremist minority, allowing the discourse to be dominated not by sense and reason but by those who shout the loudest.

Not anymore. It is time for us, the majority who are peace-loving and moderate, to reclaim our rightful place in the centre. We cannot afford to stand by and remain silent in the face of extremism and violence. We must ensure that our voices are heard – not just the voices of moderate Muslims, but those of moderate Christians, moderate Hindus, moderate Jews, moderate atheists.

If these voices are to become loud enough to drown out the extremists, they need to be heard from every corner of the world. That is why, last year, I called on the United Nations General Assembly to join me in forming a global “Movement of the Moderates”.

I’m not alone in recognising the importance of tackling extremism in all its forms, and my call has received widespread backing – just last month the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting incorporated the concept in its final communiqué, and Secretary of State Clinton has also been vocal in her support.

With international support increasing we must make the most of this momentum. So today I am delighted to announce that the inaugural International Conference on the Global Movement of the Moderates will take place in Kuala Lumpur from 17 to 19 January next year. It is my great honour to extend to all of you an invitation to the event, which is being organised by the Malaysian International Islamic University’s Alumni and will see the formal launch of the Global Movement of the Moderates Foundation.

However, this drive for moderation will fail if we – as leaders of governments, businesses, most churches and universities – simply see it as an academic exercise. We cannot afford to sit in ivory towers, hold discussions, and produce dusty documents

which assert that “something must be done”. We must take real action, deliver real change. And we cannot do this if we ignore what the majority are saying, because if you fail to understand what troubles working men and women they become easy prey for extremists who are adept at offering simple, yet dangerous, solutions. Above all, governments must lead by example. For how can we expect moderation from others, if our own actions take us away from the middle of the road?

That is why, when I became Prime Minister a little over two years ago, I immediately set about transforming and reforming Malaysia, getting us into shape for the economic, political and social challenges of the 21st century and setting us on a path of economic growth that will benefit all Malaysians.

We have liberalised industries, cut red tape, made it easier for foreign companies to invest and made it easier for Malaysian companies to grow. I call it the Economic Transformation Programme, and it is already delivering real results – according to the World Economic Forum Malaysia is now Asia’s fifth most-competitive



nation and the 21st most competitive worldwide. We are ranked ahead of Germany, Japan and Switzerland in the World Bank's "Doing Business" index. Plans for a minimum wage are making their way through Parliament, but per capita incomes are already rising rapidly and are on track to reach US\$15,000 by 2020. Almost 400,000 jobs have been created, with a further three million expected over the next decade. Hard-core poverty has been virtually eliminated.

I have also started the process to deliver lasting reforms to the way state institutions work through the Government Transformation Programme. International experts report that levels of corruption are falling rapidly. Crime is down, employment is up. More and more people are using public transport, reducing both congestion and pollution.

Neither programme was a top-down exercise in central planning. From the start we put the people of Malaysia first, listening to them to find out what their priorities were and linking them up with experts to determine the best route forward.

Underpinning these changes is an unprecedented programme of social and political reform that has got underway in the past six months. Out-dated security laws such as the colonial-era Internal Security Act are being replaced with modern anti-terrorism legislation modelled on international best practice. The requirement for newspapers to renew publishing licences every year is being scrapped. Censorship laws are being reviewed so we can protect our traditional values without compromising freedom of speech or stifling political debate. And I have launched a bipartisan panel to examine calls for electoral reform and see what steps need to be taken to ensure that every Malaysian's vote counts.

I am charting a moderate course for Malaysia, steering us away from the dangerous extremes – social, political and economic – that could cause the nation lasting damage. Together these reforms are a blueprint for national transformation, one that is already being followed by other countries, and one that I would be delighted to share with the leaders of the new democracies in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia and beyond.

Such mutual learning and understanding is what the East-West Centre has always been about, and it's also what APEC can really bring to the Asia-Pacific region in these difficult times.

When people say "Asia-Pacific" they often fall into the trap of thinking it only covers a handful of relatively small nations in South-East Asia. In fact our region spans four continents and encompasses more than two dozen countries. Almost three billion people live in nations whose shores are lapped by the waters of the Pacific and the South China Sea. APEC itself has 21 members and this week it brings together delegates from as far afield as Russia and Chile, New Zealand and Canada.

Asia-Pacific is a region of extremes and contrasts. The frozen wastes of Alaska experience some of the coldest temperatures on earth, while the blazing deserts of Australia are home to some of the hottest. The bustling streets of Tokyo are among the most densely populated places on earth, whilst the vast expanses of the Atacama are amongst the most deserted.

