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First Official Visit by Royal Patron HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah



On 11 July 2012, His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Crown Prince of Perak Darul Ridzuan graced the Institute with his presence to deliver a Royal Address entitled *Challenges of Global Governance and The New Era of Diplomacy*. The Royal Address was the first by HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah since he consented to become IDFR's Royal Patron on 26 July 2011.

In his Royal Address, HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin noted that the progress made

in global governance in the last hundred years has been quite remarkable. However, there has also been a considerable downside to our performance where the existing governance structure is becoming unsustainable.

According to HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin, the institutions of global governance created after the Second World War and reflecting the power hierarchy then are now increasingly misaligned with the emerging geo-economic and geopolitical land-

scape. The quality of human life too has not changed very much in large parts of the world. Global governance has been even more disappointing in shouldering its other major responsibility, that of maintaining global peace and security.

HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin further stated that the principles of national sovereignty, non-aggression, non-use of force and non-interference that constitute the bedrock of global security order have been too frequently and grossly violated. Owing to the aforementioned elements, HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin believes that it is time for a seminal and substantive review to be conducted to address the challenges confronting global governance; not only in the present time but also in the foreseeable future.

HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin then proposed the idea of establishing a Commission on Global Governance for the 21st Century. He believes the idea is perhaps best pursued in collaboration with dedicated partners of like mind in other parts of the world and such an initiative would then be representative of a truly universal endeavour.

Continued on page 11 >>

CONTENTS

1	First Official Visit by Royal Patron HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah
2 - 3	Profile of Prominent Person
4 - 9	Forum
10 - 13	News
14 - 19	In and Around IDFR
20 - 32	News

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Tan Sri Razali Ismail

Chairman, Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) and Distinguished Fellow of IDFR

Q. In your opinion, is there such a term as the ultimate moderation?

A. I do not think one can achieve a state of ultimate moderation. The Global Movement of Moderates Foundation is not charged to search for a nirvana that exists only in the heavens. The relevant statements of our Prime Minister relate to a bold and comprehensive proposal to cover virtually all aspects of the conduct of states, community and people that impact on the well-being and security of a vast majority of people, the mainstream. The emphasis is equally on people as much as on states and in the pursuit of the objectives, government agents e.g. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and non-government actors e.g. the Foundation operate on parallel tracks, mutually reinforcing each other. Though the ultimate goal may never be achieved, the process and the pursuit of the goal should progressively bring in moderation and that will be an accomplishment.

The Foundation must not be utopian but the agenda has to be wide and will include political security issues that in their intractability has resulted in gross injustice, people being killed, and in desperate straits, a skewed global financial structure that results in Darwinism at a cost of vulnerability to people and their future, and unsustainable life practices that threaten the environment.

The Foundation with a groundswell of supporters must, through the force of our arguments as it were, win over many doubters, who cannot see how we can overcome the established structures that have yoked us, major power hegemonism, widening religious intolerances, marginalisation, all contributing to a recourse in violent extremist actions. The Foundation believes that the mainstream is out there to be convinced, converted to provide the critical numbers in support and to influence their governments accordingly. The Prime Minister has

stepped up to the plate to call for a process of rethinking that can have a far-reaching impact on the world's stage. The Secretary General of the United Nations has given ready support pointing the Foundation towards utilising the existing structures and associated functions of the United Nations' Alliance of Civilization which the Foundation is in the process of doing. We have the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom welcoming our initiative and the Foundation would dialogue with bodies in the UK shortly. The European theatre is salient; they and the U.S. are vigilant against and fearful of extremists within their midst. The Foundation hopes to influence thinking among bodies and groups in Europe and the U.S., to restrain from labelling and quick fix and to work towards diffusing extremist options and providing long term cures. The answers mostly are known; it's a question whether important governments are willing to invest politically in them, even if at some costs initially.

The Foundation is proceeding to engage with bodies in India, Japan, China and South Korea, and will coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their efforts.

At the same time, despite the formal acceptance by ASEAN governments of the Global Moderation concept, relevant people and institutions in the region are being contacted on the operationalisation of Global Moderation in all aspects, on the basis of ASEAN's considerable achievements and its readiness to actively promote it globally. This means that first the ASEAN region must not provide reasons and cause for incubating extremism.

Q. Is it true that ASEAN issues are close to your heart?

A. As a Southeast Asian and with over 30 years as a practitioner of international politics, ASEAN issues impact on me deeply but that does

not mean I will sugar-coat them. ASEAN has to do a lot more especially on issues relating to people and their predicament.

There are laudable achievements, the steady process of institutionalising ASEAN in important areas; ASEAN has eschewed interstate conflicts and I am happy to detect examples of ASEAN togetherness, bound by a progressive understanding of what we are and can be, perhaps verging towards a regional sum of thinking, dare we say, ethos that distinguishes us, not the headline solidarity we get at ASEAN meetings by political leaders, but those on the ground, building bloc understanding and solid cooperation from the people up.

When I was a young diplomat, I ended up in capitals that celebrated AFRICA DAY; I use to think then of ASIA DAY or at least ASEAN DAY. It can happen for ASEAN if the peoples of ASEAN will unwaveringly support ASEAN. They will support if they gain definite benefits that will change their lives, not just statements of intentions at meetings. While there are some benefits, even more has to be done. Can we move



Tan Sri Razali Ismail with His Excellency Ban Ki-moon at a Special Address held at IDFR on 22 March 2012



from a NORMS driven ASEAN to a RULES based ASEAN?

Q. Can the ASEAN Community be attained by 2015?

A. Governments can declare that the community is in place by that date but what about everything else? Can we be rules based by 2015? I rather doubt that. Not exactly related to this, once I asked Tun Dr. Mahathir, after his retirement, at a public meeting why he did not take over the mantle of being leader of ASEAN and he said, "No, it has to be from Indonesia" and I agree, it should be from Indonesia. It has to be Indonesia because Indonesia is the biggest and eventually will be the strongest, the most powerful, the most influential. They have to provide the leadership and so far, they have not provided that leadership. In the case of EU, Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, has taken over the mantle of overall leadership; strong, very persistent, believes in austerity and the necessity of getting others to follow through.

A genuine ASEAN community needs strong, passionate leadership to wield collective leadership for ASEAN to thrive as a community, to win over the support and enthusiasm of the people. From where we are now, strongly nation focused, we need collective efforts and people who really believe in ASEAN that will convert the energies of strong nation states into unbeatable regional imperatives.

Q. Do you see any significance in Malaysia making a bid for a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council for year 2015/2016?

A. The decision has been taken and if I am not wrong, Malaysia will get the regional support. This will mean Malaysia will be in the Security Council more often than the average Asian country. I am sure we

are not going in again for the 'headlines'. Our readiness to serve in the Council must mean Malaysia is readily equipped to play a constructive, activist role, not just as one of the numbers. We have an enviable track record in the Council and it is assumed that now, Malaysia knows even better the intricacies and the bargaining. Two years in the Council can be the ultimate contribution for Malaysia if we manifest resoluteness, courage not to buckle to pressure and if we have a sense of justice and of course, the special skills to make a difference at the world's stage. National glory is all very good but on the basis of what we did before, we must not end up a nonentity. Also I cannot but mention that our Prime Minister has now pronounced, with the support of ASEAN, on proposals for a Global Movement of Moderates and being in the Council would provide us many vital opportunities.



Tan Sri Razali Ismail retired from the government in 1998 after serving in the Malaysian Diplomatic Service for over 35 years. He held various posts; namely

Ambassador to Poland concurrently to German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, High Commissioner to India, Deputy Secretary General (Political Affairs) and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. At the United Nations (UN), Tan Sri Razali Ismail served in various capacities: Chairman of the Group of 77, President of the UN Security Council, Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development and President of the United Nations General Assembly. He was involved in articulating and developing positions in various bodies on issues such as development and sustainability, poverty and marginalisation, political reforms in the UN as well as issues of human rights and the environment. He continues to keep abreast on these subjects at home and abroad, through participation at seminars etc. and interacting with personalities and bodies, ties established earlier. He was also the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Myanmar for more than five years (from 2000-2005) and recently appointed the Chairman of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation.

IDFR would like to express its appreciation to Tan Sri Razali Ismail, the Chairman of Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF), for agreeing to be featured in the Diplomatic Voice.



Challenges of Global Governance and the New Era of Diplomacy

Royal address by His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah at IDFR on 11 July 2012



I am delighted to be able to address you this morning and I want to thank the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations for the kind invitation. I have taken a keen interest in the affairs of the Institute and was very happy to accept the invitation to be its patron. This is because I believe strongly in the Institute's mission. The training of the men and women of our diplomatic service is of paramount importance for maintaining the peace, security and prosperity of our country.

Nearly a century after the birth of the League of Nations in June 1919, the world is still grappling with the challenges of effective global governance. That first serious attempt at international governance came to grief in less than three decades, a casualty of its failure to prevent another world war.

The architects of the League sought not just to keep the peace and prevent war. They also attempted governance of other global issues, some of which are not unfamiliar to

us today – labour, health, human and opium trafficking, and international disputes through the Permanent International Court of Justice.

The founding of the United Nations in 1945 launched the present phase of efforts at global governance. For more than six decades now we have been hard at work within and outside the United Nations to advance international cooperation on numerous common issues impacting upon the well-being of humankind.

The issues cover a wide spectrum: conflict and conflict-related issues such as dispute settlement, arms control and disarmament; international terrorism; poverty; human development; food; health; human rights; international trade and investment; global finance; climate change; the environment; crime; human trafficking; welfare of women and children; drug trafficking and drug abuse; cultural exchange; civilisational dialogue, ... the list goes on.

We have worked on three broad fronts in pursuing global governance in these areas. First, we have worked on establishing the norms, laws and regulations; second, on constructing the institutions; and third, on implementing various activities and initiatives in pursuit of our aims and objectives.

