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

#### Dear Readers,

Time goes by in a blink of an eye and we have come to the fourth volume of the Diplomatic Voice, our latest issue of the quarterly publication. It has garnered good response from everyone. As we move forward to create a brand, IDFR is always on the lookout for ideas and sharing of knowledge and experiences and we promise to bring interesting articles, great cover stories and editorials for our mutual advancement.

IDFR had organised numerous international events and training programmes, but our institutional memory is somewhat fragmented since its existence in 1991. It is my pleasure to share with you IDFR's highlights for 2011, as it was a year of increased visibility as IDFR took on an aggressive role in forging training, research, diplomacy and international relations in Malaysia.

Our achievements in 2011 listed twelve events such as black-tie dinners with distinguished guests – the first was graced by His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, the Crown Prince of Perak while the second by Tan Sri Abu Bakar Haji Abdullah, the Director General of Public Service followed by Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thirteen public lectures and roundtable discussions, luncheon talks and forums with an impressive line-up that included notable international speakers ranging from State Secretaries, Advisors to leaders, Deputy Foreign Ministers as well as ambassadors were organised. Fifty-one training programmes on diplomacy, international affairs, negotiations, media relations and language courses (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin and Bahasa Malaysia) saw participation of 1,371 local participants and 105 international participants. In addition, seventeen internal programmes such as Family Day, Team building, activities during the month of Ramadhan, and several tournaments in which our staff demonstrated remarkable skills and talents.

In July, IDFR had the honour to announce that His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, the Crown Prince of Perak consented to be the Royal Patron.

IDFR also built relationships with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and linkages with international affairs training institutes of Australia, Ukraine, Russia and Thailand. IDFR is also actively engaging with Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM), Institut Pengajian ASEAN dan Ehwal Global (INSPAG), Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM), Association of Former Malaysian Ambassadors (AFMA), Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG), United Nations Association of Malaysia (UNAM), and Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA).

Reflecting on last year's achievements, the challenges for IDFR will be to increase the momentum, elevate the quality and performance capacity in order to heighten the standards of its training programmes, language courses, public lectures, research, publications and events.

On behalf of the IDFR team, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your continuous support and contribution towards all our programmes and events.

Thank you. Editor

## **CONTENTS**

- 1 Editor's Note
- 2-3 Profile of Prominent Person
- 4-7 Forum
- 8-9 In and Around IDFR
- 10-16 News



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# Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



Q. As the top civil servant in the Ministry, which areas do you think require immediate and urgent attention for further improvement or enhancement in order for the Ministry to move forward in line with the Government Transformation Programme?

A. The Government Transformation Programme (GTP) is one of the initiatives introduced by YAB Prime Minister Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak to spur Malaysia's transformation into a developed, high-income nation by the year 2020. The GTP was introduced primarily to improve the efficiency and quality of government services within the framework of 1 Malaysia: People First, Performance Now.

In this context, the Ministry has undertaken measures to improve its delivery system through various innovative programmes such as e-Consular that provides different consular services online, Protocol Management Information System (PROMIS) portal to facilitate dealings with foreign diplomatic missions and conducted online meet-the-customer programmes. The Ministry has also upgraded its web portal where a wide range of information is made available online.

The Ministry also recognises the need to strengthen the institution, particularly through capacity building, including a more rigorous recruitment and selection process. career development and training to ensure that human resource policies and programmes would fulfill the current and future needs. This would ensure a high calibre workforce to serve at the headquarters and our Missions abroad in meeting the demands of a constantly changing global environment.

As part of our continued endeavour in providing a high standard of services to stakeholders and clients, the Ministry recently revised its Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2015. Various strategies were outlined and would serve as a guide for the Ministry to enhance its services in the conduct of international relations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral level along with areas such as public diplomacy and strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry. The Ministry will continue to improve its service delivery system in order to meet the expectations and needs of our clients and stakeholders.

Q. With respect to the implementation of Malaysia's foreign policy, what priority areas is the Ministry focusing on currently?

A. Since 2009, Malaysia's foreign policy has been geared towards achieving the objectives laid out in the various economic, social and governmental transformation programmes initiated by YAB Prime Minister. In pursuing friendly relations with other countries, economic diplomacy emphasising trade and investment are given added importance in our effort to sustain the momentum of our economic development leading to a developed nation status by 2020.

Enhancing the already strong relations with our neighbours in Southeast Asia remains a high priority. While maintaining focus on our relations with ASEAN partners and regional neighbours, other

continue to strengthen strategic ties with our traditional partners and markets in Europe, Asia and the US. The Ministry is also constantly exploring further avenues to develop mutually beneficial relations with countries in the Middle East and other regions.

At the multilateral level, our membership in the United Nations system and in other international organisations provides a platform for Malaysia to continue promoting our interests in the field of peace and security, justice and equality among states and international cooperation for global peace, security and economic development, among others. The Global Movement of the Moderates is an example of Malaysia's contribution towards building a secure and peaceful world.

Q. Malaysia's foreign policy is intangible and cannot simply be interpreted with numbers and figures. In the case of the Ministry, where the execution of foreign policy is the business of the day, how does it ascertain the key result areas for the purpose of achieving its Key Performance Indicators?

A. In discharging its roles and functions, the Ministry has included both tangible and intangible aspects in the formulation, strategy and implementation of Malaysia's foreign policy. At present, it is focused on the priority areas which I had stated earlier, with both the short-term as long-term components well as included.

We have identified and determined the Key Result Areas (KRAs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the Ministry based on the input-outputoutcome of programmes and activities related to our role and functions and in line with the priorities of our revised Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015. The focus is on the deliverables in terms of outcome and impact.

