

DIPLOMATIC VOICE

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

ISSN 2289-1277

Diploma in Diplomacy 2014 Graduation Ceremony



address by Dato' Hamzah Zainudin and presentation of diplomas and certificates. The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards for *Top Performers of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Simulation Exercise*, *Director General's Award for Best Speech Writer*, *Deputy Secretary General's Award for Best Presentation Skills*, *Secretary General's Award for Best Leadership* and *Foreign Minister's Award for Overall Best Student*. The evening continued with the vote of

continued on page 30

News Flash

Malaysia Elected Non-Permanent Member of UNSC

On 17 October 2014, Malaysia was elected, together with Angola, New Zealand, Spain and Venezuela, to be a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for two terms beginning 1 January 2015. They will serve until 31 December 2016.

Receiving 187 out of 193 votes and replacing South Korea in the Asia Pacific Group, Malaysia is now one of the 15 countries that make up the Council and will have voting rights. The last time Malaysia sat on the UNSC was for the 1999-2000 term.

The Graduation Ceremony of the Diploma in Diplomacy programme was held on 6 September 2014 at Putrajaya Marriott Hotel. It marked the conclusion of the Diploma in Diplomacy 2014 programme and the completion of the *Regional and International Affairs Module (RIAM)*.

Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, graced the ceremony and presented certificates to the participants. The ceremony was also attended by Dato' Ramlan Ibrahim, Deputy Secretary General of Bilateral Affairs and Dato' Ibrahim Abdullah, Deputy Secretary

General of Management Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, ambassadors and high commissioners, senior officers from the Ministry and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), parents and spouses of the participants and facilitators of the programme. Thirty-two junior diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia received their diploma and six international participants received their certificates of completion for RIAM.

The evening began with welcoming remarks by Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR, followed by

CONTENTS

- 1 Diploma in Diplomacy 2014 Graduation Ceremony
- 2-3 Profile of Prominent Person
- 4-10 Forum
- 11-13 News
- 14-19 In and Around IDFR
- 20-32 News

Find us on
Facebook

Please like IDFR's Facebook page and be informed of upcoming events

Dr. Sufian Jusoh Distinguished Fellow of IDFR



Q: Economic diplomacy utilises the full spectrum of the economic tools of the state to achieve its national interest. Based on your thoughts, how can Malaysian diplomats play their role in ensuring the effectiveness of economic diplomacy in the best interest of Malaysia?

A: Economic diplomacy has been used as a tool to achieve national objectives and national interests by many countries, both by major countries and emerging powers. In the region, we can see the greater utilisation of economic diplomacy by China, India, Korea and Japan and of late by our closest neighbour, Singapore. Economic diplomacy basically involves promotion of national economic interest and the utilisation of one's economic advantage to promote one's interests.

In the case of Malaysia, we have the advantage of being one of the most developed ASEAN Member States and a leading OIC member country. We are also very active in bilateral and multilateral economic forums.

Malaysian diplomats can only play their role in promoting economic diplomacy if there is clear policy guidance from the Government. Economic diplomacy requires more of

a top-down approach. It may also use a bottom-up approach but a top-down approach would be more effective. In this sense, the Government needs to have a clearer approach in the utilisation of economic diplomacy as part of the foreign policy or in achieving foreign policy objectives. At the moment, from my observation, Malaysia requires a more active rather than passive approach and we still need to play catch-up compared to our neighbours. My main worry is that we may not be able to be effective if we continue with our fragmented approach.

Q: In your opinion, how should Malaysia play its role in meeting the objectives of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint?

A: Malaysia is one of the leading economies in ASEAN and is going to be the Chairman of ASEAN in 2015, which is an important and historic year for ASEAN. AEC Blueprint is a very comprehensive blueprint involving ten countries with at least four different economic developments. At one spectrum, you have Singapore and at another spectrum, you have Myanmar, which is at the early stage of economic liberalisation. Malaysia has to be able to play the role of a leader. Malaysia has to be able to ascertain the multi-speed nature of different econo-

mies in ASEAN. Therefore, Malaysia should encourage ASEAN Member States who are ready and are high in the AEC scorecard to move forward to lead the realisation of the AEC, and at the same time, to continue assisting those Member States that require longer time to comply with their commitments. Thus, ASEAN will be able to achieve the AEC in 2015, albeit with at least two-speed implementation.

Nevertheless, Malaysia needs to lead the compliance and reform process in the newer ASEAN Member States. Malaysia needs to coordinate with other more developed ASEAN Member States, international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank Group, and donor countries to assist these Member States. Malaysia may also galvanise its own experts – we have many experts in Malaysia such as those at the universities and retired diplomats and officials who may be appointed in different roles to assist those Member States who require support.

Q: In facing globalisation, what are your thoughts on strategies that Malaysia should practise in strengthening its economic standing?

A: This is a very broad and difficult question to answer. First, we have to realise that we are a country of only 30 million people with natural resources but with limited internal market. Second, we are also one of the more developed countries in ASEAN but unfortunately facing the middle income trap whilst our peers and neighbours are moving fast, faster than us.

My thoughts on this are:

a. We have to pursue efficiency-seeking and export-seeking Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). In this sense, we have been quite successful in promoting our country as FDI destination but as I was quoted by the media earlier,



we are no longer the darling of FDI in the region. We are lagging behind Indonesia and Thailand and of course Singapore which receives about 50% of all FDI in ASEAN. However, we need to continue with the approach of entering into FTAs at the bilateral and regional level, whilst playing a prominent role at the WTO and ASEAN.

b. We have to retain talents and promote Malaysia as a destination for talents. My thought is very clear on this. We promote Malaysia more and we pursue foreign talents or Malaysians abroad to come home. However, we are not retaining talents. Many of those who do not go abroad feel that they are being alienated in their own

c. We have to promote our home-grown technologies and SMEs to go and invest abroad. It is normal in developed economies that SMEs will move into another market in order to seek efficiency and new markets. There has to be a proper system to promote SMEs abroad. We have to remember that SMEs do not necessarily carry negative connotations. Many SMEs offer high technology and high value products and services.

d. We have to find our niche and pursue the niche diligently with a more coherent and less fragmented approach. We have to reduce the sense of territoriality and duplications which lead to wasting of resources.

e. Malaysians cannot rely on the Government alone. Malaysians as a whole have to change their world-view. Many are still reliant on hand-outs and continue to rely on the Government to do business. *Budaya tongkat* has to be eliminated if we want to be successful in the international arena.

hance its reputation and be internationally recognised.

A: My thoughts on this are:

a. IDFR should continue with its current programmes to provide a multitude of training courses for the various levels of diplomats in the Malaysian diplomatic service.

b. IDFR should offer courses to foreign diplomats. This has already been done but could still be enhanced through courses such as “summer or winter” academy, master classes and joint-PhD programmes.

c. To produce research and position papers on various aspects of foreign policies.



country. Many of these experts are as good or better than their foreign counterparts. There has to be concerted efforts to ensure talents at home are properly appreciated and compensated. Our pay scheme is still very low compared to more developed economies in compensating the same talents. We have to provide facilities for the local talents to continue to flourish. I am a Malaysian who came back after many years abroad and continue working as a consultant and advisor with various international organisations. I can see the difference in the way Malaysians (especially Malaysian Government agencies) treat Malaysian talents and foreigners, i.e. we give more respect to foreigners even if we have talents of the same or better quality in the same fields.

Q: What do you suggest IDFR do to create more public awareness on IDFR public lecture series and other events?

A: My suggestions are:

a. There has to be a higher level of visibility in the sense that IDFR may need to increase promotion of the events through TV and radio stations.

b. IDFR may also arrange special slots on TV and radio to promote Malaysia's diplomacy and at the same time, to promote IDFR as a leading diplomacy institution in Malaysia.

Q: What are your thoughts on IDFR's role as the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Please provide recommendations for IDFR to en-



Dr. Sufian Jusoh is a Distinguished Fellow of IDFR, Senior Fellow and Associate Professor at Faculty of Law, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and also Senior External Fellow of World Trade Institute, Switzerland.



Address by Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia at the Graduation Ceremony of Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2014

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi
Wa Barakatuh,
Salam 1Malaysia and good evening

YBhg. Dato' Ramlan Ibrahim,

YBhg. Dato' Md Hussin Nayan,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and
High Commissioners,

Senior Officials of Wisma Putra,

Graduating Class of DiD 2014, parents
and spouses,

International Participants,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you this evening in honouring the Graduates of the DiD Class of 2014 and the six international participants from China, The Philippines, Cuba, Chile, Libya and Ecuador who have successfully completed their Regional and International Affairs module.

On this happy occasion, I want to firstly acknowledge the efforts of IDFR for conducting this special programme for our junior diplomats. I certainly believe that professional education and training are essential to raise the overall performance of our Foreign Service officers. This need is made even more acute by the shifting dynamics of international relations, characterised by geo-strategic changes, rapid technological changes and the need for leadership to deal with the myriad of international issues. The very nature of the Foreign Service, with frequent reassignments and the constant need to keep abreast with the most current knowledge further raises the importance of continuous professional training for both new and serving diplomats.

The globalization of international relations, the internationalization of national policy areas and the growing

awareness that global problems require global solutions signify new important functions for diplomacy. Diplomats have become managers of globalization. They are tasked to manage the global village in which we live. Foreign trade, foreign investments, disarmament, arms regulations, the fight against international terrorism, trafficking and drug abuse, the protection of human rights, climate change, peacekeeping, peace making are but just a few that they manage. Apparently, the task list for these managers of globalization are endless. Diplomats need to follow developments in these fields proactively, to shape them, to involve in public discourse and to provide sound advice to our leaders. Conducting diplomacy in a globalised and interconnected world has become more important than ever and diplomats need to truly understand their roles and how to operate.

Being one of the five founding members of ASEAN, Malaysia has been a prime mover with ideas and initiatives that helped shape ASEAN into what it is today. Malaysia will also have the opportunity to shape ASEAN when we assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015 – a year that will also mark the launching of an ASEAN Community. But our work does not end there – Malaysia is also responsible for charting ASEAN's post 2015 course and its future success.

With the Chairmanship in mind, it is important for our junior diplomats to gear up and play their roles at raising the profile of ASEAN and ensure a successful Chairmanship for Malaysia. With these fresh minds and talents, let us hope that Malaysia could sail through the challenging year ahead and contribute significantly towards building a better future for ASEAN.

Dear Graduates,

Possessing a Diploma in Diplomacy is just the beginning. The real challenge

of your life as a diplomat starts now – you have to carve your diplomatic career, and set tangible goals to accomplish. It is worth remembering that the ultimate measure of a person is not where he/she stands in moments of comfort but where he/she stands during challenging situations. So be bold and break new ground. Be a trail blazer rather than a follower. The path of transformation for Wisma Putra and the direction of Malaysia's foreign policy post-2020 can use promising young new talents to pave the way for our beloved country to attain higher global stature.