The norms, laws and regulations covering the diverse areas include those in the United Nations Charter and the Bill of Rights, as well as those established by bodies such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The institutions for global governance are myriad, and they include the United Nations and the specialised agencies under it; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation or UNESCO; the Bretton Woods institutions; and the International Court of Justice.

Prominent among the implementation initiatives are efforts at maintaining peace and programmes of action such as the Millennium Development Goals.

The progress made in global governance in the last hundred years has been quite remarkable. The liberal international order inspired and bequeathed by the West after the Second World War has been the most benign and open in history. With some notable exceptions, the hegemony inherent in it has been largely soft hegemony. The international order enabled other nations that chose to participate in it the opportunity to pursue freedom, enjoy greater liberties and develop their potential for growth and prosperity.

With its 173 member states, engagement has been truly universal in the most important global institution, the United Nations. Nations large and small, whatever their cultural make-up, their historical experience and their political ideology, subscribe to the same principles of inter-state conduct prescribed in the United Nations Charter, even though in practice some diverge.

The WTO is also almost as universal in reach, with 157 countries and customs territories as members and 26 more as observers. The liberal market-based economic order championed by the United States and Europe has assisted growth in many far-flung economies and lifted millions out of poverty especially in East and South Asia. Rising powers that benefited from this economic order are not seeking to overthrow it. Rather they have joined it and are profiting greatly from it.

The architecture for global governance has proliferated beyond expectation. It is now driven by many hands, and it is growing literally every day. It consists of hundreds of government, non-government and

private sector organisations and forums dedicated to various globally-relevant causes.

Global-level institutions for governance are being complemented by bodies set up at the regional level, such as the European Union, the African Union, the Arab League and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN. Community-driven and interest-specific organisations serving specific clientele, such as the Organisation of Islamic Conference or OIC, are also playing important roles.

As a result of the cumulative impact of national efforts as well as regional and global endeavours, never before have so many been rescued from poverty and want. An unprecedented half a billion people graduated out of poverty within just five years in the period between 2005 and 2010. It is estimated that the Millennium Development Goal target for poverty reduction will be successfully met by 2015, when the global poverty rate is expected to decline below 15 per cent.

Never before too, have so many enjoyed this much prosperity and comfort. The developing economies, where the majority of the world's people live, expanded by no less than 50 per cent in the six years between 2005 and 2011. Expanding economies and rising incomes have generally also meant tangible improvements in access to health care and social amenities.

The twentieth century also saw a growth in the number of democratic countries and the number of people living in democracies. Though the trajectory has not been straight and there have even been reversals, the broad trend to-date is clear. Indeed growth has bordered on the spectacular in the last two decades. In its latest report, Freedom House estimates that

the number of electoral democracies grew from 76 in 1990 to 117 in 2011. The values championed by the institutions of global governance and their programmes to develop economic and democratic capacity played a role in making possible this growth.

These are significant achievements indeed. Sadly though, there is also a considerable downside to our performance in global governance. Despite our hundred-year experience and the substantial gains made, the existing governance structure is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

“I would therefore respectfully commend to you the idea of a Commission on Global Governance for the 21st Century. I believe it is an idea whose time has come”

The institutions of global governance created after the Second World War and reflecting the power hierarchy then are now increasingly misaligned with the emerging geo-economic and geopolitical landscape. While institutional structures have remained largely static, the number of states has quadrupled; non-state actors are multiplying and asserting their voices; globalisation is intense; and economies, financial systems and societies are becoming profoundly interconnected and interdependent, so much so that no part of the world is insulated from the problems afflicting the others.

After a lapse of two centuries, the balance of economic power is returning to Asia. While the United States will remain dominant for some time in cumulative military,

economic and soft power, economic weight is pivoting away from the North Atlantic hemisphere and diffusing to other parts of the world. New power centres are emerging that are eclipsing some of the old dominant powers.

As a consequence, the United Nations Security Council, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation require substantive reform in terms of membership, voting rights and leadership candidature. The tweaks that are presently being made to the economic institutions are moves in the right direction, but the pace needs to be accelerated.

The global financial system is still captive to severe speculative swings and excesses. Whereas developing East Asia was able to find the resolve and the discipline to remedy some of its weaknesses, it appears that the advanced economies have not been able to do so yet. As a consequence, some European economies are almost bankrupt, while others in the developed world are not doing too well either. The East is now bailing out the West. The repercussions to the rest of the global economy can be dire if the European countries are not able to institute the necessary reforms to their financial systems.

The quality of human life too has not changed very much in large parts of the world. In some areas it has even deteriorated markedly. Nearly a quarter of children under the age of five in the developing world are still undernourished. A total of 2.7 billion people, more than a third of the world's population, still lack access to improved sanitation. Poverty remains a haunting spectre of life in the poorest economies. Poverty is also increasingly becoming an urban phenomenon, and significant income disparities remain an undesirable feature of many societies.

If global governance has not been very good, or good enough, at addressing some of the socio-economic deficits and inequities, it has been even more disappointing in shouldering its other major responsibility, that of maintaining global peace and security.

The League of Nations consistently failed to maintain the peace between the two World Wars. Its biggest failure was its inability to prevent World War Two. Its successor, the United Nations, this time with the United States as a member of the world body, has also shown a poor record.

The rule of law has not replaced the tyranny of power in key moments in the management of global peace. International law has been breached on several occasions, sometimes by the primary custodians of the global security order themselves, the Permanent Members of the Security Council. Long-festering issues such as the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the divided Koreas and the cross-Straits issue remain unresolved, again with some of the Permanent Members as active protagonists in these issues.

The number of nuclear weapon states has increased from five to eight. The declared goal of nuclear disarmament has been effectively reduced to mere nuclear non-proliferation. The end of the Cold War brought no peace dividend. Instead, world military expenditure grew in real terms by 50.3 per cent between 2001 and 2010, to an estimated total of US\$1.63 trillion. The top five spenders are the five Permanent Members of the Security Council. Despite the huge increase in military spending in many countries, it is ironical that none of the powers feels even one iota more secure.

The principles of national sovereignty, non-aggression, non-use of force and non-interference that

constitute the bedrock of the global security order have been too frequently and grossly violated. They are leaving behind massive human tragedies and economic catastrophes in their deadly wake.

The incidence of internal conflicts has increased relative to inter-state conflicts, and terrorism, an age-old security problem has, oddly, been declared a 'new' and 'non-traditional' security threat.

The international community has a choice. It can continue labouring under an architecture for global governance made in and for the previous century, or it can enact concrete reforms to align it better with the strategic profile and needs of the twenty-first century.

In my own view, it is time for a seminal and substantive review to be conducted by a high level international body, such as a Commission of eminent persons of international repute aided by a panel of experts. Though independent, the Commission will benefit from the support of the United Nations Secretary General.

This will not be the first time such a review has been proposed or conducted. Several in fact have been launched in previous years, both from within and outside the United Nations system. Some of their reports have been extensively debated, but none have been successfully implemented. At best they found their way to the debating floor, and perished there.

This should not dishearten those who want better global governance and desire meaningful change. They are on the right side of history, and they carry the hopes and aspirations of many.

One such Commission, The Commission on Global Governance jointly chaired by former Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath

Ramphal and former Prime Minister of Sweden Ingvar Carlsson, was launched in 1992. It submitted its report two years later. That report makes for enlightening reading even today.

Two decades on, it is perhaps time that another such initiative be launched.

If launched, this Commission will shoulder a heavy responsibility. It will have to execute its task without fear or favour. It must serve no diktat save the one entrusted upon it.

It must conduct an honest and objective appraisal of the governance architecture as it exists today, its strengths and its weaknesses, where it is working and where it is not, and how far it is relevant to the needs of the times. It must then come up with proposals to make global governance in the twenty-first century perceptibly better. No doubt we can expect these proposals to be bold and forward-looking, yet made with feet firmly planted on the ground.

The exercise cannot be anything less than thorough. It must address, and address squarely, the central challenges confronting global governance not only now but in the foreseeable future as well.

I believe such an important enquiry cannot avoid but delve into at least four critical areas.

First, the nature of the evolving strategic environment. An understanding of this environment, how it is changing and what demands it is making upon global governance will perforce predicate the study.

No doubt the tectonic shifts in the balance of global economic and strategic power and their implications will be the central focus here. They are probably the biggest factor contributing to the growing ob-

solescence and dysfunction of the major institutions of governance as they are presently constituted.

But I would be surprised if the study does not also go well beyond this to look into issues as diverse as the impact of globalisation upon both vulnerable as well as developed societies; the underlying causes of global financial turbulence and the adequacy of current approaches to tame them; and the more coherent role that civil society and the private sector can play in advancing global governance.

Second, structural and procedural reform of the principal multilateral institutions of global governance. Absent of such reform the institutions lose their credibility, legitimacy and effectiveness. The reform of the United Nations, the central pillar of the international governance architecture, has already been the subject of much study and debate. The Commission can identify the options available for enlarging the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council; the utilisation or replacement of the system of veto; the empowerment of the General Assembly and the restoration of its original, more influential role; and the safeguarding of the independence and integrity of the position of the UN Secretary General.

Corresponding reviews will also be necessary for the other key institutions, namely the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation. Voting rights, eligibility of candidates for the chief executive positions of these institutions and closed-door consultations among a select few, are some of the aspects that require reassessment. As the ranks of the major economies grow, so must their rights and representation.

In this regard, the move in the direction of the G20 is welcome in-

deed. The challenge now is to ensure that the G20 does not dissipate its economic agenda and digress into other areas as well. A similar move towards a more inclusive, representative and democratic Security Council is a serious option for better global security governance.

Third, the more effective engagement of non-state actors in the governance process at all levels. The role of the state is declining in the evolving domestic and international order, and the space is being filled by these actors. The resources and expertise at their disposal are enormous and their participation is indispensable.

