

# **IDFR 2018**

**annual report**

**Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



IDFR stands on the site that housed the late Tunku Abdul Rahman's Residence when he was Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya. The site is also where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was located from 1966 until its move to Putrajaya in 2001.



**IDFR 2018**  
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## **IDFR 2018 Annual Report**

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# MESSAGE

from the Secretary General,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

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**At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for successfully completing another full year of training programmes and related activities.**

**I am pleased to note that throughout the years, there has been greater synergy between the Ministry and IDFR in planning and implementing the various training programmes that benefit our officers as well as practitioners of diplomacy from other Ministries and government agencies. The Ministry is very supportive of IDFR's efforts to enhance the knowledge and the necessary skills required for the officers from the Ministry.**

The world today is constantly besieged by a growing magnitude of challenges and issues of international concern. Among them are issues such as human rights, climate change, migration and terrorism. As diplomats, it is our primary duty to ensure that our national interests are well protected, and our policies are promoted and defended at all times. Hence, it is imperative that our

diplomats are equipped with a multitude of skills and knowledge that will make them stand out from among their peers. IDFR, as the training arm of the Ministry, has an important role to play in moulding them to become the movers and shakers in international relations.

On top of that, it is vital that IDFR's training modules be regularly reviewed to ensure that our diplomats are au fait and au courant on pertinent issues that affect Malaysia. They must also keep themselves abreast on issues that have bearing and impact on international relations, such as the fifth industrial revolution and crypto currency. I would also like to encourage IDFR to continue to engage and involve our current and former senior diplomats to be guest lecturers. We should take advantage of their vast knowledge, important insights and wide experience which they can share with our junior officers and other course participants.

In this age of the fourth industrial revolution, it is extremely essential for our diplomats to be media savvy; not just in the traditional sense but also in the realm of social media. Social media skills is immensely important as we can learn a lot and quickly from the information that is shared within social media. I am happy to note that aspects of social media skills are included in some of IDFR's programmes. IDFR is also setting an example by being active in promoting their programmes and activities on Facebook and following prominent organisations and individuals on Twitter.

It is important for me to stress that the mastery of the English language and other foreign languages plays a key role in enabling our diplomats to discharge their functions more effectively at post. I am pleased to note that the junior Ministry officers attending the Diploma in Diplomacy programme are exposed to various English modules and each is studying either Arabic, French, German, Mandarin or Spanish which will give them an added advantage, in particular when serving abroad and attending international meetings.

I am equally encouraged to note that IDFR has continued to establish linkages with universities and institutions of higher learning. It is crucial that we work together with the academics, as well as other players such as non-governmental organisations and civil society, in order to give our course participants an all-round and comprehensive perspective on relevant issues affecting the world today.

On behalf of the Ministry, I extend my sincere congratulations to IDFR for their past achievements and wish them greater success in the future.

Thank you.

DATO' SRI MUHAMMAD SHAHRUL IKRAM YAAKOB

# FOREWORD

by the Director General,  
Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)



**I am very pleased to present to our readers the Annual Report which features the various programmes and activities undertaken by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in the year 2018.**

**Foremost, IDFR was honoured to welcome our newly-appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Marzuki Yahya to the Institute on 19 July and 7 August respectively, for a briefing on IDFR's training programmes and activities.**

Since its inception in 1991, IDFR has strived tirelessly to organise various training programmes and activities for the benefit of its main stakeholders – the officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as officers from other Ministries and government agencies involved in the various areas of diplomacy and international relations. Under the guidance of the various Secretaries General of the Ministry and the capable leadership of the Directors General of the Institute, IDFR has expanded from year to year to become a renowned diplomatic training institute in the region.

Almost three decades on, IDFR celebrates its alumni who includes Secretaries General, Ambassadors and others who now occupy significant high ranking positions.

Two years ago, IDFR's training programmes were restructured under four learning centres – Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy; Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy; Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy; and Centre for Competency Enhancement. The restructuring has enabled IDFR to further develop its training programmes and activities in various niche areas.

The year 2018 included IDFR's flagship programme for junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs i.e. the six-month *Diploma in Diplomacy* (DiD) programme. Sixteen officers from the various desks attended and successfully completed the programme. The officers were introduced to various modules such as negotiations, media skills and defending Malaysia's national interests. They were also tasked to organise and be engaged in several round table discussions and forums. To round up their training at IDFR, the officers also participated in a two-week attachment programme at the Malaysian Diplomatic Mission in Bangkok and Jakarta. All of these gave them a fundamental perspective into some of the challenging roles of diplomats.

The other flagship programme – the one-year *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy* – commenced in September for the 2018/2019 intake. Eleven students,

including four international students – one each from Spain and Japan and two from Yemen – registered for the long-standing collaborative programme between IDFR and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. IDFR is proud that many of its alumni members have excelled in their respective professional careers.

Aside from training Malaysian diplomats and other practitioners of diplomacy and international relations, the Institute also received special requests in 2018 to train diplomats and government officials from other countries. These include participants for the *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Attachment Officers* and the *Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme: Workshop on APEC for Papua New Guinea Officials*. The latter programme was conducted in an effort to strengthen their capacity building programme in preparation to host the 2018 APEC Summit.

One of the highlights was the successful inaugural organisation of the *Young Diplomats Forum 2018*, which was attended by 60 international participants from Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, India, Italy, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Taiwan, UK and USA. They were joined by the 16 DiD participants. Held from 3 to 7 September, the forum was a successful collaboration between IDFR and Global Diplomatic Forum, a London-based independent, not for profit organisation.

IDFR also successfully organised three more programmes under the auspices of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, a platform for Malaysia to share its development experience and expertise with other developing countries. The programmes were *Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2018*; *Economic Diplomacy Course for Vietnamese Officials 2018*; and *Economic Diplomacy for International Participants 2018*.

The year 2018 was also a momentous one as IDFR received the visit of two eminent persons, accompanied by their delegations. On 25 October, IDFR was honoured to receive the visit of His Excellency Adel Bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who was on a three-day working visit to Kuala Lumpur. IDFR also welcomed His Excellency

Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Kuwait to IDFR on 13 November. Discussions centred on exploring possible collaborations between IDFR and their respective country's diplomatic training institute.

As in previous years, IDFR also continued to explore collaborative efforts with local universities. In 2018, they include Universiti Malaya and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, with the aim to conduct joint training programmes and activities as well as offer opportunities for officers of the Ministry to pursue post-graduate studies. IDFR also encourages the participation of undergraduates from the local universities in its yearly internship programme.

In line with the collaborative efforts, IDFR also hosted an engaging and interactive Town Hall Session between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the academia on 29 October. The session saw the participation of several Vice Chancellors and high-level representatives from both the public and private universities, where the discussions included areas such as *Current Issues and Evolving Trends*, *Humanitarian and Post-Conflict Reconstruction*, and *Active Membership in International Bodies, Organisations and Multilateral Sphere*.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the officers and staff of IDFR for their unwavering commitment, hard work and team spirit, in ensuring that all programmes and activities were organised according to plan. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan for His Royal Highness' patronage. My deepest appreciation also goes to Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dato' Marzuki Yahya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dato' Sri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their guidance and continuous support for IDFR's programmes and activities.

Thank you.

DATUK MOHAMAD SADIK KETHERGANY





**Institute of  
Diplomacy  
and Foreign  
Relations  
(IDFR)**

# INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

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The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, or IDFR in short, is the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Established in 1991, the Institute trains Malaysian diplomats in the areas of diplomacy, international relations, soft skills and foreign languages. It also trains diplomats and other officials from recipient countries under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme as well as the ASEAN Secretariat in areas including diplomatic training, strategic analysis and economic diplomacy.

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IDFR is made up of four learning centres. They are:



**Centre for  
Political Studies  
and Economic  
Diplomacy**



**Centre for  
Leadership,  
Negotiation and  
Public Diplomacy**



**Centre for  
Languages and  
Cultural Diplomacy**



**Centre for  
Competency  
Enhancement**

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The four centres are supported by:



**Special Projects  
Division**



**Management  
Services Division**

One of the institute's flagship programmes is the *Diploma in Diplomacy*, a six-month intensive course for junior Malaysian diplomats in preparation for their first posting to Malaysian Missions. IDFR has also been offering another flagship programme – a one-year *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy*, a joint programme with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia since 1999.

To complement classroom learning, discourses comprising lectures, forums, round table discussions and workshops are also organised regularly. Prominent figures who have addressed audience at IDFR include Kofi Annan, Yasser Arafat, Benazir Bhutto, Nelson Mandela, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Ban Ki-moon, Gareth Evans, Helen Clark, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz and His Royal Highness Sultan Dr. Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan and the Institute's Royal Patron.