To ensure that you are fully equipped to embark on your future diplomatic careers, you have to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme. But the learning does not stop here. You must continue to develop yourselves professionally with new ideas, new skills and new knowledge. Prepare yourself. Learn, unlearn and re-learn.

I was informed by the Director General that all 32 of you have done exceeding well throughout the programme. Many have shown excellent traits of a good diplomat even at this juncture. My congratulations to all of you for your stellar achievement. May each and every one of you enjoy an exciting, fulfilling and successful career in Wisma Putra. Let me also take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the international participants for their successful participation in the Regional and International Affairs Module.

May I lastly, convey my thanks to Dato' Hussin and the officers of IDFR for a job well done. May the fruits of your labour bear a new generation of diplomats that will spur our Ministry and the nation to greater heights.

Thank you.

Welcoming Remarks by Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR at the Graduation Ceremony of Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2014

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi
Wa Barakatuh,

Salam 1Malaysia and good evening

YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

YBhg. Dato' Ramlan Ibrahim,

YBhg. Dato' Ibrahim Abdullah,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and
High Commissioners,

Graduating Class of DID 2014, parents
and spouses,

Foreign Participants,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of IDFR, I am indeed pleased to welcome every one this evening to share this special occasion with us. We are especially grateful that many of the parents and spouses are also here to witness and celebrate the graduation of their talented sons and daughters. My sincere thanks also to Dato' Ramlan, Senior Wisma Putra officers, the speakers and trainers for your presence.

As the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IDFR conducts learning programmes at various levels for the Ministry's officers. Among these, the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) is considered the flagship course – one which is truly important, useful and critical for our junior diplomats as they seek to enhance their competency and professionalism at the beginning of their career.

Started in 2010, the mandatory DiD programme is constantly reviewed and upgraded in order to ensure our junior diplomats are equipped with in-depth knowledge, the right mindset, skills and attitude before embarking on their first overseas assignment

at our Embassies abroad.

The DiD programme is designed to groom the participants in diverse areas of diplomacy including soft skills such as English and foreign language, protocol and international negotiations while strengthening writing, presentation and communication skills. Alongside this, they are taught substantive subjects covering relevant, current and key issues of interest to Malaysia at the national, regional and international levels.

Accordingly, the approach taken to foster learning and better retention is carefully considered. Throughout the programme, the junior diplomats are taught varied modules through blended learning including panel discussions, intellectual discourse, media engagement, attachment at Malaysia's Embassies abroad in addition to lectures and research assignments. This is all aimed at developing knowledgeable, versatile and well-rounded diplomats ready to handle the "bread and butter" issues of diplomacy as well as to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to now address our DiD graduates by quoting former US President, Woodrow Wilson, who once said "Every man sent out from a learning institution should be a man of his nation as well as a man of his time." As such, you are the precious assets of the Ministry and the nation. You will inherit our nation and will determine our foreign policy direction in the years ahead. I urge you to go forth with this strong sense of responsibility and carry out your duty with uncompromising integrity, ethics and moral values which are the hallmarks of a true diplomat.

Please also know that you are indeed very fortunate to be given this opportunity. When I started my service more than 30 years ago, we did not have the privilege to learn from the practitioners

and the specialists. Neither did we have the chance to listen to some of the best minds in diplomacy and international relations such as Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Dr. Farish Noor and former Prime Minister of Bosnia, Haris Silajdzic, to name a few. I am certain you have taken valuable notes and lessons from these distinguished personalities and will utilize them meaningfully.

Finally, I wish to congratulate both DiD graduates and the international participants on your success. The parents and spouses of the DiD participants in particular, should be extremely proud of their achievement as the programme has indeed been compact, rigorous and demanding. The fact that you have excelled shows your mettle and preparedness to handle the demanding career ahead. I trust you will also bring with you cherished memories of the time you shared with both your friends and colleagues as well as with the IDFR fraternity. We wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Thank you.

Lessons from the Arab Spring: Expectations and Current Realities

Contributed by Elmira Akhmetova

The recent outbreak of the Arab Spring is a manifestation of the absence of good governance including its main components such as democracy, moderation, liberalism and justice in the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries. It is often identified as the birth of a “collective Arab consciousness.” This revolutionary wave of mass demonstrations and protests (both violent and non-violent), riots and civil wars brought a significant change to the entire region. The both positive and negative facets of the Arab Spring have extensively been elaborated by scores of academicians, political scientists, journalists and writers. In this occasion, let me outline the most essential four lessons from the Arab Spring.

Firstly, the full episode of the Arab Spring confirmed the strength of the will of the masses. Upheavals across the MENA region were mainly sparked due to the negligence of citizens’ rights by their respective governments. For decades, the region has been exploited by those who hunted for controlling the resources and wealth of the nations, with no concern for their people’s will. The citizens’ rights for well-being, protection and human security as well as to participate in decision-making processes were largely ignored. They were not given any opportunity to amend the unfair systems through peaceful means endorsed by the *Shari’ah* such as by participation in fair elections, consultation, the assessment of the conducts of the government and freedom of expression. The MENA population is exhausted from the unending cycle of despotism, economic and political exploitation, poverty and public cruelty. They opted for change and certainly, for a quick and substantial change.

Besides, the Arab Spring manifested the potential of the youth. Already in March 2011, in the early days of the Arab Spring, Declan McCullagh illustrated the political disruption in the MENA region as the “sight of corrupt

old Arab tyrants being toppled at the behest of a new generation of young idealists, inspired by democracy, united by Facebook and excited by the notion of opening up to a wider world.” No doubt, youths are the most optimistic and assertive stratum of every society, and they played the major role in the Middle Eastern transformation. In addition, the youths represent a significant portion of the MENA population. At present, more than half of the Muslim population is under the age of 25 and the needs and wants of such a significant portion of society should not be neglected. For decades, however, Arab youth remained marginalised and isolated and excluded from decision-making process. They have been the most frustrated stratum in their societies with the methods of governance.

Secondly, the ongoing political transformation and the recent elections did not mark the end to post-colonial dictatorship and despotism in the MENA region. The outcomes of the Arab Spring did not signify the arrival of a Western-type of democracy and liberalism in the Muslim world either. Rather, the Arab Spring heavily triggered structural changes that shook the Arab swamp. Before bearing any benefits, it generated widespread chaos, civil wars, economic depression, bloodshed and insecurity. It has now opened a door that could lead toward either stability and improvement or regression and destruction. Evils of sectarianism and tribalism have appeared very clearly and are now threatening societal and state unity in the entire region. The conflict in Syria for instance, which began as peaceful demonstrations against the Ba’ath regime under President Bashar Al-Assad, soon turned into a civil war with sectarian and tribal dimensions. According to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights report, at least 160,000 people were killed in the Syrian conflict between March 2011 and May 2014, many of whom were civilians and children. The real figure is likely to be much higher. Ceasefire attempts by the United

Nations and the 2012 peace plan of Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General, practically collapsed, with infractions of the ceasefire by both sides resulting in thousands of casualties.

According to Sarkis Abu-Zayd, a Lebanese journalist and editor in chief of the *Tahawoulat newspaper*, the conflicting parties in Syria are bound by tribal rather than religious or sectarian cohesion. In the cases of Libya and Yemen too, with the Arab Spring, tribal conflicts that were inherent in the social fabric floated to the surface. As Abu-Zayd pointed out, tribal clashes in various Libyan regions have today reached a point that threatens secession and the establishment of a tribal federation which will likely be accompanied with chaos, massive loss and terror.

In Egypt, the earliest attempts of democracy also failed. Field Marshal Abdel Fattah el-Sisi overthrew the first democratically elected president in the entire history of Egypt, exterminated those who opposed him and paved the way for his absolute rule. Ironically, Sisi claims that his actions against the Egyptian people were all done in response to the demands of the Egyptian people. A new cycle of military dictatorship might become a reality in Libya as well.

It seems that rapid political and social transformations are commonly not for the benefit of the people. People in the post-Spring countries are today subjected to widespread social and economic instability, poverty, injustice and discrimination. Radicalisation and violence are significantly increasing in these countries as well. According to the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR), since the 3 July military coup until 11 November 2013, 2,665 people were killed in Egypt. Statistics up until 3 December also show that as many as 16,000 were injured in violence which swept the country. 13,145 arrests took place in 718 incidents. It seems that the change of a ruler or government alone

may not improve the situation and establish democratic systems.

The Arab Spring is still unfolding and the uncertainties will be clarified in the course of time. Yet, at this moment, its negative consequences such as widespread bloodshed, human insecurity, injustice, nepotism, dismay and many other social ills are exceeding the positive ones. Healing of the hurts of the Arab Spring requires a prolonged period of time.

Thirdly, it appears that the implanting of western-style democratic mechanisms alone may not cure the ills of the Muslim world. Stability and progress in the region depends mainly on the aptitude of the governments to create a milieu of public trust, devotion, appreciation and sincerity between the political elite and the people. To succeed, the governments should learn to respond to the needs and benefits of their own people. They should find effective and quick solutions to economic and social problems of their people. Considerations of public welfare and public interest as well as protection of the rights of the citizens and human dignity are the main solution for stability in the MENA region.

Lastly, I strongly believe that Islam played no major role in initiating the Arab Spring. The entire movement was led by civil society, especially the youth and it was widely spread across all strata of the population including non-Muslims and atheists in their demand for accountability and good governance. The Arab Spring, yet, opened a door for the Islamic parties to come to power in a democratic way through the ballot box. Their message that Islam stands for just, accountable and consultative governance became the most essential aspirations of the masses who were suffering from suppression and dictatorship for many long years. Public demand of the Arab nations at that stage, in fact, consisted not in choosing between secularism and an Islamic state but between corrupt governments and a clear

economic agenda on how to attain social justice. The challenges, however, faced by the newly elected Islamic parties in Egypt, Tunisia or Libya were too heavy and complicated. So far, the Renaissance Party of Tunisia alone is partly successful in facing these challenges. The so-called "neo-fundamentalists" lacked experience, time and internal as well as international support to find effective and quick solutions to economic and social problems of their peoples. They were unable to implement the principles and objectives of governance as outlined in the Qur'an.

International actors also played a role in the failure of the Islamists, especially in Egypt. In fact, the West has perused its interests in the region both openly and covertly for decades, while endlessly maintaining that it calls for individual freedom, democratic values and respect for public will. As Ahmad Chaker Jomaa, head of Journalism for the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS), points out, the West would much prefer dealing with tyrannical military dictatorships (as shown by their historical support for Khalifa Haftar of Libya), rather than dealing with governments which are elected to represent the will of their people. It is why the international community turned a blind eye when the democratically elected head of state, Mohamed Morsi, was so ruthlessly overthrown in Egypt by military coup. The present political scene of the world reveals that we are witnessing a period of turmoil with the re-distribution of natural resources and strategic regions among the super powers. People living in these underdeveloped areas will once more suffer because of the rich resources or strategic locations of their native lands.