To some extent, this is already happening. Indeed, International Non-Government Organisations such as the International Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent and Medecins Sans Frontieres have long been navigating their own course in providing humanitarian assistance. But closer co-ordination and better engagement of civil society organisations and other non-state actors in decision making and consultation processes can elevate global governance to an altogether new level. The modalities for effecting this are worth exploring.

And fourth, a strong advocacy for demilitarising the global security culture. Many countries are spending much more than they need for legitimate and reasonable defence. They are trapped in a vicious cycle of mutual military enhancement because neighbours and competitors are doing so and they do not want to lose any edge they possess or upset any prevailing balance.

The search for ever more advanced weapons with greater lethal capacity is driving research in military technology and prospering a powerful military industrial

complex in the major economies. It is also fuelling a lucrative global arms trade. In some countries, this industry has grown so big and so important to the national economy that governments themselves have a vested interest in sustaining demand at home and abroad.

This situation facilitates the propagation of an adversarial security doctrine that is increasingly at odds with a strategic environment in which the economic well-being and strategic interests of states are becoming intimately entwined and war mutually destructive and costly. Such an environment favours cooperative rather than adversarial approaches to managing security that is increasingly mutual and common except in exceptional cases.

Demilitarising security culture and reducing military expenditure is therefore an urgent priority for promoting sound global governance and international peace. The Commission can make an important contribution here by challenging the dominant adversarial doctrine for managing security, championing pacific approaches for resolving conflicts and disputes, and offering concrete ideas for collective arms control.

Concluding Remarks

I would therefore respectfully commend to you the idea of a Commission on Global Governance for the 21st Century. I believe it is an idea whose time has come. It is perhaps best pursued in collaboration with dedicated partners of like mind in other parts of the world. Such an initiative would then be representative of a truly universal endeavour.

Why Malaysia and Indonesia Must Accept that We are More Similar than We Think

Contributed by Dr. Farish A. Noor

Yet again, Malaysia-Indonesia relations have been dealt a blow thanks to an unfortunate misunderstanding that could have been avoided. This time around, it was sparked by Malaysia's declaration that two dances from Sumatra will be regarded as part of Malaysia's complex and plural cultural heritage, and that be recognised accordingly. As soon as the announcement was made however, certain quarters in Indonesia began to accuse Malaysia of 'stealing' Indonesian culture yet again, and in the space of a few days, a number of violent demonstrations were held in Medan, Sumatra and Jakarta, Java – leading to the now familiar manifestation of anger, the burning of the Malaysian flag and attacks upon the Malaysian Embassy.

It is lamentable that such misunderstandings persist between our two countries, but the real question is this: Knowing that violent demonstrations are orchestrated affairs that never happen spontaneously, we need to ask why these acts of violence take place, who is behind them, and whose interests are being served. Related to these questions is the question of how Malaysia should proceed in the future to prevent such misunderstandings in the first place.

Let us begin from the beginning: As far as this recent dispute is concerned, the root cause of it was an act on the part of the Malaysian government that could hardly be described as malicious in intent. We forget that all the countries of Southeast Asia today are new countries that have only emerged on the international stage of politics for about half a century. The legacy of colonialism was such that it divided what was once a fluid and mobile continuum of communities that were really maritime diasporas, who moved across the archipelago with ease and who regarded the whole of Southeast Asia as their home.

Unfortunately, with the rise of new nation-states like the Federation

of Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia, we have also witnessed the development of national histories that were written by nationalist historians who speak and write for their respective national audiences. This problem is not unique to Malaysia or Indonesia; and if we look further, we will see that China's nationalist history has also been written by Chinese nationalist historians for a national audience. This is why China has been so brazen in its claims that the South China Sea belongs to China, with scant regard for the sensitivities of the rest of Southeast Asia. National histories are myopic and self-referential discourses, and seldom take into account alternative viewpoints.

Beginning with that as our premise, we need to understand the cause of Indonesia's anxieties: In my research on Indonesian history textbooks (from primary to secondary school level), I noted that the history textbooks of Indonesia speak of the Sumatran and Javanese maritime kingdoms of Majapahit, Srivijaya, Aceh, Pasai, Palembang and others. These narratives are accompanied by maps that suggest that Indonesian kingdoms have held overlapping claims to parts of the Malaysian Peninsula in the past. This is indeed true, but we should also remember that the Malaysian kingdoms of Langkasuka, Kedaran (Kedah) and Malacca also held sway across parts of Sumatra in the past as well. This does not, and should not however suggest that either country can claim each others' territories at a whim.

While Indonesian school books have done a commendable job in celebrating the diversity of its peoples and cultures, they have unfortunately overlooked one salient fact: That long before the creation of modern-day Indonesia and Malaysia, hundreds of thousands of Javanese, Bugis, Madurese, Minangs, Mandailings, Acehnese, etc have also migrated to what is

now called Malaysia, and settled there. In the course of my teaching in Indonesia, I regularly come across startled Indonesian students who are surprised to be told that hundreds of thousands of Malaysians speak Javanese, Bugis, Minang, Banjarese and other languages of Indonesia. Why? Because they happen to be Malaysian Javanese, Malaysian Bugis, Malaysian Banjarese and so on.

Thus when the Malaysian government decided to recognise the two dances that originated from Sumatra as part of Malaysian culture and heritage, it had less to do with 'claiming' that these dances originated from Malaysia, and more to do with recognising the many diverse origins of Malaysians who have come from other parts of the region such as Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan and even further afield such as China, India, Arabia and even Europe.

Here then, lies the crucial question: When American Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year in Chinatown, New York, is this a case of America 'stealing' Chinese culture? And when American Irish celebrate St Patrick's Day in New York, is this the case of America 'stealing' Irish culture? And when American Germans celebrate Oktoberfest, is this a case of America 'stealing' German culture? How and why is it that China, Ireland, India, Germany, Holland and England do not accuse America of stealing their history and patrimony? Surely this is a case of America simply acknowledging the fact that it has always been a country of migration, and that all these cultural influences have contributed to make America the complex and dynamic country that it is. And is this not exactly what Malaysia has done, by acknowledging that its own complex culture is and has always been a composite thing?

A secondary question is who are the ones who are accusing Malaysia of cultural 'theft', and why? What

Malaysians have to understand is that an overwhelming majority of Indonesians still regard Malaysia as a friendly neighbour and we hope that such goodwill persists on both sides of the border, indefinitely. But since the fall of Suharto in 1998, Indonesia has experienced what some political analysts refer to as the phenomenon of 'hyper-democracy', with the sudden opening up of the public domain and the emergence of many new parties. Not all of these parties however, have been of the peace-loving variety. The Partai Patriot for instance, was one of the more right-wing nationalist parties that contested the elections of 2004 and 2009 but which failed to make a political impact.

Some of the new hyper-nationalist parties in Indonesia have been actively seeking issues to animate and mobilise the masses, and unfortunately for Malaysia, it has been singled out as the scapegoat and punching bag for their bellicose rhetoric. The recent attacks on the Malaysian Embassy by groups like the Pemuda Pancasila point to the rise of new right-wing nationalist movements that use the tools of democracy for the end of populist and sometimes inflammatory politics, seeking enemies that do not exist in their efforts to unite Indonesians against an adversarial other. The constant attacks on Malaysia are part of this local staging of performative politics in Indonesia, and Malaysians need to be cognisant of the fact that despite the violent abuse meted out against Malaysia, not a single Malaysian has been hurt so far. Such theatricality is hard, however, to avoid when it leads to the Malaysian Embassy being attacked or the Malaysian flag being burned before the glare of the media.

How should Malaysia proceed? For a start, Malaysia cannot forget that our longest, oldest, closest and perhaps most important regional neighbour remains Indonesia; and that millions of Malaysians and

Indonesians remain tied to each other through links of marriage, kinship, family, business, work and studies. It is imperative that Malaysia do more to educate Malaysians about our neighbour, and to inculcate among young Malaysians a sense of common ASEAN identity we share with our regional allies. In an age of cheap airline travel and abundant communicative infrastructure, there is no excuse for Malaysians and Indonesians to remain ignorant of each other, or to regard each other as strangers.

This can also be addressed through a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to culture and education, and to recognise that our cultures are mixed, hybrid and complex things that are the results of a long period of historical contact. Can we ever envisage the writing of a common history that back-dates our past to the pre-colonial era and which recognises the cultural, linguistic and economic continuities that bind us? Are we prepared to give up a myopic reading of a national history that remains exclusive and which is written solely by us and for us to read? Unprecedented though it may be, as we inch closer to the ASEAN Charter of 2015, it is perhaps timely for us to suggest such a thing as a common ASEAN history project, and even a common ASEAN history book. For though ASEAN is a new construct that only emerged in 1967, it comprises of nations and communities whose common history goes back two thousand years, long before the advent of the modern nation-state that divides us today.



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The Launch of *Malaysian Diplomats: Our Stories Vol. 1*



In 2006, the first of its kind *Number One Wisma Putra* was launched with much pomp. Published at the encouragement of the then Prime Minister, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, it was the catalyst which led to the idea of a similar but leaner book project, one IDFR hopes to be a biennial, if not a yearly endeavour from now on.

The first volume of *Malaysian Diplomats: Our Stories* was launched on 3 May 2012. The book is a compilation

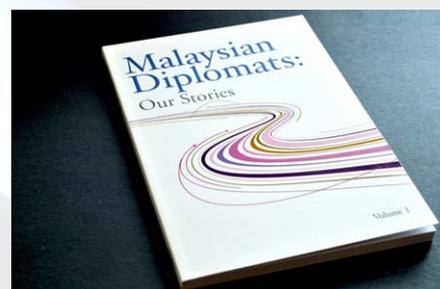
of ten articles contributed by former and current serving ambassadors – Ambassador Abdul Samad Othman, Tan Sri Hamidon Ali, Dato’ Jamaiyah M. Yusof, Dato’ Khor Eng Hee, Dato’ Lily Zachariah, Dato’ Md. Daud M. Yusoff, Dato’ Mohd. Yusof Ahmad, Dato’ K.N. Nadarajah, YM Tengku Dato’ Idriss Ibrahim and Dato’ Ting Wen Lian.