What we have in common is the mighty Pacific, so it is apt that APEC is meeting here in Hawaii, right in the middle of that ocean. For centuries these islands were a vital stopping-off point for sailors navigating between East and West. Today, with the presence of the APEC leaders meet-

ing, they form a symbolic bridge between two sides of the world that are very different, yet have so much to share.

When the leaders of APEC last gathered, it was agreed that we could only meet the challenges of the 21st century if we "forge a partnership of common interests to produce strong, balanced and sustainable growth." Looking at the perils facing the global economy today, that partnership appears more important than ever.

With around 60 per cent of global GDP in the hands of APEC nations, we have an enormous responsibility for supporting the wider world, a responsibility that no one nation could seek to carry alone – it can only be borne if we stand shoulder to shoulder. We must use the APEC platform to build meaningful co-operation and engagement that will help not just our own people but also those of Africa, Europe and the rest of Asia. We cannot, and must not, let them down.

For more than two centuries this country has been driven by ambition, hope and a belief that the lot of every American, from the humblest farmer to the grandest leader, can, and must, be improved. It is this yearning for self-improvement, introduced by the founding fathers and carried forward by successive generations, that has made America a land where anything is possible, a place where a Hawaiian boy born to a mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya cannot merely harbour dreams of growing up to be president, but can actually go out and make it happen.

But as we move into the second decade of the 21st century, this desire and ambition is no longer confined to the United States. Our world seems in a state of permanent flux, as if every new dawn brings with it a radical change that challenges seemingly unshakable institutions. The Arab Spring swept across North

Africa and the Middle East, bringing an end to decades-old dictatorships and establishing a wave of new democracies. The Eurozone economies are facing a dire threat to what was one of the world's strongest currencies. And the strategic focus of the international community is shifting away from the North Atlantic and towards the East.

Nearly half of the world's population are below the age of 25 and the majority of them live in Africa and Asia – indeed, the world's population breached seven billion on the 31st of October.

These young people represent the first truly global generation and they will not be satisfied with the ways of

the past. Separated by oceans but connected by Twitter and Facebook, young people from every corner of the earth have seen what the world has to offer and are demanding that we create a global society where, as in America, anyone can not just dare to dream, but dare to make that dream a reality.

If we are to leave behind a peaceful, moderate and harmonious world in which these ambitions can be achieved, it is not enough to reform just our politics and our economies – we must reform the very way we think. I'm not interested in the divisive old philosophy that pits East against West in perpetual competition, bringing nothing but conflict to the world.

Ultimately, east and west are mere concepts on a map, created by man – there is no great dividing wall that runs around the globe, keeping our societies as separate entities. And if we can create that division, so we can remove it. Now is the time to build a new, progressive vision of East and West standing side by side, learning from each other and facing the challenges of the modern world with a united front. Because together we are stronger, and out of many, we are one.

Thank you.

ASEAN Anniversary Forum

To commemorate the 44th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, IDFR, the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and the Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs (INSPAG) of Universiti Teknologi MARA jointly organised the ASEAN Anniversary Forum on 13 September 2011.

Held at the IDFR Auditorium, the guest of honour was Datuk Richard Riot Anak Jaem, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of Malaysia. He delivered a Keynote Address entitled, *Unity in Diversity*. In his address, the Deputy Minister said that the hosting of the ASEAN Lecture Series is a testimony to the concerted effort being undertaken by the Government and the academic sector in Malaysia in raising awareness of ASEAN at the national level. He added that the topic chosen for the panel discussion was very relevant

and timely, as ASEAN's response to its regional and global challenges will be a major factor in determining its progress towards becoming a more developed, progressive and integrated regional entity in the years leading to 2015 and beyond.

A panel discussion entitled, *The Changing Regional and Global Scenario: Challenges and Prospects for ASEAN* was at the centre of the forum. Distinguished members of the panel were Tan Sri Razali Ismail, former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and former Special Envoy of the United Nations to Myanmar; Associate Professor Ishtiaq Hossain, Department of Political Science, Interna-



tional Islamic University Malaysia; and Dr. Victor V. Sumskey, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation and a renowned Russian specialist in Southeast Asia. The session was moderated by Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad, Director of INSPAG and a former Malaysian ambassador.