It appears that the genuine desire of the majority of the Arab people in the wave of upheavals across the region has been for the establishment of good governments, which will enforce justice, equality and harmony, through democratic means. Islamic principles of governance have a potential to

guide the people in building successful democratic nations in the region. Yet, without an alliance with other secularist parties of the country and the full exertion for the Islamic principles in governance such as pluralism, egalitarianism and freedom of speech and expression, the electoral victory of the Islamist parties alone will not provide substantial solutions to problems of the MENA region. The challenges which the MENA governments are facing today are immense and a quick and proper response from the authorities is urgently required. The concept, principles and structure of governance including its philosophy and fundamentals, needs to be reviewed and comprehended by the authorities.



Dr Elmira Akhmetova, a Tatar scholar from Russia, is a Research Fellow at IAIS Malaysia and a part-time lecturer at Department of History, IIUM. She recently completed her PhD research on [Pan-Islamism in Russia](#) at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). In 2005, she joined the Centre for Islamic Studies (ISAM), Istanbul, Turkey, as a visiting scholar, working on the project titled [Musa Jarullah: Career, Scholarship and Impact](#). Between June 2008 and January 2009, she served as a part-time research assistant at IAIS Malaysia, studying history of Islam in Russia and current developments, which are reflected in her monograph titled [Islam in Russia: Historical Facts and Current Developments](#) (IAIS Occasional Paper). She has published a number of academic articles, book chapters and monographs on the issues of Islamic history, interfaith dialogue, Islamic political thought, peace and civilisational studies.

Indonesia's Maritime Boundaries with Singapore and The Philippines: Issues for Consideration by Malaysia

Contributed by Jalila Abdul Jalil

This commentary provides an overview of the recent maritime boundaries delimitation issues between Indonesia and Singapore in the eastern part of the Straits of Singapore and between Indonesia and The Philippines in the Sulawesi Sea and their effect on Malaysia's maritime boundaries.

Indonesia and Singapore Maritime Boundaries in the Eastern Part of the Straits of Singapore

On 3 September 2014, Indonesia and Singapore signed a "Treaty on the Delimitation of the Territorial Seas of the Two Countries in the Eastern Part of the Straits of Singapore." The maritime boundaries delimitation line stretching along 5.1 nautical miles (nm) arising from the agreement, is an extension of the territorial sea border line agreed to on 25 May 1973. In 2009, both countries signed an agreement relating to the delimitation of the territorial seas in the western part of the Straits of Singapore.

The 2014 boundary line treaty covers the area between Batam (Indonesia) and Changi (Singapore) and the 2009 line between Sultan Shoal and Nipa Island (point 1, 1A, 1B and 1C) while the 1973 line covers Singapore and Indonesia's Pulau Batam (point 1 to 6).

The Straits of Malacca and Singapore is one of the world's most critical navigational bottlenecks and establishing boundaries in these areas is important for safety of navigation.

Referring to the 2014 treaty, the Indonesian Presidential Staff for Foreign Affairs, Teuku Faizasyah mentioned that it "will bring real benefits for Indonesia and Singapore in order to maintain sovereignty and enforce the sea law between both countries; to improve cooperation in the fields of shipping safety, maritime and fisheries; and also the cross-border crime mitigation in Singapore Strait".

Although the territorial sea boundary between Indonesia and Singapore in the eastern and western part of the

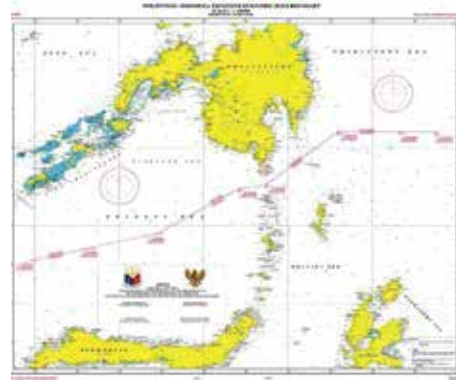
Straits of Singapore has been agreed, eventually to complete (close the gap) the maritime boundary delimitation line, Indonesia and Singapore need to negotiate with Malaysia in the western and eastern part of the Straits of Singapore. In this regard, two tri-junction points will eventually be established on both sides of the Straits of Singapore. Furthermore, Malaysia and Singapore need to delimit the area of Pedra Branca/Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge.

Indonesia and The Philippines Maritime Boundaries Delimitation in the Sulawesi Sea

Another issue of importance is the maritime boundaries delimitation between Indonesia and The Philippines in The Sulawesi Sea. On 19 May 2014, Indonesia and The Philippines signed the "Agreement between the Republic of The Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia Concerning the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Boundary" in the Sulawesi Sea. The EEZ Agreement is the first maritime boundary treaty for The Philippines which both countries have been negotiating on the delimitation of the overlapping EEZ for the past 20 years.

The maritime boundary delimitation is significant as both countries are archipelagic states as stipulated under Article 46 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. Under UNCLOS, the EEZ extends 200 nm from a coastal state's baselines in which the state has sovereign rights to explore and exploit, conserve and manage natural resources such as fisheries resources and oil and gas, etc. As for the delimitation, Article 74 of UNCLOS states "the delimitation of the EEZ between States with opposite or adjacent coasts shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, as referred to in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution." In this regard, The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) mentioned that the two countries

reached the agreement on the basis of principles of international laws including UNCLOS 1982.



Map showing the exclusive economic boundary between The Philippines and Indonesia

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) (2014)

The Philippines National Mapping and Resource Information Authority mentioned that the EEZ boundary line in this area is composed of eight turning points and has a total length of 627.51 nm cutting across the Sulawesi Sea and has varied distances from the archipelagic baselines of both countries.

The DFA stated that "With a clearly demarcated EEZ boundary as guided by the official chart, Philippine fishing vessels and fishermen will be able to cooperate and undertake livelihood activities in the Philippine EEZ knowing where the Indonesian EEZ begins". Also, "Coastguard and law enforcement authorities of The Philippines and Indonesia will now know the maximum extent of their respective EEZ thereby implement rules and regulations with clear jurisdictional area."

The DFA also stated that "The agreement is a milestone for Philippine and Indonesia relations as the EEZ boundary will open opportunities for closer cooperation in the preservation and protection of the rich marine environment in the area, increased trade, and enhanced maritime security."

Pertaining to the Indonesian and

Philippine boundary in the Sulawesi Sea, during MIMA's talk on the EEZ boundary between Malaysia and The Philippines, Dr. Vivian L. Forbes mentioned that terminal point 1 between Indonesia and The Philippines is located within Malaysia's continental shelf boundary. Perhaps Malaysia could study the coordinates and analyse whether any of the coordinates are located within Malaysia's boundaries (1979 Map). If it is, Malaysia should register its protest regarding those coordinates.

Conclusion

The issues concerning both Indonesia and Singapore maritime boundaries delimitation in the eastern part of the Straits of Singapore as well as Indonesia and The Philippines in the Sulawesi Sea need to be studied by Malaysia to help resolve the boundaries within this area. In resolving the boundaries, issues such as enforcement of regulations, fisheries, security and navigation will become much clearer and more effective.



Jalila Abdul Jalil is a Senior Researcher with the Centre for the Straits of Malacca, Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) and previously served with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. She graduated with an LL.B (Hons) Bachelor of Laws from the University of Glamorgan, Wales, United Kingdom and is an alumni of the Rhodes Oceans Scholar in Law of the Sea, Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy. She is also a Member of the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple, Inns of Court, London. Her research interests include law of the sea, maritime boundaries issues and legal matters pertaining to International Maritime Organisation Conventions.

Positioning *Halal* Industry as the New Catalyst for Malaysia's Economic Impact on Foreign Countries

Contributed by Ahmad Badri Abdullah

Halal is an Islamic legal classification, which generally denotes the type of options permissible to Muslims. Previously it was used to describe meat products, which have been prepared with specific guidelines. However, current developments exhibit *halal* industry in a much broader scope as it encompasses a wide range of commodities that contain animal byproducts including cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Recent developments have lent clarity on the rapid growth of *halal* industry as a mainstream phenomenon attracting diverse range of religious groups and commercial organisations. It is currently valued around USD 2.3 trillion. Scholars have suggested that these developments have created a good opportunity for Malaysia to work on a 'post-liberal *halal* strategy' by targeting the segments of economy and society in selected locations world-wide where Muslims are the minority or a narrow majority population. The failure of some modern nation states to cater for the demands from the outsider groups within their communities has given rise to the transnational form of governance, whereby Malaysia as a leading country in *halal* industry could play significant role in developing a new global force in the pursuit of gaining socio-economic benefits.

By referring to repeated wars and economic crises in the 1990s and 2000s, it is evident now that neither the liberalism nor neo-liberal ideology has led to a sustained economic recovery or favoured democratic consolidation. Instead, both the economy and democracy have undergone a period of unprecedented volatility that culminated in the global crash of 2008 and 2009. Amid the current decline of global financial institutions, a distinctly post-liberal politics is coming to the fore. Adrian Pabst elucidates that politically, post-liberalism advocates pluralising the state by finding the balance within the network of relations between government, parliament, courts and civil societies as well as by delegating power to regional, local, communal levels as well as wider global institutions. Economically, it proclaims for the opening of markets that shifts the emphasis from short-term profits and pure price competition towards longer-term, sustainable profitability and quality-based competition in pursuit of a wider social benefits.

John Lever explicates the emerging force of post-liberalism as a response to the crisis of multiculturalism at the heart of globalisation has given the best opportunity to Malaysia to map out its own 'post-liberal *halal* economic strategy' by appealing to the challenges and experiences of the

Muslims minorities in European countries as well as the other part of the globe. The post-liberal aggregate does not imply that the edifice of modern nation-state totally disappears. However, it somehow ceases to adequately represent itself. This may well be due to the attempt taken by certain parts of the state to participate in the broader social clusters. These clusters might involve trade unions, local business companies, transnational companies, non-governmental organisations, or international governments. This very process is currently visible within ambit of the international *halal* market.

Nevertheless, post-liberalism feeds transnationalism by providing new form of 'hegemony' within the transnational sphere so as to offer solutions for the long-standing crises in the global society.

In recent decades, Malaysia has been adopting a double-edge economic strategy to posit itself at the focal point in the international *halal* economy; i) to develop the country as a global *halal* hub through the expansion of the state-led certification apparatus, and ii) the involvement in the process of developing the global *halal* standard for the 57 countries within the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). For Lever, the former step is more

crucial to Malaysia for its post-liberal economic ambitions could be materialised. This measure has incorporated a number of mega projects and events such as the first Malaysian International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) in 2004, the establishment of the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC) in 2006, as well as the partnership of the state religious apparatus, which is represented by the Malaysian Department of Islamic Development (JAKIM), with Nestle, the giant Swiss food producer.