Among the Institute's collaborators are the Association of Former Malaysian Ambassadors, Foreign Policy Study Group, United Nations Association of Malaysia, Global Movement of Moderates Foundation, Asia Europe Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Embassy of the United States of America, High Commission of Canada and other foreign missions based in Kuala Lumpur.

IDFR also organises an annual *Cultural Appreciation Day*, which enables the foreign participants to introduce and showcase their respective country's culture and cuisine. It also allows them to experience more of the Malaysian culture through various performances and activities.

IDFR has a wide range of facilities and they include:

- \* Training rooms
- \* Meeting rooms
- \* Library
- \* Language lab
- \* Computer lab
- \* Auditorium
- \* Multipurpose hall
- \* Hostel
- \* Gymnasium
- \* Swimming pool
- \* Tennis cum futsal and squash courts
- \* Wireless coverage

IDFR's main block







The **IDFR** Team



### Director General

Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany

### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Ms. Fadhlina Jaffar



Ms. Norhashikin Hassan

### SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION



Madam Norani Ibrahim (Until 23 June)



Mr. Raja Saiful Ridzuwan Raja Kamaruddin (Until 4 November)



Mr. Harvinder Singh Ramday



Ms. Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin



Mr. Khairul Kamal Abdul Rahman

### CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY



Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan



Associate Professor Dr. Norraihan Zakaria



Major (Rtd.) Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff



Dr. Wan Liyana Mariah Wan Zainal Abidin



Dr. Wirdawati Abdul Rahim



Mr. Haris Syarwani Razali



Mr. Ahmad Fikri Mohd Fauzi



Mr. Nik Luqman Wan Zainoddin



Ms. Nik Latifah Mohd Zaki



Mr. Gunaselvam Vail



Ms. Norfatimah Othman



Ms. Siti Norliza Juri

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Ms. Hafizah Abdullah  
(Until 31 January)



Mr. Aiyub Omar



Ms. Siti Farsha Murni  
Izami (Until 17 October)



Mr. Imran Ariff  
Mohammad Amin



Mr. Muhammad Shafiy  
Mazlan



Ms. Noraziah Omar



Ms. Norazlin Mohd  
Tahir



Ms. Nik Khalilah Nik  
Ab. Kadir

### CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



Ambassador  
Anizan@Siti Hajjar  
Adnin



Mr. Mohd Nasri  
Abdul Rahman  
(Until 10 November)



Mr. Afdal Izal Md.  
Hashim



Ms. Wan Faizah  
Wan Yusoff



Mr. Zahir Zakaria



Major (Rtd.) Hadzrie  
Abdul Khan



Ms. Norlela Samad



Ms. Haliyath Zahiyah  
Kamal Mustaffa



Dr. Raihan Marzuki



Mr. Agustin Gutierrez  
C. Abdullah  
(Until 31 August)



Ms. Nazirah  
Nazaruddin



Ms. Irma Aneez  
Sani

**Not in photo:** Dr. Ahmad Kamal Ariffin, Mr. Ahmad Khidir Lemn

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## CENTRE FOR COMPETENCY ENHANCEMENT



Mr. Zakaria Nasir



Ms. Jarin Sijaya Abdul  
Hathi



Ms. Deborah Tan  
Sue-Yuen



Ms. Wan Hazwani  
Wan Hamed  
(Until 27 September)



Ms. Norani Md.  
Hamami



Ms. Suhaiza Sabri



Mr. Haslil Hadi Amir  
Hasan



Ms. Nur Fazlina  
Basiron

---

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(Until 2 August)



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Ab Karim



Mr. Mohd Syazwan  
Mohd Nasir



Mr. Raja Azrin Raja  
Azman



Mr. Muhamad Syahfie  
Md Saleh



Mr. Mohd Fairuz  
Omar  
(Until 8 November)



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Asraf Ismail



Mr. Hamezy Ab.  
Muai



Ms. Hasnah Mohd  
Sharif



Mr. Roslan Kamarudin



Mr. Mohd Sha'arie  
Amran



Ms. Nurfarhana Abdul  
Manan



Mr. Muhd. Jaafar  
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Zainal Abidin



Mr. Mohd Ridzuan  
Basarudin



Mr. Erdee Azreen  
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Mr. Mohd Zani  
Tukman



Mr. Nazli Thajudin



Mr. Ibrahim Nor



Mr. Rozaidi Abdul  
Razak



Mr. Zaimi Ahmad



Mr. Azrul Nizam Abdul  
Rahim



Ms. Fadilah Shahri



Mr. Alif An Naz  
Nazaruddin

**Not in photo:**

Mr. Aminuddin Othman (Until 27 April)  
Mr. Anuar Hafizi Adnan  
Ms. Nur Hafizza Bahrim  
Mr. Raimi Amzar Zamali  
Mr. Mohd Azrul Effendy Shamsudin  
Mr. Muhammad Jazlan Mathat @Minhat  
Mr. Mohamad Najib Zulkifly  
Mr. Wan Marzuki Wan Mohamad

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Abidin (Until 24 June)



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Suhaili



Ms. Jamaliah Jaafar



Mr. Shah Rizal Mohd  
Salleh



Ms. Mazulina Mat  
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Mr. Sapuri Ghazali



Ms. Afidah A. Manaf



Ms. Nor'ain Hassan

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Ms. Iliza Ismail



Ms. Badriyah Johari



Ms. Nor Azura Mior  
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Abdullah



