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## 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits



The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur were held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 November 2015.

This was the second gathering of Leaders under Malaysia's Chairmanship this year, the first being the 26<sup>th</sup> Summit that was held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi in April 2015. The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits served as a platform for ASEAN Leaders to take stock of regional developments and ASEAN Community building.

Leaders from 18 countries together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations attended the Summits.

As Chairman of ASEAN 2015, The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia presided over ten Summits, including the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit; the Plus One Summits with China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and the United States of America; 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit; 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit and the 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit. There was also an interface session with the East Asia Business Council.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Summit and Related Summits were preceded by the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Political-Security Community Council (APSCC) Meeting; the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC)

Meeting and the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Council (AEC) Meeting, which were convened on 20 November 2015. The meetings were attended by the respective Foreign and Economic Ministers of ASEAN Member States. The Senior Officials of the ASEAN Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia also held their respective meetings prior to the Ministerial Meetings.

At the Opening Ceremony that was held on 21 November 2015, The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak recalled the beginning of ASEAN of which our forefathers embarked on an ambitious journey to formulate and establish an association with one vision, one identity which later materialised to become a Community on 31 December 2015. The Prime Minister reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment towards realising a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN by charting the way forward for ASEAN in the next decade.

The Prime Minister also denounced the atrocities and sickening disregard for human lives and the devastation

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## Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

*Q. What was your reaction when it was announced that you were appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs?*

A. I was quite surprised really with the appointment following a cabinet reshuffle on 28 July 2015 but I was more humbled by the trust and responsibility given to me by The Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak to assume this portfolio in such an important Ministry dealing with foreign relations and foreign policy matters.

More so during this period where Malaysia is playing significant roles as the Chair of ASEAN in 2015 and at the United Nations as a non-permanent member of UNSC for the term 2015-2016. Malaysia is also actively deepening relations and cooperation with our immediate neighbours and many countries globally.

I am still in the learning process and I am very excited to continue the good work and coordination that have been put in place by the Ministry especially now, to ensure we end our ASEAN Chairmanship with momentous and extraordinary achievements.

*Q. What are your impressions of the Ministry and its role since assuming office?*

A. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, or as we all know as Wisma Putra has been playing its role effectively in defending Malaysia's sovereignty and national interests in the international arena, formulating foreign policies, promoting and marketing Malaysia abroad and providing consular services and assistance to fellow Malaysians in need overseas.

Since assuming office, my positive impression of Wisma Putra has been further reaffirmed by the display of professionalism and dedication of its officers in discharging their duties, be it at the Ministry in Putrajaya or at our diplomatic missions abroad.

However, with the fast-paced change in the demands from the global environment and the nation, the role of Wisma Putra will constantly evolve and transform, especially when Malaysia is working towards achieving our goal as a high income developed nation by 2020.

*Q. With your vast experience in UMNO Youth and UMNO Supreme Council, how do you think it will facilitate and contribute to your new role in this portfolio?*

A. Besides UMNO Youth and as UMNO Supreme Council Member, I was also privileged to have served Tun Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi as his Political Secretary when he was the Prime Minister and Finance Minister. I was also the youngest appointed Political Secretary to the Minister

greater engagement with the younger generation in line with our national and regional goals i.e. *1Malaysia People First agenda and the ASEAN's people-centred goal*. As a matter of fact, over 60 per cent of ASEAN population today comprises young people under 35 years old.

Wisma Putra could also take advantage of my command of the Arabic language and my knowledge of the Arab region as I studied and lived in Kuwait for several years. I also worked in the banking and corporate sector having last been appointed as Chairman of Amanah Raya Berhad. I will definitely exhaust all my knowledge and experience to further strengthen and develop new areas of cooperation, especially with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the Arab League.



of Women, Family and Community Development at the age of 27 then. The various government and political portfolios as well as my involvement in Gabungan Pelajar Melayu Semananjung as President previously, and now Advisor, has also given me opportunities to touch base, listen and interact directly with many young and promising Malaysians who will be future leaders of Malaysia.

In my role as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, besides assisting the Foreign Minister in discharging his core duties and responsibilities in Wisma Putra, I will also endeavour to contribute and facilitate towards

*Q. What would you describe as your most challenging task in the Ministry thus far?*

**Just a few days after the announcement of my appointment, Malaysia hosted the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), where I was tasked by the Foreign Minister to chair and co-chair several ministerial meetings.**



On 22 October, I was entrusted with the task to deliver a strong statement at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Open Debate on Palestine in New York. Although I have been to the United Nations before, it was my very first time speaking at the UNSC on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

I was also tasked to answer questions in Parliament from time-to-time and recently the 2016 Budget Debate in Parliament where Parliamentarians were interested in many subjects and issues under the purview of Wisma Putra.

It was very enriching and I thoroughly enjoyed those challenges and the steep learning curve for me as a new Deputy Minister.

*Q. What are your thoughts on how our diplomats can forward our national agenda?*

A. Wisma Putra is very fortunate to have officers from various educational backgrounds, language proficiency and past work experiences. Coupled with experience and exposure in foreign countries where diplomats are posted to, Wisma Putra officers are also very hands-on, knowledgeable and quick in responding whenever the need arises.

I see that it is crucial that diplomats are kept abreast with current domestic, regional and international developments, be it political, economic or

in social-economic spheres. With easy access to information today, through many sources particularly via the internet and social media, securing accurate information from reliable sources and in a timely manner has become a necessity.

With diplomats playing the frontline, representing Malaysia abroad in almost every corners of the globe, I have high trust that our diplomats are doing their level best to promote our country, build and strengthen relations as well as advance our nation's interests. I believe and hope that our diplomats are also provided with the best tools and resources, and given necessary training, exposure and motivation to encourage them to perform at their best.

*Q. How do you see IDFR's role in the overall strategic direction of the Ministry leading to the year 2020?*

A. The Ministry will continue with its key objectives of protecting and promoting Malaysia's interests bilaterally through pro-active diplomacy, advocating Malaysia's leadership at international and regional fora, and enhancing Malaysia's standing in the international community.

In line also with the national aspiration to achieve the rank of a developed and high income economy while realising the many crisis happening in the world today, I highly encourage more training and forums to be conducted and strong emphasis should be

placed on developing crisis management skills and acquiring foreign languages, in addition to English.

I also wish to see IDFR as the premier training provider for diplomacy and foreign affairs as well as the main reference point for academia and industry players wanting to learn and research on the subject of diplomacy and foreign relations.

*Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican was born in Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang on 29 July 1972. He received his secondary education at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Agama Al-Mashoor, Pulau Pinang and went on to study at the International Islamic University, Malaysia majoring in Arabic Language and Literature. Dato' Sri Reezal began his career in the banking industry before getting actively involved in politics and in NGOs in the year 2000. His positions in UMNO include Exco-Member of UMNO Youth, Malaysia (2004-2008), UMNO Youth Information Chief Malaysia/Barisan Nasional (2008-2013), UMNO Division Chief Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang and member of UMNO Supreme Council (2013-present). In the NGO sphere, Dato' Sri Reezal served as President of Gabungan Pelajar Melayu Semenanjung (GPMS) (2004-2008) and currently serves as advisor to GPMS. He is also on the Board of Directors for Malaysia Prihatin. He has served in numerous Government positions, including as Political Secretary to the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development (2000-2003), Political Secretary to the Finance Minister (2003-2008) and Political Secretary to the Prime Minister (2008-2009).*



## Opening Address by The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Opening Ceremony of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits

On behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, may I warmly welcome your Majesties, all ASEAN leaders and everyone present to Kuala Lumpur and to the Opening Ceremony of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

I was going to begin by talking to you about the momentous steps we in ASEAN are about to embark upon. But the events of recent days and weeks have cast a shadow over us all. One hundred and seventy dead after the attacks in Paris and Beirut. Two hundred and twenty four lives taken in the bombing of a Russian passenger jet over the Sinai desert. Just this week, an innocent Malaysian beheaded in the southern Philippines. And yesterday, hostages taken and lives lost in Bamako, Mali.

There cannot be a person in this hall who has not been shocked and shaken by the sickening disregard for human life and the devastation visited on families and communities. Our countries are in mourning. We all share in this grief.

The perpetrators of these cowardly and barbaric acts do not represent any race, religion or creed, nor should we allow them to claim to do so. They are terrorists and should be confronted as such, with the full force of the law.

Malaysia stands ready to provide any help and support that we can, and be assured that we stand with you against this new evil that blasphemes against the name of Islam.

We are ever vigilant against a threat that is very real in our region. Local militants and groups, such as Abu Sayyaf, have sworn allegiance to the so-called Islamic State. It was they who cruelly murdered our countryman, Bernard Then, on Tuesday. We must

recognise that problems of extremism today require new solutions.

Understandably, many will want to fight the so-called Islamic State out of the lands they have stolen from millions of Syrian and Iraqis. But a military solution alone will not be enough to defeat those who see peace, and want to cause war. Those who see order and civilisation, and wish for nothing but mayhem and death. Who see prosperity and culture, and burn to bring desolation and despair.

It is the ideology propagated by these extremists that is the cause of this sadistic violence; and in this time of tragedy, we must not lose sight of the fact that the ideology itself must be exposed as the lie that it is – and vanquished. For it is not Islamic. It cannot be.

It states clearly in the Holy Quran that if anyone wrongly takes a life, “it shall be as if he had killed all mankind”. Suicide – under any circumstances, never mind suicide bombing that kills innocents – is likewise a terrible sin. In the Hadith, it is recorded that the Prophet Muhammad said that God forbids Paradise to anyone who takes their own life – let alone the lives of innocents.