The above mentioned strategies have allowed Malaysia to draw into the international *halal* market as a new 'hegemonic' force within the transnational sphere. This global drive manifests itself in two major forms of foreign economic influences and being the reference on *halal* certification. For instance, the plan to establish a link between the *halal* designated Port Klang Free Trade Zone with the *halal* designated Port of Rotterdam, Netherlands is to enhance the Malaysia's economic influence in Europe. In term of certification, the National *Halal* Food Group (NHFG) for instance has received an award from the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce for introducing *halal* certificates into the mainstream supermarkets in the United Kingdom. Parallel situations are also evident in current development in France and Germany. Quite recently, an agreement has been achieved by the Malaysian Port Klang Free Trade Zone with *halal* companies in Ningxia, China. Through this cooperation, the China-Malaysia *Halal* E-commercial Center and the International Halal Certificate Service Center will be established in Ningxia. This will definitely widen Malaysia's sphere of influence to the largest *halal* food exporter within Asia.

These influences have eventually culminated into the development of new cultures of consumption and the identity claims by Muslim communities across countries. Johan Fisher concludes that Malaysia's attempt of becoming the leading player within the global *halal* industry has developed

the *halal* sensibilities across urban spaces throughout the globe.

An elementary instance of this *halal* benchmark 'hegemony' could be identified in the polemic of animal stunning before slaughter. From 2008, Malaysia has been actively involved in the partnership with the OIC to develop the international *halal* standard whereby within decades both entities were totally against the stunning procedure. In 2010, the OIC's Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah surprisingly announced the permissibility of such measure. This opinion has however been reluctantly followed by Malaysia's certification regime. Even though it does accommodate the pre-slaughtering stunning procedures, the measure is not taken without some strict conditions. Interestingly, the National *Halal* Food Group (NHFG) in the UK, who manages to obtain recognition from its Malaysian counterpart, issues the *halal* certificates only to specialist stores whereby non-stunned meats are off the shelves.

Despite *halal* food, Malaysia has currently developed the internationally recognised standard for the other type of products ranging from pharmaceuticals, vitamins, toiletries, to nutrients and oils. This will allow for further promotion of *halal* as an inclusive global concept by which Malaysia's global influence, rendered by the post-liberal political surrounding, might be considerably enhanced.

Furthermore, as Jonathan A.J. Wilson suggests, Islamic finance should also be viewed as part and parcel of the *halal* industry, namely, *halal* finance. Nonetheless, he argues whilst the *halal* commodities need to satisfy 100 percent of *halal* requirements, so as to be granted with a *halal* logo, the current situation of Islamic banking and finance services are substantially different. In order to overcome this predicament, he suggests that Islamic finance should be taking the lead in the *halal* industry. The convergence of Islamic finance services and *halal* markets will turn out to be

people-driven or people-centric economic catalysts. This is possible, Rushdi Siddiqi contends, as the former is looking for compliant opportunities and the latter is looking for compliant financing. Thereby, the role of ethics could be enhanced within the Islamic financial institutions through the support of *halal* local businesses, especially in providing the alternative financial assistance for them to export to the emerging Muslim world markets. As a result of this convergence, non-Muslim countries with Muslim minority populations ranging from United Kingdom, Singapore, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, France and Australia, that are now hubs for Islamic finance services, could possibly emerge as the new hubs for *halal* industry as well. Malaysia, with its credible reputations within these two important economic sectors along with its existing 'hegemonic' influence within the new post-liberal contexts, might be able to play a vital role to achieve the intended convergence of the various branches of *halal* industry.



Ahmad Badri Abdullah is a Research Fellow at IAIS Malaysia, with a focus on maqasid al-shari'ah (the higher objective of Shari'ah), usul al-fiqh, and contemporary Islamic jurisprudence discourse,

particularly in the subject of systems thinking and its application in Islamic philosophy of law. After obtaining his degree in Shari'ah (UM), he was attached to the School of Humanities, USM and then Department of Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh, Academy of Islamic Studies University Malaya as a graduate research assistant and tutor. He taught various subjects in Shari'ah studies including the Introduction to Shari'ah Studies, Fiqh al-Ikhtilaf (The Art of Disagreement in Islam), Fiqh al-Jinayah (Islamic Criminal Jurisprudence), 'Urf (custom), and Maslahah (public interest). He is currently pursuing his PhD in the study of maslahah, maqasid al-shari'ah and their relation to systems thinking and philosophy.

Interview with Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR on Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) Programme

Q: The DiD programme is conducted for six months and is specially designed for the young diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (MFA). Through this training programme, what are the expectations of the Ministry towards the young diplomats?

A: The MFA expects our institute to groom our trainees to become a better officer, a better diplomat, a better leader, a better husband, a better wife and basically a better person in general. That is the first aspect of it. The second aspect is to provide them with the opportunity to acquire new skills and to polish their other skills. We assume that they already have learnt some skills during their Diploma in Public Management (DPA) programme and also after undergoing certain phases in their life. The other aspect is to motivate and encourage them to improve and enhance their knowledge in the areas that they are interested in. Not just to enhance the amount of knowledge but also the level of knowledge. Those are the three expectations aside from the normal hard and soft skills.

Q: What are the important elements contained in the programme to help enhance the participants' knowledge and skills especially in performing their duties abroad and exercising public diplomacy?

A: Well, I mentioned about hard skills and soft skills. We try to focus on

those things. Communication skills are also important when it comes to persuading and negotiating with other people. Communication skills which include speaking, conversing, writing and presenting are vital for them to become an analytical and thinking person on the subject area. To do that, they must have language skills. Being a Malaysian diplomatic officer, our first languages is English. English proficiency is a must and then we can provide them with the second and third languages. In addition to that, we also train them to have abilities to debate as well as to present ideas and concepts, so that others can understand. Another important skill is leadership. Leadership does not only mean to lead people but also to be able to work in a team. With regard to this, they must be thirsty and ready for knowledge, and must widen their horizon. This openness concept would assist them to become a better person and it also does not mean that they cannot reject. Being a diplomat, they have to sharpen those skills so that when they are posted abroad, they can work without much supervision.

Q: What is the most important or highlighted module of the programme?

A: Another aspect of being a diplomat is to inculcate oneself to be a disciplined person. Discipline does not only mean adherence to rules and regulations but doing the right things for one's nation. When they are living abroad especially, they should have

the self discipline so that they would not be swayed because of the different surrounding and environment. When they are appointed as ambassadors, there is nobody above them to give command and the ministry also would not give directions. It is a very demanding job to be a diplomat.

Q: In your opinion, what are the areas of the programme that need to be improved in future?

A: We have covered most of the areas that need to be done. To improve, perhaps, we have to find a better approach to impart those knowledge and skills. However, this is a common problem for training and learning institutes where there is a difficulty in ensuring and monitoring the trainees to apply and make use of those knowledge and skills in their career.

Q: Please share your thoughts with the young diplomats in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

A: The most important thing in being a diplomat is they must be passionate and sincere in what they do because that is where the commitment comes in. They are on call 24 hours especially when they are at post and when they are appointed as duty officers at the ministry.

Interview with Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR on Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) Programme

Q: Please share the background of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) Programme.

A: The DiD started in 2010. However, it is not actually a new programme. At the beginning, even in 1984, it was a Certificate programme. Of course the

format has changed and evolved. In 2010, IDFR decided that a more comprehensive programme should be conducted and obtained approval for a Diploma level programme. A duration of six months was selected because it was considered a minimal period to cover the modules necessary

to develop basic skills for diplomats.

Q: Please share your thoughts as to how the young diplomats participate in this programme.

A: I can only talk about the period since I started here which is 2012. We

had officers who were enthusiastic and fully participated in all the programmes. This is what we target for our diplomats. They were also versatile. Of course there were different achievers in different batches but generally speaking, the majority performed well.

Q: What are the criteria that they have to have in order to do their work as young diplomats?

A: This applies to all officers and not just the young diplomats from Wisma Putra. A good officer must have the right attitude and thirst for knowledge. There are many good officers but some are not committed. The basic thing is the expectations of the superior officers and whether the officers can fulfil those expectations. As they go up the ranks, they will be able to learn but there must be willingness to do so.

Q: How do the Ministry and IDFR evaluate the performance of the participants? Would you mind sharing the performance or evaluation process and awards, if any?

A: The evaluation process is transparent and objective. We have formal evaluation where we evaluate their leadership, writing skills and research papers. We even get the involvement of our Distinguished Fellows to evaluate the research papers. In IDFR,

every Friday morning, the senior officers would have a session with the officers and they need to prepare the reflection papers incorporating their thoughts and creativity. We have a panel comprising Wisma Putra and IDFR officers for certain modules and together, we evaluate them. Before the graduation, we have a certification meeting which is also attended by representatives from the Public Service Department and Wisma Putra to discuss the results. We do give out awards to give recognition and as a tool to ensure that they are serious and focused throughout the programme. The award categories are (i) *Top Student* (ii) *Leadership Award* (iii) *Best Speech Writer* (iv) *Presentation Papers/Doing Emcee* and (v) *Award for Best United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Simulation*. For the *Best UNSC Performers' Award*, we invite international participants to participate in the *Regional and International Affairs module (RIAM)* and evaluation is done by our former and very senior UN representative.

Q: Will their performance affect their career path in the future; for instance, the placement in the Ministry and the country where they will be posted?

A: We evaluate and prepare a report for each of them and send it to the Human Resource (HR) Department. The HR department will decide their placement based on their strengths,

weaknesses and abilities. Their performance during the DiD programme would mark their career path in Wisma Putra. But the pinnacle for the diplomatic career is when an officer is appointed as Ambassador. This not only signifies recognition by the Ministry but also by the Government and Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Q: One of the modules under the programme is foreign languages. Will that have an impact on where they are posted later in their career?

A: Not at the moment, but I would certainly say that having another language would be an added advantage and certainly encouraged. During the DiD programme, participants pursue different foreign languages, namely, Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish and French. After they graduate, they have to make the time to pursue the foreign languages such that they master it. However, English proficiency should be their main focus and they have to continuously improve it.

Q: Do you have any professional advice for our young diplomats?

A: I would like to reiterate that they should have the right attitude, quest for knowledge and be committed to their work. They also need to have integrity and accountability but those are not just for diplomats but for everyone else in the Ministry and IDFR.

Reflections: Sharing of experience on the Dynamism of Culture and Diplomacy

Contributed by Gloria Corina Peter Tiwet

It was late afternoon on 18 December 2013 when the Head of Chancery (HOC) received a call from a colleague from the office of Tourism Malaysia, Stockholm. A familiar voice was at the other line with much urgency and anxiety, "Our director and his wife have been taken by two unidentified individuals and we are worried that they may be kidnapped."

The HOC reassured her colleague that she would inquire on the matter with the Head of Police Unit in charge of diplomatic missions in Stockholm. It may come as a coincidence that just a few weeks before, the HOC had lunch with the Head of Police Unit and his officers, which now seems timely. Establishing and maintaining close contacts with agencies of the host country, such as the police and espe-

cially officers of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are part of a diplomat's nature of work in fostering close bilateral relations and at an opportune time, assured preparedness for any eventualities.

Minutes later, at the assurance of the Head of Police Unit, a patrol car went to the Tourism Malaysia's office and confirmed that the director of Tourism

Malaysia, Stockholm and his wife have indeed been taken by the police. No other details were provided and with much persuasion for information, the official informed that they do not have details of where the couple were taken, which police station and for what offence.