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Dinner Talk by Tan Sri Abu Bakar Haji Abdullah, Director General of Public Service to mark the completion of the Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses on 29 July 2011



Participants of the English Language Course: Training of Trainers for Officers from Lao People's Democratic cherished their visit to Villa Sentosa, Kampung Morten Malacca on 2 July 2011



Dr. Rita Colwell, U.S. Science Envoy, gave a lecture on *Promoting Science Diplomacy through Scientific Collaboration* at IDFR on 26 July 2011



Dato' Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia, receiving a memento after speaking to a group of participants on 27 July 2011



Participants of the Orientation Course for Personal Assistants and Secretaries attending a Fine Dining Practicum on 28 September 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari distributing *Bubur Lambuk* (a special rice porridge normally feasted during the month of Ramadhan) to a member of the public on 12 August 2011



A participant of the Mid-Career for Diplomats Course receiving his certificate from Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR, during the closing ceremony on 15 July 2011



Twenty officers and staff of IDFR attending a three-day training under the NADIM programme-*Modul Usaha Nadim* from 15 to 17 August 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari and Professor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali of IAIS Malaysia were special guests of Astro Awani's *Sudut Pandang* talk show on 3 October 2011



HRMIS Submodul LNPT course for the officers and staff of IDFR on 21 July 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari during an interview session with Utusan Malaysia on 24 August 2011



Dr. Mohd Ridhuan Tee Abdullah delivering his talk on *Puasa Mendidik Jiwa* in conjunction with Nuzul Al-Quran's celebration at IDFR on 18 August 2011



It was sun, fun and sand filled at IDFR's family day held at Sanctuary Resort, Cherating, Pahang from 24 till 26 June 2011



A Khatam Al-Quran ceremony was held in conjunction with the holy month of Ramadhan on 25 August 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari with the children from Rumah Titian Kasih Titiwangsa during IDFR's Buka Puasa event on 11 August 2011



IDFR celebrated *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* in a special event held at the Multipurpose Hall on 15 September 2011

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The panel discussion was initiated by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, who was critical of ASEAN as not progressing fast enough as a regional grouping, and plays a less significant role at the regional and global levels compared to emerging powers like China and India. He added that achieving the goal of a united and more integrated ASEAN community is still far from being realised and that this responsibility may have to be borne by the next generation of leaders from the region. Associate Professor Ishtiaq Hossain highlighted several difficulties faced by ASEAN, such as nationalism in the member countries arising from a colonial past; different development strategies by the member states; lack of a common security threat and differences in threat perception on non-traditional security issues like terrorism, spread of diseases and illegal immigrants.

However, he noted that the leaders of ASEAN have always been pragmatic to the issues they are confronted with and this provides hope for the future of the region. Dr. Victor V. Sumskey felt that the process of “natural integration” usually requires a longer time frame and as such, it is still too early to consider ASEAN as not a success in its integration process. He also noted ASEAN’s search for a global role which he felt was appropriate and timely. In this regard, he considered the Russian Federation as an “ideal dialogue partner” for ASEAN and foresaw similarities in their approaches to future geopolitical developments in the region.

In his summation, Dato’ Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad noted the differences in perception to ASEAN’s achievements as a regional grouping and on

its challenges and prospects. However, he felt that the opinions expressed should enable the audience to draw their own conclusions with regard to the achievements and effectiveness of ASEAN as a regional grouping. As to the question of where ASEAN will go from here, Dato’ Dr. Mohd. Yusof concluded that the answer would depend on which camp one belongs to – a hard core optimist and supporter of ASEAN or its critics. Despite some expression of scepticism, most appear quite optimistic about ASEAN’s prospects at successfully managing these new challenges in the future.

The event was attended by 200 guests, with strong support from over 40 foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur.

IDFR and IAIS Malaysia Co-organised a Forum on Peace and Security



Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, was the guest of honour at the first public event in the Peace-Security & Islam programme, jointly organised by IDFR and the International Institute of Advance Islamic Studies (IAIS

Malaysia). The forum entitled, *Peace and Security: Islamic Perspectives* was held at the IDFR Auditorium on 4 October 2011.

Tun Abdullah, who is also the patron of IAIS Malaysia, delivered the Key-note Address.

Among others, he highlighted the plight of Muslims all over the world, and how these Muslims countries have faced years of sadness and suffering. He stressed that all the sadness and suffering must be stopped, and other Muslim countries

must provide aid and embrace their Muslim brothers in their time of need. The Muslims must be united and have faith in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Developing 8 (D8) and the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation (WIEF). Before he ended his address, Tun Abdullah complimented both IDFR and IAIS for organising the event and he hoped that both organisers would keep pursuing the effort in promoting talks among Islamic countries.

Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR, in his Welcoming Remarks hoped that the Forum would bring new light on Islam by looking back through history and how the world could learn from the rich diplomatic traditions of peace

and security which were attained during the Golden Age of Islam.

The one-day forum brought together several Islamic scholars, thinkers and prominent speakers. The forum focused on two major themes and was initiated with Panel I - *Peace Making: An Islamic Imperative* which was moderated by Professor Dr. Mohamad Aslam Mohamad Haneef from Kuliyyah of Economics and Management Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). The panelists were Professor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Founding Chairman and CEO of IAIS Malaysia, Professor Dr. Karim D. Crow, Principal Research Fellow of

IAIS Malaysia and Professor Dr. Muddathir Abddel-Rahim, Professor of Political Science and Islamic Studies, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), IIUM. The second half of the forum was moderated by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR with Panel II - Muslim Practice of Peace: National, Regional and Global Perspectives as its theme. Professor Emeritus Dato' Osman Bakar (Deputy CEO, IAIS-Malaysia), Professor Dato' Muhammad Abu Bakar (Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya and Mr. Zakri Jaafar (OIC Division, Wisma Putra) offered their thoughts on the subject.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, in his Closing Remarks, reminded all Muslims to come together and help other fellow Muslims who are in need and not to resort to hatred and violence, for such actions were never permitted in Islam. He congratulated all panelists for their enthusiasm and commitment in addressing the key problems faced by the Muslims.

A total of 220 participants from various institutions, agencies and universities attended the Forum.

The 39th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training

Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, IDFR's Director General, recently attended the 39th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training, held at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts from 25 to 28 September 2011.

The International Forum on Diplomatic Training, which was established in 1972, was chaired by the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Also known as the Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations, the forum is an avenue for discourse on the current challenges facing diplomacy in the 21st century. Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training and International Relations Institutes from more than 50 countries came together for three days to discuss

and exchange ideas on various areas pertaining to diplomatic training programmes and suitable training methods whilst creating a solid networking for possible future co-operation amongst diplomatic training institutes worldwide.

A variety of diplomatic issues were discussed at the forum, specifically

on Regional Cooperation in Diplomatic Training, Multilateral Diplomacy at the UN: The Power of the Better Argument, Wikileaks and Diplomatic Reporting, Diplomacy in an Age of Transition, International Business Diplomacy, The Diplomacy of Transitional Justice and International Environmental Negotiation.



In his Keynote Address entitled, *Lessons from a Career in Diplomacy*, Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and United States Special Representative for North Korea Policy, related his experience in convincing Pyongyang to relinquish its nuclear programme, which eventually led to the signing of the US-North Korea Agreed Framework

Treaty during his tenure as the Ambassador to South Korea.

Dato' Ku Jaafar also had the opportunity to brief the delegates on IDFR's roles and possible areas of collaboration with other diplomatic training institutes.

During the farewell dinner, Ambassador Ronald E. Newmann, the Pre-

sident of the American Academy of Diplomacy stressed the importance of grooming and sustaining diplomatic professionals who are intellectually and operationally ready to undertake diplomatic-related matters in any environment.

Dato' Ku Jaafar was accompanied by IDFR's Training Division Assistant Director, Mr. Haris Syarwani Razali.

Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM) Eminent Person's Lecture by Dr. Rita Colwell

Dr. Rita Colwell, the United States of America's Science Envoy to South Asia and Southeast Asia, was at IDFR recently to deliver a public lecture entitled, *Promoting Science Diplomacy through Scientific Collaboration*. The lecture, jointly organised by ASM and IDFR under ASM's Eminent Person's Lecture, was held at the IDFR Auditorium on 26 July 2011 and was attended by 100 participants. Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, moderated the session.

In her lecture, Dr. Colwell identified the following four themes to science diplomacy engagement, namely science policies and science policy

decisions; building relationships; innovation in economic growth; and solving global challenges and problems. Dr. Colwell, whose research focuses on global infectious diseases, water and health, stressed on the importance of building genuine and lasting friendships among scientists from different countries, as well as the need for an interdisciplinary approach to addressing the complex problems of climate change and food.

She was also of the view that Malaysia was at the cusp of becoming a top ten research country, helmed by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Science and Technology Cooperation between the

United States Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Anifah Aman in November 2010.

During the lecture, the participants noted with interest that a geological site in Antarctica known as the *Colwell Massif* has been named in recognition of her work in the polar region.