As our country’s representatives at post, our diplomats’ lives are never “a bed of roses”. They face many challenges, dilemmas and for some, even life-threatening events. These first-hand experiences must be shared, so that people will understand what our diplomats go through and the sacrifices that they sometimes have to make when serving King and Country. It can also serve as a guide for our young diplomats in training as well as aspiring ones. These real-life examples can also be used by our academicians in classes that teach diplomacy and international relations. This

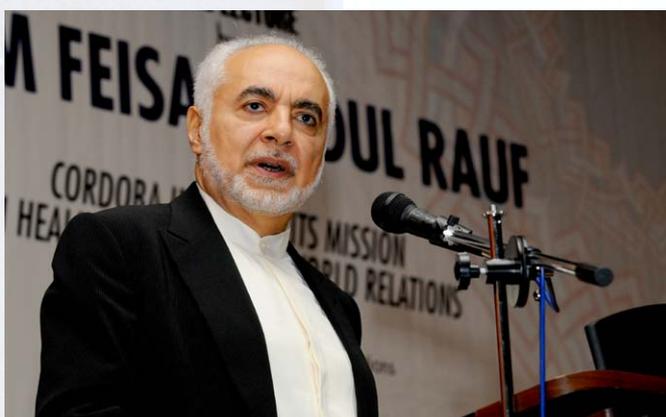
book also gives us an opportunity, albeit a small one, to pay tribute to our unsung heroes; the spouses.

Malaysian Diplomats: Our Stories Vol. 1 was launched by Senator A. Kohilan Pillay, the Deputy Foreign Minister, on behalf of the Foreign Minister, witnessed by, among others, more than 30 members of the diplomatic corps, several of the contributors, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from various think tanks and universities.

The book is available for sale at IDFR at RM35 each.



Public Lecture entitled *Cordoba Initiative: Its Mission in Healing U.S.-Muslim World Relations*



IDFR and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) jointly organised a public lecture by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of Cordoba Initiative, entitled *Cordoba Initiative: Its Mission in Healing U.S.-Muslim World*

Relations on 6 April 2012 held at IDFR.

In his lecture, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf said that when the September 11 attacks occurred, the Americans showed enormous desire to understand and to fix the problem of what went wrong in America and how they can fix Muslims and the West relations.

He also highlighted the issue of Muslims versus the West from the scientific point of view. The common definition by many people was

that Islam is a religion and West is the direction. According to Imam Feisal, it is not only a geographic thing, but it is also part geographical, part political, part geopolitical, part religious, part sociological and part perception. The sources of problems for the issue have been divided into buckets of problems which include political, religious/jurisprudential, socio identity and media/perception problems.

Participants who attended the public lecture included members of the diplomatic corps, academicians, lecturers and students from a number of local universities, officers from various government ministries and institutions, members of NGOs and the Master students of IDFR.

The 15th Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum



The Director General of IDFR, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, was invited by the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia to attend the 15th Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The forum, which was consistently coorganised by Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Central European Initiative (CEI), University of Zagreb, and London Academy of Diplomacy, University of East Anglia was officially launched by the Special Envoy of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Assistant Minister Andreja Metelko-Zgombi.

The event which took place from 24 to 26 May 2012 saw a strong delegation from not only European countries but also representatives from the Americas, African and Asian region.

This year's forum focused on the role of diplomacy in an on-going

intercultural dialogue. Dato' Ku Jaafar was also invited to deliver a keynote address in which he addressed the forum on diplomatic training in the context of cultural diplomacy. It was also the highlight of the event on IDFR's part.

With the theme of this year's forum being *Diplomacy and Intercultural Dialogue*, it was designed to aid discussions on the following topics; role of diplomacy in intercultural cooperation; dialogue and cooperation; better understanding and application of intercultural communication in regional, interregional and international context; knowledge, scientific research and education as a backbone of international cooperation and development.

Aside from stimulating participants in a series of roundtable discussions, papers submitted by each participant will be compiled in the forum's annual publication.

The first Diplomatic Forum was held in 1998 as a pioneer project of the CEI and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, together with the University of Zagreb and its Centre for Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS) in Dubrovnik. Having started as an international conference in the field of diplomacy and diplomatic training, the forum has over the years grown into an annual event of its kind in this part of Europe, gathering high state officials, experts and academics, as well as young diplomats.

The outcome of the forum was indeed a fruitful one as Dato' Ku Jaafar has now received proposals for future collaborations from other delegates representing diplomatic academies the world over. This is eminent in IDFR's vision to place itself as a diplomatic academy of world-class standard and be at par with its prominent peers.

<< continued from page 1

The Royal Address was attended by distinguished guests comprising former Malaysian ambassadors, ambassadors and high commissioners of foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur, senior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials and representatives from various think tanks, IDFR course participants and representatives of the media.

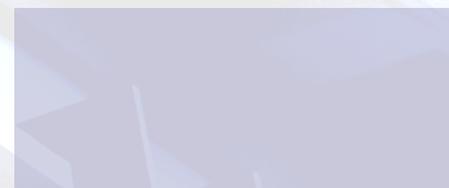
A closed-door Roundtable Discussion was held with participants of the

Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy and the Diploma in Diplomacy programmes immediately after the Royal Address. The discussion provided opportunities for exchange of ideas and thoughts on global governance as well as international relations issues between both groups of participants with HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah.

The participants felt very honoured and privileged to have had

a very frank and open dialogue with HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, who is very eloquent, knowledgeable and charismatic yet humble.

By Ahmad Shazril Suhaimi



9th ASEAN Leadership Forum



Ms. Alina Murni Md. Isa, an IDFR Senior Deputy Director, attended the 9th ASEAN Leadership Forum held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 4 to 6 April 2012. The forum was made possible with the collaboration between the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) and the Ministry of Commerce Cambodia, and with the support from the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Business Forum, and hoped to serve as an important platform to critically discuss and analyse the future of ASEAN and the ASEAN regional cooperation.

With the theme of *One Community, One Destiny – Growing ASEAN*

for Shared Prosperity, the forum brought together prominent and visionary thinkers, leaders, dignitaries and personalities sharing their thoughts on what ASEAN means to them and experiences as well as hopes for a strong ASEAN integration. The forum was held in three parts: the Welcoming Dinner on 4 April, the ASEAN Leadership Forum on 5 April, both held at the Cambodiana Hotel and the ASEAN Young Leaders Dialogue on 6 April, which was held at the Sunway Hotel.

At the Welcoming Dinner, H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, delivered an Opening Keynote Address entitled *One Community, One Destiny: Cambodia's*

Vision for ASEAN as ASEAN Chair 2012. This was followed by a Leadership Keynote Address entitled *Leadership Challenges in ASEAN: Meeting Tomorrow's Needs and Expectations* by Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak.

The ASEAN Leadership Forum on 5 April featured various topics such as ASEAN connectivity and integration, role of ASEAN on non-traditional threads, sustainability development and green growth, leadership challenges, and economic challenges and prospects. This was followed by the ASEAN Young Leaders Dialogue the next day where younger and emerging leaders shared their thoughts and perspectives on issues such as ASEAN and Building an ASEAN Community, Social Economy and Social Enterprises, Models of Good Regulatory Framework for ASEAN, Understanding G8 and How it can Shape ASEAN's Growth, Forging Closer Ties with G8, and Building the Sense of Community Among the Next Generation of Leaders.

Representatives from Malaysia at the three-day forum included key players from Axiata Group Berhad, Malaysia, Maybank, IBM and the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs.

Roundtable Discussion entitled *Commonwealth Renewal from the Canadian Perspective*

A roundtable discussion on *Commonwealth Renewal from the Canadian Perspective* presented by the Honourable Senator Hugh Segal, Canada's Special Envoy for Commonwealth Renewal and Member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was held at the Institute on 19 April 2012. The event was honoured by the presence of Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, who gave the introductory speech.

In his talk, Senator Segal spoke about the challenges facing the Commonwealth and the need for it to "renew itself" in order to be relevant in the changing global environment of today. He felt that it would be a tragedy if the Commonwealth which symbolises the coming together of diverse ethnic groups ceases to exist. Also, in his view, the grouping still has an important role to play in alleviating poverty, promoting education, public health, racial and

gender equality, and democracy in the member countries.

With regard to the future of the Commonwealth, the distinguished speaker spoke at length about the work done by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG), a group of ten eminent persons from the member countries under the chairmanship of Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. The EPG's report outlines the measures that should

be taken by the Commonwealth to ensure its relevance as an international grouping and its role in improving the lives of people in the member countries and globally.

During the question and answer session, Senator Segal spoke of the similarity in ideals between the Commonwealth which brings different nationalities and ethnic groups together and the Global Movement of Moderates that is being promoted by Malaysia.

The participants who attended the roundtable discussion included offi-



cers from various government agencies, academicians, the Master

students of IDFR and members of the diplomatic corps.

Roundtable Discussion entitled *A Snapshot of Democracy in ASEAN*



IDFR and the CIMB ASEAN Research Institute (CARI) jointly hosted a roundtable discussion entitled *A Snapshot of Democracy in ASEAN* on 23 May 2012. Fellow of CARI, YAM Tunku Zain Al' Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz, was the guest speaker, while Mr. John Pang, the Chief Executive Officer of CARI, moderated the question and answer session.

Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR, in her welcoming remarks

said that discussions on democracy and related issues in the context of ASEAN are very relevant and timely considering the importance of this issue for the long term political and economic stability of the region.

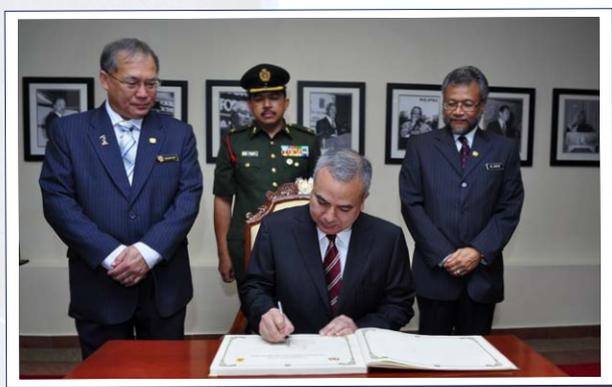
YAM Tunku Zain Al' Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz, in his address, said that differences in the political system, language, culture, religion and level of economic development were among the main obstacles standing in the way of ASEAN achieving its vision of becoming

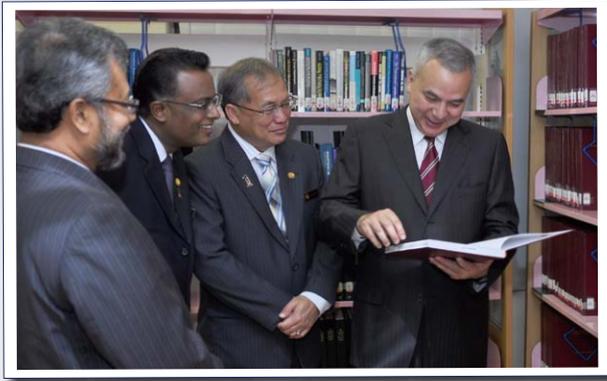
a more democratic and people-oriented 'ASEAN Community'. Nationalism within ASEAN member countries is another factor impeding its progress towards greater economic and political integration. In this regard, he noted that even the European Union, despite having a common history, religion and culture, faces challenges in maintaining its unity.

The distinguished speaker also spoke about the problem of political legitimacy in ASEAN which is currently government centric with little involvement by its people in the decision making and institutional building process. He noted that the issue of democracy has always taken a backseat in ASEAN meetings in relation to other issues. In this regard, he opined that civil society movements have an important role in promoting freedom and democracy in the ASEAN region.

Several officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, delegates from Harvard University and CARI, academicians, former diplomats and the Master and Diploma in Diplomacy students were present at the roundtable discussion.

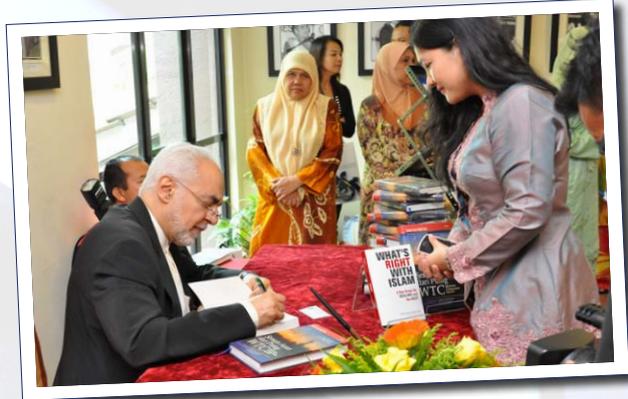
First Official Visit by Royal Patron HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah







Public Lecture entitled *Cordoba Initiative: Its Mission in Healing U.S.-Muslim World Relations*



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The Launch of *Malaysian Diplomats: Our Stories* Vol. 1



Roundtable Discussion entitled *A Snapshot of Democracy in ASEAN*



Training Courses



Language Courses





Diploma in Diplomacy



Orientation Course for Secretaries

IDFR successfully conducted the Orientation Course for Secretaries from 16 to 27 June 2012. The course which was first introduced in September 2011, comprised secretaries from various Ministry of Foreign Affairs divisions and IDFR.

The two-week course covered the objectives of widening the secretaries' professional knowledge and skills that are required for them to serve at the Missions in various countries all over the world. It was also aimed to expose the participants to the different aspects of good office organisation, as well as improve their communication and interpersonal skills and to inculcate the importance of presenting a good image.

In line with the objectives, IDFR tailored various modules that covered issues concerning the Ministry, including the Overview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Plan, the Importance of Your Role at Missions Abroad, Inspectorate Issues, Perks and Privileges, Administrative and Security Matters at Missions Abroad, Vienna Convention and Consular



Relations, Preparation for Living and Working Abroad and a talk by the Vice President of PERWAKILAN.

The participants were also privileged to take part in modules on skills in diplomacy, which are Reception and Fine Dining and Social Etiquette. English and communication modules were also highlighted, such as English for Diplomacy, English for Effective Communications, Presentation Skills, Written and Verbal Communications, Cross Cultural Communications and Interpersonal Skills. Self-development modules were also incorporated

such as Motivation, Group Dynamics, Grooming, Malaysian Cultural Dances and the One Malaysia Concept.

The participants were pleased with the course and further expressed their comments concerning the knowledge, exposure and benefit that they had gained throughout the two-week course. IDFR believes that the course objectives were achieved and would continue on its part to constantly review the modules so that they will be relevant to the needs, vision, mission and aspirations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 2/2012

The Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 2/2012 was held from 7 to 18 May 2012 at IDFR. Thirty-four officers from various ministries and government agencies participated in the course. Seventeen spouses of the officers were also present at the course.

This second series featured an improved programme based on a meeting between IDFR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ladies Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (PERWAKILAN). Among the new modules added were a one-day Cooking Demonstration



and The Role of Spouse which only involved the spouses. The new modules were included to cater specifically for the spouses and were compulsory for them.

The flow of the modules was also improved, in which Day 1 until Day 4 involved only modules on

administration, management and matters related to working at a Mission, delivered by the Ministry's officers. Day 5 until Day 10 focused on protocol, etiquette, culture, and grooming. The improved programme received commendable feedback and responses from the officers and spouses.

Crisis Management Course for International Participants



The Crisis Management Course for International Participants came to an end with the closing and certificate presentation ceremony on 22 June 2012. The event was officiated by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Director General of IDFR and was also attended by several ambassadors and high commissioners of the participating countries.

The three-week course covered several substantive topics such as Theory and Concept of Crisis Management, The Law and Armed Conflict in International Crisis, Crisis Communication in Situations of Armed Conflict, Expectations of Diplomats, The Use of Force, Terrorism, Human Trafficking, Media Response in Crisis Management, Issues and Challenges in Humanitarian Assistance, Food Crisis, Humanitarian Relief Effort, Security Threat in Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean, Unity in Diversity, Media Warfare Psychology, War & Peace Journalist, Managing Refugees in a Crisis, Human Right Law in Crisis, Country Risk Management, Diplomacy in Crisis Management and Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes through Adjudication by the International Court of Justice. All the lectures were

delivered by guest speakers and qualified lecturers from various agencies and universities.

What made it more interesting was that the class lectures were not only held in the classroom but participants were given the opportunity to attend lectures conducted in Puncak Rimba, Bukit Tinggi, from 12 to 13 June 2012. Most of the participants were very excited and pleased with the beautiful and peaceful scenery as it was far away from the hustle and bustle of Kuala Lumpur. Lt. Col. John Derrick and Major Hamdan Abd. Rahman were the guest speakers who delivered their lectures there.

Besides that, the participants were also taken on several study visits, including to the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre Port Dickson, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency [Northern Region] (MMEA), Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) Pulau Langkawi, Perbadanan Nasional Berhad (PNS) and Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS).

The participants were in Langkawi over one weekend, which brought sweet memories and experiences.

During the first day in Langkawi, participants were given the opportunity to visit several places like the Burnt Rice compound and the Mahsuri Mausoleum. They also boarded a cruise to witness the enchanting sunset in Cenang Island. On the second day, participants had an opportunity to attend a motivational talk delivered by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Langkawi, Pulau Tuba. Some of the participants also shared their tips and experiences on the secret recipe for success in life. The participants also visited the Lake of the Pregnant Maiden and got the chance to see the magnificent king of the skies, as the eagles swooped down to catch their prey as they were fed. The day eventually ended with a visit to the Beras Basah Island where the participants enjoyed a swim in the crystal clear water of the white sandy beach. On the third day, the participants had the opportunity to visit LADA and MMEA, plus the opportunity to board the MMEA's patrol ship.

The Langkawi cable car was also one of the major attractions, with a fantastic view of the island at the height of 700 meters above sea level. The participants were excited and fascinated by the beauty and peace of Langkawi. Since Langkawi is a shopping haven for duty-free goods from around the world, the participants did not miss the opportunity to buy some perfume, cigarettes, confectionery, wine, chocolate, and other retail goods in Kuah Town.

The three-week course received positive response and feedback from the course participants, ambassadors and high commissioners of the participating countries. The participants also thanked IDFR and MTCP for giving them the golden opportunity to experience the sweet and unforgettable memory while staying in Malaysia.

Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and Their Spouses

IDFR successfully conducted the Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and Their Spouses from 25 to 29 June 2012. Thirteen participants attended the course, comprising seven ambassadors and high commissioners-designate accompanied by their spouses.

The course, which was held for five days, outlined the objectives: to provide an overview of functions and responsibilities of Heads of Mission and their spouses, to develop knowledge and understanding of current Malaysian and international issues and to enhance and strengthen diplomatic skills of Heads of Mission and their spouses. In line with these objectives, IDFR had arranged numerous modules including lectures and panel discussions with the Heads of Divisions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, other agencies and government-link corporations. Prominent and distinguished speakers were also invited to share their thoughts and insights on substantive issues related to diplomacy and international relations. The course began with IDFR's Director General, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari sharing his thoughts on the *Experience of a Diplomat* during the opening dinner talk.

Three panel discussions were conducted during the course. The first was a discussion on *Challenges in the Middle East* by Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, President of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST) and Dato' Dr. Mohamed Ghazali Md. Noor, former Director of the Strategic Planning (IDB) Group. The second one was on *Traditional and New Media* by H.E. Ong Keng Yong, High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia and Mr. Kamarul Bahrin Haron, Anchor of *Sudut Pandang*, Vantage Point and Analysis at Astro Awani. The final discussion was on *Economic Diplomacy* by Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG) and Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Manager of World Trade Institute (WTI) Consulting in Malaysia.

In addition, the participants were also privileged to listen to two luncheon talks; firstly by Mr. Mohd Tarid Sufian, Deputy Director General of the Co-ordination and Implementation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia who gave a talk on Key Performance Indicator and secondly was a talk by Professor Dr. Zubair Hasan, Professor of Islamic Economics and Governance for the International Center of Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), entitled *National and Global Economic Issues*.

IDFR had also arranged three dinner talks; firstly by Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, who spoke on the *Expectation on the Roles of Heads of Mission*, secondly was a talk on the *Global Movement of Moderates* (GMM) by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) and finally was a talk by Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, Chairman of Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), who spoke on the *Collaboration between the Public and Corporate Sector*.

Apart from that, the participants had lecture sessions on various topics such as *ASEAN Community toward*

2015, Current Bilateral and Multilateral Issues, 1Malaysia, People First Performance Now as the Future Direction of Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Transform Malaysia into a High-Income Nation by 2020, Human Rights and Malaysia, Etiquette and Royal Protocol and Dealing with Media presentation on Defending National Interest.

Realising the importance for spouses to the Heads of Mission to have the right skills and ability needed to uphold Malaysia's good name and reputation, IDFR also included several programmes specifically designed for the spouses. Among them were a cooking demonstration by a chef lecturer, a workshop on effective communication, presentation skills and public speaking and also a lecture on The Role of Spouse by Puan Sri Jazliza Jalaluddin, President of PERWAKILAN.

The course was officially closed by Senator A. Kohilan Pillay, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs where the participants were presented with certificates. In general, the participants were pleased with the course and further expressed their compliments concerning the knowledge, exposure and benefit that they had gained throughout the course.



Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM)* 3/2012

The third series of the Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM)* started on 2 July 2012 and concluded on 13 July 2012. The course was attended by 45 participants, including officers from Immigration Department, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Ministry of Defence, Royal Customs, Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Public Service Department (JPA), Majlis Agama Islam Selangor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and their spouses.

Throughout the course, the participants went through sessions which focused on matters related to administration, management, security, finance, protocol and auditing at



Missions. This was mainly to prepare the officers for their functions, duties and responsibilities when they are at post in the future. In addition, modules on culture, grooming, etiquette, language and official reception and entertaining were also included to polish the participants' social and diplomatic skills.

In this third series, the participants were very fortunate as they were

able to witness the Royal Address by HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin, which was also HRH's first official appearance as the Royal Patron of the Institute. The participants were also privileged to have an interactive session with Puan Sri Jazliza Jalaludin, President of the Ladies Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (PERWAKILAN), on the roles, functions and responsibilities of spouses at Missions.

Language Courses

A four-day course entitled *Effective Writing Skills* was held from 23 to 26 April 2012. The nineteen participants who attended this course came from various government departments and ministries, namely the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, the Ministry of Natural Resources Sarawak, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Human Resources, the Ministry of Defence, The Royal Malaysian Police, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and the National Sports Institute.

The aim of this course was to develop the participants' competence and skills in writing and editing their own work as well as those of others. The course included topics like *The Writing Process, Purposeful Paragraphs, Sentence Skills, Grammar for Writing, Shaping Strong Sentences, Editing and Proofreading*.

The *English for Communication* course was held for Executive Officers and Personal Assistants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This two-day course was conducted in two batches, the first from 11 to 12 June 2012 and the second from 18 to 19 June 2012. The first group comprised 22 participants while the second had 25 participants.

This course aimed at enhancing the participants' proficiency and confidence level in using the language particularly at the work place.

Emphasis was given to the correct use of grammar particularly in the following areas – tenses, subject-verb agreement, and sentence skills. Awareness raising activities of problem sounds in English pronunciation were also dealt with.

On the whole, the course participants were eager to improve and immersed themselves in all the activities and exercises. The majority of them however felt that the course was too short and that there should be opportunities for them to attend more such courses.



Effective Writing Skills

Study Visit to the Parliament of Malaysia



The Malaysian Parliament is the legislative making body of this country. Briefly, it consists of the King or more commonly known as the Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong (YDPA), the House of Representatives and the Senate. The main functions of Parliament include law-making, the approval of the annual budget as well as the scrutiny, debate and questioning of government policies and administration.

The Master Students of IDFR (Session 2011/2012) were given an opportunity to visit the Malaysian Parliament on 9 April 2012. It was the first visit for most of us and a visit we were all looking forward to. Led by Mr. Nafizal Haris Ismail, IDFR's Assistant Director of the Regional and Security Studies Division, the eight of us and two IDFR interns left IDFR that Monday morning to head to the Parliament.

After having breakfast in the Parliament's canteen, we lined up to enter the public gallery of the Dewan Rakyat (the Malaysian House of Representatives). Our group was the first one allowed into the Dewan. Armed with a copy of the day's Order Paper, we entered, bowed to the Speaker and took our seats. Although there were only a few Members of

Parliament (MPs) in the Dewan, it was still a pleasure to watch the proceedings from a bird's eye view of the gallery. Watching democracy in action live was inspiring. However, the large number of visitors to the Parliament on that day meant that we could only watch the proceedings for a short while before making way for the next group.

That was however, not the end of our visit. Mr. Ahmad Faizal Mohd. Soaudi, a Parliament officer, was

kind enough to take us on a guided tour. We learnt a lot from the tour. Among other things, we learnt about the "The Royal Stairs" or the "Once a Year Stairs". This flight of stairs is exclusively used by the Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Dipertuan Agong and his Consort when they make their way to the Dewan Rakyat to officially open the new term of Parliament. Since this occasion only occurs once a year, the stairs are thus closed at all other times. Thus, the various names accorded to the stairs.

The visit to the Parliament was a truly memorable one. We learnt a lot about the inner workings of the Parliament during the visit. It was also a historically and visually entertaining visit. We were even able to see some of the "superstars" of the local political scene such as our Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and some MPs. Standing at the epicenter of Malaysian democracy was a true inspiration for all of us. We would like to thank IDFR for making this visit possible.

By Lim Hui Chin and Navintha Gunasegran, students of IDFR-UKM Master of Social Science (Strategy and Diplomacy) Programme, session 2011/2012



26th Asia Pacific Roundtable Organised by ISIS Malaysia

The 26th Asia Pacific Roundtable (APR) was held from 28 to 30 May 2012 at the InterContinental Hotel Kuala Lumpur. It was envisaged to avail platforms for politicians, practitioners and scholars in the fields of politics, security and regional studies to exhaustively discuss wide ranging developments occurring in the ASEAN region and in the international arenas.

The theme of the 26th APR was *Asian Security, Governance and Order*. The Honourable Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak was the guest of honour. In his keynote address to the delegates and speakers, the Honourable Prime Minister stressed on the need for a revolution and evolution in thinking on how to perceive the current security, political and economic developments transpiring in the Asian Continent and around the globe. He tasked the participants of the roundtable, that inter alia, their recommendations should demonstrate an in-depth appreciation of the current realities in the region and succinctly discuss issues of common concerns both at regional and international levels. He furthered that, gauging from the vast specialisations and competence of the experts participating at the roundtable, discussions and subsequent recommendations that would ensue in the course of the two days be an indispensable reference point for policy formulation at the level of governments in the region.

The topics covered in the roundtable ranged from security issues affecting Asia to ASEAN regionalism issues to modes of governance in Asian countries to the role of non-state actors in Asia. The speakers who presented their papers at the roundtable came from various backgrounds, ranging from ambassadors to military commanders and distinguished academics. The former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was also a speaker in one of the plenary sessions. He spoke on

matters of governance in Asia. The hot topic of Myanmar was also tackled with gusto at the roundtable, with speakers from the Myanmar Foreign Ministry as well as experts on the matter presenting their views on the possibilities and prospects of the political reforms there. The rise of China and the reaction of other actors to it was also a key topic that was thoroughly discussed.

Representatives from IDFR included Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Mr. Vasudiwan Narayanan, Director of the Regional and Security Studies Division and Ms. Alina Murni Md. Isa, Senior Deputy Director of the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division. With a view to expose the participants of its IDFR-UKM Master Degree programme in Strategy and Diplomacy to the latest developments in politics, regional and security studies, the Institute graciously invited two Master students to attend the roundtable, and I was one of the lucky two.

As Master students, it was an incredible opportunity for my coursemate and I to learn from reputable experts and practitioners. We were able to grasp the concepts and discussions conducted at the roundtable due to our exposure to such topics during our lectures. We even had the opportunity to chat with several distinguished academicians and authors whose work we have read before. This provided us with an insight into the real world of diplomacy. We were also able to exchange contacts with some of these distinguished personalities. It was truly an enjoyable two-day programme that brought tremendous benefit to us.

We would like to thank Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari for giving us the opportunity to attend the roundtable. Many thanks also to IDFR officers and staff for helping us prepare for the event.

Cognizant of the importance of such a forum, we wish to humbly suggest

that more students be given the opportunity to attend such roundtables and other events in the years to come.

By Muhammed Mboob, student of IDFR-UKM Master of Social Science (Strategy and Diplomacy) Programme, session 2011/2012



Study Visit to Langkawi Island – A Reflection



A study visit to the legendary Langkawi Island was organised by IDFR for its Master students together with several of the Institute's staff and a UKM lecturer from 22 to 24 June 2012. The island was chosen due to its uniqueness as its location is essential in geopolitical factors and also as the entrance to the busiest straits in the world, the Straits of Malacca.

We were told that the island's name is a combination of two words. Lang which is short for *helang* or eagle and Kawi which means red stones. According to the book, *The Legends of Langkawi* by Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail however, the term 'Langkawi' is a combination of two Sanskrit words, Langka (beauty) and Wi (innumerable). We are not sure which one is the truth. But for us, what is unique about the island is two former Malaysian Prime Ministers had served on the island. The late Tunku Abdul Rahman, who was the first Prime Minister, was appointed as a District Officer in Langkawi in the 1950s and Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the fourth Prime Minister was posted as a doctor to the local hospital in the 1970s.

On the first day there, we went to the Kilim Geopark and Mount Machincang. The trip to the Kilim Geopark which was listed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Geopark in 2007 was a fun one. We were still sceptical about how safe it would be to feed the ea-

gles there when it turned out that we do not actually feed them the way we thought we would... with food in our hands! The boat-driver-cum-guide would throw pieces of chicken skin into the water and the eagles would dive for them and fly away happily with the free meal. At some point, it started to rain heavily and all of us in the boat were drenched.

The ride to the top of Mount Machincang by cable car was a breathtaking experience. The steep ride over the rainforest canopy was a scary one for a few of us, but the view was beautiful and never dull.

On the second day, we visited the Royal Malaysian Navy Area Command 3 Headquarters. There, we gained insights into the state of security along the Straits of Malacca. The visit to the Naval Base was very exciting, as it was something civilians are rarely allowed to do. We then went to the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA). The briefing at LADA was informative and we left



with a better understanding of the efforts being undertaken to transform Langkawi into a tourism hub.

On the third day of our study visit, we were taken to the Wang Kelian immigration post at the Malaysia-Thailand border. There, it was good to learn that relations between Malaysia and Thailand are as good as they are, and that they respect us just as much as we respect them. A bus trip on Jalan Kesban which is parallel to the fence of the international border was an exciting one since only a handful of people have been given the opportunity to travel on it since it is a Security Road. While we hear of our international borders, it was nice to see the physical representations of these lines.

All in all, the itinerary of the study visit was properly planned and spaced out nicely, but more that the information and knowledge gained, one of the best parts of the trip was the strengthening of bonds between us. We have been coursemates for about a year, and we have become quite close. This trip allowed us to build better relations amongst ourselves. The camaraderie and friendship is something we will always share regardless of where we are in the world, and this in itself may strengthen international relations.

By Commander Zahari Samsuri and M George Zachariah, students of IDFR-UKM Master of Social Science (Strategy and Diplomacy) Programme, session 2011/2012

Panel Discussion on Economic Diplomacy

by Darshini Subramaniam



A panel discussion on Economic Diplomacy was held at IDFR on 8 May 2012. Panellists from the academic sector, namely Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad, Principal Fellow and Director of the Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs (INSPAG), Universiti Teknologi MARA and Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG) were invited to present their views and comments. The session was attended by the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) participants.

The discussion, which was based on a presentation by Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, focused on the evolution of Economic Diplomacy as well as the roles and functions of ministries and agencies in implementing Economic Diplomacy. The discussion also touched on the challenges to Economic Diplomacy faced by

various state actors in today's era of rapid globalisation and information, communication and technology.

Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof commented that the classical definition of Economic Diplomacy itself has evolved since the Cold War era right to the current day. Significant events and changes at the systemic level have shaped and transformed its definition. Today, Economic Diplomacy has risen to the top of international policy and is of top most priority to all States. States, through their respective governments, try to make their policies more efficient and respond to the increasing pressure for greater democratic and transparent governance all in the desire to achieve progress.

Rapid globalisation has effectively shifted economic power from go-

vernment to the private sector and non-State actors such as influential international organisations (IO) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). As globalisation advances, more actors are involved in Economic Diplomacy. Their activities go beyond seeking to influence national policies since they now combine to operate transnationally.

The session ended with a discussion on the roles and functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof stressed that with the evolution, there is a need for modifications of traditional roles and responsibilities of the Ministry. It is no longer the sole guardian of diplomacy; instead they are constructively engaging non-State actors through cooperation and consultations.

Talk on Social Etiquette and Social Behaviour

by Rosfazidah Razi Varathau Rajoo

On 10 May 2012, IDFR was honoured to welcome YAM Tunku Dara Tan Sri Dato' Seri Naquiah to the Institute. YAM Tunku was invited to share her wide experience on social etiquette and social behaviour with the DiD participants in a talk entitled *Image and the Professional Diplomat*.

The session was aimed at equipping the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills on social etiquette and behaviour which are cru-

cial in shaping a well-rounded diplomat and to facilitate the participants in completing the tasks and responsibilities given, especially in the international arena.

The DiD participants were exposed to topics such as *Do's and Don'ts in Social Etiquette and Social Behaviour, Social Conversation, Art of Small Talk, and Personal Grooming and Dress Sense*. YAM Tunku also encouraged active participation from

the participants and used a role-play approach which made the two-hour session more interesting.

At the end of the session, the participants expressed their appreciation for YAM Tunku's willingness in sharing her extensive experiences, thoughts and wisdom in the protocol field. The session provided the participants with a better understanding of social etiquette and social behaviour.

Interpersonal Skills and Cross Cultural Communication Module

by *Jarin Sijaya Abdul Hathi*



It was a dream come true for the DiD participants to learn from the multi-talented personality, Dato' Mahadzir Lokman, during the Interpersonal Skills and Cross Cultural Communication module held from 29 to 30 May 2012 at IDFR. The course provided significant and invaluable understanding pertaining to emceeing and cross cultural communication. Interpersonal skills are integral to effective diplomacy and the participants were fortunate to learn these essential skills from the outstanding Dato' Mahadzir.

On the first day of the module, Dato' Mahadzir Lokman shared his wisdom and experience on being a good and professional master of ceremony.

The session was very interactive and the participants were amazed by his friendly yet energetic approach in teaching the technique of emceeing. According to several studies, "people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death". With Dato' Mahadzir's precious tips, the participants now know how to overcome their fear of public speaking and believe they would be able to emcee confidently with correct pronunciation and good voice projection.

Some of the important tips that Dato' Mahadzir gave to overcome the nervousness during emceeing is to hold both sides of the rostrum and to take a deep breath before speaking. He also emphasised that we should speak from the heart. Expressions such as "Please rise to welcome" should be used instead of "Please stand". Pronunciation is a crucial part in emceeing. He highlighted the wrong pronunciation that some Malaysians tend to make and demonstrated the correct pronunciation. Another important tip that Dato' Mahadzir gave was on how to give the impression of constant eye-contact

without having to look into the eyes of the audience; look straight at the forehead of the audience. This would help if you are too nervous to look at the audience.

The second day of the module was on cross cultural communication. Dato' Mahadzir used simple and fun ways such as games to impart points across to the participants. The participants enjoyed the session and began to understand the importance of cross cultural communication in their journey towards becoming a successful diplomat. Believing in the quote by Mahatma Gandhi, "An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching", Dato' Mahadzir got the participants involved in a simulation activity. This strategy really helped to improve the performance of each participant.

The two-day course was truly beneficial. The wisdom, experience and guidance that Dato' Mahadzir shared with the participants definitely left an impact on them. As Dato' Mahadzir said, "to be a good emcee, speak from your heart", and that is what the DiD participants will try to master from this module.

Attachment at the Parliament and Constituencies

For the first time, the DiD participants were tasked to serve under several selected Members of Parliament (MPs) of Malaysia's Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Council (BNBBC) from 11 to 16 June 2012. The attachment programme is one of the new modules introduced by IDFR for the programme.

The idea of having the attachment programme started during discussions between the previous year's DiD participants and Dato' Ismail Abd. Muttalib, BNBBC Secretary and several other BNBBC Committee Members. Through this module, the participants will gain experience working as a special officer to an MP for the first four days at Parliament, and the remaining two days at their constituencies.

Most of the participants were already familiar with the type of work at Parliament as each ministry and agency has its own schedule that requires its officer on duty to provide the relevant answers for each question posted to their respective ministers. On the other hand, working as a special officer to an MP is much more challenging.

The participants were exposed to the real situation of Malaysian politics as well as the formation and implementation of public policy and assisting the MPs with several tasks involving writing and communication. The participants also had the opportunity to be directly involved in several official programmes at their respective constituencies. This



kind of exposure enables them to establish networking with the MPs.

The module was an excellent lesson for the participants to work with people on the ground, to understand the real situation and to write accurate reports.

International Negotiation Skills

by Deborah Tan Sue Yuen

The late U.S. President, John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate". On 18 June 2012, the DiD participants were privileged to have Professor Paul Meerts, Senior Research Associate at Clingendael, otherwise known as the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, deliver a lecture on *International Negotiation Skills*.

An expert in international negotiation processes and with a keen interest in the Balkans, Professor Meerts is also one of the editors of *The Slippery Slope to Genocide*, a book on negotiation and identity. Relating his vast experience and rich knowledge of past and present conflicts – the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s, Indonesia's Konfrontasi of 1963, the Arab Spring and South China Sea dispute of today – Professor Meerts pointed out that negotiation is about interest and emotion.

Negotiation is central to diplomacy. We tend to assume that negotiation is pitting one's political swagger and economic muscle against another with carefully-picked words. However, an all-round effective negotiator would have a balance of interests, power, relationship and exploration. Professor Meerts also reminded the participants that negotiation is also an EGOtiation. Therefore, it is advisable to start negotiating on issues that are easy to solve. Although negotiation is about compromise, the need to be emphatic is equally important to advance the country's interests.

To further highlight the points made during the lecture, Professor Paul Meerts held a simulation exercise where each DiD participant played the role of a diplomat or representative from, among others, the United Nations (UN), the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, Indonesia and the Interna-

tional Committee of the Red Cross in negotiating the UN draft resolution on its Disaster Relief Organisation. The participants were challenged to reach a consensus on the matter by employing the negotiating skills that they had learned.

Following the exercise, the DiD participants watched the original negotiation proceedings that took place in 1971 which was made into a BBC documentary entitled *Space Between Words*. The documentary exposed how laborious and painstaking a negotiation can be while at the same time, revealed the shrewdness and determination of its negotiators.

The session with Professor Meerts definitely taught the DiD participants more than a thing or two about being an effective, fearless negotiator. As aptly quoted by the professor, "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu".