The Embassy proceeded to call its contact person at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden; both the Protocol Officer and Desk Officer at the Department of Asia and the Pacific.

The close relations between the Embassy and the Foreign Ministry proved to be of great asset to the Embassy in enabling collection of information and requesting assistance to better comprehend the matter at hand. The Foreign Ministry's officials, since that first day, have been assisting and providing advice to the Embassy, even beyond their normal call of duty including during Christmas season, weekends, New Year and after office hours.

As the incident developed, Malaysians at home began to demonstrate anxieties and soon, the couple became one of the nation's top stories.

At the Embassy, a situation room came to existence for daily briefings, attention for actions and daily reporting to Wisma Putra. Being headline news means that the Embassy need to always show and prove credence to actions taken and on the importance of public diplomacy.

There was already an established clear line of communication whereby at the height of the incident, from 18 December 2013 to 28 March 2014, reports were sent to the Consular Department at Wisma Putra on a daily basis, which functioned as coordinator for Malaysia's response, advice for further actions by the Embassy and disseminating information to the relevant agencies and the Head of Government.

This clear line of communication and control proved effective to the hand-

ling of the incident both at home in Malaysia and at the Embassy in Stockholm.

Moving forward nine months later, the Embassy tried its utmost best to resolve the matter at first instance by meeting the Foreign Ministry's senior officials for the release of the director and his wife. The response was that there is clear line of authority by each government agency and therefore, it cannot interfere on the matter and that due process of law need to be adhered. The Embassy performed actions with much professionalism and zeal with relentless initiatives and ideas to best handle the situation. Simultaneously, the dealings of Embassy's diplomats need to be with tact, prudence and much care in regards to the delicateness of the matter. The priority was for the couple's four children between the ages of 7 to 14 years to safely return to Malaysia, followed by their parents.

The government's special mission to Stockholm, led by the Deputy Foreign Minister bore fruit when he succeeded in bringing the children back home to Malaysia, lauded by many as a diplomatic success. However, the main hurdle was yet to come, which proved to be of much anguish and steadfastness for both the director and his wife to undergo 11 days of trial which commenced on 18 February 2014 and ended on 14 March 2014. The verdict released on 28 March 2014 was that the director was sentenced to ten months' jail and his wife to 1 year and 2 months (14 months) for the crime of 'gross violation of integrity'.

The appointment of a watching brief lawyer provided insight and better understanding of the legal process and trials that took place. Reports were submitted to the Consular Department for each trial day which are crucial for prompt and accurate account of event during the trial. Malaysian reporters also covered the trial days and much enthusiasm and show of solidarity by fellow Malaysians in Sweden to the couple grew by day.

The couple was placed in separate prison areas in Sweden. The Embassy continued to provide assistance and support by arranging regular consular visits. On 9 July 2014, the HOC and Deputy Director of Tourism Malaysia Stockholm went to Anstalten Vastervik Norra (prison) for the release of the director after completing two-thirds of his sentence period. He flew back to Malaysia on 14 July 2014 and was reunited with his children. The director's wife was released on 29 September 2014, after also completing two-thirds of her sentence period. She returned to Malaysia on 30 September 2014 and was reunited with her children and husband.

This unfortunate incident is the first of its kind and without precedence. The Embassy and Wisma Putra have to always make each action work and that it has to be the correct action to be taken at all times or risk jeopardizing the whole planning or the next course of action. There are numerous lessons to be learned from this incident. Firstly, never underestimate the dynamism of culture; the understanding that elements of nature and nurture may collide; the recognition of diplomatic status for officers of the Government of Malaysia posted abroad need to be determined and accorded as a general rule; comprehension and assimilation of Malaysian diplomats or officials and family members posted abroad to any given country takes time and require much resolve and tolerance; and the basic rule that all officials posted abroad including their family members need to always portray the good image of Malaysia to the host country and the world. The close cooperation and prompt communications among all those involved in handling and solving this incident are commendable, from the leadership of His Excellency Ambassador to all the diplomats and members of the Embassy. The incident also brought to light the need for new approaches in the training of diplomats, officials of other government agencies and family members to be posted abroad to include new

continued on page 30

Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2014 Graduation Ceremony



DiD: Attachment Programme in Canberra, Australia



DiD: Foreign Culinary Experience



IDFR-UNAM Workshop on *Malaysia's Climate Change Strategies: Plan of Action*



ASEAN Ambassadors Lecture Series on *The Philippines: Trends and Prospects*



Lecture on *Ukraine and the European Security*



MTCP: Executive Workshop on Diplomacy and Security for Senior Government Officials 2014



MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants 2014



Training Courses



Language Courses



IDFR-UNAM Workshop on *Malaysia's Climate Change Strategies: Plan of Action*

On 10 September 2014, IDFR, in collaboration with the United Nations Association of Malaysia (UNAM), organised a workshop related to climate change titled *Malaysia's Climate Change Strategies: Plan of Action*.

The workshop was attended by officials from various ministries and government agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, council members of UNAM, UNAM Youth Circle and its UN Clubs, and representatives from think tanks, public and private universities and NGOs.

The workshop commenced with welcoming remarks by Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR. This was followed by opening remarks by YM Tengku Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Rithauddeen Tengku Ismail, President of UNAM and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The Keynote Address by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment was then read by his representative, Dr. Gary William Theseira, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Climate issues will be the primary focus for debate at the Climate Summit to be held on 23 September 2014 followed by continuous discussion as a key agenda on this subject at the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2014.

The workshop was divided into four sessions. The discussants in the first session which was on *Setting the*

Scene, explained two important elements; *Malaysia's Position and Broad Policies on Environment and Climate Change* and *Multilateral and Regional Agreements that Affect Climate Change Policies*. The issues on climate change started in the 1990s and communities in general have accepted the fact that the main contributor to the occurring and accelerating climate change issues is human activities. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Environmental Treaty were agreed upon in Rio de Janeiro also known as the Earth Summit. The objective of the Earth Summit was to stabilise greenhouse gases and concentration in the atmosphere with the climatic system. In the current landscape of UNFCCC, Malaysia is not talking about the positions and policies of Malaysian climate policy but more of action plans and strategies it has.

The second session discussed *Malaysia's Current Policies and Actions*. Among the policies touched on was waste management. The types of waste found in Malaysia include hazardous waste, solid waste, agriculture waste, sludge, mining industry and radioactive. Mitigation strategies and plan of actions were discussed to overcome solid waste disposal issues. Two of the main mitigation strategies were on governance, mainly the policy and legislative framework and the aspects of technology and techniques.

The third session was on *Scientific Community View Point*. The discuss-

sants emphasised that working individually is not going to solve climate change; everyone should bear in mind that climate change is really happening right now, only then it will drive action. Some of the key risks in Asia which were identified are increased coastal, riverine and urban flooding leading to widespread damage to infrastructure and settlements in Asia, increased risk of heat related mortality, increased risk of flood related death, injuries, infectious diseases and mental disorders and water shortage in arid areas of Asia.

The last session saw a discussion on *Moving Forward and Preparation for Climate Summit 2014*. It was said that developed countries must transfer green technology to developing countries so that they can catch up. However, there are many loopholes and flaws to this mechanism and it needs a lot of improvement. Besides, economic sectors should take the environmental sustainability as a factor. Meanwhile, the environmental activism should also take economic sustainability into consideration. This balance is essential to environment. In terms of preparing for Climate Summit 2014, the involved parties should cut down the documentation and be more action oriented.

The workshop was officially closed by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Deputy President of UNAM and Former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations.

Lecture on *Ukraine and the European Security*

On 1 July 2014, IDFR, with the support of the Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG) and the Jeffrey Cheah Institute of Southeast Asia, hosted Professor Dr. Sarah Birch, Chair of Comparative Politics at School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow to deliver a lecture on *Ukraine and Euro-*

pean Security. The lecture was moderated by Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, Deputy Chairman of FPSG.

The programme began with welcoming remarks by Dato' Hussin Nayan, the Director General of IDFR, followed by the lecture.

The lecture focused on history, facts and socio-politics of Ukraine. According to Professor Dr. Birch, Ukraine which is located at the heart of Europe and on the border between the eastern and western halves of the continent, has often been a battle ground between forces that desire

control over Europe.

Throughout her simple yet concise presentation, Professor Dr. Birch described how the combination of institutions and ethnic identity has created problems for Ukraine's stability. She also described the corruption issues that happened during the leadership of Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine's former president. This corruption matters had led to *Euromaidan* which ended violently and resulted in a leadership vacuum when Yanukovich fled Kiev. The revolution positively resulted in a stronger Ukraine when the government was replaced by a coalition government made up of centrist and right-wing parties.

Professor Dr. Birch also gave her opinion on the issue of Russia occupying Crimea. It was in contravention of the 1994 Budapest accords, in which Ukraine agreed to renounce its nuclear weapons in exchange for Russia's guarantee that it would respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. The occupation of Crimea has alienated Russia from the West and drawn Ukraine closer to Western powers.

Professor Dr. Birch believed that the confrontation has left the European Union somewhat divided and has put question marks over the possibility of a real European security policy. The confrontation has divided the non-Western world with many people



across the globe glad to see a state stand up to the West. At the same time, many smaller states are also dismayed at the erosion of international rule of law.

ASEAN Ambassadors' Lecture Series



As part of the Institute's outreach programme on ASEAN and in conjunction with Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015, IDFR recently organised the first of its ASEAN Ambassadors' Lecture Series on 23 September 2014.

IDFR was honoured to have His Excellency J. Eduardo Malaya, The Phi-

lippines' Ambassador to Malaysia, to inaugurate the lecture series. In his lecture titled, *The Philippines: Trends and Prospects*, His Excellency Malaya spoke about the remarkable economic growth that The Philippines has been experiencing – 6.8 per cent in GDP in 2012 and 7.2 per cent in 2013, and it was one of the best performing economies in the ASEAN region in 2013, second only to China. He also stated that The Philippines is now at 52nd place out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, compared to its 85th placing in 2010.

His Excellency Malaya also spoke on the stable political economy of The Philippines and their foreign policy priorities and challenges. Regarding bilateral relations with Malaysia, he said that The Philippines deeply values its relations with Malaysia and

looked forward to enhancing the strong ties between the two countries. In terms of trade and investment, he said that Malaysia is The Philippines' ninth largest trading partner, with total trade amounting to US\$ 338.55 million as at June 2014. The Philippines' exports to Malaysia are valued at approximately US\$ 91 million and imports are valued at about US\$ 248 million. His Excellency Malaya also acknowledged Malaysia's invaluable assistance as third party facilitator in the Mindanao Peace Process.

Before he ended his lecture, His Excellency Malaya quoted President Carlos P. Garcia – the first Philippine President to visit Malaya in 1961 – "I can feel that the hearts of Malaysians beat like that of the Filipinos... We can look to a future of better and closer relations".

Farewell Dinner for Session 2013/2014 Masters' Students

IDFR hosted a farewell dinner for students of Session 2013/2014 IDFR-UKM Master of Social Sciences

(Strategy and Diplomacy) programme on 25 August 2014. The dinner was held at Restoran Rebung Chef Ismail

in Kuala Lumpur and was also attended by IDFR officials and lecturers from UKM.