We should examine why anyone should be misguided enough to follow this perverted ideology – what is their motivation? But let us be clear: it is an utter travesty of a religion of peace, justice and moderation.

More than ever, it is that last concept, moderation, that we are in dire need of around the world. Moderation or *wasatiyyah* is at the heart of Islam. It is a Quranic injunction that no Muslim can disobey. But moderation does not belong only to us. It has been the locomotive of the non-violent approach to solving conflict throughout history.

This is how Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King won the hearts and minds of their enemies, and resolved the conflicts and injustices that they each were fighting against. They won by transforming their foes into friends. It can take a heroic effort.

When Jesus, or Nabi Isa, as Muslims call one of our greatest prophets, said: “Blessed are the peacemakers”, he was praising those who took on the hardest of labours. There is nothing easy or wimpish about moderation.

It is a concept that is deeply embedded in the ASEAN Way, and one which is close to our hearts here in Malaysia, where our unique mixture of faiths and ethnicities could have divided us; but instead our diversity has strengthened us.

The thoughts and prayers of us all – Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and people of other faiths – are with the peoples of Russia, France, Lebanon and Mali, as they are with the families of the victims of last month's bombing in Ankara, Turkey, and with the peoples of Syria and Iraq, whose suffering has endured for so long.

We pray that a more moderate and peaceful world will one day consign such outrages and murderous ideologies to the past. Let us begin that work today.

You are all here in Kuala Lumpur at a historic moment for our ten nation association. Tomorrow, we will formally declare the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015, marking the culmination of a decade-long effort to integrate, to cohere and to forge ahead together.

It is a day that we have all been waiting for. It is a day that we – ASEAN – can be proud of.

We have maintained the high ambi-

tions we set for ourselves in the three community blueprints – economic, political-security, and socio-cultural.

Our growth has been impressive. And ASEAN is increasingly seen not only as integral to the global economic and security architecture, but also as a region of tremendous opportunity.

As the CEO of a major international banking group put it earlier this year, “There’s a giant in Asia, shifting the tectonic plates of manufacturing, trade, services and the global economy. ASEAN is the next horizon.”

Allow me to suggest that you close your eyes for a moment, and imagine that you were living in this region today – without ASEAN. What would it be?

Would we be living in a region as peaceful as it is today? Would we be enjoying the same standard of living? Would our combined GDP have grown to 2.6 trillion US dollars last year, a near 80 per cent increase in seven years? Would we have the same levels of connectivity? Would we be talked about as the most dynamic and promising region on earth?

Clearly the answer is no – we would not be what we are today without ASEAN. ASEAN more than served its purpose and has been a great success.

With over 240 million Muslims, 140 million Buddhists, 130 million Christians, and millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Confucians, Taoists and others, as well as numerous different ethnicities, Southeast Asia was once referred to as “the Balkans of the Orient”.

We were, wrote one scholar, a “cultural and political fault zone”. Given this diversity, he continued, “wars of separation should emerge as a natural consequence.”



And half a century ago, we were indeed a group of developing nations in a region riven by conflict and instability.

That could have continued. Look around the world, and you will find plenty of countries that greeted the dawn of independence gladly, only to taste the bitter ashes of disappointment when they found themselves, decades on, mired in poverty, ignorance and neglect, and swept up in wars brought on by ego-driven leaders, which had nothing to do with the national interest.

Or we could, in Southeast Asia, have emulated those developed nations whose taste for competition has often extended to a form of economic warfare, elevating the principle of “survival of the fittest” into a savage battle for wealth and primacy – believing that for one to win, another must fail.

Instead, we did something remarkable. We chose another way. In 1967 our forefathers formed a new association that has grown to our ten nations today. And we have advanced, and risen together, the ASEAN way.

We have stressed community and consensus-building, over the excesses of individualism and the seeking of

selfish objectives. Non-violence over confrontation. Moderation over extremism. Showing respect, not just to our friends but also to our foes, for we know there is no virtue in humiliation. Peace-seeking and peace-building, instead of fanning the flames of conflict and war.

We are a highly diverse collection of faiths and ethnicities. We have had to work together and overcome our differences.

But in transcending them, we have become a unique example of how ten different nations can form a shared vision. Of how we are many, but we are one as ASEAN.

And I believe that the reason we have been able to do that is not just due to the necessary political will. It is because the values that I just mentioned are rooted deeply in the emotions and culture of our peoples. More than treaties and summits, they are what bind ASEAN together, and they are the foundation for our confidence in the path we are forging together.

I have talked about the ASEAN way, and of the ideals and values our peoples share. But we should admit that we have a challenge. Making everyone across our nations – from the

fisherman and the farmer, to the foreign exchange dealer in a shining new tower – feel in their hearts that they are not just part of ASEAN, but that they are ASEAN, is not easy.

How do we make ASEAN something that touches the everyday lives of our peoples? How do we make our citizens feel, directly, personally, that the possibilities of the Community we will establish tomorrow are theirs? Too often, I'm afraid, ASEAN can seem remote.

That is why I am glad that today we will honour ten individuals and organisations for their community-building efforts at the inaugural ASEAN People's Awards.

Similarly, I am delighted that in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, Malaysia is hosting the 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Summit, a week-long assembly of 15,000 young entrepreneurs from all over ASEAN, some of whom are with us today in this hall.

Earlier this year Malaysia launched GOASEAN TV, a new English-language, ASEAN-focused travel channel that will serve as a platform for ASEAN member countries to jointly promote tourism in ASEAN – both to the world and to each other.

And just yesterday we established the ASEAN Micro and SME Growth Accelerator Exchange for SME finance.

This is a practical, tangible example of ASEAN making a real difference to the hard-working companies that are the backbone of our economies.

We must do more, and now we are about to become a Community, we owe it to our people to commit ourselves to specific deliverables and making good on our promises. It is imperative that we have solid progress to report on next time we meet in Vientiane.

There are some low-hanging fruits we

can focus on. For example, we should ensure that there are special lanes for ASEAN citizens at every international port, road and airport. We should have banners celebrating ASEAN food in cafes, warungs, food courts and supermarkets.

We need to prioritise the launch of the ASEAN Business Travel Card, and strengthen ASEAN internship programmes. We should promote more ASEAN festivals and cross-cultural ties, and ensure that no student leaves school without having been taught about our history.

We need that single market and production base we talk about. We need the free movement of goods, services, skilled labour, capital and investments. At the moment non-tariff barriers, which affect daily life and employment across our nations, are too extensive.

We should act more as ASEAN within our region. We need to cooperate to find solutions to environmental problems such as the haze, natural disasters including floods and earthquakes, and crises of migration.

On that note, I am delighted that later this morning we will sign the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

And we should act more as ASEAN internationally, in a way that makes it plain that together we are far stronger than as individual nations, and that others around the world recognise and respect our rise and what we have achieved so far.

That includes maintaining peace, security and stability in the South China Sea.

We stress the importance of resolving disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We call on all parties to exercise self-restraint,

and avoid actions that would complicate or escalate tension. That is the ASEAN way.

Let us not forget the immense practical benefits our association has already brought us. For on the economic front, ASEAN has made a direct financial difference to hundreds of millions.

The ASEAN Free Trade Area, or AFTA, has reduced tariffs to zero or near zero. This has reduced the prices of countless goods, and it means our citizens have more money to spend on their families. Without AFTA, our firms would find it harder to access each others' markets.

Without ASEAN, unemployment would be higher. The overall rate among our ten nations is a comparatively low 3.3 per cent – which economists attribute not just to countries, but to ASEAN attracting substantial flows of foreign direct investment.

Without ASEAN, our citizens would not enjoy visa-free travel through nine out of our ten member states.

Without ASEAN, and the Mutual Recognition Agreements we have put in place, our professionals would find it far harder to work in each other's countries.

And with further liberalisation and integration come still greater prizes: it is estimated that the measures we are implementing under the ASEAN Economic Community will raise overall GDP in ASEAN by seven per cent by 2025. That will be a gain for our economies in the hundreds of billions.

At this Summit, we will also be signing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: *Forging Ahead Together*, which incorporates the ASEAN Community Vision.

This is about how we build upon and deepen the integration process to realise a rules-based, people-oriented,

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## Keynote Address by Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Chair of the United Nations Development Group, at IDFR's Public Lecture Series titled *Sustainable Development Goals and Key Considerations for a People-Centred ASEAN*

My thanks go to the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations for hosting my lecture today on *Sustainable Development Goals and Key Considerations for a People-Centred ASEAN*.

Last month at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York, world leaders unanimously adopted *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Agenda 2030 is a bold, ambitious and transformational agenda. It is also a universal agenda – applying to all countries. It is about both means and ends. Its human development goals are complemented by goals promoting inclusive growth; decent work; essential infrastructure – including energy and information communication technologies (ICTs); and, that fundamental precondition for sustainable development, peaceful and inclusive societies. Agenda 2030 is clear: “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”.

The Sustainable Development Goals will, I am sure, be consistent with the vision for a people-centred ASEAN Community which ASEAN member states are developing. We are hearing the same language of socially responsible, people-oriented, people-centred development.

How Agenda 2030 was formulated, why it is needed, what it calls for and how it can be implemented are themes I will explore in this lecture today.

### *Putting Agenda 2030 in context*

Agenda 2030 builds on the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the Millen-

nium Development Goals (MDGs) which flowed from it. While the MDGs encompassed both human development and environmental goals and targets, in practice these tended to exist in silos. The new agenda and goals more consciously link the concerns of people and planet – recognising the interdependence of human wellbeing and healthy ecosystems.

For Malaysia, many of the MDG targets represented no serious challenge. Malaysia in half a century has been transformed into an upper middle income country. That does not mean that it has no development challenges – but they are of a different order and the new SDGs are highly relevant to Malaysia, as indeed this universal agenda is to all countries.

The truth is that Agenda 2030 requires every country on earth to lift its game. Environmental degradation is affecting the prospects of people everywhere. Growing inequalities are straining social cohesion in many countries. Lack of inclusive, effective, and accountable institutions in others is creating tensions. All these challenges are covered in Agenda 2030 and its goals.

It is also important to note that Agenda 2030 is complemented by three other major development-related processes this year:

- Already in March, in Japan, the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction took place, and wrote the global agenda in that area for the next generation.
- A positive and realistic framework on financing for development – the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – was agreed on at the Third International Conference on Financing for

Development hosted by Ethiopia in July.

- Climate Change COP21 will be held in Paris at the end of the year, and a new global agreement is due to be reached there.

Taken together, these four agreements will guide global sustainable development priorities for a generation. The SDGs in particular were developed in a very inclusive manner. Governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, NGOs and multilateral organisations mobilised their networks and got involved.

In the *Asia-Pacific* region:

- 3.5 million people in Asia participated in the MyWorld Survey sponsored by the UN development system which asked people about their priorities for the new agenda.
- Seven ASEAN member countries worked with the UN development system to hold national consultations on the new development agenda.
- Led by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and with the support of the UN Country Team, Malaysia held its consultations in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. 8,000 Malaysians were engaged in face-to-face and online discussions.
- ASEAN countries played a full part in the Member State processes at the United Nations where the new agenda was proposed by an Open Working Group and then negotiated by all Member States.

Three years of public information sharing and outreach and extensive

discussions and negotiations by UN Member States have helped ensure that the new agenda is relevant to the challenges of our times, including by addressing:

- Persistent *inequalities* and ongoing *discrimination*. One of the defining features of Agenda 2030 is to leave no one behind. The rising tide should lift every boat.

While many countries in ASEAN made tremendous progress against the MDGs, significant inequalities persist in the region. People living in rural and remote areas and members of minority groups have often seen less progress than others. Gender remains a significant issue. Women still have less access than men to decent work, opportunities, and participation in decision making.

- The *jobs deficit* and its implications, particularly for youth. Today's generation of adolescents and youth stands at 1.8 billion people – the largest our world has ever seen. Most of these young people live in developing countries. Their aspirations, energy, and innovation can bring a huge demographic dividend to countries. But the opposite is also true. A generation with many unemployed, alienated and/or disengaged youth is not a recipe for peace and harmony. Around our world, youth are disproportionately unemployed and often lack access to quality and affordable services.
- Mounting *environmental challenges*, including climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and air, water, and soil pollution. Human survival and wellbeing depend heavily upon the health of our ecosystems. Their deterioration not only has serious environmental implications: it also undermines livelihoods, health, and food and water security.
- The impact of *natural disasters*. Asia is the most disaster-prone region in the world. Every country in

ASEAN has been affected by major floods or other catastrophes in recent years, including Malaysia which experienced its worst floods in decades at the end of last year.

- Our old enemy: *conflict*. The UN has been largely successful in ending war between nations. But conflicts persist in the form of civil wars and asymmetrical warfare involving non-state actors. Building peaceful and inclusive societies as Agenda 2030 envisages must truly be a major priority.

All these issues – inequalities, jobs, environmental challenges, natural disasters and achieving the peace required for development are central to the new global agenda.

#### What will drive the global sustainable development agenda?

Without doubt, broad-based, inclusive and sustainable growth is critical for achieving Agenda 2030.

Asia has been a major engine of economic growth for many years now. Agenda 2030 – like the post 2015 Community Vision ASEAN is developing – is an agenda for shared prosperity. Advancing that means focusing not just on the *rate* of economic growth, but also on its *quality*. Economic performance needs to translate more consistently into inclusive and sustainable growth which reduces poverty and inequality without degrading the environment.

In pursuing people-centred development, the following factors are relevant:

- *Leaving no one behind* will require identifying and then addressing deep-rooted determinants of exclusion. Tackling entrenched inequalities relating to gender, ethnicity and other factors will require proactive policies and investments across education, skills training, sexual and reproductive health services, social protection, availability of

credit – and in all other services which widen opportunity. It will mean committing to inclusion of all peoples.

- Many trillions of dollars will be spent on infrastructure between now and 2030. It is important that that development is *risk informed* – to avoid setbacks in the event of major shocks, including those being exacerbated by climate change. Risks need to be understood and planned around. Disaster risk reduction needs to be pursued by effective institutions with the capacity to lead complex, long-running processes, and be designed and implemented with full community engagement.
- Innovations and improvements in *governance* will be needed at every level. There is capacity to be built. Sweeping policy, legislative and regulatory changes are going to be needed for sustainable development. Whole of government approaches are needed across economic, social and environmental decision making.
- That means that development actors of all kinds will need to work *collaboratively* across the range of inter-linked Sustainable Development Goals. Agenda 2030 requires broad coalitions to be formed: of governments – national and local, multilateral and regional organisations, civil society, NGOs, academic and research organisations and the private sector.

Major multi-stakeholder meetings, like the Global Transformation Forum taking place in Kuala Lumpur this week are important in providing a space for dialogue around what it will take to transform development prospects.

How business does business will have a significant impact on whether the SDGs can be achieved. There are countless opportunities for the private sector to engage with the new global

agenda through inclusive business models and environmentally friendly ways of operating. Take for example:

- The *Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative*. Vast areas of tropical forest have been cleared for palm oil production over the years, not least in ASEAN countries. Now, however, up to 90 per cent of the buying power of palm oil is estimated to be signing up to deforestation-free supply chains. The aim is to expand this successful approach into other areas of commodity production.
- The *Philippines Financial Freedom Campaign*, backed by a government, private sector and UNDP partnership, which is boosting entrepreneurship among Filipino recipients of remittances. This initiative of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Western Union, and UNDP is engaging an average of 700,000 to 900,000 Facebook users weekly and supports inclusive growth.
- Agenda 2030's emphasis on *accountability* requires that governments and development actors alike pay much more attention to producing better quality data and knowledge, and to engaging people and groups from all walks of life in implementing and monitoring the goals.

Thus, there have been many calls for a “*data revolution*” to accompany implementation of the SDGs. Capacities to analyse data are needed for policy making, for scrutiny by parliaments, for monitoring by citizens and media, and for empowering citizens as agents of their own development.

#### Financing achievement of Agenda 2030

Big ambitions require big investments. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that total investment needs in developing countries in key sectors like food and nutrition, water, sanitation



and health over the lifetime of the SDGs range from \$3.3 to \$4.5 trillion per year. Based on today's level of public and private investment, developing countries would need to bridge an annual funding shortfall of between \$1.9 and \$3.1 trillion.

It is clear that public finance alone could come nowhere near meeting the total financing needs for the transition to inclusive, low-emission and climate-resilient development called for in Agenda 2030.

Drawing on all forms of finance – public and private, domestic and international – will be essential for this task – each can be complementary and mutually-reinforcing to the others. Synergies must be found with environment and climate finance and related mechanisms too.

The good news in the ASEAN region is that there are more resources and capabilities available to address development challenges available than ever before.

Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) which totaled \$10 billion in ASEAN countries in 2013 will remain important for Least Developed Countries which struggle to raise domestic revenue and attract private finance. As ODA is limited, however, a critical challenge is to ensure that it is used in the best possible ways, with the aim of catalysing finance from other sources. Domestic private capital accumulation

and public spending are both showing strong upward trends in ASEAN countries. Net government expenditure is on average nearly 25 per cent of GDP in the region.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July recognised the importance of innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development. These could include impact investing, and financing mechanisms like green bonds which combine public and private resources.

*Islamic finance* has an important role to play too. With its concern for financial stability, financial inclusion, and shared prosperity, Islamic finance can make significant contributions across the 2030 Agenda. Islamic financial instruments like *Sukuk* are well suited to making investments in sustainable infrastructure, while insurance concepts like *Takaful* can promote social solidarity and financial inclusion.

Several ASEAN countries are already establishing frameworks for financing the SDGs.

- *Vietnam*, with UNDP support in 2014, undertook a *development finance assessment* to provide evidence and recommendations for strengthening the management of its sources of finance for sustainable development.

- The Governments of the *Philippines, Myanmar and Lao PDR* are all in the process of implementing similar assessments. In the case of the Philippines, this is informing how to finance their Long Term Vision policy. In Lao PDR, the assessment is being used to inform the financing framework for their next five-year plan.

UNDP has supported *Indonesia and Thailand* to review their outward provision of development cooperation and financing. The governments of these two countries are among those determining how to promote more effective assistance within the ASEAN region. South-South and Triangular Cooperation within the region and beyond has a big role to play in advancing Agenda 2030. UNDP works actively alongside South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We have entered a number of strategic partnerships with emerging economies in support of that, and would welcome reaching more such agreements with middle income countries.

#### UN support for SDG implementation

UNDP and the whole of the UN development system are committed to working with ASEAN member countries to implement the 2030 Agenda:

- Our approach to support for countries on implementation is called 'MAPS', which stands for mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support.