Any assessment or evaluation on the outcome and impact of the Ministry's programmes and activities

# PROFILE OF PROMINENT PERSON

is done comprehensively with both direct and indirect indicators factored in for the KRAs and the KPIs. This also includes the monitoring of the implemention of agreements concluded between Malaysia and other countries.

Such rigorous assesment supports the decision-making process in the Ministry including on the adoption of possible new approaches and strategies as well as in identifying new possible areas in which to advance Malaysia's overall interests.

Q. Malaysia has been pushing for the Global Movement of the Moderates (GMM) concept in order to overcome the threat of extremism. In promulgating the idea, what strengths does Malaysia possess to convince the international community of the concept and for it to be in the driver's seat?

A. Malaysia's primary strength in championing the Global Movement of the Moderates at the global level may be found in our own nation-building experience. As a multiracial, multi-religious, multi-cultural and democratic society, Malaysia celebrates its diversity and actively promotes the acceptance of such diversity as a source of greater national unity. The current administration is committed to further pursue this goal through the guiding philosophy of 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now.

In Malaysia's experience, managing plurality is not merely about tole-rance, rather it involves acceptance and celebration of the other. In the domestic sphere, Malaysia had consciously rejected assimilation-centred approaches but instead had taken an integrationist approach which in turn is grounded in a moderate and centrist philosophy.

Furthermore, at the international level, Malaysia has been able to navigate and engage partners and stakeholders with credibility primarily because the foreign policy approach it takes is not extreme and has always been pragmatic and

moderate. Malaysia has and will continue to work and engage with other nations with a view to achieve feasible, workable and mutually acceptable outcomes.

With the GMM proposal mooted by the Prime Minister, it could be said that we are taking that approach a step further by actively advocating pragmatism and moderation in the conduct of foreign policy. To demonstrate Malaysia's commitment and to engage other interlocutors on this subject, the inaugural International Conference on the Global Movement of the Moderates will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 17 to 19 January 2012.

Q. Malaysia will be the chairman for ASEAN in 2015, when many of the goals especially with regard to the ASEAN Community are expected to be realised. How would Malaysia like to see ASEAN move forward from there?

A. The year that Malaysia assumes the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015 will coincide with the year that ASEAN Community will be created. We are optimistic that by 2015, ASEAN would have overcome most of the challenges in the politicaleconomic and sociocultural areas to form a single community. That said, the establishment of the ASEAN Community will itself present a new set of challenges for the group. ASEAN, therefore, needs to rise above these challenges to remain a dynamic, vibrant and respected region.

I must emphasise that in a dynamic and fluid global scenario, ASEAN's community-building efforts is a continuous process. It will not cease at 12.00 a.m. on 1 January 2015. I believe that post-2015, attention should be given to the following areas:-

i. Promoting economic growth. ASEAN's collective GNP, with a population of 600 million is USD1.9 trillion. The EU with a population of 500 million has a combined GNP of USD16 trillion. Further growth needs

to be promoted in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

ii. The proliferation of ASEAN-led Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) may intensify the development gap within ASEAN. ASEAN would have to intensify its efforts in narrowing the economic disparity between its member countries.

iii. In the future, the Asia-Pacific region will become an even more important engine for global growth. The region as a whole has a responsibility to ensure that peace and stability prevails in our region. This can only be achieved if we have a set of rules and norms that promote and regulate behaviour amongst states. As ASEAN is the fulcrum of the evolving regional architecture, we must continue to put in place these rules and norms, as well as adjust them when needed. Post-2015, we expect to see an ASEAN that is more at ease with itself, with fewer and less intense disagreements among its members.

iv. As ASEAN becomes more integrated with the global community, it is critical for us to develop a common platform that would enhance our ability to influence the global community on various issues. This would require ASEAN to have a coordinated, cohesive and coherent position on global issues of common interest and concern, based on a shared ASEAN global view.

IDFR would like to express its appreciation to Tan Sri Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahman, the Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, for agreeing to be featured in the Diplomatic Voice.

# Managing Malaysia-Indonesia Relations: Why Soft Diplomacy Counts

Contributed by Dr. Farish A. Noor

Events of late have lent weight to the claim that Malaysia-Indonesia relations are indeed unique; and though scholars may balk at the thought of using such phrases like 'unique' or 'special' in international relations - not least for the essentialist connotations that come with them - in this particular case they can be used with some justification. Though tempers may flare occasionally on both sides - and recent events have confirmed this, such as during the dispute over the Ambalat islands, the detention of Indonesian marine guard officials in August 2010, the ever-recurring dispute over the copyright of batik, etc.several points need to be noted.

Firstly, let us remember that despite the numerous occasions when the Malaysian embassy was surrounded by angry Indonesian demonstrators in Jakarta, and even when the offices of Malaysia's CIMB bank were trashed in Makassar, Sulawesi, not a single Malaysian has ever been harmed in any way. Indeed, the sheer volume of Malaysians travelling to Indonesia as tourists and businessmen demonstrates that Indonesia holds a special place in the Malaysian imaginary, and even when anti-Malaysian sentiments may peak among some quarters in Indonesia, this has never deterred Malaysians from visiting the country. Even when many other governments had issued travel warnings to their citizens, cautioning them not to go to Indonesia for fear of communal violence or terrorist attacks, there has never been a significant drop in the number of Malaysians going there. Malaysians have, in fact, been among the most loyal tourists to Indonesia and this can only be good news for Indonesia for every Malaysian who visits the country injects much-needed cash to the Indonesian economy.

Then, there are the huge numbers of Malaysians who have been living in Indonesia as students, and who are in relatively large numbers in universitycities like Jakarta and Jogjakarta. Note too that despite the ups and downs of Malaysian-Indonesian relations, not a single Malaysian student has been injured in any way during these episodes when nationalist tempers flare on both sides. This too is a testimony as to how Malaysians see Indonesia, as a country that is not only Malaysia's closest and oldest cultural neighbour, but also as a country whose education system is worth investing in.

What all this points to is the simple fact that Indonesia matters to Malaysia, in a way that is seldom articulated publicly and in a way that is sometimes overlooked by politicians and technocrats who are naturally more concerned with practical matters such as sovereignty and nation-building. It is impossible to quantify this sentiment or to measure it in a scientific manner, but that does not deny its existence and relevance to millions of Malaysians and Indonesians who feel such sentiments on a very personal level.

So the question remains: If Malaysia and Indonesia have such a special relationship, why is it not reflected in the foreign policy of both countries, and how have these two nations grown so far apart?

One reason lies in the manner in which our national histories have been written in the wake of decolonisation. The blight of official national histories is that they begin with the presently-constituted nation-state as the starting point, and then work backwards retrospectively. Thus, it comes as no surprise that in the official histories of both Malaysia and Indonesia, the nation-state is

placed at the centre of the stage of human agency and history, as if it has always been there. We backdate the history of Malaysia and Indonesia as if both entities were there in the distant past; as if the rulers of Langkasuka, Malacca, Mataram, Majapahit and Srivijaya consciously working towards the creation of Malaysia and Indonesia in the distant future - though common sense tells us that this could not have possibly been the case.

Another common error that is found in postcolonial official histories is the manner in which they take the presently-constituted political universe as a given and accept the neat political boundaries of today as if they were always there in the past. Yet, the historian would remind us that long before the advent of nation-states like Malaysia and Indonesia, the region of maritime Southeast Asia was one that was infinitely more open, fluid and in a state of flux: Migration of peoples, ideas and commodities was commonplace and this also accounts for how Bahasa Melayu became the lingua franca of hundreds of different, diverse communities across the region. We need to somehow remember that there was once a Southeast Asia that existed before the regime of the passport and the identity card, and when personal as well as collective identities were less bound to nationstates and more to places of birth, origin, language and culture. For here is where we will find the historical-cultural bridge that spans geographical and temporal divide that now separates our nations.

This is where education, culture and soft diplomacy come to play: What seems to be lacking on both sides of the Malaysia-Indonesia divide are

concerted efforts to re-stitch the broken historical and cultural threads that once connected the two nations. Our history books - or rather the official histories that we teach to our younger generation of new citizens - have to take into account the fact that long before the creation of Malaysia and Indonesia, there were also numerous sites and spaces where these communities overlapped, in a productive manner.

The writing of our histories also has to be more accommodating and inclusive, and less skewered by the narrow parochialism of ethnonationalist agendas. Let me start with a few simple cases. Whenever I lecture in Indonesia about Southeast Asian history, I often begin by drawing a simple flag on the board. It is a flag with a broad red and white band running horizontally across it, and I then ask the students, "Which country's flag is this?" To which most will reply, "Indonesia!" I then point out to them that that may have also been the flag of Malaysia - which normally elicits an expression of collective surprise. Yet, it is a fact that in the 1930s, the first nationalist Malayan movements and parties had adopted the red and white flag of the Indonesian nationalists as their own as well, which is why the flag of the Partai Kebangsaan Melayu Malaya (PKMM) was identical to the red-and-white flag of the Partai Nasionalis Indonesia (PNI). Why was this so? Simply because both the Malayans and Indonesians were united in a common cause, namely the liberation of their countries from colonial rule. Yet, do Malaysian history books mention this? Or Indonesian history books? And if not, then why?

Another strange omission in our history books is the omission of the long history of transnational movement and migration between the lands that are now known as Malaysia and Indonesia. Yet historians will remind us of the fact that the people who are now referred to as the 'Malays' or 'Bumiputeras' of Malaysia are themselves of diverse stock and origins, with ancestors who hailed from Sumatra, Sulawesi and Java. Long before Western colonisation drew that dividing line across the Straits of Malacca that split apart the worlds of Sumatra and the Malayan Peninsula, it was the norm for communities from both sides of the Straits to migrate and settle on either side. It was this long process of migration that led to the creation of the diaspora communities which are now settled as Malaysian and Indonesian citizens, but we today -Malaysians and Indonesians alike need to remember that long before the era of modern nation-states, our communities were closer connected by ties of kinship and family.

The same can be said of the diaspora communities from Sulawesi and Java who also settled in the Malaysian Peninsula, and whose descendants would later become Malaysian citizens with the creation of Malaya in 1957 and Malaysia in 1963. As a Malaysian citizen of Javanese origin myself, I find myself in a unique position to say that I belong equally to both worlds, and there are millions of other Malaysians who should also perhaps recognise their mixed origins. Yet, this too is omitted in our official history books, and present-day younger Malaysians and Indonesians are being taught in our schools that their identities are unique and exclusive. This in turn leads to the confusion that sometimes arises when I tell my Indoneacademic colleagues and sian students that there are still thousands of Malaysians who speak Javanese, Minang, Bugis or other languages of their ancestors in present-day Malaysia. And if Indonesians today wonder why so many Malaysians wear batik, and claim

batik as their national form of dress as well, the answer is equally simple: They retain their attachment to the culture and identity of their ancestors of the past, which may be Javanese, Sumatran or Bugis too.

None of these concerns can. however, be addressed by state policies; for there is a limit to what states can and cannot do. No government in the world can legislate laws to compel its citizens to be openminded, inclusive or to love their neighbours. That is why soft diplomacy - through education and culture - has to come in to save the day.

Malaysian-Indonesian relations have to develop and prosper in the future. The shifting patterns of geopolitical power and the rise of India and China means that Southeast Asia will be facing challenges of an unprecedented nature and scale in the decade to come. Competition for resources and the fear of capital flight will invariably contribute to feelings of isolation, marginalisation and the collective anxieties of our peoples sooner than later. Furthermore, it will become patently obvious soon enough that no single Southeast Asian nation will be able to stand on its own unless it is part of a bigger and closer ASEAN assembly of nation-states. Here is where and why political and cultural bridge-building will become more and more important.