The evening commenced with welcoming remarks by Puan Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Director of Special Projects followed by remarks by Associate Professor Dr. Ravinchandran Moorthy of UKM and dinner.

In her speech, Puan Norani expressed the hope that the students, who would be graduating soon, had benefited from attending the programme and that it would help them in their respective careers. She noted that the theo-

ries and concepts that they had learned would enable them to better understand and analyse international issues and the ever changing geopolitical landscape. She wished them success in their future endeavours and expressed her appreciation to the lecturers from UKM and the coordinators from both IDFR and UKM for their effort in making the programme a success.

Ms. Jasmine Sia Sien Chun, the class

representative, then conveyed their vote of thanks to IDFR and UKM before Puan Norani presented certificates of attendance to the students.



Orientation Programme for Session 2014/2015 Master in Social Science (Strategy & Diplomacy)



Following the new intake of Master students for 2014/2015, IDFR organised an orientation programme for them from 2 to 5 September 2014.

On the morning of the first day, Puan Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Director of Special Projects delivered the opening

remarks. In her address, she expressed hope that the programme would benefit the students profoundly. She also noted that the programme is a tough and challenging endeavour which will require strong commitment. Mr. Dev Kumar Balakrishnan,

the Senior Deputy Director of Regional and Security Studies Division then gave a briefing on the overall structure of the programme. This was followed by another briefing on academic matters by Associate Professor Dr. Ravichandran Moorthy, the coordinator of the programme from UKM.

On the second and third day, the orientation programme was conducted at UKM. Associate Professor Dr. Sity Daud, Chairperson of School of History, Politics and Strategic Studies delivered the welcoming remarks and this was followed by a briefing on visa and logistic matters. The students were later taken on a tour of the UKM Library and other facilities available to them followed by a medical check-up.

On the final day, Mr. Zikry Kholil, a consultant trainer, conducted a reflections session for the students. The orientation programme ended with closing remarks by Ambassador Aminah Tun Hj. A. Karim, IDFR's Deputy Director General.

A Tea Talk on *UN Chronicle* by Tan Sri Razali Ismail Contributed by Delfina Jane Dris

The DiD 2014 participants and the international participants of the *Regional and International Affairs* (RIAM) module had the opportunity to get up close and personal with Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of the Global Movements of the Moderates Foundation (GMMF) during a talk on the *UN Chronicle* as part of the RIAM module.

Tan Sri Razali is one of Malaysia's most illustrious career diplomat and

had recently published a book titled, *A UN Chronicle 1988-1998*. The book depicted a time where Malaysia was carving a name for itself at the multilateral level which saw Malaysia's leadership being showcased through various platforms at the United Nations (UN). Tan Sri Razali carried Malaysia's flag high when he helmed the Presidency of the Security Council in 1989 and once again at the General Assembly in 1996-1997.

Tan Sri Razali dialogued with ease when questioned on the effectiveness of the Global Movement of the Moderates, the complexities surrounding his role as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar as well as in his assessment of what Malaysia needs to do to be able to move forward as a country. He opined that the formula for a united Malaysia lies in the delicate maneuvering of collective leadership. Only then can Malaysia



move forward from where they are while still retaining the essence of who they are. Inconsistency in approach of steering nation-building to achieve this balance could prove detrimental to the formula that has kept Malaysia united in diversity.

The session was made memorable when Tan Sri Razali began engaging with the participants on a personal level. He related to his audience by recollecting fond memories starting

out as a young diplomatic officer at the then Ministry of External Affairs at the mere age of 22. Tan Sri revealed a soft spot for his first posting to New Delhi, where he reminisced with nostalgia the anxieties of having to earn the trust of his peers in the foreign diplomatic circle who were much wiser and more experienced than he was then. The experience taught him a great deal about what it takes to be an accomplished diplomat and served him well throughout his illustrious career. Tan

Sri Razali also imparted pearls of wisdom on excelling in one's diplomatic career. He shared that one should be passionate about any assignments given regardless how difficult it may seem on the outset, always seek counsel from one's mentors, keep an open mind and be flexible when adapting to the concept of growing with the demands of the service.

The talk inspired the audience on the importance of having passion, staying dedicated and be principled in one's position when developing one's career as a diplomatic officer. For without which, one could not possibly embody the reputation of being cultivated in the art of selfless dedication to one's own nations interest while maintaining affability and poise in adversity.

Regional and International Affairs Module 2014: United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Simulation

Contributed by Mark Michael Vincent L. Marbella

IDFR conducted a two-day simulation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Meeting from 2 to 3 September 2014. Thirty-two participants from Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and six international participants (Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Libya and The Philippines) joined the said simulation exercise.

The simulation aimed to further enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy, particularly on the current regional security threats, as well as to provide exposure and better understanding on the United Nations setting.

The facilitator, Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, with his expertise as former Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York from 1998-2003 and having served twice as President of the Security Council during Malaysia's term on the UNSC from 1999 to 2000, provided guidelines to the participants on how the actual UNSC meeting is conducted.

On the first day, each of the participants was assigned to represent a UNSC member country and relevant international organisation. The simulation started with an informal meeting of the Security Council where the President called for all UN Security Council to listen to a report from the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UNSG) on the latest security threats (in this simulation, the case is the situation in Gaza) which urged the Council to carry out its responsibility to address the mentioned escalating security situation.

Members expressed their initial views and position on the situation and proposed a draft UNSC Resolution for adoption by the Council, which include steps or measures to be taken to resolve the issue.

In the afternoon, the Council's Working Group

started the drafting of the UNSC Resolution which contained two parts: Preambular (recalling previous UN Resolutions and other relevant principles to the given security situation) and Operative (plan of action to address the security situation). Proposed provisions and text of the draft Resolution were negotiated by the Member Council and were presented to the resumption of the informal meeting.

On the second day, the simulation commenced with the Informal consultation of the Council and an additional



update report from the UNSG on the latest security situation that occurred for the past 24 hours in Gaza. Given the latest situation, the President requested the Council to resume the drafting of the UNSC Resolution where additional provisions were reflected that addressed the latest developments on the security threats situation in Gaza as reported by the UNSG.

The draft UNSC Resolution was later presented by the Working Group to the Council during the informal meeting in the afternoon, where all provisions of the draft were accepted. The President then set the formal meeting at 3.00 pm.

During the formal meeting, the President called on the conflicting parties' representatives from Palestine and Israel to make their statements on the given escalating situation in Gaza as well as relevant international organisations to address their concerns.

Prior to voting for the adoption of the draft UNSC Resolution, all Council members made their statements and country's position on the situation in Gaza. Twelve countries voted in favour and three abstained, which gained the consensus of the Council to adopt the UNSC Resolution.

At the end of the simulation, the

participants expressed their satisfaction and found the exercise really helpful, especially with Malaysia bidding for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC in 2015. This exercise is an essential venue to gain knowledge on the UNSC system. With all the knowledge and skills they gained from the start of their career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, more simulation exercises is the key for them to grow and become familiarise with other international organisational systems.

A Taste of World Cuisine in One Afternoon

Contributed by Abdilbar Ab Rashid

"Food is a central activity of mankind and one of the single most significant trademarks of a culture"
~ Mark Kurlansky, prominent American journalist

One of the ways to understand a culture is to have a taste of its food first. Therefore, on Wednesday, 27 August 2014, the DiD 2/2014 participants took the challenge to cook special cuisines belonging to the culture of the foreign languages that they studied during the DiD programme and to serve them during a special luncheon.

The luncheon was attended by Mr. Damien Syed, First Secretary of the French Embassy, Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR, directors, and other IDFR officials.

The event commenced with opening remarks by Mr. Abdilbar Ab Rashid, one of the students who was appointed project manager for the luncheon. In his remarks, Mr. Abdilbar briefly

mentioned that food is becoming a staple of global diplomacy, as it is closely related to culture and ethnicity. He added that food could also act as a convener, citing the example of when the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Prime Minister of Singapore shared a light moment together eating Malaysian durians. On the other hand, food could also be a point of division, where wars and conflicts break out over resources like food and water. He also spoke of mustering the power of food to motivate people to find a common ground by bringing everyone to the dining table.

Subsequently, the presentation of food began with *la mian*, a traditional pulled and stretched Chinese noodle with chicken and beef sauces, served both hot and cold prepared by the participants who studied Mandarin.

Then, the participants who studied Arabic served five varieties of *sambusak*; beef, chicken, cheese, vegetables and apples which had been marinated in Arabic spices and deep fried. The guests' taste buds were further en-

hanced when the students who studied Spanish served them *beef and chicken quesadillas*, which are seasoned meat wrapped in warm Mexican tortilla and garnished with fresh tomatoes and peppers. The main entrée was *boeuf bourguignon* prepared by the students who studied French. *Beouf bourguignon* is a well-known traditional French cuisine that originates from Bourgogne, France. For this dish, the meat was slow cooked in non-alcoholic red wine based French sauce until it was tender, then garnished with caramelized onions and mushrooms.

To the participants, it was indeed a fulfilling and enriching experience to have the opportunity to cook and taste a wide variety of cuisine in just one lunch. However, it was more than just that for them. The food had brought them closer together and to be able to serve the IDFR family was indeed a privilege. As Alan Wolfelt, an American author, once said, "Food is symbolic of love when words are inadequate."



SPKM Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 4/2014



The fourth series of *SPKM Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses* was held from 11 to 22 August 2014. The 46 participants are from various ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Royal Malaysia Customs Department.

The course, which was offered to officers from grade 41 and above, aimed to expose the participants and

their spouses to the various tools and skills of international diplomacy, and other necessary aspects such as protocol, finance, security, culture, ethics, etiquette and personal grooming, so that they would be fully prepared before their postings abroad.

Throughout the two-week course, the participants were privileged to listen and learn from many experienced speakers, including officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), South-east Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF), Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), and

Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation.

The participants were also fortunate to have an interactive session with Datin Siti Hawa Othman from PERWAKILAN who shared her experience on the *Roles of Spouses*. They were also honored to have a session with Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR on *Fine Dining Theory and Practicum* at Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on the fifth day of the course. The participants were presented with their certificate by the Director of Training, Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman at the closing ceremony held on the last day.



Training of Trainers: Introduction to Training Skills

The *Training of Trainers: Introduction to Training Skills* programme was organised from 17 to 19 September 2014. The programme, certified by City and Guilds, UK, was conducted by its appointed consultant in Kuala Lumpur, Language Works Sdn. Bhd. Four IDFR officers; Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abd. Rahman, Mr. Ahmad Kham Abu Kassim, Ms. Noraini Awang Nong and Ms. Wan Faizah Wan Yusoff attended the programme.

The programme offered a broad introduction to the practical and theoretical side of training delivery, while reflecting City and Guilds values of striving for excellence, engaging with others, acting with integrity, being innovative and achieving fulfillment. This innovative three-day learning experience was designed for both new and existing trainers at differing levels, to explore ways to prepare training materials and its delivery thoroughly. It focused on delivering learning sessions effectively in various contexts.