International Negotiation Skills: Simulation Exercise

by Deborah Tan Sue Yuen

They came, they saw, they... negotiated. Subsequent to Professor Paul Meerts' lecture on international negotiation skills, the DiD participants were given a different simulation exercise. Expecting to negotiate on another real-life (but dry) international resolution, the participants were pleasantly surprised when the session's facilitator, Puan Rahimah Yeop, the Director of Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division of IDFR took a different approach by asking them to play the strategy board game, Diplomacy.

Like its namesake, Diplomacy is a classic game of pure negotiation without the use of dice or other elements of chance. Set in the years prior to the First World War, the DiD participants grouped themselves accordingly into the seven 'Great Powers of Europe' – Great Britain, France, Austro-Hungary, Germany, Italy, Imperial Russia, and the Turkish

Ottoman. The game itself was a history lesson, as well as a chance for the participants to alter the course of history, albeit fictionally. Each Great Power is assigned certain number of army units and naval fleets. And like all command-and-conquer games (be it on board or in reality), these military units are to move into adjoining territories to attack or defend and to hold its position.

This game is an excellent example at demonstrating the mechanisms of negotiation. The participants formed and broke alliances through behind-the-scenes strategic manoeuvring to gain territory. Apart from that, the issuing of simultaneous 'orders' within a time limit, challenged the participants to think on their feet or otherwise, forfeit a turn and thereby lose ground.

The simulation exercise by way of the Diplomacy board game, successfully engaged the participants at both

the mental and practical level without being too mundane. Some of them even discovered their fierce competitive spirit when pitted against rivals while others unearthed their unfound talents of strategic foresight.

All in all, Diplomacy taught them that time is of the essence in decision-making. Risk-taking, too, may be part and parcel of negotiation. Ultimately, one can never act on one's own – cooperation and compromises would have to be made in order to advance one's country's interests. And certainly, trust cannot be taken for granted.

These are the very elements of the game that makes Diplomacy so appealing and timeless. It counts the late U.S. President, John F. Kennedy and former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger among its fans. If the world's most powerful play it, what's not a DiD participant to like?

Study Visit to the State of Melaka

Thirty members from IDFR led by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari had a memorable and successful study visit to the State of Melaka held from 18 to 19 June 2012. The delegation comprised senior officials, language lecturers and the DiD participants. The visit's main objective was to highlight the close relationship and smart collaboration between the Malacca State Government and the Federal Government.

In the course of the two-day visit, the delegation had the honour to pay courtesy calls to Tun Datuk Seri Utama Mohd Khalil Yaakob, Governor of Melaka as well as on Dato' Wira Omar Kaseh, the State Secretary. The courtesy calls were held at Kompleks Seri Negeri, located in Ayer Keroh. The delegation was also brought to the Urban Transformational Centre (UTC) on Jalan Hang Tuah which was recently officially opened by Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, on 23 June 2012.

The highlight of the visit was the humbling experience of meeting Tun, a former Malaysian career diplomat and a reputable politician. As prominent and influential as he is to those in the diplomatic and political world, he spent a total of three hours with the



delegation. Tun personally invited the delegation to his office to have a look at photos taken during his diplomatic postings. He was passionate when reliving stories about his diplomatic postings to Italy, Morocco, Singapore and Indonesia and was delighted in showing framed newspaper cuttings of his days as a young career diplomat and politician. He also shared that as a diplomat, one should be able to play golf or else be good in art, of which he is good at both, as he showed us a beautiful portrait of his wife painted by him.

Tun strongly emphasised the need to master the art of entertaining as it is a vital part of a diplomat's life. It is also important to have good communication skills and be knowledgeable on various issues. He gave a well-thought and detailed presentation on the evolution of the diplomatic role through three different time periods; medieval, classical and modern. He said that diplomacy is as old as communication itself. The way we communicate may change over time, but having exceptional human touch will remain a characteristic of the ideal diplomat.

Attachment at Embassy of Malaysia in Bangkok, Thailand

Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari led a delegation comprising twelve participants of the DiD, senior IDFR officials and the secretariat team on an attachment programme at the Embassy of Malaysia in Bangkok, Thailand from 14 to 21 July 2012.

The aim of this programme was to provide the DiD participants with a better understanding of the running of a Malaysian Mission abroad as well as the important role Malaysian diplomats play to uphold the good name and sovereignty of the country.

On the first day, the delegation paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Dato' Nazirah Hussain, Malaysia's Ambassador to Thailand, who later hosted a sumptuous dinner for them at the Residence. The two-day attachment programme at the Malaysian Embassy started with a detailed briefing on the general running of the Malaysian Embassy by Mr. Tajul Aman Mohammad, the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), followed by stints at the Consular office, Tourism Malaysia, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and

Malaysian Investment Development Authority offices.

The delegation also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand where Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari presented a talk on Malaysia's Preparation for the ASEAN Community 2012 to a group of senior and high ranking Thai officials. They also paid courtesy calls on Mr. Chalermopol Thanchitt, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and on H.E. Ambassador Wiwat

Kunthonthiem, the ambassador attached to Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA), the training arm of the Foreign Ministry. At DVIFA, the delegation was introduced to 24 newly-recruited Thai diplomats, currently undergoing a two-week orientation programme.

This was followed by a visit to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region, where the delegation was briefed on the issues and work carried out by ESCAP.

The delegation was accorded VIP status at an event celebrating the

72nd anniversary of Pondok Bantan with an ASEAN theme, *A Bridge for Muslim Thais towards the ASEAN Community* made possible under the patronage of Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The event was graced by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who presided over the opening ceremony and graciously delivered the keynote address on the education of the private Islamic schools under the royal patronage.

The highlight of the visit was listening to Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad delivering his special address on *The Challenges of Modernity and Globalisation to the ASEAN*

Community in 2015 at a dinner, as well as meeting the charismatic Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

Other programmes were also lined up on the side to give a better view of Thailand at its best as it moves forward in transforming Thailand into a developed country status. Among the places of interest visited were the Vimanmek Mansion, also known as Vimanmek Teak Mansion, a former royal palace located in the Dusit Palace complex as well as the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall which once served as a former reception hall within the Dusit Palace and now serves as a museum and is used on certain state occasions.

Attachment at Embassy of Malaysia in Jakarta, Indonesia

Twelve participants from the DiD programme completed a week-long attachment programme at the Embassy of Malaysia in Jakarta, Indonesia led by Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR.

Jakarta was selected mainly because it is the largest Malaysian Mission abroad, where Malaysia's Permanent Mission to ASEAN is based and where most attachés from the Malaysian Government agencies are represented. The objective of the attachment programme was to provide the participants with the knowledge, exposure and familiarisation with the operations and daily conduct of the embassy as well as the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to ASEAN.

Throughout the attachment programme, the embassy officials imparted their knowledge on administration and finance, consular matters, bilateral relations and politics, customs and immigration, tourism, education as well as ASEAN issues. At the end of their attachment, the participants had a newfound admiration for the Malaysian officers serving abroad who continuously challenge



themselves physically, intellectually and emotionally to defend our national interests while enhancing bilateral and regional relations.

Study visits and dialogue sessions were also conducted; among them were the sessions at the ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (KEMLU) and IDFR's Indonesian counterpart, the Centre for Education and Training (PUSDIKLAT). In addition, the participants were also privileged to

be invited to the launch of the Strategic Review Forum entitled *Peace and Reconciliation in Southeast Asia* where Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono delivered the keynote address.

The attachment programme was both invaluable and crucial to better understand Indonesia – Malaysia's closest neighbour – who is playing an increasingly important role in the diplomatic arena of ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific.

Upcoming Courses / Events at IDFR*

Visit by Foreign Service Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh	2 August 2012
Registration of IDFR-UKM Master in Social Science session 2012/2013	4 August 2012
13th Asian Bioethics Conference	27 - 30 August 2012
Strategic Negotiation for Officials of The Work Groups under The Joint Ministerial Committee for Iskandar Malaysia	3 - 14 September 2012
Strategic Analysis for International Participants (MTCP)	3 - 21 September 2012
Conversational Malay	4 September - 8 November 2012
Orientation Course for Spouses of Malaysian Diplomats (Perks and Privileges; Royal Protocol)	5 September 2012
Mid Career Courses for Diplomats	10 - 22 September 2012
Diplomatic Training Course for Diplomats from the Republic of Libya	10 - 22 September 2012
Orientation Course for Spouses of Malaysian Diplomats (Emotional and Stress Management; Official Entertaining)	19 September 2012
Effective Presentation Skills	25 - 28 September 2012
International Relations Module for DPA Participants 1/2012	1 - 6 October 2012
Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2/2012	1 - 19 October 2012
ASEAN Anniversary Forum	5 October 2012
Diploma in Diplomacy 2012 Graduation Ceremony	8 October 2012
Orientation Course for Spouses of Malaysian Diplomats (Communication Skill; Reception and Official Entertaining-Practicum)	10 October 2012
Building Blocks of Good English	15 - 19 October 2012
Foreign Investment Protection and Domestic Policy Goals	18 October 2012
Orientation Course for Spouses of Malaysian Diplomats (Cooking Demonstration and Practicum)	24 October 2012
Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 4/2012	29 October - 9 November 2012

*Subject to changes



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

July

Noraini, Romancitta Natalie, Roziyana, Syamsul

August

Joyce, Mat Basir, Nina Sharida, Ridzuan, Rosmahyuddin, Raja Azrin, Sapuri, Shermawaty

September

Alif An Naz, Alina, Fairuz Omar, Masri, Norhawati, Sharulbariah, Zaki, Zarina, Zurainee

To our colleagues, who left us with pleasant memories

Rodziah Abdul – joined SUHAKAM

Siti Najmah Zakaria – transferred to Gombak District Office

Jaganathan A/L Krishnasamy – transferred to Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Putrajaya

Abdul Rashid Bidin – transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

Lim Juay Jin, Fara Aida, Yusri

To our colleague, who recently took the vow of matrimony

Azrul Efendy

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