Dr. Colwell, who was in Malaysia for a seven-day working visit, is currently developing an international network to address emerging infectious diseases and water issues, including safe drinking water for the developed and developing world.

Egypt Today and its Future Challenges and Prospects

A Roundtable Discussion entitled, *Egypt Today and its Future Challenges and Prospects* was jointly hosted by IDFR, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Alumni of Malaysia and the University of Southern

California (USC) Alumni of Malaysia at IDFR on 28 July 2011.

The guest speaker was Dr. Ali A. Soliman, an eminent scholar and former Chief Executive Officer and

General Manager of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector of the IDB. The discussion was moderated by Datuk Dr. Ghazali Md. Noor, the Protem Chairman of the IDB Alumni of

Malaysia and President of the USC Alumni of Malaysia.

In his talk, Dr. Ali A. Soliman, an Egyptian, said that the people's uprising in Egypt which led to the downfall of its former regime, was the result of a number of factors including widespread poverty, high unemployment, perceived inefficiency and corruption in the government and the people's yearning for a better life and freedom. He opined that Egypt would need at least one and a half years to recover from the political upheaval it went through before achieving political and economic stability.

Dr. Ali A. Soliman also expressed the view that economic assistance, including investments in employment generating sectors of the economy, will contribute towards Egypt's recovery process. He was hopeful that the Arab countries and those from the developed world would assist Egypt.

Among the areas that he identified as possible areas for collaboration between Egypt and Malaysia were education, the petroleum industry, food industries, the automobile



industry and tourism. He added that Malaysia could use Egypt as the gateway for its exports to Europe and Africa.

Public Lecture on Current Issues in Syria and Developments in the Region



H.E Dr. Bouthaina Shaaban, Presidential, Political and Media Adviser, and Special Envoy to the President of the Syrian Arab Republic was at IDFR recently to present a Public Lecture. She was in Malaysia as part of her visit to countries in the region, including Indonesia, to explain her government's view on the current political situation in Syria.

The lecture entitled, *Current Issues in Syria and Developments in the Region* was held at the IDFR Audio-

rium on 11 October 2011 attended by 170 participants, with a strong representation from the diplomatic corps in Kuala Lumpur as well as from various ministries, government agencies and universities.

Dr. Bouthaina Shaaban explained that the political unrest and turmoil that Syria is facing is caused by armed gangs and not by the army which she said is actually trying to protect its people from the violence. She added that the Syrian people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds have long lived together in peace and harmony, but the current political unrest which is supported by the western powers, have led to never seen before religious and ethnic tensions. Talking about international support for her government, she drew attention to the recent

Security Council Resolution that called for targeted actions against Syria for human rights violations. The resolution which had the support of the western powers was vetoed by Russia and China.

Dr. Bouthaina Shaaban also talked about her government's effort in meeting the rising expectations of the Syrian people for change and democratic reforms. Among the changes that her government plans to introduce is rewriting the country's Constitution and the holding of multi-party elections.



Dinner Talks



A series of three dinner talks was organised in July; the grandest of which was a Black Tie affair held at the Royale Chulan Hotel on 29 July 2011. All three talks were held in conjunction with the Orientation Course for Heads of Mission (HoMs) and Their Spouses, which was organised from 25 to 29 July 2011 with the aim of enhancing the knowledge and skills on the role and responsibilities as well as the nature of work of Heads of Mission. As Heads of Mission, these senior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs need to understand and have an in-depth knowledge of global issues and relevant aspects which may have an adverse impact on national policies and interests.

Tan Sri Abu Bakar Abdullah, Director General of Malaysia's Public Service Department was the guest speaker. He spoke on *The Malaysian Public Administration in the Context of the Foreign Service*. Among the highlights of his speech was the changes in the political landscape of the 21st century, not only in the country but also on the global stage. The country is now confronted with a dynamic global change which involves rapid

growth in information technology, global economic crisis, and the challenges for globalisation and liberation of trades which have the worldwide capacity to impact the country's ability to lead and be competitive. Tan Sri Abu Bakar also pointed out that the foreign affairs' officers nowadays are not only involved with diplomatic and protocol issues, but other issues like security, trade, agriculture, education and tourism, and as ambassadors, they need to disseminate information timely and accurately.

Two days earlier, a dinner talk on *Malaysia Tourism Transformation Plan 2020 Towards 36:168* was held at the Malaysia Tourism Centre (MATIC), the ideal setting for the

HoMs to listen to a talk by Dato' Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism. The numbers 36:168 means "all the ways to prosperity" in Cantonese, and reflects the Ministry of Tourism's aim for an increase of up to 36 million tourists and RM168million revenue by 2020. It is the Ministry's fervent hope that the HoMs will help elevate Malaysia's tourism industry abroad.

On 25 July 2011, Mr. J. Jayasiri, Senior Director of Multilateral Trade Policy and Negotiations from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry enlightened the HoMs and other guests on the changing scenario of the trade world during a talk on *Capacity Building for International Trade Negotiations*. During the dinner held at IDFR's VIP Dining Hall, the guest speaker shared Malaysia's experience from the regional and bilateral aspects. The signing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China in 2004 was the starting point for Malaysia in signing other FTAs and with the interlinking character of the trade world, it also brought forth linkages to other agreements which benefited Malaysia.

The dinner talks, organised for the ambassador designates and their spouses, were part of the HoMs programme which also included simulation exercises and the sharing of personal experiences by former ambassadors.



Language Offerings



IDFR has taken a step forward in its effort to expand the repertoire of foreign languages offered by introducing Mandarin Level 1 as a part-time evening course. It complements the other languages, namely Arabic, French and Spanish. The response to our call for application was overwhelming and instead of just one group of 30 to begin with, IDFR opened six classes so as to enable more participants to benefit from this facility.

The 40-hour Mandarin Level 1 course is conducted on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and it runs from September until the end of January 2012. IDFR is able to introduce Mandarin after its plans to collaborate with Kong Zi Institute for the Teaching of Chinese Language at University of Malaya came to fruition. Kong Zi Institute has commissioned two teachers from China to assist with Mandarin. It is indeed a bonus for the participants as the teachers speak fluent Bahasa Malaysia, which has helped facilitate the teaching-learning process.

Requests from the foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur saw IDFR once again offering a *Conversational*

Malay course. It is conducted once a year and is part of IDFR's Outreach Programme. The aim of this 40-hour course is to enable the participants to be acquainted with the language, so that they are able to carry out simple conversations in social settings. This kind of acquaintance and exposure will hopefully act as a stepping stone to a better grasp of the Malay language and an understanding of the people and the culture. This course for beginners was first organised as a pilot project in 2008. Response for this session is good but IDFR could only run one class with 36 participants. Classes are held twice a week on Tuesdays

and Thursdays. The meaningful noise and the laughter radiating from the room act as an indicator as to the fun the participants had, interacting with each other.

A course in *Effective Speaking Skills* was conducted from 26 to 29 September 2011. Emphasis was placed on public speaking. To deliver a presentation has become a very challenging task for many. Being mindful of this, the course aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, appropriate skills and language to enable them to stand up and deliver with confidence. They prepared, practised and delivered their texts and the feedback given after each presentation contributed to the overall awareness of their strengths and the areas that need working on.



Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR*

Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2/2011 (MTCP)	3 – 21 October 2011
Commonwealth Regional Programme on Diplomatic Training 2011	10 – 23 October 2011
Effective Writing Skills 2/2011	17 – 21 October 2011
Strategic Analysis for International Participants	17 October – 4 November 2011
International Relations Module for DPA 1/2011	8 – 12 November 2011
Crisis Management for International Participants	8 – 25 November 2011
Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 2/2011	21 – 24 November 2011
Building Blocks of Good English 2/2011	21 – 25 November 2011
ASEAN-China Young Diplomats Training Course	28 November – 9 December 2011
Workshop on Maritime Diplomacy	5 – 8 December 2011
Diplomatic Training Course	5 – 16 December 2011

* Subject to changes

Best Wishes

To our colleagues celebrating their birthdays in October, November and December

October

Haslil Hadi, Mohd Zaini, M. Georgina, Rahimah and Sarinah

November

Azmah, Mohd Azrul Efendy, Tuan Rosazian and Khairul Bariah

December

Erdee Azreen, Ghazali, Rabeha and Norazlin

To our colleagues who left us with pleasant memories in IDFR

Mustafa Mansor – posted to the High Commission of Malaysia, in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia
 Nazirah Nazaruddin – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia in Ankara
 Gloria Corina Anak Peter Tiwet – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia in Stockholm
 Ahmad Firdaus Jahya' Azim – transferred to Kolej Komuniti Selayang
 Aziz Ismail – transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

To our colleagues who had 'a visit from the stork' recently
 Fareeza and Shasriman

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