This programme aimed to help participants train confidently and successfully through demonstrating a great variety of techniques and methods. As part of the requirements for the certification by City and Guilds, a compulsory training practice was conducted on the third day, in which each participant had to deliver a 30-minute learning session based on their own chosen topic, by implementing what they have learnt throughout the programme, using their own creativity.

During the three-day programme, the participants underwent interactive training sessions with Ms. Nita Bardhan, a tutor and assessor from Language Works, appointed by City and Guilds. The first day of the programme focused on ways to enable them to gain an understanding of the training cycle. They were exposed to various training aspects, such as identifying learners, planning training, designing resources and delivering training. The purpose of Day Two was to complete the programme assess-

ment requirements. The participants sat for a multiple-choice quiz and participated in several group activities. On the last day of the programme, the participants were able to reflect on and evaluate their learning sessions. They had one-to-one sessions where the tutor herself and an External Verifier, Mr. Devinder Raj, gave them constructive feedback on their strengths, as well as highlighting their weaknesses for their self-improvement.

IDFR hopes that the participants had gained a lot of benefits and knowledge from this programme. We wish them all the best in becoming more skillful and competent trainers in the future.



MTCP: Executive Workshop on Diplomacy and Security for Senior Government Officials 2014

IDFR organised the *Executive Workshop on Diplomacy and Security for Senior Government Officials 2014* from 25 to 29 August 2014. The programme, conducted under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), was attended by nine senior government officials from Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar and Pakistan.

The objectives of the course were mainly to provide the participants with an exposure to Malaysia's experience in managing its foreign policy, international relations and security, to provide ideas, concept and hands-on experience of Malaysia's economic, infrastructure and social development and to enable the participants to network among themselves as well as with members of Malaysia's public sector. The networking would prove to be invaluable in the years ahead.

The one-week course included several substantive topics on *Intelligence and National Security*, *South China Sea:*

Malaysian Approach, *Multilateral Diplomacy and Environmental Issues*, *Terror, Counter-Terrorism and Moral Dilemma*, *Malaysia's-UN Peacekeeping*, *Maritime Non-traditional Issues*, *Malaysia's Foreign Policy*, *ASEAN Community 2015*, *The Role of Media during Crisis*, *The Role of Global Movement of Moderates in Establishing Stability*, *Diplomacy in Crisis Management* and *Sharing of Experiences on Evacuation Process during Crisis*.

One of the many interesting modules was the Dinner Talk on *The Role of Media during Crisis* which was presented by Mr. Kamarul Bahrin Haron, TV journalist and editor from Astro Awani. Mr. Kamarul highlighted three main crises as case studies; the case of the 12 Malaysians abducted on Mavi Marmara, the 12th Malaysia's General Election and the MH 370 incident. Mr. Kamarul stressed that as journalists or reporters, they would do whatever it takes to get news for the public.

The course concluded with a panel discussion on *Managing Human Issues in Respect of MH370*. The discussion was moderated by Dato' Hussin Nayan, the Director General of IDFR while the panelists were Ambassador Rahimi Harun from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; Mr. Ahmad Nizar Zolfakar from Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and Madam Juwairiyah Jaafar, a psychologist from the Malaysian Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT). The panelists shared their experiences on how they handled the tragedy of this magnitude, specifically in dealing with the next-of-kin of the victims.

The participants also went on a number of study visits, such as to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Federal Administrative Centre of Putrajaya, National Palace, National Monument, National Palace Royale Museum, Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower.

MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants 2014



The *MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants 2014* was organised by IDFR from 8 to 26 September 2014. The three-week course was attended by 16 participants from nine countries, namely, Albania, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Oman, Pakistan, Vietnam, Yemen and Malaysia.

The course was funded by the Malaysian Government under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme

(MTCP). The objectives of the course was to enhance the participants' knowledge in strategic thinking and security analysis focusing on areas such as country risk analysis, national and international security, strategic communication, defence strategy, strategic planning and thinking as well as regional and international political issues. Mr. Thomas K. Samuel, Director of Research and Publication Division at the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism; Dr. Rahim Said, Adjunct Professor of HELP University; and Madam Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects, IDFR were among the speakers who imparted their knowledge and invaluable experiences to the participants.

As an introduction to the state level governance, a three-day visit to Melaka and one day visit to Johor were also organised with the aim of providing exposure to the participants on the variety of cultural exchange, diversity and historical linkages of not only Melaka, but Malaysia as a whole. Melaka was chosen because of its unique history and heritage as well as its economic achievement. Meanwhile, Johor was chosen because of its vast and rapid changes in developing economy and infrastructure.

Generally, the participants had benefited from the course. The Strategic Analysis Course 2014 provided them with the opportunity to analyse a variety of issues and topics such as future studies, security analysis and diplomacy from the Malaysian perspective.

Effective Presentation Skills Series 2/2014



A course on *Effective Presentation Skills* was held from 26 August 2014 to 29 August 2014 to consolidate the participants' skills in delivering a presentation.

The course was divided into several parts such as *Elements of Public Speaking* and *Presentation Skills, Making A Start, The Right Kind of Language and Conquering Speech Anxiety*. This course was designed to strengthen the partici-

pants' skills in delivering effective speech in public. It was also aimed at developing their awareness of the aspects of verbal and non-verbal strategies in order to enhance their

confidence level to become eloquent speakers. The participants were from the Ministry of Education Malaysia, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Prime Minister's Department, National News Agency of Malaysia, National Sports Institute, Department of Standards Malaysia and Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Peninsular Malaysia.

Building Blocks of Good English 2/2014

The Language Division conducted the second series of *Building Blocks of Good English* which was held from 22 to 26 September 2014. The course was aimed at developing participants' fluency and accuracy level of English with the right usage of grammar. The participants were introduced to the grammatical aspects of the English language such as tenses, parts of speech and sentence patterns.

The participants walked through a critical analysis of English grammar through classroom discussions, group activities and presentations. These activities are vital for the participants to demonstrate the use of the language in a variety of context and most importantly, to enable them to use English confidently in their everyday interactions. The participants were from the Ministry of Health Malay-

sia, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Department of Social Welfare Malaysia, Department of Town and Country Planning, Urban Transportation Department, National News Agency of Malaysia and National Visual Arts Development Board.

PTD Alumni International Conference on Transformational Leadership in Malaysia

The Administrative and Diplomatic Officers' Alumni Association (PTD Alumni) in collaboration with the Public Service Department, National Institute of Public Administration, Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) and IDFR organised an International Conference on *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia* from 9 to 10 September 2014 at Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The objective of the conference is to help the Government in its efforts to transform the public service and the nation in line with the target to achieve Vision 2020. There are numerous issues and challenges which still derail the transformation process. Thus, these need to be addressed and resolved, especially the need for effec-

tive transformational leaders to lead the transformation journey.

The conference was attended by members of the PTD Alumni, officials from the public and private sector as well as representatives from the universities and the media. IDFR was represented by Ms. Azmah Mahmud, Ms. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah and Ms. Ernitasimbolon Erwan.

The conference commenced with welcoming remarks by Tan Sri Dato' Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, President of PTD Alumni followed by the official opening by Dato' Seri Haji Mohd Shafie Haji Apdal, Minister of Rural and Regional Development. The two-day conference consisted of five sessions for the first day and three

sessions for the second day.

The first session, which was on *Transformation of the Rural Sector in Malaysia*, was delivered by the Minister himself and moderated by Tan Sri Dato' Mohd Sheriff Mohd Kassim, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance and Chairman of PLUS Malaysia Berhad. Among the anti-poverty strategies shared by Dato' Seri Haji Mohd Shafie were to develop the agriculture sector, improve standard of living, promote rapid and continuous growth of economy and new land development schemes under Federal Land Development Authority. From these strategies, the Ministry introduced seven initiatives for rural transformation, namely, developing human resource, strengthening family

institutions, developing a resilient community, developing a sustainable economy, establishing an effective delivery system, establishing an Institutional Framework that is responsive to change and providing quality infrastructure.



The second session was delivered by Datuk Dr. Richard Leete, former Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei and moderated by Datuk Haron Siraj, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Primary Industries and Director of Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad. The topic was *Malaysia's Development Transformation: Demography and Planning as Enablers*. In this session, Datuk Dr. Leete mentioned that the demographic transition played a key role in Malaysia's development with national development also influencing its transition. Demographic transition can be defined as a process of change, whereby societies move from high mortality and high fertility when population growth is minimal, to high fertility and low mortality when population increases rapidly and after a lag, to low fertility and low mortality by which time population growth (in the absence of migration) declines and eventually tends to stabilise.

The third session was about *Economic Transformation and Growth: Evidence on Input and Output Analysis*. It was delivered by Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Sulaiman Mahbob, former Director General of the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department (EPU) and Chairman of Malaysian Institute of

Economic Research and moderated by Datuk Norriyah Ahmad, former Director General of EPU. In his presentation, Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Sri Sulaiman focused on the calculation or technical part as the result of economic transformation and growth.

The fourth session consisted of two speakers; Datuk Dr. Abdullah Abdul Rahman, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Health who spoke on *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia: Creating and Shaping the Organisation Culture* and Associate Professor Dr. Abdillah Noh who talked on *Leadership: Is there a Need for a New Language*. Both are from the Tun Abdul Razak School of Government, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (RSOG). Both topics were moderated by Associate Professor Dato' Mohd Ibrahim Abu Bakar, Dean and Associate Professor of RSOG. The organisation culture is the shared values of the organisation. Examples of the shared values during the leadership of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, were diligence, good teamwork, technologically creative and innovative, being thorough and meticulous in work process and operations as well as producing quality products of great aesthetic style, precision, taste and appeal.

The final session of the day was made up of Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group as speaker and Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Ramon V. Navaratnam, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport and Chairman of Asli Centre of Public Policy Studies as moderator. The topic was *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia: The Corporate Experience*. In his talk, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah shared what Sunway Group is doing in terms of transformation.

Day Two began with a session on *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia*, delivered by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and moderated by Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, former Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia.

Tun Dr. Mahathir shared examples of the rise and fall of several world leaders including Adolf Hitler.

The next session was on *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia: Innovation and Creativity in Service Delivery* by Mr. Soren Davidsen, Senior Governance Specialist, Global Governance Practice, The World Bank and Transformational Leadership in Malaysia: Ethical Leadership and Impact on the Public Sector by Professor Dr. Syed Omar Syed Agil, Professor and Director of the Centre for External Programme in Universiti Tun Abdul Razak. Both topics were moderated by Tan Sri Dr. Zulkarnain Awang, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Education. It was pointed out that a good leader must practise good ethics to lead an organisation and he must be seen as a good example to his subordinates.