*Mainstreaming* refers to the support we can give governments as they incorporate the agenda in their national and local strategies, plans, and budgets, and strengthen their data systems.

On *acceleration*, we can help identify the obstacles and bottlenecks in the way of making progress on goals and targets, and to identify actions which could speed up progress on multiple targets at the same time. In this, we will draw on many successful examples from the use of a specific MDG acceleration tool in more than fifty countries in recent years.

On *policy support*, we can provide coordinated and demand-driven advice, and technical assistance, drawing on the great depth and breadth of knowledge and programme experience gained across the UN over many decades.

Across the three components of MAPS, we will seek to build and facilitate partnerships, improve data, and deepen accountability.

- UNDP will also support national SDG reporting, as it did for the MDGs. Together with our partners in the UN development system, we are currently preparing guidelines for national SDG reports.

We will support global and local advocacy around the SDGs, and promote broad engagement in implementation and in monitoring progress. The UN Millennium Campaign will evolve into a dynamic new campaign, and support promotion of the SDGs at country level and globally.

#### Conclusion

The transformation of our world for which the 2030 Agenda calls is a tall order. But we all appreciate what it will mean for the well-being of people, especially the hundreds of millions of people who continue to live in extreme poverty, and for the prospects of the one planet on which we all depend.

Now is the time to take the actions needed to secure a more peaceful, prosperous and stable future for both people and planet. At UNDP we look forward to close collaboration with all partners in ASEAN on implementation of Agenda 2030, and on supporting ASEAN's post 2015 Community Vision.

## Remarks by The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia at the United Nations Day 2015 Reception

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations (UN).

The theme of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly - *The United Nations at 70: The Road Ahead for Peace, Security and Human Rights* - is indeed appropriate. It reflects our continued perseverance to

attain a world that is peaceful and secure where the peoples could enjoy their basic rights to a decent life.

Last month, we witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by all 193 UN member states. Malaysia is committed to implementing this Agenda.

At the core of this Agenda is an all-

encompassing sustainable development framework, in which, "eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty" is the greatest global challenge. Through an inclusive, integrated and holistic approach to national development, Malaysia has reduced the incidence of poverty of total households from 49.3 per cent in 1970 to 0.6 per cent. Malaysia is ready to share its experi-



ence with other developing countries.

Malaysia's continuous development, since independence, was enabled by an environment that is peaceful and stable. As such, it is our firm belief that peace and security are essential for sustainable development.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Malaysia is committed to working closely with other Council members in trying to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, such as in some parts of the African and Middle Eastern regions. We will continue to advocate inclusive dialogues towards achieving peace premised on the principle of moderation and mediation. We also strongly support humanitarian assistance for those affected by conflicts, such as in Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

As a manifestation of our commitment to international peace and security, last month, Malaysia pledged to contribute an infantry battalion, 380 police personnel, an engineering group, and capacity building through training at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre (MPC) to support efforts at strengthening UN peacekeeping missions. These are above Malaysia's current commitment to six peacekeeping operations.

Another manifestation of our commitment to peace and security is the recent announcement by the Prime Minister of Malaysia that Malaysia will be joining the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (Islamic State and the Levant). On the need to counter the narrative of the so-called Islamic State, Malaysia has agreed to host the

Regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communications Centre (RDC3) in Kuala Lumpur to deal with IS' propaganda in cyberspace.

As UNSC President in June, Malaysia made a significant contribution towards strengthening the framework on the protection of children in armed conflict. We initiated a resolution that identified the abduction of children as a trigger for the responsible parties to be listed in the Secretary-General's report. In order to be removed from the list, the party concerned would have to develop and implement an action plan outlining measures and efforts to cease the abduction and exploitation of children in situations of armed conflict. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Council and co-sponsored by 56 member states.

On an initiative on peacekeeping and peacebuilding, Malaysia succeeded in getting the participating countries to urge greater cooperation and coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission and UNSC given the responsibility of the Council in establishing peacekeeping operations and determining their mandates.

On an initiative on climate change, Malaysia and Spain co-chaired a meeting which discussed the multiplier effect of climate change on international peace and security, particularly the impact on Small-Island Developing States (SIDS). Member states shared the view that climate change could trigger humanitarian crises, political and economic instability, border disputes, ethnic tensions and large scale migration of people around the

world. This initiative was to fulfil Malaysia's pledge to the SIDS to bring forward the issue of climate change at the Security Council.

On Palestine, Malaysia's position is well known. In July 2015, Malaysia and Jordan co-chaired an informal meeting on the situation in Gaza. The meeting aimed at providing a platform for the Council members to reflect on the 2014 Israeli offensive against Gaza, one year on, with a view to generating a new impetus for the Security Council to address the dire and unsustainable humanitarian situation and overcome the impasse in Gaza, as part of the broader need to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict.

There was broad consensus by the international community that the situation in Gaza was absolutely unsustainable and that engagement by the international community and the Security Council, in particular, was vital to rectify this unjust and unsustainable situation.

Additionally, Malaysia is happy and proud to have been part of the process that led to the Palestinian flag flying high at the United Nations since 30 September 2015. As a member of the Security Council, Malaysia will continue to support initiatives aimed at achieving the creation of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine co-existing side by side with Israel.

As we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations today, Malaysia salutes the individuals from all walks of life who have dedicated their lives to create a better world for all of us. Malaysia remains committed to upholding the principles of the UN Charter towards building lives of prosperity, security and dignity for all. We will continue to play our role in strengthening the UN. We support the Secretary-General for a "Strong UN. Better World".

Thank you.

## Cricket Diplomacy: More Than A Game

By Mohamed Ariff Mohamed Ali

*"Sport has the power to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can {...} It is an instrument for peace"*

-Nelson Mandela-

Sport has widely been recognised in recent years for its potential for peace with the unique capacity of bringing people together, bridging differences and promoting communication as well as understanding. However, not much focus has been given on the relationship aspect between sports on one hand and the realm of politics and diplomacy on the other. From a South Asia context, it could be said that over the last few years, India has invested significant resources in boosting its public diplomacy efforts which also involves sporting events in which it uses traditional and new approaches to build and leverage its soft power. This article aims to see how a sport, in particular the game of cricket, has impacted the bilateral relations of two South Asian juggernauts, namely, India and Pakistan.

In this region, the game of cricket as well as careful utilisation of the media has been used as an effective tool by political leaders to usher in diplomatic ties as well as enhance the relations between both the nuclear powers of Asia in a way no Track I diplomacy efforts have been successful to emulate. For the purpose of writing, we have come to know these Track II efforts as 'Cricket Diplomacy'. Historically, the cricket rivalry between the national cricket teams of India and Pakistan is one of the most intense sports rivalries in the world. After independence in 1947, both countries laid the foundations for the emergence of an intense sporting rivalry between the two nations who had erstwhile shared a common cricketing heritage. Records indicate that the cricket diplomacy approach is a positive move, which has encouraged both authorities to visit the opposite nation and enhance the relations between the two nuclear powers of Asia.

As a matter of fact, cricket matches have in the past been used as meeting

opportunities and for discussions or icebreakers on the sidelines of usually highly tensed official meetings between India and Pakistan. The game itself has always come in handy for the leaders of India and Pakistan to signal goodwill towards each other and break political ice during difficult moments in the bilateral relations of both countries. Though people admire many different sports in India, cricket however remain to be imbedded in their hearts and remains to be so. That said, naturally the game of cricket has received a special treatment from the people and administration in these countries. India-Pakistan matches hold the attention of large numbers of people in both countries and convey to them simple yet highly symbolic messages. Cricket and cultural diplomacy can claim to be an effective point for the forward foreign policy and the ties are channelised at not just the diplomatic level but at the grassroots level as well.

Over the years, there have been many lingering issues between India and Pakistan such as the territorial claims over Kashmir, water, trade blocs, cross-border terrorism including the continuous ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) as well as the pace of the trial against Lashkar-e-Toiba commanders in Pakistan who has been alleged as mastermind for the Mumbai 2008 attacks which has directly resulted in four wars being fought, namely, that in 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999. Fast forwarded to today, the opening of the 2015 edition of the Cricket World Cup for instance, has provided India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a great opportunity to end the current diplomatic impasse with Pakistan. Among the immediate efforts saw him calling up his counterpart Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to wish Pakistan well in the World Cup which led to India's foreign secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar's visit to

Islamabad; the Foreign Secretary's first such meeting since 2012, and took place seven months after the planned foreign secretary talks in August 2014 were abruptly cancelled by India over Pakistan's engagement with Kashmiri separatists on the eve of the scheduled talks. It is observed that despite the visit being under the guise of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), there is nevertheless much expectation that the interaction would lead to the resumption of the dialogue process and open up further opportunity for normalisation of relations between the two neighbours. In this instance, cricket may once again be utilised in driving the relations forward.

In looking back at Dr. S. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad, Prime Minister Modi was careful to present the outreach to Pakistan as part of extending goodwill to all the five South Asian nations participating in the World Cup and being billed as part of his travels to all the capitals of the subcontinent and not to an individual South Asia country. However, despite the attempts to couch the initiative in South Asian terms, there is little doubt that the visit to Pakistan is an important step forward by the Indian Government as it provides the prospect to institute a new framework of engagement considering the complex relations both nations have with each other despite apprehensions raised by local politicians on the prospect of a potential India-Pakistan cricket series. The apprehension is understandable given the uniquely complex relations between both countries. However, in view of Pakistan's chairmanship of the SAARC in 2016, India certainly has another opportunity to improve its ties with its northern neighbour and once again cricket could be the much-needed 'olive branch' of peace.

This notwithstanding, it could be men-

tioned that sports and politics have had both positive and negative implications over India-Pakistan's history. Nationalistic fervor undeniably are sometimes linked to victory or loss on sports fields. In the case of India and Pakistan, cricket has frequently been the victim of poor relations between these neighbours with tours blocked for years because of bad-blood. Nonetheless, it has also been used to build trust and instill confidence when ties are on the upswing. In other words, cricket may not necessarily be able to normalise relations between the two countries but it does provide common ground, acting as a bridge that gives both nations a reason to interact in a manner that transcended strained political relations. Thus it is vital that aside from the sport itself, affirmative media presentation in both countries would tremendously provide much impetus towards cricket diplomacy efforts in receiving necessary attention and traction in enhancing bilateral relations of India and Pakistan.

It goes without saying that sport transcends borders, political ideologies and religious affiliations. It does not rely on any of these things to serve

as common ground. Beyond what remains unclear about the relationship between sport and diplomacy or the nature of sports diplomacy, there are basic concepts of sport that can hardly be refuted such as the values of sport — competition, teamwork and fair play — help build trust between countries and bring people together. Given these characteristics, sports can contribute to the unofficial dialogue that guides Track II diplomacy. Though it may not be the deciding factor in a given state's foreign policy, on the other hand, it can certainly be used as a means of relationship-building.

In summary, cricket has a long history as a platform for Track II diplomacy efforts between India and Pakistan with constructive process that provides a good chance to open hearts and mind in enhancing bilateral relations and enhancing peace. It goes without saying that continuous people-to-people cricket diplomacy efforts would do far more to lower the levels of hostility between the two sides. Just as sport has become much more relevant to the field of development of people's character, it too can play an increasing role in the evolution

of diplomacy. The promotion of physical activity and sporting events, individuals as well as nations have the opportunity to achieve greater mutual understanding and acceptance of common peaceful values, based on the respect of one another's culture. One nevertheless has to be realistic that sports in itself cannot solve all conflicting relationships on the globe, especially one as complex as the India-Pakistan relations. However, given the positive development and infinite possibilities of sports, in particular cricket, one can come to a conclusion that effort in sport diplomacy matters, perhaps more than ever today in a manner to win hearts and minds, at every strata of the society, instead of merely winning matches.

*Mohamed Ariff Mohamed Ali is currently the Second Secretary (Political) at the High Commission of Malaysia, New Delhi. He is a proud father of two baby girls (Ilhan and Aira) and enjoys penning his thoughts on everyday matters that are close to his heart.*

*Continued from page 6*

people-centred ASEAN Community in which we seek to narrow the development gap. It is an ambitious document – but ambition is part of our heritage.

Our forefathers were ambitious when they signed the Bangkok Declaration that set up ASEAN. Our predecessors were ambitious when they expanded the association, up to our present ten nations. And it was ambitious, too, to plan for ASEAN to become what we will establish tomorrow.

That is: a body with One Vision, and One identity; an association that will be reborn as One Community, ready to take its place on the world stage as a

new force in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

Malaysia has been honoured to chair ASEAN in this momentous year, and I suggest that after tomorrow we refer to ourselves as the ASEAN Community, a proud new name to mark this significant evolution in our association.

This is ASEAN's time – this is our time. ASEAN can and should play a major role in shaping this Asian century, and work with our partners across the continents to shape a world of prosperity, peace and openness. A world in which the carnage wrought by terrorists has been

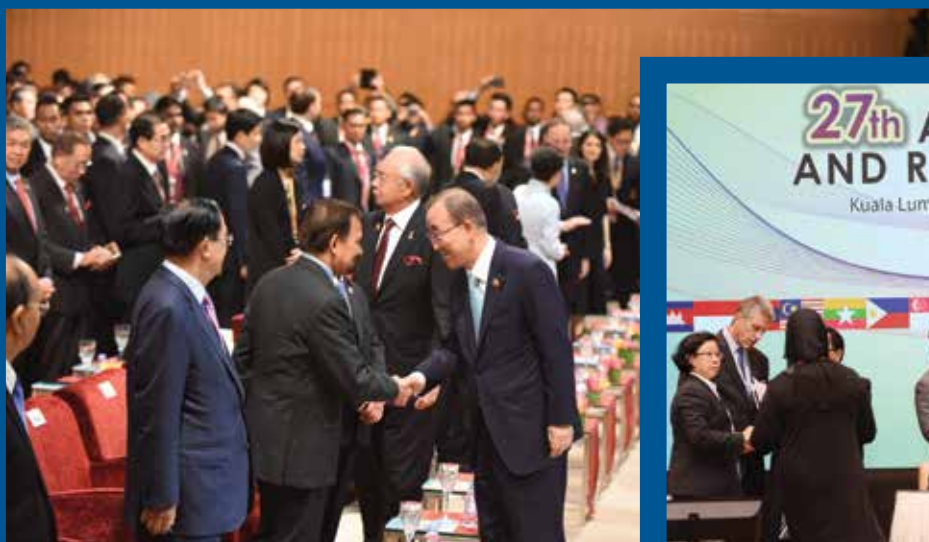
replaced by tolerance, moderation and a true recognition of our common humanity.

It is our historic duty to ensure that when the challenge arose, the peoples and governments of Southeast Asia were equal to the task.

On that note, it is my pleasure and honour to hereby declare the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit open.

Thank you.

## 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits



## Public Lecture on *Sustainable Development Goals and Key Considerations for a People-Centred ASEAN*



## International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



## ASEAN Anniversary Forum



## Human Rights Day



## DiD 2015 Hi-Tea Graduation Ceremony



## *MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Junior Diplomats 2015*



## *MTCP: Crisis Management for Senior Government Officials*



## *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Secretariat Attachment Officers 2015*



## *Workshop on International Negotiation for Mid and Senior Level Officers 2015*



## *Teaching, Training and Assessing Learning Advanced Diploma (TeTrA)*



## *Workshop on Intercultural Awareness*



## International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



Malaysia and involved three Palestinian students – Mr. Mahmoud F. R. Abumarzouq who is pursuing a Master in Orthopedic Surgery at Universiti Sains Malaysia; Mr. Ali Hisyam Abu Safia who is pursuing a Master in Science (Medical Education) also at Universiti Sains Malaysia; and Mr. Hussein S. A. Abu Marzouq who is a Diploma in Business Studies student from Darulnaim College of Technology, as well as Dr. Ahmed Metani, a representative from the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Kuala Lumpur.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, in collaboration with IDFR, organised the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 8 December 2015 at the Treaty Room. The event was held in line with the United Nations' call for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, and demonstrated Malaysia's continued support and solidarity on the Palestinian cause.

The programme commenced with Welcoming Remarks by Datuk Salman Ahmad, the Director General of IDFR, who emphasised the need for the younger generation in Malaysia to be aware of the Palestinians' plight and to provide meaningful support and aid to the people.

In his Keynote Address, Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, congratulated the State of Palestine on the historic adoption of Resolution 69/320 which saw the flag of the State of Palestine being raised at the United Nations General

Assembly in New York in September 2015.

Dato' Sri Reezal Merican spoke of education as the foundation of society, and stated that "to invest in education is to invest in peace and stability". In support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which is working on improving the education environment in Gaza, Malaysia contributed an additional USD100,000 on top of its annual financial commitment of USD25,000. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia also provides assistance to Palestinians through NGOs such as CAKNA Palestine as part of its efforts in capacity building through training and education.

The Keynote Address was followed by a short video presentation on Palestine and an experience-sharing session with Palestinian students currently pursuing their education in Malaysia. The session was moderated by Mr. Zamshari Shaharan, Principal Assistant Secretary of the West Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Dr. Ahmed Metani thanked Malaysians for their continuous support to the Palestinian cause, and said that Palestinians view education as very valuable and important. He hoped that with the Malaysian Government's support, it can facilitate the student visa process for Palestinians so they can obtain the education they need in Malaysia. Mr. Mahmoud praised Malaysia's excellent education system and infrastructure, and hoped that outreach programmes can be made to the various universities in Palestine that have little resources to advance their research. Mr. Ali Hisham spoke of the vital role that youths can play through volunteering in their community, and implored youths in the audience to constantly improve themselves for the benefit of the community.

The event was well attended by members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, representatives from several NGOs and students from the International Islamic University, Malaysia.

## ASEAN Anniversary Forum 2015

IDFR in collaboration with the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; the Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs, Universiti Teknologi

MARA; and the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, organised the ASEAN Anniversary Forum with the theme *ASEAN: Forging Ahead Together* on 28 October 2015 at the IDFR's Auditorium. The forum is one of the annual events held to commemorate the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN.

ther on 28 October 2015 at the IDFR's Auditorium. The forum is one of the annual events held to commemorate the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN.

Datuk Othman Hashim, Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia delivered a Keynote Address and officiated the event. In his Address, Datuk Othman highlighted that the ASEAN Vision 2025 will articulate the goals and aspirations as the regional grouping enters the next phase of consolidation which will pave the way for further integration and stronger cohesiveness as a Community. Datuk Othman said that while ASEAN's aspiration to have an integrated Community is advancing well, the region is bound to face challenges and the success of the ASEAN Community is very much dependant on how ASEAN addresses these challenges. His Address was preceded by Welcoming Remarks by Madam Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Acting Director General.