However, for too long perhaps the overriding concern of ASEAN has been peace-keeping (or rather the prevention of war) and it has been dominated by the concerns of governments, rather than peoples. Yet living as we do in an age of cheap and easy transport and communication - with the entire ASEAN region having one of the best communicative infrastructures anywhere in the world - people-to-people contact can only grow in volume and importance.

It is vital that government-togovernment diplomacy take these developments into account, and anticipate the shifts and changes to come. What, then, can be done?

As a Malaysian educationist who is based in Singapore and who lectures regularly in Indonesia, I can only emphasise yet again the need for closer academic ties between the countries concerned. This does not entail the need for the creation of a Malaysian-Indonesian new joint university, or any investment on a massive scale. All that is required at this stage is the laying of greater emphasis on bilateral cooperation between academics and scholars from both countries, with a view towards a common goal.

The goal I am alluding to is nothing short of a revisiting of our common shared history and a rethinking of how our national historical narratives have been written since the postco-Ionial era. As mentioned earlier, the weakness of so many official state histories as they have been written in the postcolonial era has been their propensity to posit the nation-state as the primary actor and agent of change, though a more thorough appraisal of our past would show that long before the age of the modern nation-state, Southeast Asians were already engaged in transcultural contact, trade and the transfer of ideas on a massive scale. Should this be taken into account, then surely the first thing that needs to be done is to re-position the nation-state in its rightful position in history. For almost two thousand years (of recorded history that has been left to us), we know that Southeast Asians lived in a region that was fluid and constantly shifting, with migration, movement and exchange being the norm among most of the maritime and riverine polities of the archipelago. Seen from this macro context, the advent of nation-states

like Malaysia and Indonesia are very late indeed as far as the recorded history of Southeast Asia is concerned.

From this starting point, we need to revise how we view our writing of history and the claims that we make. It would be a good start to note that long before Malaysia and Indonesia achieved independence, there were thousands of proto-Malaysians and Indonesians who were moving to and fro between the polities despite the restrictions placed upon them by the colonial powers. As a result of this, the birth of nationalism and anti-colonialism in Southeast Asia was something that had a plethora of parents: Historians will remind us that as the Indonesians struggled against the Dutch in the anti-colonial uprisings of the 1930s and 1940s, there were also Malayans among them, who had crossed the Straits of Malacca in order to lend their weight to the common struggle. (In fact, one of them was Ibrahim Yaakob, one of the founders of the Malayan Nationalist Party or PKMM, who now lies buried at the Heroes' Memorial in Jakarta). Yet, both Malaysian and Indonesian history books today fail to take these facts into account, and fail to reflect the plural and inclusive nature of the political struggle that led to the independence of both countries.

On this simple premise, what is needed now is perhaps a history book with a difference, one that looks not only at the histories of Malaysia and Indonesia but also places the histories of each country in the broader context of the wider history of Southeast Asia as a whole. Such an approach ought to lay emphasis on how all sorts of human cultural phenomena from language to textiles to architecture to the plastic arts - have evolved across the region contemporaneously, as a result of cultural and

social development that was in tandem.

Ideally the end result ought not to be only a revision of our national histories but also a deeper and more nuanced understanding of history that impacts on policy as well as the media. At present, this is sorely lacking and even in the domain of the popular arts and culture - such as cinema - there is little to reflect this shared common past and identity that is shared between Malaysians and Indonesians. This is partly to be accounted for by the dearth of scholarly material that would provide policy-makers as well as those in the media with counter-factual examples and data that would help them problematise their own narrow understandings of national identities and histories. A cursory look at the genre of contemporary films in Malaysia and Indonesia, for instance, would show that even when it comes to those films that come under the category of 'costume dramas' or 'historical epics', there is almost no recognition of the fluidity of the past and the complexity of identities in the pre-colonial era. As long as these blind spots remain, we cannot expect the next generation of Malaysians and Indonesians to have a better understanding of each other. In fact, the likelihood is that the younger generation of both countries will grow even further apart, thanks to the narrow and blinkered sense of national identities that prevail in the present.

The aim of this article is not to suggest that academia, the media and soft diplomacy offer us a panacea for all the ills that afflict us today. No amount of historical re-appraisal of the past or the recognition of common historical links can resolve diplomatic disputes over land and sea borders, or territorial claims. However, soft diplomacy also has its uses in the way that it helps us

address other, less tangible, factors that impact on politics be it on the domestic or international level; and by this, we are referring to the emotional-subjective element that often accompanies the disputes that are enacted on the diplomatic stage. Much of the antipathy that has been displayed at times by populist politicians, the media or the angry crowds we see surrounding the Malaysian embassy in Jakarta is based on a lack of knowledge on both sides of the divide, and which stems from a selective interpretation of history to serve politically utilitarian ends. If a better understanding of our common past leads us to a better appreciation of the ties that bind us, then that surely cannot be a bad thing. It also ought to be added here as a conclusion that the cost of soft diplomacy has always been higher when the subtler, more sophisticated and nuanced, path was not taken.



Dr. Farish A. Noor is a Distinguished Fellow of IDFR. He is also presently a Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, where he is part of the research cluster

Con-'Transnational Religion in temporary Southeast Asia' that is part of **RSIS** Contemporary Islam Programme. He is the author of The Madrasa in Asia: Political Activism and Transnational Linkages. (With Martin van Bruinessen and Yoginder Sikand (Eds.), University of Amsterdam Press, Amsterdam, 2008; Islam Embedded: The Historical Development of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party PAS: 1951-2003, Malaysian Sociological Research Institute (MSRI), Kuala Lumpur, 2004; Writings on the 'War on Terror'

Globalmedia Press, India, 2006; Islam Progresif: Peluang, Tentangan dan Masa Depannya di Asia Tenggara (SAMHA, Jogjakarta, 2005), and New Voices of Islam, ISIM, Leiden, Netherlands, 2002.

#### Errata

be written as below:

## Luncheon Talk



IDFR was honoured to be involved with the luncheon talk organised by the Association of Former Malaysian Ambassadors (AFMA) and the United Nations Association of Malaysia (UNAM) for their select members at the VIP Dining Room on 29 November 2011. The guest speaker was our beloved former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad who was

invited to address the topic on Current Regional Issues.

Tun Mahathir began by saying that, "it is hard to talk about regions because the world is so integrated that nothing happens in one part of the world that has no effect on the other part of the world or countries in the other part of the world, and what is happening in the world today is very radical, extensive and covers almost every area of human activity." He then proceeded to expand on the East Asian region, to which Malaysia belongs to.

According to Tun, the East Asian region is the area which began to challenge the dominance of the West in terms of industry, economic and politics eventually. Products from Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan have been able to push out

>> turn to page 10



Participants of the ASEAN-China Young Diplomats Training Course Participants of the ASEAN-Child roung Diplomats Training 1 2011 during a study visit to Malacca on 10 December 2011



YM Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen giving his opening remarks at the Roundtable Conference entitled, Strengthening Regional Integration In ASEAN Through Multi-Channel Dialogue (Malaysia-Thailand/Vietnam Relations and ASEAN) on 21 November 2011



Participants of the Crisis Management for International Participants course during their study visit to the Petronas Twin Towers on 17 November 2011



Members of the Johor Student Leaders Council (JSLC) performed a Zapin dance at the closing of the Young Diplomats Programme held from 5 to 9 December 2011



Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain moderated the discussion session of the public lecture entitled, The Middle East Crisis by H.E. Mostafa Dolatyar, Director General of the Institute for Political and International Dolatyar, Director General of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of The Islamic Republic of Iran on 9 November 2011



Participants of the International Relations Module for the Diploma in Public Management (DPA) during a study visit to Singapore on 11 November 2011



Former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad with the former Malaysian Ambassadors (AFMA) and Chiefs of the Armed Forces (Chief rivial aysian Annuassauors (An iviA) and onless of the Annual Circle) after the luncheon talk held on 29 November 2011



A Teambuilding and Motivational Programme organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was successfully held at Copthorne Orchid Hotel, Tanjung Bungah, Penang from 28 to 30 October 2011



Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 2/2011 held on 24 November 2011



Staff of IDFR at the Effective Interpersonal Skills course held on 18 November 2011



A public lecture on, The Current Situation in Palestine by H.E. Abdullah A public lecture on, Ine Current Situation in Palestine by H.E. Abdullan Abdullah, Head of the Political Committee of the Legislative Council and Member of the Revolutionary Council of the Palestinian Liberation Movement (FATEH) on 29 November 2011



File Classification Workshop was held for officers and staff of IDFR in collaboration with National Archives of Malaysia from 7 to 9 December 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari moderated the session entitled, Country Focus-Thailand Post 2011 – New Directions at the ISIS Praxis Seminar 2011 Knowledge for Action in the Coming Year on 23 November 2011



Participants of the Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants during a briefing session on 3 October 2011



Protocol and Etiquette Course from 19 to 20 December 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari attended the second Australia-Malaysia Dialogue held at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia from 5 to 6 December 2011



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Participants of the Effective Writing Skills 2/2011 course doing a class



H.E. Jamil Ahmed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to United Arab
H.E. Jamil Ahmed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to United Arab
Spring Regional Security Issues
Emirates (UAE) giving his talk on Arab Spring Regional Programme
Emirates (UAE) giving his talk on Arab Spring Regional Programme
and South Asia Perspectives for the Commonwealth Regional Programme
and South Asia Perspectives for the Commonwealth Regional Programme
in Diplomatic Training 2011 participants on 12 October 2011



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari presenting a gesture of appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, after his lecture entitled, *Chilean Foreign Policy: Principles and Challenges for a Global World* on 24 October 2011

the products of the West in the international market. The West has retreated from the business of producing goods and providing services into the financial market, in order to grow its economy. The 21st century has been said to be the century of the East. That prediction has been expedited because of the crisis in the West. According to him, countries like Japan, Korea and China have been successful in industrialisation and are able to compete with the West to produce things cheaply and perhaps of better quality.

Among others, Tun also spoke on issues in India and on the Arab Springs. On ASEAN, Tun said that there is a need for ASEAN to strengthen its group leadership, and he commended Myanmar for becoming a democratic country and encouraged Malaysia to invest there.

As members of the audience stood to shake hands with Tun and bade him farewell after the talk, a few of

us chided ourselves for forgetting to bring his book Doctor in the House to get it personally signed. It was a missed opportunity, to say the least!



# Hari UNESCO Malaysia 2011



IDFR played host to the official launch of Hari UNESCO Malaysia 2011 which was held on 18 November 2011. Hari UNESCO Malaysia 2011 was the inaugural event held to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 16 November 1946, as well as Malaysia's membership into UNESCO which took place on 16 June 1958. The event, which was

held under the auspices of the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (Suruhanjaya Kebangsaan UNESCO Malaysia or SKUM), Ministry of Education, Malaysia, was officially launched by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia cum the Minister of Education and the President of SKUM, Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Hj. Mohd Yassin.

Hari UNESCO Malaysia 2011 was also held to promote SKUM for its significant role in raising the profile and image of Malaysia in UNESCO. SKUM was established in July 1966 to strengthen Malaysia's participation in UNESCO and its main objective is to coordinate educational, scientific and cultural programmes. SKUM comprises six permanent sub-committees, represented by six ministries in Malaysia, namely, Ministry of Education; Ministry of Higher Education; Ministry of Infor-Communications mation.

Culture; Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To add to the momentous occasion, twenty Malaysians who have been recognised by UNESCO for their various contributions were feted and the Malaysian UNESCO Club website was also officially launched.

IDFR was indeed honoured to have been chosen to host the inaugural event, as it certainly gave recognition to the Institute's role as the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.



# Public Lecture on Chilean Foreign Policy: Principles and Challenges for a Global World



IDFR was honoured to have H.E. Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, speak at a public lecture entitled Chilean Foreign Policy: Principles and Challenges for a Global World at the IDFR Auditorium on 24 October 2011.

Ambassador Schmidt focussed on the framework and principles of Chilean foreign policy that adheres to international law and its principles and respect for treaties; speaks on behalf of the country; gives priority to the dignity of human beings and

democracy; supports and contributes to the development of the country; and is always a step ahead, flexible and is conducted in a professional manner.

To strengthen trade relations with external

markets, 'presidential tours' were seen as an effective strategy for direct diplomacy and ter visibility. Chile particularly valued the visits of President Barack Obama and Vice President Xi Jingping who made Chile one of their stops in their Latin-American tours. These visits are testimony to the nation's political stability, quality of democracy, social development and economic strength.

Ambassador Schmidt also touched on the enhancement of trade and cooperation agreements. The signing

of the Free Trade Agreement between Malaysia and Chile is on track to being ratified by the Chilean Congress by the end of the year and is expected to raise the level of trade between the two countries. He also highlighted the close and steady growing political and economic links between Malaysia and Chile which started in 1979 and strengthen with the setting up of an Embassy in Kuala Lumpur ten years later. A Free Trade Agreement and an Services Agreement between the two countries in 2010, are expected to be implemented soon. This will further strengthen the political, trade and economic ties. Malaysia was appreciated for its role in Chile's successful accession to APEC.

The Vice Minister expressed his view that on-going exchanges of ideas, views and experiences will help to further strengthen friendship and between Chile cooperation and Malaysia.

# Public Lecture on The Current Situation in Palestine



H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Head of the Political Committee of the Legislative Council and Member of the Revolutionary Council of the Palestinian Liberation Movement (FATEH) was in IDFR on 29 November 2011 to present a lecture entitled The Current Situation in Palestine. The session was moderated by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of IRIS Corporation Berhad and a former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and Special Envoy of the United Nations to Myanmar.

The Director General of IDFR in his welcoming speech mentioned that the current situation in Palestine was a matter of great concern and close to the heart of most Malaysians. Malaysia's contributions to Palestine have included efforts by non-governmental organisations in alleviating the hardships of the Palestinian people and supporting them in their struggle for statehood.

A message from the Secretary General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was read by H.E. Kamal Malhotra, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Malaysia and UNDP Resident Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. The Secretary General called upon the Israelis and the Palestinians to show leadership in working towards a two-state solution for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

H.E. Abdullah Abdullah thanked the Malaysian Government for the unwavering support towards their struggle for freedom and independence. In their peace efforts, the Israelis were seen as insincere as their action, for example the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories were carried out with the view to making a two-state solution irrelevant. Thus, it was necessary for the Palestinians to carry on with their current political approach such as trying to gain admission to the United Nations.

The visiting dignitary highlighted the efforts being taken to forge unity and power sharing between FATEH, HAMAS and other groups in Palestine. On the "Arab Spring", he said that Palestine was not in a position to support any particular faction in these countries. Its policy is to work with governments that have the support of their people.

# Public Lecture on The Middle East Crisis



A public lecture on The Middle East Crisis by H.E. Mostafa Dolatyar, Director General of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of The Islamic Republic of Iran was held at IDFR on 9 November 2011. He gave his perspective of the political crisis affecting the countries of the Middle East and North Africa and on the political differences that have affected relations between his country and the West.

H.E. Dolatyar described Iran as a "happy country" despite the many challenges it is facing including the effects of the economic sanctions by the West for more than three decades. Iran does not have any problems with its Arab neighbours, with whom it has much in common culturally, socially and economically.

Iran, according to him, has been put

on the right path after its Islamic revolution of 1979. The country is now guided by three pillars or princinamely, independence, ples, freedom and the Islamic system of government. To him what was happening in some of the Middle East and North Africa countries was similar to

the situation in Iran just before the revolution. The people in those countries have been suffering under authoritarian regimes characterised by lack of freedom, wide spread corruption and discrimination and they now yearn for freedom, dignity and a better quality of life. The visiting dignitary also said that the West had used the differences between the Shia and the Sunni denominations to spread disunity among Muslims and he felt that no

major differences existed between these two groups as they both believe in the Koran and Prophet Muhammad. They have lived together peacefully since the 14th century and hoped that any friction will diminish with time.

In regard to the future outlook of countries affected by the Middle East crisis, H.E. Dolatyar said the countries involved have to evolve their system of government suited to their specific needs. Iran has no intention of imposing its model of government on these countries. On the Palestinian issue, he felt that the current problem is caused by lack of justice for the Palestinians and stressed that peace will only prevail where there is justice.

At the end of his lecture, H.E. Dolatyar said that Malaysia, as one of the more successful Muslim countries, could play a useful role in promoting freedom, economic progress and development in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

# Kuala Lumpur-Melbourne-Canberra My Experience as Accompanying Officer

by Nafizal Haris Ismail



I was very honoured to be assigned as the accompanying officer when the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari was on a five-day working visit to Melbourne and Canberra, Australia from 4 to 9 December 2011.

We arrived in Melbourne on 4 December 2011 and were met by Mr. Larry Marshall from La Trobe University. It was summer but the weather was 7° celcius! I reckoned whoever had coined the idiom - as unpredictable as the weather - must have come from Melbourne!

The next morning, we attended the Australia-Malaysia Second Dialogue. It was jointly organised by the Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, the Institute of Malaysia and International Studies, National University of Malaysia and the Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs MARA University of Technology, Malaysia. Professor Joseph Anthony Camilleri, the Director of the Centre for Dialogue, stated that the Dialogue would serve as an instrument to promote mutual understanding which will later reach the audience outside the circle who could help to develop collaborationbuilding. The Director General of IDFR representing the Secretary General of the Ministry Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, in his opening remarks hoped that the Dialogue would be a platform to yield pragmatic ideas to strengbilateral then relations bet-Malaysia ween and Australia. The two-day Dialogue was atten-

ded by 27 distinguished participants from both countries.

In Canberra, we attended a public lecture entitled. The Malaysian Formula - Managing Economic and Political Transformation, delivered by Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Mohd. Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, which Dato' was scheduled to attend on 7 December 2011, at the Coombs Lecture Theatre, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra. The Deputy Prime Minister delivered the lecture during his two-day working visit to Canberra and Perth to mostly local and Malaysian students of ANU. He answered several questions from the floor and made time to join the audience for

tea, before departing for Perth.

Dato' Ku Jaafar paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dato' Salman Ahmad, the High Commissioner of Malaysia in Canberra before visiting the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia. Mr. Chris Moraitis,

First Assistant Secretary of DFAT's Corporate Management Division welcomed the Director General and they discussed developing cooperation in the training of young diplomats.

On 8 December 2011, the Director General of IDFR paid a courtesy call on Professor William Maley, The Chair and Director of the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU. Among the topics discussed was the cooperation between both institutions in developing and establishing smartpartnership in training. Both sides shared experiences and ideas in preparing young diplomats in meeting the demands of today's challenging world.

Dato' Ku Jaafar later attended a dinner at Rumah Malaysia hosted by The High Commissioner of Malaysia.

The visit has widened my worldview on many aspects, especially on the importance of having regional discussions and building bridges among the neighbouring countries in order to better understand each other.



# Training Courses



IDFR successfully conducted various training courses between October and December of 2011.

The second Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants was conducted under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) from 3 to 21 October 2011. Its focus was to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations and their ability to perform their duties as diplomatic officers. The participants were also exposed to Malaysia's experience in nation building and foreign relations.

Another course that was also held in October was the Commonwealth Regional Programme in Diplomatic Training 2011. The course, which was held from 10 to 23 October 2011, aimed to expose the participants to recent developments in the area of diplomacy and international rela-tions; to enhance their knowledge of contemporary regional and global issues; as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences.

From 17 October to 4 November 2011, IDFR successfully conducted the Strategic Analysis for International Participants (MTCP) course. Besides developing the participants' understanding of strategic thinking on current international security and strategic issues, it also aimed to expose them to the changing politi-

cal, security, and global strategic environment. The content course provided a good platform for participants to exchange views and ideas.

Another course conducted under the MTCP was the Crisis Management International for Participants which

was held from 8 to 25 November 2011. It aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills on the various approaches and techniques of crisis management. The participants went on a study visit to Langkawi Island over a weekend, and that included a visit to the Langkawi Development Authority and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

IDFR together with the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) once again jointly organised the International Relations Module for the Diploma in Public Management. This five-day course started from 8 to 12 November 2011 and was attended by 142 officers. This course aimed at developing global thinking Malaysian officers equipped with resourceful and multi talented skills and knowledge in diplomacy. Academic lectures, with the involvement of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and facilitators from IDFR, were arranged based on concerning issues international relations and diplomacy.

The second Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills was held from 21 to 24 November. The workshop aimed enhance the participants' awareness on the importance of public diplomacy in promoting Malaysia's national interests in the international arena as well as to improve their knowledge and skills in handling the media in the context of public diplomacy and advocacy.

In December, a four-day Workshop on Diplomacy 2011 Maritime successfully conducted from 5 to 8 December 2011. The focus of the Workshop was to enhance the participants' awareness of the importance of maritime law while incorporating diplomacy and international relations.

The Young Diplomats Programme attended by 20 members of the Johor Student Leaders Council was held from 5 to 9 December 2011. The five-day course aimed to deepen the students' knowledge, skills and competency in early exposure to the diplomatic world. The course was the first cooperation between IDFR and the Johor State Education Department.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, IDFR conducted the first ASEAN-China Training Course from 5 to 16 December 2011. This course was based on the joint declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015, adopted at the 13th ASEAN-China summit in Hanoi in October 2010.





# IDFR 2011 Calendar of Activities

#### January

- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses (SPKM) 1/2011
   Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses 1/2011
   Black-Tie Dinner with HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Crown Prince of Perak
   Arabic Level V

- Arabic Level VI
  Arabic Level IX
  Arabic Level XII

#### February

- Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2011
   Say it Right: A Course In Pronunciation 1/2011

#### March

- Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 1/2011 (MTCP)
   Building Blocks of Good English 1/2011
   Public lecture entitled, Globalised Diplomacy Diplomats of the 21st Century by H.E. Simon Featherstone, British High Commissioner to Malaysia
   Public lecture entitled, New Frontiers on Science Diplomacy by Sir Peter Michael Williams from the Royal Society

#### April

- Wisma Putra International Charity Bazaar 2011
   Diploma in Diplomacy 2010/2011 Graduation
- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses 2/2011 (SPKM)

- French Level IA
   French Level IB
   French Level IV
   French Level VII
- Spanish Level IA
- Spanish Level IBSpanish Level IV

#### May

- Workshop on International Negotiation for Senior Officers
   Workshop on Introduction to Public International Law
   International Relations Module for the Participants of Diploma in Public Management (DPA)

- English for Communication course for Officers from Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Part 1
   Effective Speaking Skills 1/2011
   Public lecture entitled, From Peacekeeping to Peace Making A Story of Transformation in the Former Yugoslavia by H.E. Mario Nobilo, State Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Republic of Croatia

#### June

- English Language Course Training of Trainers for Officers from Lao People's Democratic Republic

- English Language Course Iraining of Irainers for Officers from Lao People's Democratic Republic
   Effective Writing Skills 1/2011
   Arabic Level I
   Intellectual Discourse on Science Policy-Taiwan's Experience in STI Advisory by Nobel Laureate Profesor Lee Yuan Tseh, Honorable Fellow of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
   Public lecture on Challenges to Multilaterism by Dr. Carlos Lopes, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Executive Director
   Roundtable discussion on Russia's Strategic Interest and Role in the Asia Pacific by H.E. Lyudmila G. Vorobyeva, Russian Ambassador to Malaysia
   Seminar entitled. Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate
- Seminar entitled, Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate

  Outlooks

#### July

- Mid Career Course for Diplomats
   Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses 3/2011 (SPKM)

- Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses 2/2011
- Say it Right: A Course for freeds of Mission and filed Spouses 27 2011
   Dinner Talk activities, Capacity Building for International Trade Negotiations by Mr. J. Jayasiri, Senior Director, Multilateral Trade Policy and Negotiations Division, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
   Dinner Talk entitled, Malaysia Tourism Transformation Plan 2020 Towards 36:168 by
- Dato' Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary General, Ministry of Tourism Malaysia

  Black-Tie Dinner Talk on *Perkhidmatan Luar Negeri Dalam Konteks Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia* by Tan Sri Abu Bakar Haji Abdullah, Director General of Public Service

  Department of Malaysia
- Roundtable discussion entitled, Egypt Today and It's Future Challenges and Prospects by Dr. Ali A. Soliman, Academic Staff Member and Economics Research Coordinator, British University in Egypt
   Public lecture entitled, Promoting Science Diplomacy through Scientific Collaboration by Dr. Rita Colwell, U.S. Science Envoy

#### August

• NADIM Programme – Modul Usaha Nadim

#### September

- Orientation Course for Personal Assistants and Secretaries
- Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses 4/2011 (SPKM)
- English for Communication course for Officers from Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Part 2
   Effective Speaking Skills 2/2011
   Mandarin Level 1
   Conversational Malay Course

- ASEAN Anniversary Forum
   Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy 2011/2012

#### **October**

- Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2/2011 (MTCP)
- Commonwealth Regional Programme on Diplomatic Training 2011
   Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2011 (MTCP)
   Effective Writing Skills 2/2011

- Forum on Peace and Security: Islamic Perspectives
- Public lecture on Current Issues in Syria and Developments in the Region by H.E. Dr.
   Bouthaina Shaaban, Presidential, Political and Media Adviser as well as Special Envoy of the
   President of the Syrian Arab Republic
   Public lecture on Chilean Foreign Policy: Principles and Challenges for a Global World
   by H.E. Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile

#### November

- International Relations Module for the Participants of Diploma in Public Management (DPA) 1/2011
  • Crisis Management for International Participants 2011 (MTCP)
  • Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 2/2011
  • Building Blocks of Good English 2/2011

- European English 2/2011
   Effective Interpersonal Skills Course
   Luncheon Talk entitled, Global and Regional Issues of Interest by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia
   Public lecture entitled, The Middle East Crisis by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mostafa
- Dolatyar, Director General, Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS),
- Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran
  Public lecture on *The Current Situation in Palestine* by H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Head of the
  Political Committee of the Legislative Council and Member of the Revolutionary Council of the
  Palestinian Liberation Movement (FATEH)

#### December

- Workshop on Maritime Diplomacy
   Young Diplomats Programme with the Johor Student Leaders Council (JSLC)
- ASEAN China Young Diplomats Training Course



# Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR\*

French Level II	5 January–12 June 2012
Arabic Level II	9 January–13 June 2012
Spanish Level V	9 January-17 December 2012
Arabic Level X	10 January-4 December 2012
Spanish Level I	11 January-16 May 2012
Arabic Level VII	12 January-15 June 2012
International Relations Module for DPA Participants 1/2012	13-18 February 2012
Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 1/2012	13-24 February 2012
Forum on Nuclear Energy as an Option for Malaysia	16 February 2012
Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2012	20–23 February 2012
International Relations Module for DPA Participants 2/2012	20-25 February 2012
Say it Right	21–23 February 2012
Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 1/2012	12-30 March 2012
Effective Presentation Skills 1/2012	27-30 March 2012

<sup>\*</sup> Subject to changes

# **Best Wishes**

To our colleagues celebrating their birthdays in January, February and March

Yusri, Shasriman, Mahassan, Ahmad Khidir, Rodziah, Muhammad Jaafar, Mohd Fairuz Asraf, Nafizal Haris, Wan Mohd Hafiz, Jeanette, Wan Faizah, Mohd Noor

#### **February**

Badriyah, Mohd Aliff Fizre, Vasudiwan, Hassan, Ambasador Abdullah Faiz, Kamaruddin

March Dato' Ku Jaafar, Haris Syarwani, Norhashikin, Fatimah, Gurnam Kaur, Jeya Seelan, Mohd Rizaudin, Ligong,

To our colleague who left us with pleasant memories in IDFR

M. Georgina Ann Zachariah - transferred to the Ministry of Works, Malaysia

To our colleagues, Mohd Idham, Raimi and Badriyah, who recently took the vows of matrimony

To our colleague, Roziyana, who had a 'visit from the stork' recently

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