The last session was conveyed by Mr. Ravindram Devagunam, Director of Anti-Corruption Unit, National Key Result Areas at Malaysia's Performance Management Delivery Unit who spoke on *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia: Six Secrets of Transformation* and Mr. Wan Saiful Wan Jan, Chief Executive of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEA) who spoke on *Transformational Leadership in Malaysia: Focusing on the Delivery*. Both topics were moderated by Dato' Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, former Malaysia's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and Independent Non-Executive Director of OSK Holdings Berhad. Six secrets of transformation which were elaborated during the session were game of the impossible, anchoring on Key Performance Indicator, discipline of action, situational leadership, winning coalition and divine intervention.

The conference was officially closed by Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa, Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia.



My Very First Step into the World of Diplomacy



Being selected for the *MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants 2014* and studying at IDFR was the best thing that has ever happened to me in my 15 years of professional career. It was a joyful moment of my life when I first received a call from IDFR about my selection into the course – a world-class programme of international standards – bringing diplomats and government officials from all over the world, where all participants were given an equal chance to represent their respective countries on one single platform. They were provided with the best possible training and a golden opportunity, indeed, to equip themselves with the most-current facts and know-how of world affairs, public policy, global peace and security, maritime intelligence, climate change, politics, diplomacy and international relations as a whole.

On 8 September 2014, as I walked through the corridors of IDFR towards the hall where the course was to be conducted, I sent a text message to my sister, currently residing in East Africa. I wrote, “Today is my first day at IDFR. I am walking down the hallway towards the lift. On my right and on my left, I notice the black and white photos of all the past Prime Ministers of Malaysia, figures like Kofi Annan, Ban Ki-Moon and my all-time personal hero, the late Nelson Mandela, I feel as if they are all welcoming me into the world of diplomacy. I am getting goose bumps all over my body, because I have never felt such things before. I am not Malaysian but I feel I belong here.....belong right here.”

Studying with 15 participants (excluding myself) representing nine countries altogether i.e. Albania, Brunei,

Yemen, Pakistan, Oman, Vietnam, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia and above all being selected as the president and leader of the group, it was an opportunity of a life-time for me. The knowledge of ASEAN and the South-east Asia region that I gained here, friends that I made from the diplomatic community, entering government buildings and meeting personnel first-hand during official visits across three states, and the comprehensive understanding of world affairs that I acquired during this three-week intensive training programme – in short, this is all still mind-boggling to me, and I would never trade it for anything else.

As I look forward to making a career in diplomacy, work with think tanks and focus on areas like public policy and global governance, I would never forget that the very first “small steps” of mine into the world of international relations were actually taken right here at the IDFR building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – the old Wisma Putra. I am grateful to this one-of-a-kind school of diplomacy, research, training and development which has given me so much in such a short time.

As I write this piece about my whole experience, I have been thinking as to what I can do for IDFR, to give something back to this institution as a token of appreciation in my own personal way. I cannot think of anything else but to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Malaysia and promote IDFR on the world stage, upholding its vision and values as to what the institution stands for and represent IDFR to the global community by supporting Malaysia’s foreign policy and its leadership role and standing in the Southeast Asia region. As a matter of fact, if given an opportunity, I will be more than happy to even serve as an advocate and spokesperson of this prestigious institution of global standing.

With this, I am fully indebted to IDFR for holding my hands when I needed it the most, taking me along the way and

giving me a platform where I could actually stand toe-to-toe with the international community – with IDFR’s education on my back – as I can now call myself a proud alumni of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

Thank you IDFR from the bottom of my heart. Long live Malaysia!



Mr. Asif Sohani was a participant of the MTCP: Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants 2014. He lives in Malaysia and is currently engaged with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in a voluntary capacity.

IDFR's New Director of Training



Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman graduated in 1990 from Texas Tech University, United States of America with a Bachelor of Business Administration (Economics). He also has a Master degree in Public Management from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (NUS).

Mr. Syed Bakri started his career as a Programme Coordinator in 1992 at the

National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN). He later joined the Foreign Service in 1994 and was attached to the Americas Division. In 1997, he was posted to the High Commission of Malaysia in Harare, Zimbabwe as Second Secretary. Two years later, he was sent to the Embassy of Malaysia in Rome, Italy and served as First Secretary. In 2002, he was back at the Ministry and was attached to the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) Division. In 2005, he attended a Master programme in Singapore and was awarded the prestigious *Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship*. A year later, he was back at the Ministry as Principal Assistant Secretary at the Policy Planning Division. In 2007, he was appointed Consul General of Malaysia in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, followed by a posting to the Embassy of Malaysia in Bangkok, Thailand as Deputy Chief of Mission/Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP). In August 2011, he was appointed Consul General of Malaysia in New York. In July 2014, he was back at the Ministry and was posted to IDFR as its Director of Training.

Mr. Syed Bakri enjoys golf in his spare time.

continued from page 1

thanks delivered by the best student, Ms. Priscilla Ann Yap. The rest of the evening was filled with performances by the participants.

In his address, Dato' Hamzah Zainudin congratulated the participants for completing the course and hoped that they benefitted well from the pro-

gramme. He further emphasised that "training is made even more acute by the shifting dynamics of international relations, characterised by geostrategic changes, rapid technological changes and the need for leadership to deal with the myriad of international issues". Dato' Hamzah Zainudin stressed the importance of the roles of

young diplomats in raising the profile of ASEAN by ensuring the success of Malaysia's functions for ASEAN Chairmanship 2015.

continued from page 13

subjects of legal systems, rules and laws of the host countries and case analysis for best practices to any given incident faced by diplomats.

For the HOC, this unprecedented incident provided new experiences and the thrust to always be ever ready for any unforeseen circumstances. Preparedness and readiness to provide services to the nation (*Berkhidmat Untuk Negara*) and in upholding the *1Malaysia* spirit are inherently within the HOC's being. Duty calls at any day, time, circumstances and particularly when it is least expected.

A diplomat's life and duties are increasingly demanding and that due acknowledgement to this fact need to be made, lest only the vice versa.



*Gloria Corina anak Peter Tiwet
Minister Counsellor
(Deputy Head of Mission/
Head of Chancery)
Embassy of Malaysia
Stockholm, Sweden
(August 2011- current)*

What They Say...



H.E. Ambassador Ruth S. Solitei

Chief de Cabinet, Executive Office,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade, Kenya
(Course participant of the MTCP:
*Executive Workshop on Diplomacy and
Security for Senior Officials*)

"The content of the course was useful in helping one get a good perspective of Malaysia, its development path, basis for foreign policy and the geo-politics of the region. The content of the course was also quite relevant. There was something useful in every presentation. The food was great, people that I interacted with were courteous. I would propose this course to my colleagues in the future."



Mr. Mohamed Meskouni

Chief of Division, Far East, South East
Asia and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and Cooperation, Directorate of
Asia Affairs and Oceania, Morocco
(Course participant of the MTCP:
*Executive Workshop on Diplomacy and
Security for Senior Officials*)

"To a great extent, I felt that the course was helpful in understanding Malaysia's views about some global issues. Managing human issues is the most interesting part of this course. Good food and rich culture are what I saw about Malaysia."



Ms. Kleina Kasanai

Executive Assistant to the Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Republic of Albania
(Course participant of the MTCP:
*Strategic Analysis for International
Participants 2014*)

"It was a very enjoyable and interesting course. A lot of new knowledge and experience for me which I am sure I will use and apply in the near future. In addition, it gave me an opportunity to build networking with other multi-national participants. Our visit to Johor and Malacca was wonderful and it gave us more exposure on Malaysian culture."



Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Huong

Official, Department of Economic
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Vietnam
(Course participant of the MTCP:
*Strategic Analysis for International
Participants 2014*)

"I found this course very beneficial and informative. It was well organised and has also given me an overall picture of Malaysia as a multicultural country. I found it easy to harmonise with Malaysian culture, food, places and people. I was also impressed with the rapid economic growth in Malaysia. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, MTCP, IDFR and the training team for such a fruitful training programme."



Mr. Loay Al-Aswadi

Diplomatic Attaché, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, Yemen
(Course participant of the MTCP:
*Strategic Analysis for International
Participants 2014*)

"This course gave me a different perspective and thinking of strategic analysis. Not only did I get to increase my knowledge and skills in strategic analysis but I also managed to enhance and improve my English proficiency. The topics were informative especially when Malaysia shared its experience in handling unexpected issues. Other than that, I am really proud of the Malaysian Islamic success story."

Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR *

<i>Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 5/2014 (Grade 38 and below)</i>	13-17 October 2014
<i>MTCP: English Language Course for Diplomacy 2/2014</i>	27 October-7 November 2014
<i>Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 6/2014 (Grade 41 and above)</i>	3-14 November 2014
<i>MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2/2014</i>	3-21 November 2014
<i>Effective Writing Skills 2/2014</i>	4-7 November 2014
<i>Workshop on Etiquette and Protocol for Liaison Officers (LO)</i>	18-20 November 2014
<i>Seminar Antarabangsa Peradaban Melayu: Rakyat, Raja dan Kerajaan</i>	19-20 November 2014
<i>IDFR Lecture Series on Moderation: A Belgian and European Perspective</i>	25 November 2014
<i>HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah Lecture Series 2014</i>	27 November 2014
<i>Workshop on International Negotiation for Mid and Senior Officials</i>	2-4 December 2014
<i>ASEAN 2015: Workshop for Liaison Officers (LO) Series 1</i>	2-4 December 2014
<i>International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: Malaysians in Solidarity with the People of Palestine</i>	4 December 2014
<i>Workshop on International Negotiation for Wisma Putra Junior Officers</i>	5 December 2014
<i>Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses</i>	8-12 December 2014
<i>Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Australia-ASEAN Relations</i>	9 December 2014
<i>Human Rights Day</i>	10 December 2014
<i>Young Diplomat Programme for Johor Student Leaders Council</i>	15-19 December 2014

* Subject to changes

Best Wishes

To our new colleagues, who recently joined the IDFR family

Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman, Nekmat Ismail, Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin, Asmat Zainal Abidin, Elsa Fallida Mohd Subat, Haslinda Mustafa and Nazirah Nazaruddin

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

Nik Muhd Hasbi Nik Daud, Badriyah Johari and Raimi Amzar Zamali

To our colleagues, who left us with pleasant memories

Melvin Cheah Chee Aun – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia, Beirut
Suriya Zanariya Zakaria – transferred to Jasin Hospital, Malacca
Izura Ismail – transferred to Penang State Government
Li Gong Anak Baja – transferred to Miri Prison Centre, Sarawak
Nina Sharida Mohd Arshad – transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

Editorial Committee

Patron : Dato' Hussin Nayan
Advisor : Ambassador Aminah Tun Haji A. Karim
Editor : Rahimah Yeop
Editorial Team : Noraini Awang Nong, Azmah Mahmud

Contributors: Romaiza Ab. Rahman, Zuraini Harun, Mark Michael Vincent L. Marbella, Yee Tsai Siew, Abdilbar Ab Rashid, Elsa Fallida Mohd Subat, Delfina Jane Idris, Dzuaita Mohamed, Nik Nazarina Nek Mohamad, Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah, Ernitasimbolon Erwan, Amirul Siddiq Mohd Nasir, Muhammad Redha Rosli, Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin