

DIPLOMATIC VOICE

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

Wisma Putra International Charity Bazaar 2011



Preparation for the Bazaar commenced in January. Various working committees were formed to ensure that all aspects of the Bazaar would be covered, with meetings held on a regular basis.

As the days grew closer, the IDFR grounds began to slowly take on a carnival-like atmosphere. Multi-coloured tents were installed, and exhibitors and participants began to trickle in with their products and set up their respective booths.

The day finally arrived! As much as we had hoped for it to be a bright and sunny day, a heavy down-pour threatened to spoil the day for everyone involved in the Bazaar. However, we did not let the weather dampen our spirit. We continued with the various activities, and after several hours, the rain stopped.

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IDFR added “another feather in its cap” recently when, in collaboration with Persatuan Wanita Kementerian Luar Negeri Malaysia (PERWAKILAN), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia Ladies Association, it successfully organised the first ever Wisma Putra

International Charity Bazaar 2011 (WPICB 2011). Held on 16 and 17 April 2011, the main aim of the event was to collect funds to be channelled to the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Paediatric Ward.

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Senator A. Kohilan Pillay Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



First and foremost, I would like to thank the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for giving me this opportunity to be featured in the Diplomatic Voice. I must confess, although it has been two years since I became Deputy Minister, I am still learning and the answers given here are based on the experience that I have gained.

Q. How can the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia implement our Government's 1Malaysia policy through or in respect of its foreign policy?

A. Among the key elements of the 1Malaysia concept is realising Malaysia's strength, which lies in its diversity. For me, 1Malaysia has many facets and must be understood in a constructive manner. The concept inspired by YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, is the essence of our foreign policy, where Malaysians must stand united in facing the ever changing global and geopolitical scenario. It also signifies the role the Ministry undertakes, which is to protect and promote interests abroad responsibly and effectively, contributing towards the building of a fair and just world. The concept states clearly that by having a common goal, we can build a world that is prosperous, progressive, peaceful and safe, thus, enabling us to compete with other communities in the world. When we stand, think and act as Malaysians, the Ministry can create an attitude of acceptance, clearly reflected in our foreign policy.

Q. The 18th ASEAN Summit has ended but doubts on the strength and solidarity of ASEAN communities are still there. What are your recommendations on the way forward for regional integration with respect to ASEAN's many visions beyond 2015?

A. I think Malaysia's commitment in ASEAN is in the right direction and realising an ASEAN Community by 2015 is possible with the adoption of the ASEAN Charter. I believe ASEAN has put in place the necessary institutional and legal frameworks which would make ASEAN more effective and efficient as a rules-based organisation. Moreover, ASEAN continues to implement various plans, initiatives and programmes as underlined in the three Blueprints of the ASEAN Community (namely Political-Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural Community Blueprints) in moving forward the regional integration agenda. In complementing the regional integration process, ASEAN has embarked on efforts to enhance its connectivity through the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. This Master Plan contains

actions and strategies which encompass physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity towards building a well-connected ASEAN. Towards this end, ASEAN will continue to improve its own capacity in mobilising and utilising resources. It is for this reason that the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was established to mobilise financial resources from within ASEAN to support infrastructure development in the region. Furthermore, it is critical to ensure the success of the AIF, given the spill-over effects of infrastructure development to the regional economy as a whole. Just as importantly, it would signal ASEAN's commitment and self-reliance in advancing the ASEAN community-building agenda to the international community.

Q. Other than economic and trade promotional activities, what other areas can our Missions, as an institutional extension of our Government, look into that would be of further benefit to Malaysia?

A. As the front-liner for foreign relations, our Missions play an important role in projecting a

positive image of Malaysia overseas. As the main communication channel, coordinating and implementing areas of mutual interests can be intensified.

I concur with our Foreign Minister, Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, when he stressed the importance of proper and quick coordination between our Ministry, Missions and various agencies. Nevertheless, I must say that during my visits and meetings with our Missions, I am pleased to note the proactive efforts undertaken by them.

Q. In your opinion, how do we further improve the image of the Ministry in the international arena?

A. I believe that by implementing the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2009-2015, the Ministry has geared itself towards enhancing the significant and relevant role it plays at the global level. The six objectives underlined in the Plan cover significant direction of the Ministry. By implementing the objectives carefully and effectively, the Ministry can move forward and continue to strategise Malaysia's role as a responsible member of the international community. I am also pleased to note the role played by IDFR in offering programmes which are in line with the sixth objective of the Strategic Plan, which stresses the importance of improving and strengthening the institution and human capital.

Q. What is your opinion of our young diplomats now?

A. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet our young officers at IDFR and present them with the Diploma in Diplomacy. I am delighted to see the current generation of young diplomats driven by rapidly evolving technology and they are quick to update themselves with crucial information. I believe they have the capabilities and know-

ledge to meet future challenges and be successful diplomats. I hope these young men and women will be groomed further at their respective departments or divisions in the Ministry.

Q. Aside from the various tasks at the Ministry, what has been the most occupying task for you as a politician?

A. I am always learning from the more senior politicians and meeting people from all walks of life on a daily basis. I must confess that the current geopolitical environment has many challenges and the information age has opened up minds, especially of the younger generation. Nevertheless, I still take the traditional way of "going down to the ground" and meeting people through various social events. I am pleased to say that the people I met have given positive feedback about the Ministry's role when faced with crises, for example the evacuation of Malaysians during *Ops Pyramid*, assisting Malaysians stranded during natural disasters, and others.

IDFR would like to express its appreciation to Senator A. Kohilan Pillay, the Deputy Foreign Minister, for agreeing to be featured in the Diplomatic Voice.



Senator A. Kohilan Pillay in conversation with the State Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Dr. Mario Nobilo, during his visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Putrajaya on 9 May 2011

Middlepowermanship in Malaysian Foreign Policy

Contributed by Prof. Dr. Johan Saravanamuttu

“Malaysian middle-powermanship could well have been practised in various broad foreign terrains, such as in balancing and hedging Western dominance, regional counterpoising through ASEAN, negotiating the East Asian wave, championing Islam and co-religionist causes”

I have postulated in my book, *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, The First Fifty Years*, that Malaysia had exhibited dimensions and strategies of middlepowermanship and this had served it well. Middle power statecraft may be said to come within the same discursive terrain as “soft power” which conceives of how hegemonic states like the US could be better served by deploying persuasion and “attraction” rather than hard power in foreign policy. The ambitions, aspirations and stances of Malaysia being a middle power may have emerged in the mid-1970s, becoming increasingly prominent from the 1990s onwards. Middlepowermanship may be said to involve the following elements in foreign policy conduct:

- ▶ the aspirations of a state to increase its own influence in the regional and global environment in the pursuance of interests beyond narrowly defined goals;
- ▶ attempts to change the regional and global environment in accordance to certain self-consciously enunciated goals beyond those of mere state survival, i.e. beyond the short-range core values of state survival;
- ▶ carrying out the above in the face of competition, countervailing pressures or even conflict with other states, lesser powers and major powers;
- ▶ carrying out any of the above by providing leadership to other states in the pursuance of their own foreign policy objectives;
- ▶ a propensity to use international organisations and institutions to pursue the above goals.

Malaysian middlepowermanship could well have been practised in various broad foreign terrains, such as in balancing and hedging Western dominance, regional counterpoising through ASEAN, negotiating the East Asian wave, championing Islam and co-religionist causes, as I will briefly elaborate in this article.

Balancing and Hedging Western Dominance

Middlepowermanship was clearly not evident in the early years of independence. It was inevitable that the Cold War would plunge the newly independent Malayan state into a dilemma of choices. The leadership's furbishing of foreign policy by engaging with predominantly one camp of the Cold War was no doubt driven by historical and internal factors as it was by external developments. The then

Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and his colleagues were able to maintain strong ties with the West, despite a healthy dose of domestic objection which came not only from oppositional forces, but also from within the ruling Malay party, UMNO. Some analysts have argued that this showed the strong hand of the leader, but it could well be argued that even so, the Tunku's latitude for action was limited as can be shown by the non-membership of SEATO. At the end of the day, foreign policy remained anchored to domestic sensibilities. Furthermore, political and societal discomfort with pro-US and pro-Western positions clearly made its mark when towards the end of the 1960s, leaders like the late Tun Dr. Ismail Abdul Rahman (the first foreign minister no less) began to proffer policies which were putatively nonaligned and neutral. Foreign policy norms were also noticeably changed despite Malaysia's successful campaign against *Konfrontasi*. The easy transition to neutralism was a natural progression for Malaysian foreign policy in the post-*Konfrontasi* years.

In the Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's years, it was to be expected that relations with the West and particularly with the US would become fractious, given Mahathir's much vaunted and assertive foreign policy postures. It was then that middlepowermanship, as we have defined above, became a defining trope of the Mahathir period. Postures, strategies and actions of counterdominance and counter-hegemony naturally meant engaging the West, if in a less than cordial fashion, to constructively modify policies and actions, nonetheless. As Pamela Sodhy, a scholar of US-Malaysia relations, had noted correctly, “co-operation outweighs tension” in that overall relationship. Mahathir's length of tenure spanned the administrations of four US presi-

dents (one partially) namely, Reagan, George H. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush. We already noted that the Mahathir government went along with the US-UN in the Gulf War of 1991 and rode through the rough times of the Asian financial crisis which saw the removal of Anwar Ibrahim as his deputy. This arguably, was the period of highest tension of relations with the US, but by the time of George W. Bush's administration, Mahathir had made overtures to the US and post-9/11 concerns were the order of the day. Another high point came towards the end of the Mahathir tenure in the year 2003 in the military campaign of the US, British and other Western forces in Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein. Mahathir's speeches at the NAM and OIC conferences of that year in Kuala Lumpur were unequivocal in the condemnation of the US and British actions. The Mahathir government had consistently argued against US unilateralism or domination ever since the senior Bush's administration's announcement of its plan to create a "New World Order" while sidelining the UN Security Council, which Malaysia believed should be reformed to include Third World states and Japan as permanent members.

Much of foreign policy construction and political posturing around the broad policy of neutralism vis-à-vis the West in the post-Tunku years were clearly aimed consciously at developing a stronger role for Malaysia in foreign relations. This began in the Abdul Razak period and particularly during the Mahathir tenure that such a role was consciously cultivated as we have shown. An international relations specialist, Helen Nesadurai argued cogently that even during the fractious period of relations with the US in the Mahathir years, the relationship had been one of "rejecting dominance, embracing

engagement". It may be said that this sort of foreign policy hedging characterizes overall Malaysian foreign relations with the hegemonic Western world. However, it should not be forgotten that middle-range and medium-power goals were also dovetailed with the establishment and evolution of ASEAN, which became a pivotal construct for the conduct of Malaysian foreign policy. Let me now turn to this aspect of middlepowermanship in Malaysian foreign policy.

Regional Counterpoising through ASEAN

Malaysian middlepowermanship may be said to have taken on a regional role as ASEAN became more and more the conduit for Malaysia's collective statecraft and policy orientations of engaging the major hegemonic powers and the instrument to bringing about a new regional political order. There are now many narratives of the ASEAN formation, but central to their story must be that the *raison d'être* of the regional body lay in the imperative to maintain peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Admittedly, ASEAN was born at the point of time when the Indochina states were still embroiled in a war, but its founding members were forward-looking enough to include in the Bangkok Declaration of 1967 a provision that it was "open for the participation of all states in the Southeast Asian region", subscribing to its aims, principles and purposes.

From the Malaysian perspective, ASEAN's birth served the immediate purpose of putting the seal on the rapprochement with Indonesia and The Philippines while at the same time, formalising the growing entente among the five non-communist countries of the region. ASEAN provided a renewed credibility to Malaysia's credentials as a Third World developing state.

ASEAN even in the early phase had become an instrumentality for Malaysian foreign policy objectives and actions although the organisation had by no means assumed any centrality in most aspects of foreign policy as yet. Towards the 1960s, Malaysian foreign policy discourse and practice had tilted definitively towards nonalignment after a long period of close association with the West under the Tunku's leadership. ASEAN's formation provided a smooth transition to this discourse and Malaysia's acceptance as a Third World, nonaligned country. Indeed, it could well be said that after a while, it was Malaysia and Indonesia, more than the other three ASEAN countries, which were known to steer ASEAN away from the ambit of major power spheres of influence.

Malaysia was able through the vehicle of ASEAN diplomacy, to maintain a balancing act in its relations with the Indochina states, which remained in a state of conflict at the point of time of ASEAN's formation. Through ASEAN, the Geneva Conference of 1979 was called to deal with the practical aspects of the Vietnamese refugees. Then came the Cambodian crisis and here again, Malaysia played a pivotal role in setting up the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK). While the formation of the CGDK irked the Vietnamese and its client the Heng Samrin regime, ASEAN diplomacy kept in check the various political players in the Cambodian conflict by securing the UN seat for the CGDK for the most part of the 1980s. This arguably, put all the political players of the Cambodian conflict in contention until the peace process took root in the early 1990s. Throughout this period, Malaysia's stances and policies vis-à-vis the Indochina issue followed the tempo and thrust of ASEAN diplomacy. It was clear that ASEAN had become

central to Malaysian foreign policy for its regional and global relations even under the feisty tenure of Mahathir.

The Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's government also followed through the motions of its predecessors in placing ASEAN at the centre of regional politics and foreign relations. The ASEAN push for the construction of three forms of "communities" — security, economic and socio-cultural — was also wholeheartedly taken on board by the Malaysian government, along with the ASEAN Charter adopted in 2008. Thus, ASEAN is a crucial instrumentality of Malaysia's middlepowermanship in foreign policy, in its attempts to use a countervailing and counterpoising foreign policy to handle new issues that continue to surface regionally and globally.

Negotiating the East Asian Wave

An early phase of Malaysia's middlepowermanship in the economic realm came with Mahathir's Look East Policy, first propounded in 1981. The Malaysian premier's notion of East Asian regionalism was clearly an attempt to ride the first economic wave that came with the so-called Japanese 'miracle' and then the phenomenon of the 'little dragons'. Wary that his Look East policy could be taken to mean emulating the little dragon to the south of Malaysia or the one to the south of China, Mahathir stated in no uncertain terms that Japan and South Korean were Malaysia's role models. Notably, this was a vintage Mahathirian strategy to ride a Japanese economic ascendancy to counterbalance the economic dominance of the US and the West. In 1992, Mahathir foresaw the limitations of ASEAN as an economic entity and argued that only an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) could ultimately serve the needs of the region. While his idea of a group-

ing was watered down to that of a 'caucus' and his objection towards Australian and New Zealand participation was rebuffed, the subsequent formalising of the ASEAN Plus Three grouping and the East Asian Summit, as fruits of ASEAN constructivism, had to some extent vindicated the former Malaysian prime minister.

Riding the tide of an economically rising China, one may also argue that the Abdullah government subsequently took pains to commemorate Malaysia's 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations with an official visit in 2004. Malaysian hedging of US and Chinese relations is even more valid in the Abdullah period wherein, Malaysia capitalised on the rise of China's economic and political presence regionally, while maintaining stable relations with the US globally. The early infatuation with a Japan-centric East Asian ascendancy had given way to the more measured ASEAN-sponsored notion of the ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asian Summit in the post-Mahathir period.

Championing Islam and Co-Religionist Causes

Islamic issues and Islam-related factors clearly drove aspects of foreign policy since the time of the Tunku and were in particular, capitalised upon during the Mahathir period. During the Abdullah tenure, one could even argue that Islamic discourse became embedded into many aspects of domestic and foreign policy. Despite the Tunku's Western leanings, he canvassed for some sort of "Muslim Commonwealth" and initiated the annual Qur'an reading competition. In retrospect, Tunku's policy was one of balancing his Westernism with a strong tilt towards relations with Muslim countries and co-religionist issues. Malaysia also

played host to international Islamic conferences in the election years of 1959, 1964 and 1969 and after the Tunku's retirement, he was made Secretary General of the OIC after its inaugural conference was held in Kuala Lumpur in 1969. Throughout Tunku's tenure, Malaysia supported the Palestinian cause and denied diplomatic relations with Israel.

During Tun Abdul Razak's period, internecine wars and the oil boom in the Middle East propelled Malaysia's further attempt to seek out Muslim solidarity. Malaysia hosted the Fifth Islamic Conference in 1974. Malaysia gave support to and was able to draw on the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Shanti Nair, a Malaysian foreign policy analyst, wrote that on his assuming power in 1981, Mahathir articulated a redesign of foreign policy with a formal ranking of relations with Islamic countries in the second rung, after ASEAN and ahead of the NAM and the Commonwealth. Palestine, the first Gulf War (1991) and Bosnia became the dominant issues or Muslim causes in the Mahathir era. Mahathir virtually broke ranks with ASEAN in championing the cause of the Rohingyas, the Burmese Muslim minority. David Camroux, another analyst, argued that Mahathir used his ties with Muslim nations to increase Malaysia's exports to the Middle East and gain admission to the International Islamic Chamber of Commerce in Jeddah. In 2002, the Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) organised an international seminar on *Gold Dinar in Multilateral Trade* with the IDB and launched the Islamic Financial Service Board (IFSB). Thus, Malaysia's Islamic tilt was not mere posturing but had both ideological and economic dimensions.

A more directed or strategic middlepowermanship was particularly evident in Mahathir's championing of co-religionist causes. By this I

mean the pursuit of conflict resolution and management and the use of multilateral instrumentalities for Muslim causes. During Mahathir's tenure, the Malaysian Armed Forces participated in a host of peacekeeping operations of the United Nations (UN), many in Muslim regions; the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), 1989-1990 (Namibia), the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), 1992-1993 (Cambodia), the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), 1993-1995 (Bosnia Herzegovina), the Implementation Force (IFOR), 1995-1996 (Bosnia), the Stabilisation Force (SFOR), 1996-1998 (Bosnia), International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), 1999-2000 (East Timor). As we have seen, the Bosnia involvement was particularly prominent and at its height, Mahathir called for the Secretary General to step down because of the UN's failure to protect Muslims. Malaysia also sent military observer teams to Iraq, Kuwait, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. That the Mahathir and Abdullah governments acted as a third party facilitator in providing good offices for the exploratory talks for a peace agreement in Southern Philippines and participated as the lead mission of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in the Bangsamoro conflict in Mindanao, is yet another example of this form of middlepowermanship, whether successful or not.

The Abdullah tenure saw the continuation of the Islamic thrust in foreign policy, embedding the *Islam Hadhari* ideological construct by his government. Abdullah maintained a middlepowermanship posture, especially in Malaysia's role as Chair of the OIC. This included an unsuccessful bid for the OIC secretary-generalship, the holding of civilisational dialogue events profiling a moderate Islam, the pursuit of a Halal Hub, even the idea of an OIC peacekeeping force. Abdullah's

tenure also saw the continued participation of the monitoring team in the peace process in Mindanao, The Philippines.

By Way of Conclusion

Malaysian middlepowermanship in foreign policy may be said to have been effective for a small state, which in later years, clearly aspired towards a middle power role in the Southeast Asian region and also in terms of its persona as a Muslim-majority nation. During the Tunku's tenure, we saw that its small-state foreign policy nevertheless, had large-scale ambitions leading to the self-expansion of statehood from a Malaya to a Malaysia. Tunku also began the motions of Southeast Asian regionalism. In the Razak period, foreign policy was infused with a vigorous middlepowermanship. The switch to nonalignment, the recognition of China, the proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia put Malaysia on the global map as an exemplar of global good citizenship and conflict resolution. In the short tenure of the late Tun Hussein Onn, the middlepowermanship management style was continued with initiatives such as the Kuantan Doctrine and the handling crisis of the boat people. The long Mahathir tenure of 22 years saw an evolution of a distinctive and definitive middlepowermanship, through expanding the scope, agendas and counter-hegemonic postures in foreign policy making.

Johan Saravanamuttu, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, was formerly Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (1994-1996). In 1997, he was the Visiting Chair in ASEAN and International Studies at the University of Toronto. His recent books are *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, the First 50 Years: Alignment, Neutralism, Islamism* (ISEAS, 2010) and *Islam and Politics in Southeast Asia* (editor) (Routledge, 2010), *New Politics in Malaysia*, (ISEAS, 2003) (editor, with Francis Loh).





1 Visit by a delegation from the Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs (SIFA), Thailand to IDFR on 28 March 2011



2 Participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy programme at the Perdana Leadership Foundation for a talk on *Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs* by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 11 April 2011



3 The Setapak High School Cadet Band performing on the grounds of the Institute during the Wisma Putra International Charity Bazaar, 16-17 April 2011



4 The Young Diplomats' Black Tie Dinner for the Diploma in Diplomacy programme at Royale Chulan Hotel on 21 April 2011



8 Officers from Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka attending an English for Communication course, from 9 to 13 May 2011



5 Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari presenting a gesture of appreciation to Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the Young Diplomats' Black Tie Dinner



6 Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari presenting a paper at a seminar on *Indonesia and the 2011 ASEAN Chairmanship: Priorities and Prospects*, Traders Hotel Singapore, 27 April 2011



7 H.E. Dr. Mario Nobile, State Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, giving a Public Lecture entitled *From Peacekeeping to Peace Making - A Story of Transformation in the Former Yugoslavia* on 9 May 2011



12 IDFR received a study visit from the Malaysian Anti Corruption Academy, led by its Director, Dato' Samarajoo Manikam on 14 June 2011



9 Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari presenting a memento to Prof. Evgeniy P. Bazhanov during the visit to Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation, 24 May 2011



10 Dato' Husni Zai Yaacob, Deputy Secretary General I of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presenting a certificate to a Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy student during a farewell dinner at KL Tower, 31 May 2011



11 H.E. Lyudmila G.Vorobyeva, Russian Ambassador to Malaysia, gave a lecture on *Russia's Strategic Interests and Role in the Asia Pacific* at IDFR on 7 June 2011

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Global Village, World Cuisine, It's a Small World, Aim High and Bazaar Malaysia were the segments in WPICB 2011. Located on two floors of the hostel, *Global Village* was where the 32 participating foreign missions showcased a wide array of unique and colourful products from their countries. The Japanese Embassy focussed on expressing their gratitude to the public for the support and encouragement that poured in during their trying times. Artworks and notes sent by Malaysian school children after the recent calamities that overwhelmed the nation were exhibited. The *World Cuisine*, located at the back of the Institute offered various mouth-watering dishes from different countries such as *pho*, a Vietnamese noodle soup. *It's a Small World* was a cultural performances extravaganza held at the Multi-Purpose Hall as well as around the Institute, and we were able to witness cultural performances from Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia and Venezuela, among others. *Aim High* was an education fair, also located at the Multi-Purpose Hall and participation came from public and

private universities and international schools. Last but not least, *Bazaar Malaysia*, interspersed in the middle section of the Institute, was where local products and handicrafts such as batik and songket were on sale.

It was a memorable welcome when the Victoria Institution's cadet band, dressed in Scottish kilts, accompanied Datin Sri Siti Rubiah Datuk Abdul Samad, wife of the Foreign Minister and the Patron of

PERWAKILAN to her seat at the Auditorium for the opening ceremony, by playing marching music on their bagpipes. Alongside Datin Sri Siti Rubiah were Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Ministry, Puan Sri Jazliza Jalaluddin, President of PERWAKILAN, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR and other invited guests.

"The benefits of participating in this charity bazaar are many, but the one with the icing is the feeling that we have done our part to help raise funds for charity, reaching out to people who need assistance." Indeed, what Datin Sri Siti Rubiah said in her Opening Speech delivered after the Welcoming Remarks and the Opening Remarks by Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi and Puan Sri Jazliza respectively, summed up what the charity bazaar was all about — doing our bit to help people who are in need. At the beat of the gong, the Wisma Putra International Charity Bazaar 2011 was declared officially opened.

This was immediately followed by the presentation of mock cheques by sponsors of the Bazaar. The major sponsors were Tan Chong Motor Holding Berhad, Naza Kia, Celcom Axiata, Sushi King, Cocoa Board of Malaysia and the Singa-



pore High Commission. The presentation ceremony was made all the more memorable by the special appearance of 'Little Ambassadors' — children of foreign mission officials, ranging from the ages of five to twelve, resplendently dressed in their national costumes. The children appeared on stage accompanied by the Disney song, *It's a Small World*.

Next on the agenda was the tour of the different segments of the Bazaar by the VIPs. Datin Sri Siti Rubiah, accompanied by Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi and Puan Sri Jazliza and other senior officials, interacted with the exhibitors for almost five hours, viewing products on display, and tasting different dishes at the *World Cuisine*.

Festive and carnival-like air was apparent throughout the two days, and various indoor and outdoor cultural performances were held at intervals. Among the ones held indoors were the song and dance performance that celebrates brotherhood by the Palestinian Embassy, Venezuelan Embassy's Salsa demonstration and the performance by children from the National Autism Society of Malaysia. For the outdoor performances, we had representatives of the Maldives High Commission performing a welcoming dance at the *Bazaar Malaysia* and the cadet bands from Setapak High School, SMK Chong Hwa and Klang High School marching round the Institute to the beat of their music.

Visitors thronged the Bazaar during the two days. Some may not have purchased anything significant but they left with a 'taste' of what it was like being in different countries, all under one roof and in just one day!

Contributions continued to pour in even weeks after the event, including from several foreign missions



which took part in the *Global Village*. Khazanah Nasional Berhad also gave us their support which added a significant amount to the coffer.

The Bazaar was a huge success, not only in terms of the participation by a large number of Embassies and High Commissions, educational institutions, vendors, sponsors and schools, but that it was organised entirely by IDFR, the Ministry and PERWAKILAN without the assistance of an event management company. More so, the Bazaar was organised in less than four months. Datin Sri Siti Rubiah's presence until late evening was a source of pride and inspiration to us. Her gracious presence was more than the reward we expected. The Bazaar raised RM160,000 for PERWAKILAN. It was certainly beyond our expectation. For many of us, it was the first time that we had organised such an event. With this experience, the next one will be a breeze and hopefully, the collection will be better.

Thank you to all the sponsors for their generous contributions and to all the participants of the Bazaar, for without your support, it would not have been the success that it was!

Finally, IDFR would like to thank everyone for their part in the Bazaar. To us, everyone had a part to play and no role was too small or insignificant. Kudos to all!

**Festive and
carnival-like
air was
apparent
throughout
the two days**

Study Visits to the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine and the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation



IDFR's Director General, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari made a study visit to the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine (DAU) from 16 to 20 May and the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation (DAR) from 21 to 25 May 2011. He was accompanied by IDFR's Director of Regional and Security Studies Division, Mr. Vasudivan Narayanan. It is part of IDFR's effort to widen its institutional linkages and collaborations with other diplomatic training institutions, to understand the dynamics between ministries and its training arms, and to learn their best practices.

On arrival at DAU which is located in the beautiful city of Kiev of ancient churches and cathedrals, Ambassador Prof. Borys Humeniuk, the Rector, and other senior members of the Academy were there to

welcome them. The briefings and discussions provided them with a good overview of DAU's organisation, the nature and scope of its activities.

DAU is a diplomatic academy with a faculty of approxi-

mately 60 professional trainers. It offers a wide range of courses focusing on the practical aspects of diplomacy for diplomats; international relations for officers of the Foreign Ministry, other ministries and regional administration agencies and to participants and students from the private sector. DAU also conducts a two-year Masters programme in International Relations. It also has a well-established Foreign Policy Research Institute that works with the other departments to produce research reports, analytical papers and an Annual Strategic Review on Ukrainian Foreign Policy.

Dato' Ku Jaafar gave a lecture on *Malaysia's Foreign Policy* to the Academy's professors and students. It was an interactive session during which the participants posed many questions on Malaysia and ASEAN.

They then flew to the historical city of Moscow for the study visit to DAR. At DAR, they were received by Prof. Evgeniy P. Bazhanov, the Rector, and other senior members of the Academy. DAR, with its origins dating back to 1934, has a faculty of 170 professional trainers. In addition to short courses on diplomacy and international relations for career diplomats, DAR also conducts a three-year second higher education course and postgraduate programmes. It also has a well-established research department, which conducted more than 100 research projects identified by its Foreign Ministry in 2010.

Among the possible areas of collaboration identified are the exchange of lecturers, short-term attachments of students, offer of places for training and post graduate studies, and the exchange of information and publications. The study visits provided a window of opportunity for IDFR to forge closer institutional linkages and cooperation with DAU and DAR. The visits also paved ways in carrying out research projects in diplomacy and international relations and public lectures featuring representatives from both institutions. In addition, new approaches and methods in the area of diplomatic training were shared which can be adapted in IDFR.

IDFR Received Distinguished Guests from UNITAR

On 8 June 2011, IDFR was honoured and privileged to receive the visit of Dr. Carlos Lopes, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Executive Director. Dr. Lopes was in Malaysia for a four-day working visit and he was accompanied by Dr. Jafar Javan, Deputy Director and

Head of Programmes, United Nations Systems Staff College (UNSSC).

Dr. Lopes and Dr. Javan were received at IDFR by senior officers and they paid a courtesy call on Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari. A meeting-cum-discussion session was held with IDFR's top manage-

ment. The discussion centred on possible collaborations between the two institutions which include the placement of UNITAR experts at IDFR to provide training, to collaborate on e-learning and research, and to conduct joint training at regional/international levels.

Subsequently, Dr. Carlos Lopes delivered a public lecture on *Challenges to Multilateralism*. Seventy five distinguished guests comprising foreign dignitaries in Kuala Lumpur, senior officials from various ministries and agencies, representatives from the local universities, training institutes and think tanks attended the lecture. Mr. Kamal Malhotra, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Malaysia and Dr Lin Mui Kiang, the United Nations Coordination Specialist were also present.

Dr. Lopes discussed the pressing challenges to multilateralism especially in the context of the United Nations in today's era of globalisation, information, communication and technology. The lecture touched on four current challenges of multilateralism: the challenges of causes which are changing diplomatically from preventing war and promoting peace and security, to issues of mutual interests such as climate

change, infectious diseases and transnational crimes; the global power shift which is evident in the growth of the African continent; the challenges of communication caused by easy and high speed access to information and networking in a borderless world, as well as the transnational forms of resistance which sees people 'shunning' international organisations which they believe are composed of 'strangers' with multiple agendas working for their own benefits. At the end of his lecture, Dr. Lopes stressed that multilateralism is still preferred, as opposed to unilateralism.

Later, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari hosted a dinner for Dr. Lopes and Dr. Javan. It was also attended by



Datuk Hamidon Ali, Malaysia's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The one-day visit ended on a positive note and has paved the way for future collaborations between IDFR and UNITAR. A few weeks after the visit, UNITAR gave recognition to IDFR to become a collaborator for diplomatic training at regional level.

Two Moments in Time

In the last week of their six-month study stint at IDFR, the participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) Programme 2/2010-2011 were involved with two grand functions.

First, on 21 April 2011, the participants played host to a 'Young Diplomats Black Tie Dinner', held at the Royale Chulan Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. The guest of honour was Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR and other senior officers of the Ministry were also in attendance.

The class President, Mohamed Ariff bin Mohamed Ali, thanked all the guests for attending the evening's function. He informed them that the

participants were made up of 24 Malaysian participants and eight international participants from Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the United States of America who took part in the two-week Regional and International Affairs module. The Malaysian participants were officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Education, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department.

Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman highlighted the need for the young diplomats to be thoughtful of the needs of stakeholders and clients, and to adapt their work processes

and performances in meeting competitive standards in the challenging world of diplomacy. He urged the young diplomats, particularly the Malaysians, to be courageous and show willingness to continuously improve on ways of doing things in achieving high value working standards. This will enable the Ministry to achieve its Key Performance Indicators (KPI). He expressed confidence that IDFR, through the DiD programme, had successfully provided unique opportunities and a platform for participants to engage in discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Secondly, a graduation ceremony was held at IDFR to mark the successful completion of their six-month diplomatic training.

The guest of honour, Senator A. Kohilan Pillay, Deputy Foreign Minister, conferred the Diploma in Diplomacy to the Malaysian participants and Certificate of Attendance to the international participants. Three awards: Best Student Award, Best Speech Writing Award and Overall Achievement Award were also presented.

The Deputy Minister, in his speech, said that “taking the example of one from the many excellent diplomats that Malaysia has, it is most appropriate for the Foreign Service officers to emulate individuals such as the late Tun Ghazali Shafie. I believe the Ministry now has a capable

team which comprises experienced diplomats, flanked by a large pool of young, talented officers who are dedicated in carrying out their responsibilities.”

The guests were entertained to cultural performances which showcased Malay, Indian and Chinese traditional dances, as well as ethnic dances from Sabah and Sarawak. The performances also included vocal presentations of evergreen songs in Bahasa Malaysia, English, Arabic, Spanish and French by all the participants.

Other guests present to celebrate the momentous occasion were se-

nior officers from the ministries represented in the programme, members of the diplomatic corps, lecturers, trainers, family members of the graduands, and alumni members of IDFR's DiD.

The graduation ceremony marked the end of their diploma training programme. It was time for the young diplomats to go back to their respective ministries and embassies to continue with their diplomatic career. We wish them all the best!

Seminar: Perspectives on Islam and The West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks



Azizan Baharuddin hosted a two-day seminar entitled *Perspectives on Islam and The West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks* at the University of Malaya (UM) on 16 and 17 June 2011. The seminar was also a follow-up to the brainstorming session by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the GMM.

Prime Minister Najib had proposed the Global Movement of Moderates at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last year, in light of Islamophobia and the backlash against Islam due to 9/11.

The objective of the seminar was to explore ideas on the relationship between Islam and the West, and the role of *Wassatiyyah* (Mo-

deration), as well as the GMM in enhancing understanding between the two. It was also to look at moderation practices through case studies and explore mechanisms for realising the aims of GMM.

IDFR's Deputy Director General, Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain, opened the seminar on behalf of Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR. Ambassador Faiz also launched the Monograph Series Centre for Civilisational Dialogue by Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo from Hamline University in Saint Paul entitled *Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue*.

During the first session, Professor Dr. Chad Haines from Arizona State University spoke about the terms 'moderation', 'the West and Islam', 'moderates and extremists', besides talking about the development of Islamic modernity. The next speaker, Professor Dato' Dr. Mohamad Abu Bakar of UM spoke about the *Wassatiyyah* concept according to the Qur'an, where moderation is

Spurred by the cudgel taken by Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak on the proposed Global Movement of Moderates (GMM), the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue Director, Professor Dr.

applied in Muslims' daily lives. During the second session, Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo discussed further the moderation concept in terms of the Ancient Greek Philosophers — Heraclitus, Plato and Aristotle, and also John Locke, a modern philosopher.

Day Two started with a presentation by Professor Dr. Habib Chirzin from Hamka University. He spoke on moderation from the Islamic perspective, practised in the traditional life of the Javanese. Professor Dr. Shahrir Mohamad Zain from UM then added that moderation has been practised in Islamic civilisation from the seventh to the seventeenth century as proven by the moderation leadership of Malayonesian leaders at that time. The last

session was a case study presentation by Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia from Arizona State University. She discussed the moderation term in the perspective of South Asia — Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. She defined moderation as a way of being in the world with an awareness and appreciation of ethics that inform and guide a person's action towards oneself and others.

The seminar has certainly increased the participants' awareness of the moderation concept from the Western and Islamic perspectives in paving the path towards GMM. The issues confronting the West and Islam are indeed complex, perplexing and multifaceted. They transcend many dimensions, elements and boundaries, be it political, cultural, re-

ligious and even economic. Even issues such as migrations and human rights are not spared. The challenge at this critical juncture of human history in this age of borderless world is to promote greater understanding, cooperation and tolerance as the guiding principle to ensure a world that is at peace with itself. Simplistic as it may sound, there-in lies the future of West-Islam relations at the national and global level.

The initiative by the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue should be applauded. The initiative by the university being non-governmental will add momentum and value to the Movement.

Workshop on International Negotiation for Senior Officers

IDFR conducted a three-day *Workshop on International Negotiation for Senior Officers* from 3 to 5 May 2011. The Workshop was attended by 33 senior officers from IDFR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation (MATRADE), Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) and Tourism Malaysia.

The Workshop was conducted by Professor Paul Meerts, an expert in international negotiation process from the Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael). Professor Paul Meerts, who is currently the Advisor to the Director of the said Institute and a visiting professor at the College of Europe (Bruges), University of Economics (Prague), and UNESCO Institute for Water Education (Delft), has an impressive list of experience in the areas of the analysis of international negotiation, its processes and implementation. He has been training diplomats, civil servants and military

officers in over ninety countries worldwide.

The objectives of the Workshop were to expose the participants to various theories, modus operandi and models in international negotiation and to enable them to learn, and test methods of effective negotiation. The Workshop also provided opportunities for the exchange of ideas, experience and networking among participants through a series of interactive lectures, group work, discussions and simulation exercises.

The Workshop was set in motion by centering the issues and topics thematically related to Bilateral Bargaining and moved to Multilateral Negotiation. The session was dominated by a series of collaborative group work in simulating a negotiation and bargaining of a single text on disaster relief at the United Nations. The debriefing of the simulation exercise explored and reflected the participants' strengths and weaknesses as international negotiators.



Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR*

SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses 3/2011	18 - 29 July 2011
Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses	25 - 29 July 2011
Public Lecture by Dr. Rita Colwell, US Special Envoy to South Asia and Southeast Asia	26 July 2011
Say It Right: A Course in Pronunciation 2/2011	26 - 28 July 2011
Roundtable Discussion by Dr. Ali Soliman, Professor, British University in Egypt	28 July 2011
Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy	September 2011 - September 2012
Mandarin Level 1	19 September - 9 November 2011
Effective Speaking Skills 2/2011	26 - 29 September 2011
SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses 4/2011	26 September - 7 October 2011

* Subject to changes



To our colleagues celebrating their birthdays in July, August and September

July

Aziz, Gloria, Noraini, Romancitta and Roziyana

August

Joyce, Mat Basir, Mohd. Ridzuan, Nina Sharida, Raja Azrin, Rosmahyuddin, Rozanah and Sapuri

September

Alina Murni, Mohd. Masri, Mohd. Zaki, Muhd. Fairuz and Zurainee

To our colleagues, Erdee Azreen, Farra Aida and Suriya Zanariya, who recently took the vows of matrimony

To our colleagues, Ahmad Firdaus, Fadilah, Haris, Suhaiza, Tuan Rosazian and Wan Mohd Azrul, who became brand new fathers/mothers

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