The panellists at the forum were Ambassador Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof Ahmad, former lecturer from the Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs; Dr. K.S. Balakrishnan, Senior Lecturer from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya; Mr. Herizal Hazri, Country Representative of Malaysia from The Asia Foundation and Dr. Farish A. Noor, Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and the discussion was moderated by Ambassador Dato' Muhammad Noor Yacob, Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for Economic Diplomacy.

Ambassador Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof Ahmad covered the macro perspective of the challenges faced by ASEAN in its community-building efforts beyond 2015 and ways to realise the targets stipulated in the three community blueprints. He was very optimistic with ASEAN's progress and said that ASEAN has evolved and transformed, and is widely acknowledged as the "second most successful regional organisation after the EU" despite being an extremely diversified region.

Ambassador Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof



further mentioned that critics would disagree with his opinion and point towards ASEAN's inevitable irrelevance due to its outdated template, slow decision-making mode and conflicting national priorities vis-à-vis the wider ASEAN regional interests. He opined that the real challenge is to translate ASEAN's various blueprints, action lines, action plans and statements into actions at the ground level to benefit the peoples of ASEAN. The numerous 'blueprints' and 'action plans' will be meaningless unless this happens. Initiatives to realise the agreed targets under the respective blueprints are generally on the right track but more serious political will and vigorous commitment are needed to implement them at the ground level in all ASEAN member states. This is critical to ensure the full attainment of the AC objectives beyond 2015 and under the proposed 'ASEAN 2025 Vision'.

Dr. K.S. Balakrishnan opined that there is a significant change in the security landscape of the Southeast Asian region. He stated that globalisation has led to the opening of borders between countries which brings about more security challenges including non-traditional security such as the manufacturing of fake goods, commercial crime and corruption; and while ASEAN has been managing security issues via bilateral, multilateral and round table discussions by discussing security issues in the region, there have not been much progress in addressing territorial disputes. He further elaborated that the current situation is the manifesta-

tion of a game theory i.e. symmetry, equilibrium and inequality. He mentioned that due to weak leadership, security issues have become more fragile to be discussed in ASEAN-led fora. He cited the recent occurrence of transboundary haze as an example where ASEAN had failed to address the issue due to weak leadership. Moving on to traditional security, Dr. Balakrishnan viewed that while ASEAN has a good defence budget, there are inadequate efforts in managing those assets. He proposed that ASEAN should be bold and move away from being a dialogue-based organisation and should maintain its centrality in the evolving regional architecture

Having experience working with communities from the region, Mr. Herizal Hezri found that the idea of a *People-Centred ASEAN* is very welcoming by the various communities as the people of ASEAN want to be involved and empowered. However, since the announcement, he concluded that ASEAN is still considered as elitist and specialist-centred and that there is a huge gap between societies. He further expressed that the *ASEAN Way* as a manner of operation has proven to be a very successful factor in maintaining regional stability. However, it does not fully promote a *People Centred ASEAN*. In fact, it is seen as a major obstacle towards achieving ASEAN's aims. He mentioned that ASEAN must give more impact to the people's daily lives instead of talking about public policy at the elitists' level. He also emphasised the need for efforts to be

channelled to convey information about ASEAN aspirations to the people. He viewed that ASEAN must continue to promote a *People Centred ASEAN* using the right tools and *ASEAN Way* is not the best way to promote that. He also said that the people of ASEAN, at the community level, must organise themselves and operate with less government involvement and interference.

Dr. Farish Noor echoed the views shared by the previous panellists and indicated that Southeast Asians have lived without the benefits of modern nation states. It should be noted that

pre-modern Southeast Asians have adapted themselves to the changing quality and advancement of economies. Notwithstanding that, ASEAN has always been impacted by external factors.

From an academician's point of view, he emphasised the need for comprehensive education on the history of Southeast Asian. This will enable society in ASEAN to understand and learn more about their immediate ASEAN neighbours. He further stressed that ASEAN cannot lecture Southeast Asians on how to act like Southeast Asians.

Dr. Farish Noor further deliberated that peace is a prerequisite for prosperity, hence ASEAN's peace and stability should not be taken for granted as peace is a victory to garner international capital. As a conclusion, he called for ASEAN to function in both top down and bottom up setting.

The forum was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, academicians, government officials, students from institutions of higher learning and members of the media.

## Public Lecture on *Human Rights and Sustainable Development*

*"On Human Rights Day, let us recommit to guaranteeing the fundamental freedoms and protecting the human rights of all".*

*-United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon-*



The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, hence Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. This year, the United Nations Office launched a year-long campaign *Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always.* to commemorate two International Covenants on Human Rights: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966.

Dr. Shahrul Mizan Ismail, Assistant Professor and the Deputy Dean of the Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Law, International Islamic University Malaysia; and Dr. Amran Muhammad, Senior Lecturer at the Perdana School of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. The lecture was attended by more than 100 participants comprising members of diplomatic corps, senior government officials, representatives from NGOs and think tanks, and university students.

The Opening Remarks was delivered

In conjunction with the Human Rights Day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia in collaboration with IDFR coorganised a public lecture titled, *Human Rights and Sustainable Development* on 10 December 2015. Two speakers were invited to speak at the lecture;

by Dato' Ho May Yong, Deputy Secretary General (Multilateral Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

In his lecture, Dr. Shahrul Mizan emphasised that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or ICESCR is an important tool in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Shahrul further explained that priority should not only be given to Civil and Political Rights (CPR) but also to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). He said that states have the duty to ensure that these rights are given progressively to their people because "enjoyment of human" is interlinked in achieving the SDGs. Additionally, Dr. Shahrul Mizan stressed that the following technical features in ICESCR could contribute towards achieving SDGs: certainty and specificity; capacity development of right holder and duty bearer; focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised group; equal importance to

outcome and process; and accountability and participation.

In his lecture, Dr. Amran Muhammad clarified the ESCR approach as a human rights-based approach referring to the inclusion of standards contained in international human rights laws, conventions or treaties to achieve sustainable development. He explained that the ESCR approach focuses on the individual as a subject of rights and who has claims on those who

have duties and obligations. He also acknowledged the interconnection between social, economic and cultural rights set in a civil and political context. Furthermore, Dr. Amran pointed out the roles of NGOs and civil societies organisations in ESCR-SDG advocacy, which includes participation in monitoring and enforcement, presenting alternative views and drawing attention through media coverage.

In conclusion, both esteemed spea-

kers agreed that the human-rights based approach is notably more effective in achieving SDGs compared to the previous approach under the Millennium Development Goals. Even though Dr. Shahrul Mizan and Dr. Amran acknowledged the flaws in ESCR, this new approach remains useful in enhancing and strengthening the move towards achieving this agenda and utilising it to the fullest to transform our world for the better by the year 2030.

## *Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 Hi-Tea Graduation Ceremony*

IDFR hosted the *Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 Hi-Tea Graduation Ceremony* on 14 November 2015 at Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The Honourable Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, graced the ceremony and presented the diplomas to the participants. The ceremony was also attended by Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Director General of the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat of the Ministry; Dato' Syed Norulzaman Syed Kamarulzaman, former Director General of IDFR; ambassadors and high commissioners; senior officials from the Ministry and IDFR; parents and spouses of the participants; and facilitators of the programme.

The ceremony began with Welcoming Remarks by the newly-appointed Director General of IDFR, Datuk Salman Ahmad, followed by Address by Dato' Sri Reezal Merican and presentation of diplomas. In his remarks, Datuk Salman congratulated the DiD participants upon completing the six-month programme and urged them to continue learning and improving as diplomacy is a knowledge-intensive profession.

In his Address, Dato' Sri Reezal Merican stated that "an outstanding diplomat is one who is knowledge-



able, intelligent, adaptable, resilient, eloquent, enthusiastic and determined. Even with these characteristics, a diplomat would not be able to carry out his or her responsibilities without passion and commitment". With that statement, he hoped that all the qualities mentioned have been implanted and inculcated in the participants.

The ceremony resumed with the most exciting part which was the presentation of the awards: *Foreign Minister's Award for overall best student; Deputy Foreign Minister's Award for best research paper; Secretary General's Award for best leadership; Deputy Secretary General's Award for best presentation skills; Director General's*

*Award for best speech writer and Top Performers of the UNSC Simulation Exercise.* Mr. Amir Hamzah Mohd Nasir, the recipient of the *Foreign Minister's Award* then delivered a speech in which he, as the representative for the participants, thanked everyone including the Ministry and IDFR, and most importantly, their family members for their support. Mr. Amir Hamzah also said that his interest to become a diplomat was motivated by his late father and because of that, he dedicated this award to him. The ceremony concluded with performances by the participants.

## ASEAN Briefing and Refresher Course for Liaison Officers 2015

Throughout this year, IDFR conducted a series of training for officers who have been appointed to serve as Liaison Officers at the 2015 ASEAN Meetings. The latest series titled *ASEAN Briefing and Refresher Course for Liaison Officers 2015* was held from 12 to 13 October 2015 at IDFR, prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

The two-day course was attended by 116 officers from various ministries and government agencies who had served at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in April and the AMM/PMC and Related Meetings in August. The aim was to refresh their knowledge and understanding of their duties, particularly on key elements of protocol and liaison duties as well as the programmes and agenda for the meetings, and to

review and re-evaluate their protocol ethics.

On the first day of the course, the officers were briefed by Mr. Sophian Ab. Rahman from Istana Negara and Mr. Azery Sakawi from *Bahagian Istiadat dan Urusetia Persidangan Antarabangsa*. The course focused on modules such as *Roles and Functions of a Liaison Officer*, *The Do's and Don'ts of a Liaison Officer*, *Personal Grooming*, and *Preparation Checklist for Liaison Duties: Pre, During and Post*.

On the second day, the officers had a comprehensive briefing session by representatives from the ASEAN Logistics Main Secretariat (SILA) as well as the respective logistics subcommittees under SILA which included the

Protocol Subcommittee, the Substantive Subcommittee, the Bilateral Subcommittee, and the Registration and Accreditation Subcommittee. The session enabled SILA and the respective subcommittees to brief the participants on their roles pertaining to each subcommittee. The session also provided the participants with a platform to raise concerns and address issues faced during previous meetings to the respective subcommittees.

At the end of the course, the officers felt that they were ready to take on their duties and were eager for the Summit to commence and to do their part to make the Summit a success.

## MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Junior Diplomats 2015



From 12 to 30 October 2015, IDFR organised a *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Junior Diplomats* under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). As one of Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship initiatives, the course gathered aspiring young diplomats from ASEAN in a three-week course to enhance their knowledge, diplomatic skills and competencies in the conduct of diplomatic and foreign relations. The course was attended by 16 diplomats, namely from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The participants experienced an

integrated learning from lectures, discussions, simulation exercises, and industrial visits. Among the modules covered during the course were *Cross Cultural Diplomacy*, *National and International Security*, *Malaysia's Foreign Policy*, *Economic Diplomacy*, and *Scenario Planning and Future Studies*.

The course participants also had the opportunity to attend two major events hosted by IDFR, namely; the public lecture on *Sustainable Development Goals: Key Considerations for a People Centred ASEAN* by Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Chair of the United Nations Development Group, and the ASEAN Anniversary Forum 2015. Both events imparted the importance of sustainability and greater future for ASEAN which was parallel to the objectives of this course.

The young diplomats were introduced to Malaysia's state level governance

through a study visit to Perak. The visit included briefings from the Office of the State Secretary of Perak and an industrial visit to Henkel Malaysia. The visit further enhanced their understanding of the workings of a state government, as well as the important partnership between the industry and the state.

A joint Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony with the *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Secretariat Attachment Officers* was held on 30 October 2015. Datuk Othman Hashim, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia delivered the Closing Remarks and presented the certificates to the participants.

The course was well received by the participants. Mr. JP Samonte from the Philippines remarked that the course had fostered a feeling of belonging and 'home' in the participants. Other than benefitting from the modules and study visit, he had also gained life-long friends.

## *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Secretariat Attachment Officers 2015*

Seven young diplomats from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) recently attended a two-week *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Secretariat Attachment Officers 2015* organised by IDFR, which was held from 19 to 30 October 2015.

The course provided the junior diplomats from the CLMV countries with the opportunity to be exposed to and involved in matters related to regional cooperation under the ASEAN Economic Council and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprints. The course was specially designed to equip them with knowledge of current practices pertaining to international relations as well as relevant practices of diplomacy, especially at the ASEAN level. It was also crafted to enable them to learn the skills needed to perform their duties professionally and effectively.

The participants attended lectures focusing on a wide range of topics including *Theories and Practices in Diplomacy and International Relations*, *ASEAN Chairmanship 2015*, *Language and Diplomacy*, *Multilateral Diplomacy*, *Cross-Cultural Communication* and *Diplomacy in Crisis Ma-*

*nagement*. The participants were also put through workshops and simulation practices on *Media Relations and Media Skills*, *International Negotiations* as well as *Public Speaking and Presentation Skills*. Throughout these lectures and simulation exercises, the participants were given in-depth exposure to the economic development of Malaysia, relevant diplomatic practices as well as effective negotiation and media skills. The course also helped raise the level of cross-cultural awareness among the young diplomats, which is one of the most important characteristics as it teaches one to value and appreciate the culture of another nation.

The young diplomats also benefited from several work visits to Malaysia's premier agencies including to the Small Medium Enterprises Corporation, Malaysian Investment Development Authority and Putrajaya Holdings. During the visits, the participants were able to interact with the relevant authorities and gain more knowledge on the economic development of



Malaysia as well as draw comparisons with their respective countries.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on 30 October 2015 and was graced by the presence of Datuk Othman Hashim, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

The course received positive feedback from the participants, especially in terms of the quality of the modules and the credibility of the speakers. IDFR hopes to organise similar programmes that could enhance young diplomats' knowledge by developing their critical thinking skills and allowing them to explore more issues related to international affairs and diplomacy.

## *Workshop on International Negotiations for Mid and Senior Level Officers 2015*



The *Workshop on International Negotiations for Mid and Senior Level Officers 2015* was held from 24 to 26

November 2015 at IDFR. The objectives of the workshop were to provide the participants with key principles underpinning successful negotiations; to familiarise them with multilateral negoti-

ation processes and to provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences. The workshop was con-

ducted by Mr. Wilbur Perlot from the Clingendael Academy in the Netherlands.

Throughout the three-day workshop, the participants were exposed to the ways negotiations have been conducted in the past, techniques in dealing with complexities and multilateral negotiations. These were done through interactive lectures, discussions and simulation exercises which focused on multiparty and multilateral negotiation. During the

simulation exercises, the participants were assigned different roles, and multiple rounds of formal and informal talks were conducted. Subsequently, the participants were able to observe the pitfalls, assumptions and common mistakes in negotiations.

The workshop was attended by 20

officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Prime Minister's Department, Standards Malaysia, Council of Unit Trust for Bumiputera and IDFR. Madam Norani Ibrahim,

IDFR's Director of Special Projects delivered the Closing Remarks and presented the certificates to the participants on the last day of the workshop.

## *Workshop on Intercultural Awareness*



With the aim of developing participants' critical awareness of the process of communication across cultures and between different cultural groups, IDFR organised the *Workshop on Intercultural Awareness* from 3 to 5 November 2015. The three-day workshop was attended by 14 officers from various ministries and government agencies.

The participants learnt to develop understanding of key theoretical approaches and concepts in communicating cultures, to identify the main ways in which culture affects commu-

nication process, to state similarities and differences in cultural systems and behaviours in a systematic way, and to appreciate cultural diversity through a series of interactive lecture, group work, discussions and exercises.

On the first day, the participants were exposed to aspects of culture and intercultural competence during a lecture by Mr. Faiket Luari, a Consultant from the Egnatia Corporation followed by a two-hour experience sharing session with a senior diplomat, Ambassador Aminahtun Hj A. Karim, who is also the Director of the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy at IDFR. The session highlighted the issues and challenges faced by the speaker throughout her career as a diplomat.

Topics covered during the second and third day were *Case Study: Racial,*

*Political Discourse and Social Media* by Professor Zaharom Nain from University of Nottingham (Malaysia Campus); *Sharing of Experience: Cross and Intercultural Communication* by Madam Jeanette Daina from IDFR; *Multiculturalism and the Imagined Community in Malaysia* by Professor Dr. Faridah Ibrahim from the Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur; *Media and Multiculturalism* by Mr. J.D. Lovrencic, a facilitator from the Asian PR Academy Malaysia; and *Stereotyping, Bias and Prejudice* by Assistant Professor Dr. Faizah Idrus from the International Islamic University, Malaysia.

Certificates of completion were presented to the participants by Ms. Wan Faizah Wan Yusoff, Principal Assistant Director of the Centre for Language and Cultural Diplomacy at IDFR on the last day of the workshop.

## *MTCP: Crisis Management for International Participants 2015*

IDFR organised the last course under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) for the year from 11 to 17 November 2015. The Crisis

Management course was attended by 16 diplomats from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao

PDR, Namibia, Seychelles, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Malaysia.

The course aimed to provide holistic



insights on theories, strategies, elements and issues related to crisis management, and enhance knowledge and understanding on the theoretical and practical aspects of international crisis and crisis management. The course also served as a platform for the participants to exchange views, experience and ideas on areas rela-

ted to crisis management. During the course, the participants went through an integrated teaching and learning methodology which included classroom lectures, discussions, simulations and briefings. Among the modules conducted in the week-long course were *Scenario Planning and Future Studies*, *Managing Psychological Stress in Crisis Management*, and *National Security and Crisis Management*.

Furthermore, the course participants were introduced to Malaysia's state

level governance through a one-day visit to the state of Malacca. The visit provided the participants with insight into the state government's role as well as a chance for them to see and experience the state's rich history and culture. The participants visited A Famosa, the famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese fort, learned the state's colourful history on board the Malacca River Cruise, and stopped by Stadthuys, regarded as the oldest Dutch building in the East. They also had the opportunity to sample delicious Malacca's well-known *Peranakan* food.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on 17 November 2015. Datuk Salman Ahmad, the Director General of IDFR, delivered the Closing Remarks and presented the certificates to the participants.

## Launch of the book *Malaysia and the United Nations in Conjunction with United Nations Day*

On 29 October 2015, Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia hosted a reception to celebrate United Nations (UN) Day as well as the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN.

In his remarks, Dato' Sri Anifah stated that as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Malaysia has shown its commitment and will continue to play its role in trying to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, such as in some parts of the African and Middle Eastern regions. He added that Malaysia is committed in upholding the principles of the UN Charter as well as giving support to strengthening the UN.

After the remarks, Dato' Sri Anifah launched a book titled *Malaysia and the United Nations*. The book, published by IDFR, is a compilation of the personal experience of five distin-

guished former diplomats, namely, Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Tan Sri Hamidon Ali, Datuk Dr. Rajmah Hussain and Dato' Sri Dr. Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad, who had served at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN in New York and Geneva. The purpose of the book is to share their invaluable experience and to provide some exposure to the readers especially our young diplomats on the work of our diplomats at the UN.

In attendance were members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, representatives from think tanks,



international organisations and non-governmental organisations as well as members of the media.

## IDFR Welcomes its New Director General



On 11 November 2015, IDFR welcomed its new Director General, Datuk

Salman Ahmad. Datuk Salman succeeded Dato' Hussin Nayan whose contract as the Director General ended on 30 September 2015.

Datuk Salman served in the Malaysian diplomatic service for 35 years until February 2015. His ambassadorial appointments were as Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany (2013 to 2015); Czech Republic (2005 to 2009); High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (2001 to 2003) and Australia (2009 to 2013).

His other overseas postings were as Second Secretary in New Delhi (1982 to 1985); First Secretary in Tokyo (1989 to 1991); Counsellor in Bangkok

(1993 to 1995) and he was the first Consul General of Malaysia in Davao City, Philippines (1995 to 1998). At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Salman held various positions including Assistant Secretary in charge of Development (1980 to 1982); and Southeast Asia (1985 to 1987); Principal Assistant Secretary in charge of Southeast Asia (1991 to 1993); and Undersecretary in charge of Information and Public Diplomacy (1998 to 2001) and Strategic Planning (2003 to 2005).

Datuk Salman is married to Datin Tengku Karina Tuan Yusoff and they have three children.

*Continued from page 1*

affecting communities by terrorists' acts. He further reaffirmed the Leaders' commitment to work together to address salient issues affecting the region as well as establishing measures to strengthen ASEAN's capacity to deal with existing and emerging security challenges.

At the end of the Opening Ceremony, the Leaders announced the ten recipients of the ASEAN Peoples' Award selected from the ten ASEAN Member States. This Malaysia's brain-child is an award that aims to provide ASEAN's recognition to the contributions of outstanding individuals or organisations to community building efforts. The Leaders also received the outcome document of the ASEAN Young Leaders' Summit that was held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 20 November 2015 which contains proposals and recommendations to develop the youths in ASEAN countries. It also served as a platform to enlighten youths on the knowledge and concept of the ASEAN Community and the role of youths as strong supporters in realising the ASEAN Community.

The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak then presided over the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit Plenary Session where he reiterated the importance of the establishment of the ASEAN Community and the way forward in strengthening ASEAN's unity and deepening its integration over the next years. The Leaders also had extensive and elaborate discussions on regional and international issues such as the South China Sea dispute, irregular migration in Southeast Asia, the situation in the Korean Peninsula, radicalisation and terrorism, trans-boundary haze as well as the role of moderation.

In honour of the Leaders and Delegates attending the 27<sup>th</sup> Summit and Related Summits, The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak and Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor hosted a Gala Dinner on 21 November 2015. In his speech, the Prime Minister noted the diversity of the peoples of ASEAN and emphasised that ASEAN has become very important to the world. As such, the establishment of the ASEAN Community would be an integral part as ASEAN pursues its

higher goals for a brighter future. He also commended the progress in the relationship between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and stressed the need to deepen this cooperation further in addressing various regional and global challenges of mutual concern.

The Related Summits also had fruitful outcomes. Among others, the Dialogue Partners expressed support for ASEAN by working on new Plan of Actions, with new priorities and measures to be undertaken by ASEAN and her Dialogue Partners to further deepen their ties, realise the full potential of the partnerships in all areas of common interests, and fully support the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision. The Leaders also reaffirmed commitment to strengthen and broaden ASEAN-United Nations (UN) cooperation with the aim to maintain a stable, peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia as well as to promote an ASEAN-centred regional architecture as reflected in the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit, the Leaders adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Tenth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit in commemoration of its tenth Anniversary in which the Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the EAS as an integral component of the regional architecture. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the EAS, the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EAS and the 2011 Declaration of the EAS on the Principle for Mutually Beneficial Relations, which emphasised the role of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern.

The highlight of the Summits was the signing of the “2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community” which formalises the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015, and the “Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together”, which outlines the general framework to sustain the momentum of regional integration and contribute towards strengthening further the ASEAN Community building efforts in the next ten years.

Altogether, the 27<sup>th</sup> Summit and Related Summits produced 60 documents of which nine were issued, three were signed, 17 were adopted, 30 were noted and one was endorsed. The Leaders also signed the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children which provides a comprehensive framework to enable better coordination in tackling the issues of people smuggling and trafficking. This is the second ASEAN Convention after the ASEAN Con-

vention against Counter-Terrorism that was signed in 2009.

Apart from the Meeting of Leaders’ level, there were also a series of side events that were convened, among others, the inaugural ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat, Innovation Conference and Games, ASEAN Young Leaders Summit 2015, ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2015, Global Investors’ Dialogue and 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Summit. The Prime Minister also held several bilateral meetings with his counterparts at the margins of the Summit to discuss bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual interest.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Summit and Related Summits concluded with a ceremonial handing over from Malaysia to Lao PDR. During the ceremony, Lao PDR unveiled the theme of *Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community* for the ASEAN Chairmanship of 2016. Malaysia and all ASEAN Member States reassured their commitment to support and contribute towards the success of Lao PDR’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2016.

Underpinned by the people-centred approach in line with the slogan *Our*

*People, Our Community, Our Vision*, Malaysia has made good its promise to steer ASEAN closer to its peoples. We had also successfully completed the two main tasks set upon ourselves during the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015, namely, completing the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community and developing the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision.

The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits will go down in ASEAN’s history as one of the most significant Summit where all ten ASEAN Member States commemorated the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015 by signing the “2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community”. The Prime Minister summed up that the Summit was a monumental achievement. The ASEAN Leaders as well as Dialogue Partners congratulated Malaysia for hosting such a successful gathering. The new era of a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN is now upon us. This is indeed a momentous chapter in ASEAN’s long history since its inception in 1967.



## What They Say...



**Mr. Milenko Misic**

Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(Course participant of the *MTCP: Crisis Management for International Participants*)

"It is obvious that IDFR worked hard in the preparation for the course, as we could see a high relevance for each topic right from the very beginning. The content and modules were well-chosen and presented in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. I would like to say that the participation in the course also made it possible for me to improve my knowledge about the history and culture of this beautiful country. I enjoyed my stay in Kuala Lumpur and the trip to Malacca, and benefited a lot from meeting very friendly Malaysians. In short, I gained a wonderful, unique new experience. I am sure that the new network of contacts established during my stay in Malaysia will be very useful in the future and contribute to further improvement of cooperation and strengthening of relations between our people and countries."

"The modules were presented in very good order. The trainers in most classes were very experienced in their subject matter. The order of classes (crisis, negotiation, stress management, etc) were varied though very related to Crisis Management. I met new friends from the other side of the world and learned a lot of new things from them."



**Ms. Chhy Ratha**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia  
(Course participant of the *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Attachment Officer*)

"I learned a lot from the course as the lecturers were knowledgeable. Everyone got to know each other well and it was a good chance to build networking among government officers in the ASEAN region. The course coordinators managed time well and were strict on our dressing as we are professionals."

"It was a comprehensive and enriching workshop, especially with everyone being very lively and participative. Personally, the sessions were both a great refresher and an eye-opener for me. I particularly appreciate the sharing of experience by a senior diplomat as well as by an expatriate. I enjoyed the networking with fellow participants from the various ministries, as well as the speakers from various backgrounds. Tapping on the speakers' and participants' various experience expanded everyone's horizons. If given the chance, I would take part in programmes of such nature again."



**Ms. Sasiyada Naowanondha**

Attache, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand  
(Course participant of the *MTCP: Crisis Management for International Participants*)



**Mr. Muhammad Zaki Shah bin Ahmad Shuhaimi**

Central Bank of Malaysia  
(Course participant of the *Workshop on Inter-Cultural Awareness*)

## Upcoming Courses/Events at IDFR

<i>French Level VIII (Part 2)</i>	12 January-25 February 2016
<i>French Level IV (Part 2)</i>	13 January-29 February 2016
<i>French Insights</i>	15 January-4 March 2016
<i>Spanish Level I</i>	12 February-19 August 2016
<i>Spanish Level II</i>	15 February-22 August 2016
<i>Spanish Level III</i>	16 February-26 April 2016
<i>Spanish Level I</i>	17 February-24 August 2016
<i>Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) Series 1 (Grade 41 and Above)</i>	7-18 March 2016
<i>French Level V</i>	16 March-1 June 2016
<i>French Level IX</i>	24 March-10 November 2016
<i>Building Block of Good English</i>	22-26 February 2016
<i>Public Diplomacy Forum Series I</i>	24 February 2016
<i>Effective Presentation Skills 1/2016</i>	14-17 March 2016
<i>Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2016</i>	14 March-1 April 2016

\* Subject to changes

### Best Wishes

#### To our colleagues who recently joined the IDFR family

Datuk Salman Ahmad  
Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Sharif

#### To our colleagues who left us with pleasant memories

Zaiza Haji Mohd Ali - retired from the service  
Lim Hui Chin - resigned from her contract  
Hassan Mohd Ali - ended his contract tenure  
Farhana Mohamed Nor - resigned from her contract  
Zurainee Zainoldin - retired from the service  
Mahassan Mahamad - transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs

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