Mr. Mohd  
Shahhizam Che  
Ahmad



Ms. Che Nurul Huda  
Che Aziz



Ms. Gurnam Kaur  
Hari Singh



Mr. Ahmad Yani  
Kamaruddin

**Not in photo:**

Mr. Mohamad Fitri  
Ghazali

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Corporate Affairs Section



Ms. Barathi Muniyandi



Ms. Noraini Awang  
Nong



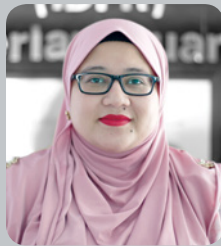
Ms. Dzuita Mohamed



Mr. Amirul Khairi  
Mustafa Bakri



Mr. Mohd  
Issammuddin Sayuti

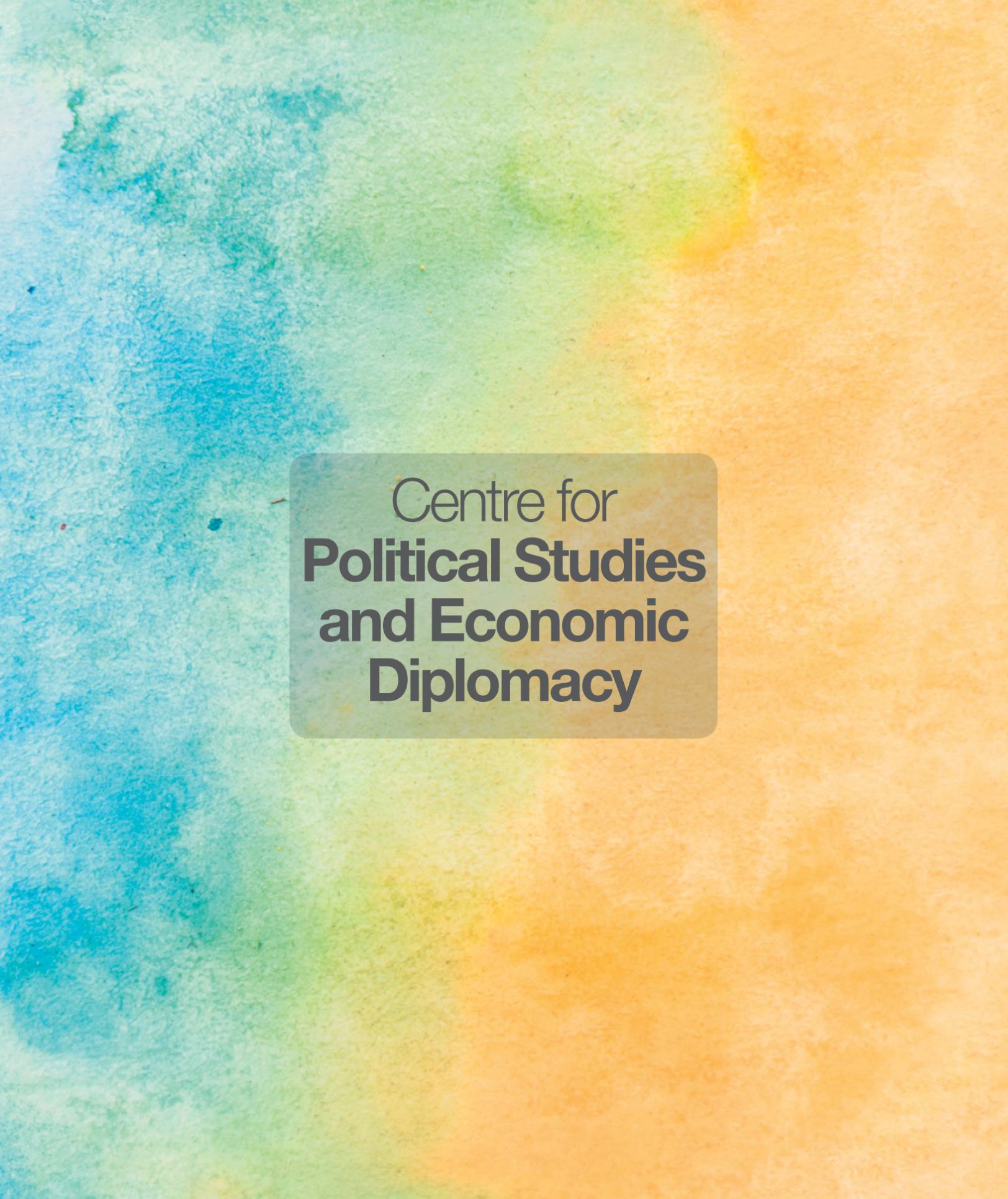


Ms. Ida Rosyanty Ishak



Ms. Hanriyani  
Sahmawi





Centre for  
**Political Studies  
and Economic  
Diplomacy**

# CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

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**For the year under review, the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy had an eventful year. The Centre successfully conducted five courses involving a total of 85 participants with a breakdown of 29 local participants and 56 international participants from 43 countries in ASEAN, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, ranging from junior, mid-career to senior diplomats.**

The objectives of these courses were to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations, and to expose them to Malaysia's development and experience in these respective areas. Apart from that, the courses served as a platform for networking and exchanging of views among the participants from various countries and different backgrounds. The courses were substance-based themed on diplomatic skills, economic diplomacy, security in the scope of diplomacy and international relations.

In addition, the Centre also organised five public lectures throughout the year, comprising one *Ambassador Lecture Series*, one *Economic Diplomacy Series* and three *IDFR Lecture Series*. These public lectures were well attended not only by local officials, academia and students but also ambassadors and high commissioners of Foreign Missions based in Kuala Lumpur. Apart from the scheduled courses and lectures, the Centre also published IDFR's *Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations* in November.

In essence, the Centre's programmes and activities have directly contributed towards making IDFR the centre of excellence in diplomacy and international relations.

### **Strategic Analysis Course for Malaysian Participants**

The first training programme organised by the Centre for 2018 was the *Strategic Analysis Course for Malaysian Participants*. Held from 13 to 16 March, the aim was to enhance the participants' knowledge on strategic thinking and security analysis, as well as to expose them to the changing political, security and strategic environment of the modern world.

The programme was attended by 23 officers from various ministries and government agencies. They were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Royal Malaysian Police, Royal Malaysian Air Force, Royal Malaysian Navy, Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Public Service Department, Malaysian Nuclear Agency, Malaysian Investment Development Authority and IDFR.

The programme received favourable response from the participants who were looking forward to applying what they have learned into their daily work. They found the programme to be beneficial in exposing them to security analysis and developing scenarios for the purpose of strategic thinking and management.



### **Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2018**

Her Excellency Victoria Marguerite Treadell, British High Commissioner to Malaysia was IDFR's guest for the first Ambassador Lecture Series, held at the Treaty Room on 30 April. High Commissioner Treadell delivered a lecture titled *UK Post-Brexit: Implications to UK-Malaysia and UK-ASEAN Relations* where she shared the latest information about Brexit and how the British government was at a crossroad on Brexit. She was confident that Britain was fully committed to the decision and fully engaged with the European Union on the best solution. Despite the looming uncertainty over Brexit, she believed that Britain's economic fundamentals would remain resilient and continue to grow despite the earlier hype about the economic recession if Britain were to exit the EU.

In her lecture, High Commissioner Treadell also emphasised on the future prospect of UK's relations in the global arena, particularly with Malaysia and ASEAN post-Brexit. This prospect was taken without compromising on the long established relations between the UK and Malaysia having a shared history and cooperation on a number of issues such as trade, education, medicine and defence. In fact, the UK aims to establish a stronger economic interface in the ASEAN region. This is due to the UK's commitment to be more outward-looking and globally engaged than ever before, in line with the UK's Global Britain policy through the manifestation of new initiatives of cooperation and a higher level of engagement with the world.

The attendees comprised, among others, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation,



National Professors Council, Malaysian Youth Council, Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, Universiti Teknologi MARA and Universiti Utara Malaysia, as well as ambassadors and representatives from the Embassies of France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the European Union in Kuala Lumpur.

#### **MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2018**

Funded by the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), the course took place from 25 June to 6 July, and was attended by 14 participants from Albania, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran, Kyrgyz, Lao PDR, Oman, Qatar, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.



The objective of the course was to enhance the foreign diplomats' knowledge in theories, practices and elements of diplomacy and international affairs. It covered various topics such as national and international security, economic diplomacy, media relations, counter terrorism and international negotiations. The course was a success as one of the participants commented that it was an opportunity for her professional development with a new perspective in diplomatic engagements.

#### **Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2018**

IDFR was honoured to host Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sulaiman Mahbob, Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research and also Telekom Malaysia Berhad on 18 July. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sulaiman gave a lecture titled *International Economics and Implications on National Economic Management*. He provided an overview of Malaysia's experience vis-à-vis global economy when during the pre-independence era, the country relied heavily on foreign investments to then Malaya's economy especially in natural resources such as rubber and tin. Subsequently, Malaysia's export market grew, mainly driven by palm oil and electronic industries. Its economy rose due to the globalisation pace and trends which reinforced the influence and impact of external factors on domestic demand and supply, and standard of living. International trade has been the major instrument in bringing about competition and market opportunities for wealth creation processes. As a result, international price movements impacted Malaysia's export earnings and also the causing factor for Malaysia's economic crisis in 1973, 1985/1986, 1997/1998 and 2008/2009.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sulaiman also spoke on how the current features of Malaysia's economy rely heavily on foreign direct investments, strong foreign ownership and control in manufacturing sector which have caused a constant and persistent outflow of profit and dividend. Large outflows depreciate the currency and impact the stock market. They could also increase the domestic liquidity and encourage domestic lending. Hence, there is a need to assess Malaysia's balance of payment to avoid deficits that would bring loss for the country in the long term. Against the backdrop of the breakdown in multilateral trade negotiation under the World Trade Organisation and increasing economic protectionism manifested through the tariff war between the US and China, there is a need to have a policy framework for exchange rates which reflects the market and is supportive of economic stability of the country.



A total of 91 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, SME Corporation Malaysia, Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia as well as ambassadors and representatives from the Embassies of Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, Laos, Mexico and the European Union attended the lecture.

#### **MTCP: Economic Diplomacy Course for Vietnamese Officials 2018**

In commemoration of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Viet Nam, IDFR organised the *Economic Diplomacy Course for Vietnamese Officials* from 16 to 27 July. The course was attended by 15 Vietnamese officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Planning and Investment, State Bank of Viet Nam, Academy of Policy and Development, and Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They were joined by four Malaysian officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and Malaysian Investment Development Authority. The objective of the course was to enhance the officials' knowledge in economic planning and policies, negotiations, investment and trade.

The officials also benefitted from the various round table discourses by Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sulaiman Mahbob, Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research; Professor Amitav Acharya, Distinguished Professor of International Relations at the American University, Washington DC; and Mr. Richard Record, a lead Economist at the World Bank Group. The course was a success in further fostering the close relations and cooperation between Malaysia and Viet Nam.



#### **IDFR Lecture Series 1/2018**

IDFR played host to Professor Amitav Acharya, Distinguished Professor of International Relations from the School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C on 19 July. Professor Amitav presented a lecture titled *China's Rise and ASEAN Regionalism: Implications for ASEAN and Malaysia*. The lecture was jointly organised by IDFR and the Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya in collaboration with the High Commission of Canada in Kuala Lumpur. Also in attendance were Her Excellency Julia Bentley, High Commissioner of Canada to Malaysia and Professor Dr Azirah Hashim, Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Institute.



In his lecture, Professor Amitav spoke about the political landscape of the region in the past where no single major power that tried, including India, US and China, succeeded in creating and maintaining a viable Asian regional organisation. These major powers were unsuccessful due to lack of capacity, legitimacy or commitment and also because of mutual counterbalancing. Professor Amitav noted that China was a bit late in becoming an ASEAN dialogue partner in the early 1990s and it was then still a sceptical partner in the larger ASEAN-centred institutions. However, China has since then shifted to become an active player due to its growing capacity and confidence

manifested through Chinese diplomacy of transformation from “keeping a low profile” to “striving for achievements” and following President Xi Jinping’s doctrine of “China will lead”. Against this backdrop, Professor Amitav opined that the “ASEAN First” policy should be advocated among the member states emphasising on Southeast Asian unity, autonomy and identity vis-à-vis China’s rise in the region. The lecture was attended by more than 100 representatives from various government agencies, Foreign Missions, think-tanks, universities and international organisations.



### **MTCP: Economic Diplomacy for International Participants 2018**

This two-week course, held from 13 to 27 September, was aimed at enhancing the participants’ knowledge on economic planning and policies, negotiations, investment and trade. The course also encompassed an overview of Malaysia’s efforts in transforming and improving its economic growth, governance and social development.



Seventeen participants took part in this course, namely, from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Croatia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Oman, Paraguay, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The course focused on topics related to *ASEAN Economic Community; Islamic Finance and the Sustainable Development Goals; Case Study on Economic Diplomacy for an Inclusive Development: Malaysia’s Experience; Role of Private Sector in Economic Diplomacy; International Trade Policy; and Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreement and Process*. The participants also went through the conceptual framework of international negotiation, followed by simulation exercises.

In their evaluation, the participants commented that the objective of the training programme had been achieved. They expressed that they had gained a lot of knowledge and experience throughout the two-week programme. Moreover, they succeeded in gaining insights into Malaysia’s experience in nation building and economy.



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

Commissioned by the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, IDHR played host to 12 officers who were on a one-year attachment to the ASEAN Secretariat, for the *Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Attachment Officers*. They comprised three officials each from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Held from 18 to 29 September, the course was designed to enhance the officers’ knowledge in various aspects of theories, practices and elements of diplomacy and international affairs. They were also exposed to Malaysia’s

experience in managing its foreign policy, economy and development, as well as its involvement in multilateral platforms. These were achieved through the officers' participation in lectures on *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Public Diplomacy, International Trade, International Negotiations and Media Relations and Media Skills*, among others.

The officials also had the opportunity to visit several government agencies, namely, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, where they were briefed on Malaysia's trade and industries, and provided with some insights into Malaysia's trade abroad especially with its ASEAN neighbours. They also visited the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre in Cyberjaya for a briefing on capacity-building programmes especially for young entrepreneurs. Last but not least, the officials were introduced to the rich history and culture of Malaysia with an organised visit to the UNESCO Heritage city of Melaka.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on 28 September. Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR, delivered the closing remarks and presented the officials with their Certificate of Completion. Mr. Tin Myo Aung, the Class Representative, delivered his vote of thanks on behalf of the participants.



### **IDFR Lecture Series 3/2018**

Under this programme, IDFR hosted Her Excellency Maria Castillo Fernandez, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia on 8 November. Her Excellency Fernandez gave a lecture titled *Europe and Asia: Partners in Security and Connectivity*.

She began her lecture by providing combined statistical data on Europe and Asia in terms of global trade, population, economy and tourism that made the relations between Europe and Asia significant. She pointed out that the main principles for the EU Global Strategy were based on sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based as its core for the implementation of EU's external action through the elements of multilateralism, security and connectivity. She also shared her views for a better connected Europe and Asia through transportation links, energy networks, digital networks and human dimension. These could strengthen the resilience of societies and regions, and help people to enjoy a higher standard of living by providing more opportunities for education, research and innovation as well as promoting culture and tourism.

The public lecture was attended by 77 representatives from various government agencies, Foreign Missions, universities and NGOs. Among the attendees were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors and representatives from the Embassies of Belgium, Spain and Poland in Kuala Lumpur, academicians and students from Kolej Poly-Tech MARA.

### **IDFR Lecture Series 4/2018**

On 28 November, in collaboration with the Department of State, United States of America, IDFR organised the last IDFR Lecture Series for 2018. The lecture was by Dr. Pamela Sodhy, Adjunct Professor in the Asian Studies Programme, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. Dr. Sodhy presented a lecture titled *U.S-Malaysia Relations: Past, Present and Future Direction*. Among the highlights of her lecture were the main developments in the US-Malaysia bilateral relations since 1957 to present, covering political, economic and socio-cultural evolution and developments.

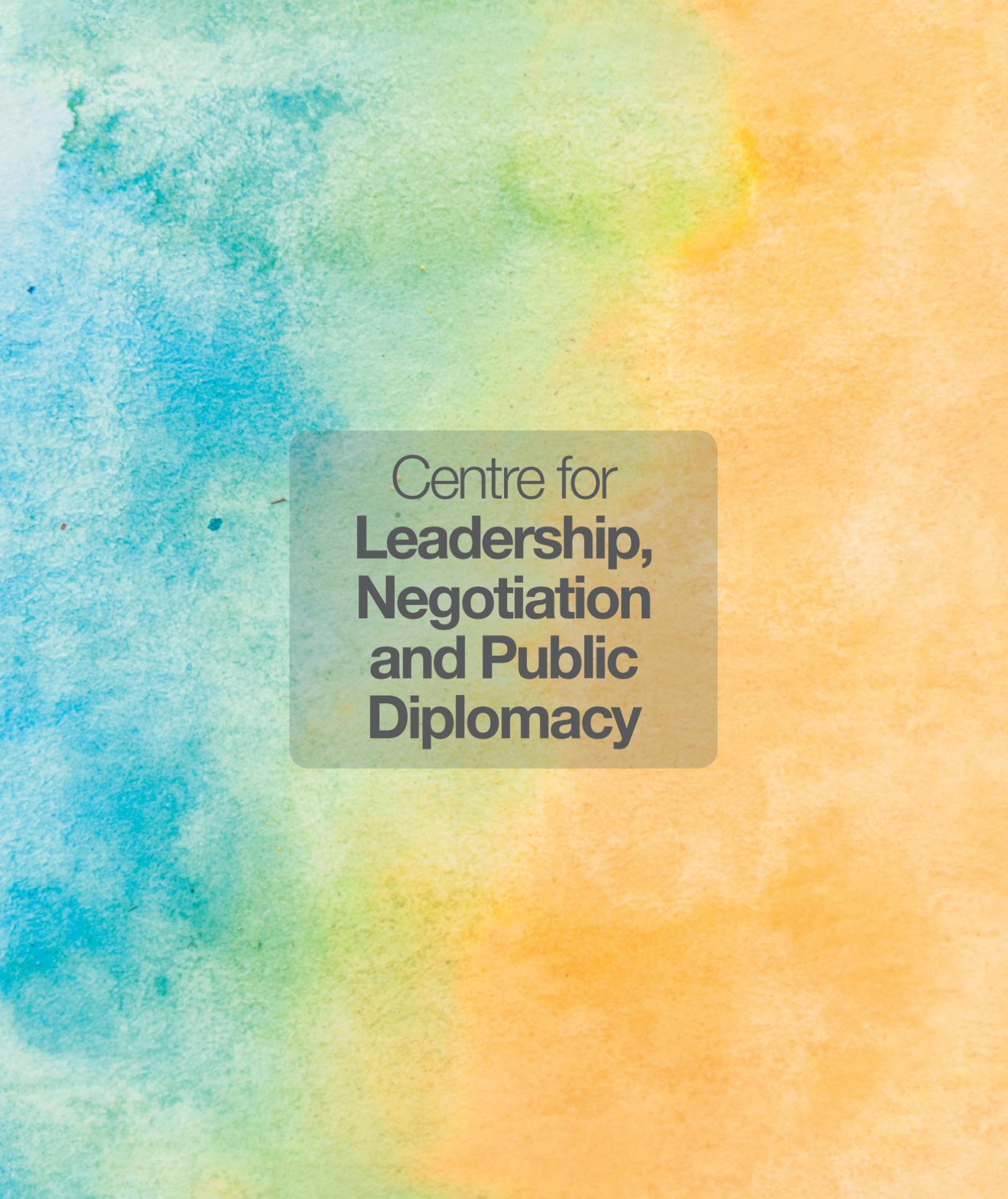
Dr. Sodhy's lecture covered the general overview of the US-Malaysia relations since Malaysia's pre-independence period, post-independence to date, touching on the current relations between the seventh Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and US President Donald Trump. The relations between Malaysia and the United States have spanned over seven Malaysian Prime Ministers and twelve Presidents of the United States. Dr Pamela Sodhy emphasised that the relationship would depend on three main variables: firstly, the leadership factor; secondly, the state of the economy, and thirdly, the geopolitical concerns. She concluded her lecture by highlighting main agendas which were counter-terrorism and economy that would define the level of closeness between the two nations.

The lecture was well attended by 120 representatives from relevant government agencies, namely, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Royal Malaysian Police, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Malaysian Youth Council as well as representatives from think tanks comprising Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security, Maritime Institute of Malaysia and Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia. Also present were ambassadors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Egypt, Solomon Islands and representatives from the Embassies and High Commissions of Azerbaijan, Fiji, Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Palestine, Pakistan and Singapore. The public lecture was also attended by university students from HELP University, Kolej Poly-Tech MARA and Razak School of Government.



### **Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (JDFR)**

Apart from lectures and programmes, the Centre also produced IDFR's annual *Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations* in November. The journal featured eight articles from various contributors, among them professors of international standing, academicians and senior officials. The articles were mainly on subjects in the field of diplomacy, foreign relations, international relations as well as strategic and security studies.



Centre for  
**Leadership,  
Negotiation  
and Public  
Diplomacy**

# CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP, NEGOTIATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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**The Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy has been tasked as the leading centre for training in the areas of leadership, negotiation and public diplomacy.**

The Centre's flagship annual training – the *Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses* – oversees training in foreign policy, international diplomatic practices, security and administration as well as management matters for future staff of our Malaysian Missions abroad.

The Centre also organised the Media Workshop. The workshop is aimed at preparing civil servants for the new dynamic age of ICT advancements and social media challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As public diplomacy gears into the digital age, such training is essential for Malaysian diplomats. This course was tailored specifically for junior and also senior officials from the Ministry and other government agencies.

Another flagship training provided by the Centre was the *International Negotiation Workshop*. The training puts a strong emphasis on building the art of diplomatic negotiations and problem solving with the interest of the nation in mind.

The Centre also took another milestone in hosting the *Young Diplomats Programme*, aimed at exposing young leaders of Malaysia to the realms of diplomacy and international relations.

### **SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses (Series 1 to Series 5)**

The course is a mandatory course for government officers and their spouses with the aim to enhance and develop their skills, knowledge and competency in the field of diplomacy and international diplomatic practices, prior to their postings abroad. This is in line with the directive under a revised *Surat Pekeliling Am Bilangan 2 Tahun 2018 Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia (SPKM) di Luar Negeri* dated 8 November 2018 and the decision from the first meeting of *Jawatankuasa Penyelarasan dan Pemantauan Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negeri* on 23 September 2009.

In 2018, IDFR successfully organised five series of the course. Series 1 was held from 5 to 14 February; Series 2 from 9 to 13 April; Series 3 from 10 to 19 July; Series 4 from 24 to 28 September; and Series 5 from 23 October to 1 November. A total of 271 officers from 15 ministries and government agencies and their spouses, attended the course.

The course covered a wide range of important and relevant topics that are pivotal in enhancing the participants' competencies and abilities to perform effectively at Malaysian Diplomatic Missions. They were exposed to key policies, guidelines and relevant practical set of skills with special emphasis on the enhancement of their roles and responsibilities at Mission. Among the important



modules covered were *Malaysia's Foreign Policy*; *Malaysia's Public Diplomacy and Media Skills*; *Cross-Cultural Awareness*; *Grooming, Social and Fine Dining Etiquette*; *Consular Works at Mission*; *Protocol Matters Related to Foreign Service*; as well as in-depth discussions on administrative, financial, audit and security matters at Mission. The participants were also given special briefings on national security and the importance of ethics and integrity in strengthening their accountability at Mission.

### **Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders Council**

IDFR once again collaborated with the Johor State Education Department and the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) to organise the ninth cohort of *Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders Council* from 19 to 23 March.

The aim of the programme was to provide the 20 student leaders with a general overview of the basic theme and practice in international relations, with emphasis on diplomacy and current diplomatic practices. Throughout the five days, the participants underwent classroom lectures, briefings, discussions, group and individual practical sessions, simulation exercises



and also study visits. This integrated teaching and learning methodology was adopted in order to meet the objectives of the programme, which include to expose the student leaders to the basic concepts of international diplomacy.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony, which was held on 23 March, began with a *zapin* performance by the participants. Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR, delivered his closing remarks and presented the Certificate of Attendance to the participants.

The programme received positive feedback from the participants and IDFR hopes to collaborate with the Johor Education Department and IRDA to organise similar programmes in the future.



### **International Negotiations Workshop 2018**

The workshop was organised from 25 to 27 June, with the objective to enhance the participants' awareness on the various obstacles and challenges commonly encountered during the negotiation process and to pave the way for them to address these issues effectively. The workshop also enabled the participants to effectively examine their own strengths and gaps as negotiators and to further develop their negotiating skills.

Throughout the three days, the participants were exposed to the scope, process, preparation and techniques of effective negotiations. These were done through simulation exercises and group discussions which provided room for dialogues among the participants. They were also exposed to negotiation styles related to international negotiations, where multiple rounds of formal and informal talks were conducted in order for the participants to familiarise themselves with the different roles of each actor, and to the types of negotiators marked by different characters.

The workshop was attended by 23 participants comprising government officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

### **Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2018 and 2/2018**

Two workshops on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills were organised by the Centre in 2018. The first was successfully organised from 28 to 30 August, and was attended by 20 officers, namely from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The objectives of the first workshop were to enhance the officers' awareness on public diplomacy; to enhance their knowledge on the importance of public diplomacy in advancing Malaysia's interests; and to enhance their skills in handling the media.

During the three-day workshop, the officers were exposed to the set of skills required to handle the media effectively, along with the use of video and camera during the simulation exercise. Among the modules highlighted were *The Evolution of Malaysia's Public Diplomacy*, *The Role of Media in*

*Public Diplomacy and Media Handling during Crisis: Experience from MH370 Incident.*

The second workshop was held from 16 to 18 October, and was attended by 17 officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Customs Department, Immigration Department and Income Tax Department.

The workshop aimed to enhance the officers' knowledge and awareness on the importance of public diplomacy; and to enhance their skills in effective social media handling. Among the modules covered during the workshop were *Introduction to Social Media and its Importance*; *Publicity through Social Media*; *Effective Social Media Use*; and a case study on *MH370's Crisis Situation from the Social Media's Perspective*.

Both workshops concluded with a Closing and Certificate Presentation ceremony on 30 August and 18 October 2018 respectively. Encik Aiyub Omar, Head of the Centre delivered his closing remarks and presented the Certificate of Attendance to the participants.

Several participants from the second workshop proposed for the course to be held more often, as they found the social media components to be useful in enhancing their day-to-day tasks at work vis-à-vis the social media.



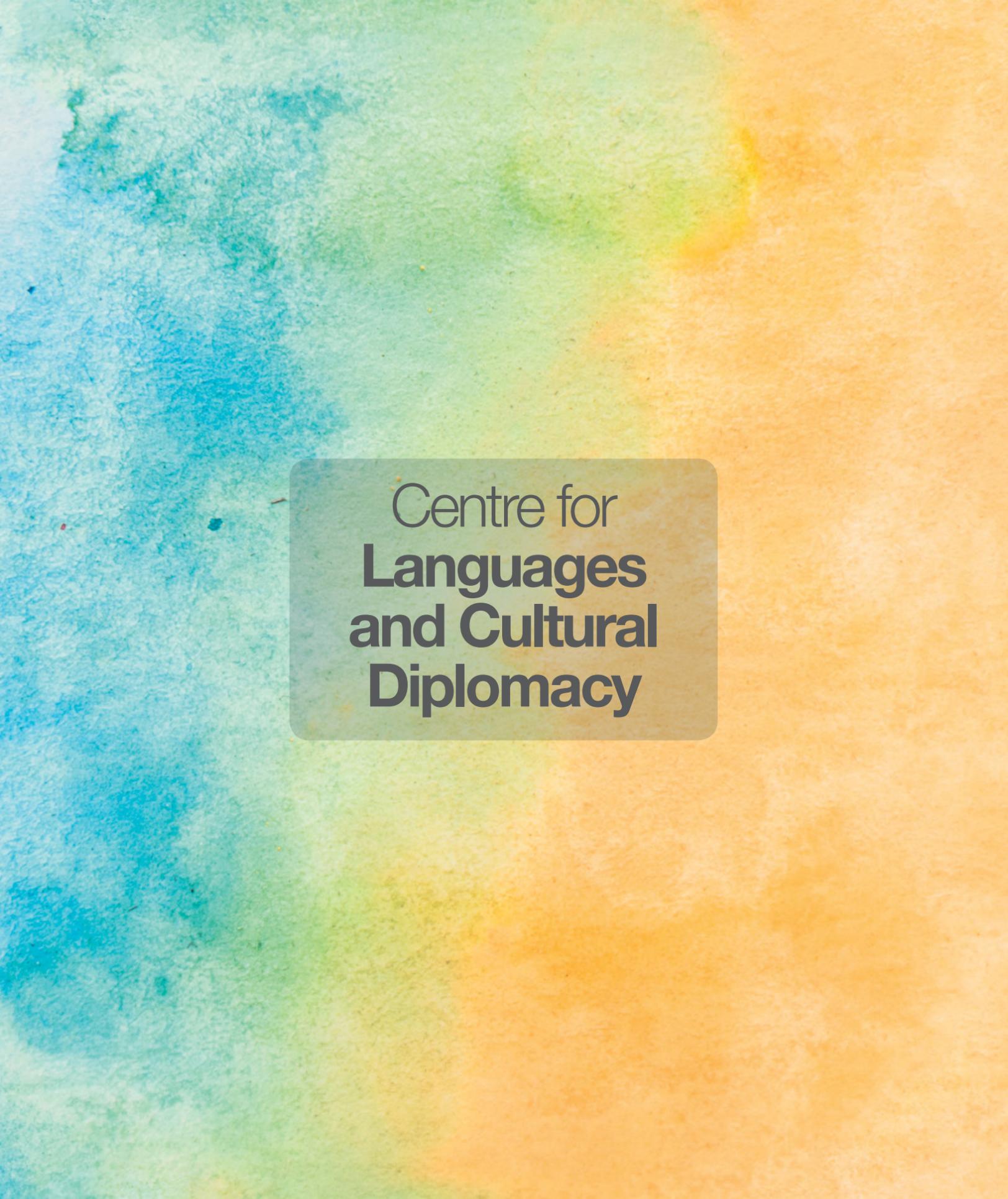
**Workshop on Dealing with the Media**

Building on the success of the earlier media skills workshop which incorporated the social media element, the Centre organised a two-day workshop on dealing with the media on 13 and 14 November. The workshop was attended by nine senior officers (Grade 52 and above) of the Ministry.

The objectives of the workshop were, among others, to enhance the officers' awareness on the importance of media including social media, to enhance their knowledge on how to handle press conferences and studio interviews, as well as to act professionally in front of journalists and the cameras. Among the sessions conducted were *Effective Social Media Use*; *Publicity through Social Media*; *Managing Crisis on Social Media: Case Studies*; and *Handling Press, Press Conference and Studio Interviews*. Both Press Conference and Studio Interview involved theory and practical.

The programme ended with a Closing and Certificate Presentation ceremony on 14 November. Ambassador Siti Hajjar Adnin, representing the Director General of IDFR, delivered her closing remarks and presented the Certificate of Attendance to the participants. Overall, the workshop received a very positive feedback from the participants.





Centre for  
**Languages  
and Cultural  
Diplomacy**

# CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

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**The focus for the Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy is two-fold: languages and cultural diplomacy. The language courses conducted by the Centre are English, Arabic, Spanish, French, German, Conversational Malay and Mandarin. As for cultural diplomacy, the Centre seeks to explore and deliberate on the intertwining elements in culture and diplomacy, brought together through lecture series and workshops.**

The language courses conducted are for both local and international participants. The local participants are officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries and government agencies involved in foreign relations, while the international participants are foreign diplomats based in Kuala Lumpur attending the Conversational Malay course.

The cultural diplomacy lecture series and workshops, on the other hand, reach out to a wider audience, made up of government officials and representatives from private sectors, diplomatic corps, non-governmental organisations and the academia. In 2018, the Centre conducted a total of 14 programmes with 991 participants participating in the programmes throughout the year.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### *Say it Right: A Course on Pronunciation (Series 1 and 2)*

The first series of this course was conducted from 26 to 28 February, and was attended by 15 participants from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Royal Military College, Department of Skills Development, the Prime Minister's Department and IDFR. The second series was conducted from 4 to 6 September and was attended by 23 participants, among others, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Department of Civil Aviation Malaysia.

The main objectives of this course were to raise the participants' awareness on the rhythm and pattern of the English sound system and to improve their pronunciation skills to enable them to communicate confidently in English. The module for this course mainly focused on the common challenges Malaysians encounter as non-native speakers of the language – forming sounds that are not found in their mother tongue. The participants were introduced to the rhythm, stress and intonation patterns of the language and given the opportunity to practise these patterns through games, songs, role-plays and simulation exercises. It was evident that the interactive sessions were helpful in providing them with the flair and confidence to further use the language.



### *Building Blocks of Good English*

The course was conducted from 23 to 27 April. The participants were introduced to the grammatical aspects of the language: tenses, parts of speech and sentence patterns. A critical analysis on English grammar usage was done through classroom practices, group activities and presentations. The participants were also taught how to use the language in various context, and to use English fluently and accurately in their everyday interactions.

The course was attended by 23 participants from various ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, National Population and Family Development Board, Advanced Technology Training Centre, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Malaysia, Industrial Court of Malaysia and Department of Civil Aviation.



### **Effective Writing Skills**

The *Effective Writing Skills* course was conducted from 2 to 5 July, and was attended by 18 participants from various ministries and agencies – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism, Department of Labour and Department of Veterinary Services.

Another course was conducted from 17 to 18 April, specially organised for 20 officers from the National Sports Council of Malaysia, an agency under the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The courses were designed to expose the participants to grammatical elements and how the language is structured in writing. They were also guided on the fundamentals of the language in order to enhance their ability to write effectively. In general, the content of the module and the teaching methodologies used during the course were constructive. Most participants highlighted that they have benefitted a lot from the course especially in sentence construction and the mechanics of writing.

### **Presentation Skills at the Workplace**

This course was conducted from 13 to 16 August. It was attended by 19 participants from various ministries and government agencies, among others, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, and Pahang Fire and Rescue Department. The main objectives of the course were to help the participants enhance their public speaking skills and build their confidence to speak eloquently in public.

During the course, various aspects and techniques of delivery were introduced. The participants were trained to use their voice to generate clarity during delivery and to focus on the use of stress, intonation, pitch and pauses. They were also introduced to the best strategies to conquer nervousness and speaking anxiety, systematic ways to field different types of questions and the effective approach to deal with audience.



### **English Language Module for Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD)**

The above module is part of the language component of the *Diploma in Diplomacy* programme. The module focused on enhancing the officers' English linguistic skills through confidence-building, accuracy and fluency activities. The aim is to empower the officers to use the language confidently and effectively in their daily activities.

### **Workshop on APEC for Papua New Guinea Officials**

IDFR and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry jointly organised an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) workshop for government officials from Papua New Guinea from 9 to 11 April. The workshop was to prepare them for the 2018 APEC Summit to be hosted by Papua New Guinea. The tailor-made training programme was conducted based on the agreement by the Prime Ministers of both countries during a bilateral meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders Meeting.

Forty-nine government officials, who are part of the APEC Summit 2018 team of rapporteurs, attended the three-day workshop held in Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea. Among the topics covered were *Overview of APEC and Understanding Its Initiatives; Roles and Functions of Rapporteurs; Drafting Principles and the Role of Host in Preparation for the Drafting Session; Drafting Ministerial Statements and Leaders Declaration; Effective Writing and Note-Taking Skills; Theory and Elements of Transcribing; and Writing Practice on Salient Points*. A simulation exercise of an APEC Ministerial Meeting was also held. The officials were also taught how to use a digital voice recorder, as well as how to edit and proofread related documents.



## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### ARABIC

#### *Arabic Level II*

This course was conducted from 20 February to 3 May, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm. The objective of this course was to equip the participants with the knowledge of the language to enable them to carry out simple conversations in Arabic. The participants who attended the course were from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Health, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Royal Malaysian Police, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism and IDFR. Most of the participants who attended this course were those who attended *Arabic Level I* in 2017.



### SPANISH

#### *Spanish Level I*

This course was held from 5 February to 16 April, and was attended by officers from ministries and government agencies such as the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Ministry of Defence, Royal Malaysian Police, National Archives, Accountant General Department and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation. The objective of this course was to teach the participants the basic skills to greet others, introduce one self and others, and recognise the syntax of the Spanish language in forming simple sentences.

#### *Spanish Level II*

This Level II course was held from 4 July to 19 September, and was attended by participants who had completed the Level I course held in the earlier part of 2018. The objective of this course was to equip the participants with the skills to talk about daily routines, needs, wishes and preferences. The participants were from the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Ministry of Defence, National Archives, Prime Minister's Department and Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia.

#### *Spanish Level IX*

The course was held from 9 February to 5 October. The participants were from various government agencies and diplomats from the Foreign Missions in Kuala Lumpur. The objective of this Spanish advanced level course was to equip the participants with the language needed to take part in discussions and to be able to describe the culture of the Spanish speaking world.

### MALAY LANGUAGE

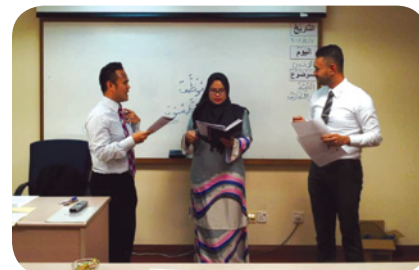
#### *Conversational Malay Language Course*

The 42-hour Conversational Malay course was conducted twice in 2018: the first was from 26 February to 7 May and the second was from 3 August to 16 October. This course was conducted for diplomats and staff of the Diplomatic Missions based in Kuala Lumpur. The main aim of the course was to enable the participants to acquaint themselves with the national language of Malaysia, thereby helping them in their day-to-day interactions within the Malaysian speaking environment.



## FOREIGN LANGUAGE MODULES FOR *DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY*

The Arabic, Spanish, Mandarin and German language courses are part of the foreign language modules for the *Diploma in Diplomacy* programme. The aim of these intensive foreign language modules is to equip the officers with basic knowledge of the respective languages and to have better insights into each culture. In 2018, the span of the language modules was 84 contact hours spread over a period of six months. The modules served as a good foundation for the officers to develop their competencies in languages and instil an interest in them to further learn the languages.



## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY PROGRAMMES

### *IDFR Lecture Series 2/2018*

In 2018, the centre was tasked to organise *IDFR Lecture Series 2/2018*, with Professor Dr. Anis H. Bajrektarevic from IMC University of Applied Sciences, Krems, Austria as the speaker. The lecture was conducted on 2 August, and the topic was *No Asian Century? (Critical Similarities and Differences between the Security Structures of Europe and Asia)*. Eighty one attendees were present to listen to Professor Dr. Anis' lecture on the contrast and comparison of the genesis of multilateral security structures in Europe with those currently in existence in Asia. He highlighted that presently, the prevailing security structures in Asia are bilateral in nature and mostly asymmetric while Europe practises multilateral, balanced and symmetric setups through the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He advocated that there is a need for Asia to have a pan-Asian multilateral structure to face pressing security challenges such as unsolved territorial issues, sporadic irredentism, conventional armament, nuclear ambitions and conflicts over exploitation of natural resources. Professor Dr. Anis deemed that the ASEAN architecture has been the most effective in the application of regional security and order, as ASEAN is an internally induced and relatively symmetric arrangement. He postulated that the rest of Asia should look to ASEAN as a role model in terms of a well-organised multilateral organisation.



### Cultural Appreciation Day

IDFR organised its *Cultural Appreciation Day* for the third consecutive year. Held on 21 September, the one-day event was officiated by Dato' Marzuki Yahya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The event attracted a culturally diverse crowd, which included several Heads of Mission and representatives from foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies.

Cultural exhibitions, performances and food samplings were among the activities at the *Cultural Appreciation Day*. The MTCP participants from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Croatia, Cambodia, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgystan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mongolia, Oman, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Peru, Paraguay and Vietnam donned their colourful, unique traditional costumes and exhibited their cultural paraphernalia. The participants of DiD 2018 wore traditional costumes representing the foreign languages – French, Spanish, German, Arabic and Mandarin – they were learning. The cultural aspects of the five countries were showcased through the delicacies that are unique to

each country. A *silat* (the Malay art of self-defence) demonstration by *Persatuan Seni Silat Bangau Putih, Selangor* and traditional dances by *Jabatan Kesenian dan Kebudayaan Negeri Selangor*, as well as an indigenous cultural performance of Sabah, performed by students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah, depicted the Malaysian culture.



### Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 2018

The *Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series* was held on 4 October, with 157 attendees from various government ministries and agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, and officials from the Negeri Sembilan State Government. IDFR was honoured to have Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz, President of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs as the speaker, speaking on *Strengthening Democracy through Cultural Diplomacy*. This lecture aims to instil awareness and boost understanding on the approaches of cultural diplomacy to help promote peace, stability and prosperity.

Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin stressed the fact that there is no one true definition of cultural diplomacy, as there is no single arbiter to what constitutes culture. Cultural diplomacy can be depicted and seen in almost every aspect of public life, for example, through sporting events, exhibitions and competitions. He put forth that democracy in Malaysia can be further strengthened, among others, through cultural diplomacy and Malaysians should be more open towards the establishment and engagement of partnerships with other countries in the world. He added that in order to depict non-governmental interactions, diplomacy should not be the monopoly of the government; civil societies should also be part of it. Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ended the lecture by reiterating his belief that cultural diplomacy is the most honest form of diplomacy, and in the long term would strengthen democracy.



Centre for  
**Competency  
Enhancement**

# CENTRE FOR COMPETENCY ENHANCEMENT

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**The Centre organises two flagship programmes. The *Diploma in Diplomacy* programme is compulsory for all junior Administrative and Diplomatic Officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prepare them for their first posting at a Malaysian Diplomatic Mission abroad. Conducted full time on an annual basis at the Institute, the programme endeavours to mould and equip these young officers with the essential skills and knowledge of an effective diplomat.**

The other flagship programme is the *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy*, a collaborative programme between IDFR and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, which commenced in 1999.

Through this programme, the Centre aims to provide opportunities to civil service officers, private sector professionals as well as fresh graduates from within Malaysia and abroad to build on and further enhance their knowledge, skills and experience not only in diplomacy, foreign policy, international relations and strategic theories, but also in practical applications.

Ultimately, the Centre envisages moulding competent and inquisitive individuals who are better aware of the shifting global political and economic climate, and who are able to contribute their newly-acquired scholarship to either their workplace or the academia.

### **Diploma in Diplomacy 2018**

The *Diploma in Diplomacy* (DiD) programme for the year 2018 was held successfully from 2 April to 11 October with 16 officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The programme was designed to introduce the participants to theories, issues, aspects and practical of diplomacy and foreign relations. The scope of the module covers basic principles and foundations of practices in diplomacy and international relations, its contemporary setting and current issues. The modules also introduce several pertinent disciplines of diplomacy, which include practices in diplomacy, Malaysia's bilateral and multilateral relations, trade and economic diplomacy and multiculturalism. It addresses several important aspects of public diplomacy and media relations, in line with the current diplomatic setting influenced by increasing media role in international scenario. Overall, the programme provides substantive foundation in the area of diplomacy to all officers who will serve as Malaysian diplomats.

There are five modules in the programme, namely, *Diplomatic and Office Skills*, *Diplomacy*, *Soft Diplomacy*, *International Relations*, and *Regional and International Affairs*. The modules cover a wide range of issues from administrative to substantive such as finance, ICT, politics, economy, culture, security, diplomacy, international relations, leadership, negotiation skills and media skills. The *United Nations Security Council simulation exercise* and *Defending National Interests* modules are conducted as among the most important preparation for the officers prior to their postings.

As communication plays an important role in diplomacy, the participants were trained to further improve their command of the English language and learn a foreign language, either Arabic, French, German, Mandarin or Spanish during the programme. The participants were also tasked to write individual research papers as well as group case studies on topics related to diplomacy and foreign relations.

Besides that, the participants also successfully organised various events such as panel discussions, CSR programmes and visits as part of the participant-led learning process. Among the events organised by the participants are as follows:



### **Iftar with Asnaf Asrama Darul Falah**

The IDFR Welfare and Sports Club in collaboration with the DiD 2018 participants successfully hosted an *iftar* with Asnaf Asrama Darul Falah on 7 June as part of their event organising module. The event was held to celebrate 42 *asnaf* children in conjunction with *Ramadan* and *Eid Mubarak* celebrations. Nearly 170 guests were present, among them, staff from the various divisions and centres of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IDFR.

The evening began with *Al-Quran* recital by Othman Hamzah, a Form Five student from Asrama Darul Falah, followed by a brief *tazkirah* by Dr. Ahmad Kamal Ariffin, an IDFR officer. The call to *Maghrib* prayer then marked the

breaking of fast. After consuming some dates, snacks and drinks, the Muslim men and women congregated for prayer, led by Dr. Ahmad Kamal. The *iftar* resumed with dinner and continued with *Isyak* and *Tarawih* prayers.

At the end of the session, YM Raja Dato' Nushirwan Zainal Abidin, Deputy Secretary General (Bilateral Affairs), accompanied by Datuk Sadik Kethergany, Director General of IDFR, and Dato' Mohd Ashri Muda, Chief of Protocol distributed *duit raya* to the *asnaf* children. The *iftar* concluded with a scrumptious spread of *moreh*.

### **Visit to Penang State Secretariat Office and State Legislative Assembly**

With the support of IDFR, the DiD participants conducted a visit to Penang on 5 and 6 July. This visit was aimed at exposing the participants to the functions and operations of state level governance. On the first day, the participants visited the State Secretariat Office and were briefed by the Deputy Secretary of the Penang State Office on the state government and administration, before a back-to-back information-sharing session by the Penang Development Cooperation, Invest Penang, Penang Tourism as well as the Penang Island City Council. The sessions gave the participants an overview of the current plans spearheaded by Penang State as well as the public-private partnerships that have brought about vast development in Penang. On the second day, the participants visited the State Legislative Assembly, and it was filled with sharing of experiences by the officers of the Assembly who took the participants on a walk-about around the halls while sharing a glimpse of how proceedings take place.

Overall, it was a timely effort for the DiD participants to visit the Penang State Government. Having had a change in administration following the formation of the Pakatan Harapan Government after GE 14, it was useful for the participants to get somewhat of a 'feel' of how an administration under the Opposition would now fare in the 'federal scene'.



### **Tea Chat Session with Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia**

*Stay true to your mission. Have the right attitude. Build a mini library. Take pride in well-polished shoes.* These were some of the advice shared by Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Secretary General with the DiD participants over a brief but engaging afternoon chat on 12 July.

Welcoming the inquisitiveness from the participants when asked about his thoughts on the recent change of Government, Dato' Seri Ramlan said that time should be given for the new administration to consolidate its new power arrangement. With Tun Dr. Mahathir back at the helm of the country, resurgence of several foreign policy thrusts from his era as the fourth Prime Minister is expected, such as renewed emphasis on South-South Cooperation, especially Africa, Latin America and Central Asia; Look East Policy; as well as the revival of the Langkawi International Dialogue. The Ministry, he said, would have to play an important role in carrying out these foreign policy objectives and managing the shifts in emphasis.



Dato' Seri Ramlan reiterated his commitment to creating an environment within the Ministry where talents can thrive and flourish. High level of integrity and accountability is expected from all officers, as well as uncompromising pursuit of excellence in mastering the issues under their purview as well as global affairs. As a ministry of knowledge, he said that the Ministry welcomes the Council of Advisors as it values ideas and intellectual engagement that would contribute towards its work. Dato' Seri Ramlan also emphasised the importance of managerial skills and the right attitude when moving up the career ladder.

He further encouraged the participants to start building a mini library: "I cannot foresee someone in the *Foreign Ministry* who is not a book lover, or leave the service without a collection of books." An avid reader himself, Dato' Seri Ramlan also reminded the participants of the importance of engaging with the locals of the host country as books alone would not be sufficient in providing a deep understanding of the dynamics of the host country.

### **Panel Discussion on New Malaysia and its Implications on Foreign Policy**

*New Malaysia*, a popular label to mark the administration of the new government helmed by Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir, has seen widespread reforms carried out to address the issue of corruption, and restore the people's trust in the government. Amidst these changes, how would the foreign policy of *New Malaysia* look like?

In the quest to find the answer, the DiD participants organised a panel discussion titled *New Malaysia and its Implications on Foreign Policy* on 24 July. Held at the VIP Dining Hall, the session gathered civil servants and policy experts to deliberate on the current direction and challenges of Malaysia's foreign policy under the new government. The panellists in the two-hour session were Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, IDFR's Distinguished Fellow and former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations; Dr. Roy Anthony Rogers, Head of Department of the International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya; and Mr. Shahrman Lockman, Senior Analyst in the Foreign Policy and Security Studies Programme, ISIS Malaysia. Ms. Audrey Sanggai Jemat, a DiD participant, moderated the discussion.

In his opening remarks, Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR, highlighted that Malaysia's foreign policy fundamentals would remain unchanged while several key areas would be reemphasised such as Malaysia's commitment to the non-aligned movement, and the country's active role in international institutions like ASEAN, NAM and OIC. He considered the panel discussion as timely as many are curious with the direction of foreign policy that would be taken by the new government.

Tan Sri Hasmy welcomed the move towards constructive consultations with relevant stakeholders on foreign policy. The former Chairman of SUHAKAM also applauded the government's decision in acceding the remaining six out of nine core international human rights treaties, among which are covenants on civil and political rights as well as elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.



Dr. Roy Anthony Rogers summarised Malaysia's foreign policy in a simple acronym of M.A.P.S. – moderation, active, pragmatism and sustainable. He opined that fundamental elements of Malaysia's foreign policy would remain and would not change drastically in the foreseeable future, among which is Malaysia's commitment towards ASEAN, the UN, the OIC and NAM. Malaysia also has the potential to become a middle power, and is already recognised as one by some quarters. Dr. Roy suggested that the new government also consider non-traditional security issues such as haze and terrorism, as well as digital diplomacy as other areas to focus on in the implementation of foreign policy.

Mr. Shahrman highlighted several key strengths of Malaysia's foreign policy which, among others, are maintenance of long standing and enduring principles such as ASEAN as Malaysia's cornerstone; a friend to all nations irrespective of their political system; involvement in the non-aligned movement; and commitment to Muslims globally. Furthermore, he mooted that New Malaysia's foreign policy would be highly personified in Tun Dr. Mahathir's previous concepts in dealing with foreign affairs, and also in Dato' Saifuddin's charismatic agenda as the new Foreign Minister. Mr. Shahrman also elaborated on a few key challenges such as adapting previous policies in contemporary time, and resource constraints.

The question and answer session was lively as the panellists discussed issues concerning Malaysia-China relations, human rights, and Malaysia's leading role among developing countries. The event, which was also attended by IDFR's Heads of Centre, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the participants of the *Economic Diplomacy Course for Vietnamese Officials*, gave a clear background, information and understanding of *New Malaysia* and how it influences Malaysia's foreign policy.



### ***DiD 2018 Graduation Ceremony***

Smartly dressed in their *Number 1* suit, the 16 junior officers went on stage at the Multipurpose Hall to receive their *Diploma in Diplomacy* from Dato' Marzuki Yahya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.



The graduation ceremony, held on 22 November, was also attended by Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, the Ministry's Secretary General, former Malaysian ambassadors and high commissioners, undersecretaries of the Ministry, representatives from the Public Service Department, DiD lecturers and speakers, IDFR's Distinguished Fellows, as well as the graduates' family members.

In addition to the diploma, three special awards were conferred. Ms. Sarah Zahirah Ruhama was presented with the *Minister of Foreign Affairs' Award for Best Overall Student*; Mr. Muhammad Muhaimin Rasidi accepted the *Secretary General of Foreign Affairs' Award for Best Leadership* and Ms. Farah Syafina Bahari received the *Director General of IDFR's Award for Best Academic Achievement*.

During the ceremony, the graduates took the opportunity to reminisce on their camaraderie with a video montage and a unique 'glowing hands' performance. Their success was also especially dedicated to the continuous support of their nearest and dearest who were present that day.

IDFR once again warmly congratulates the DiD class of 2018!



### **Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy**

The *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy* is a collaborative programme between IDFR and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

This programme aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the core issues related to the theories and practices of strategy and diplomacy. It prepares and equips students from diverse academic backgrounds with the ability to explore the relationship between strategy and diplomacy within the context of the changing global environment. Both compulsory and elective courses are offered in the programme, in addition to the requirement of writing a 30,000 word dissertation.

The programme requires all students to attend classes on strategic and security issues, diplomacy, interstate relations, foreign policy, international political economics, international law, defence policy and regional issues. Besides that, all students are also given the opportunity to participate in seminars and round table discussions with experts and prominent figures organised by IDFR and UKM.

The 2017/2018 Master of Social Science students, comprising 13 Malaysian students and one international student from Afghanistan, completed and obtained their *Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy* in August. The new batch of 2018/2019 Master students, consisting of seven Malaysian students and four international students from Japan, Spain and Yemen attended a three-day orientation session prior to the start of their programme on 5 September. The students had the opportunity to have a discussion with Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR, during the welcoming ceremony at the institute.

We welcome the new Master students to the IDFR family!





**Special Projects  
Division**

# SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

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**The task of the Special Projects Division is to ensure that IDFR's strategic planning under the Institute's Transformation Plan is on track and the objectives set for the period of 2016-2020 are achieved. The Division, together with the Corporate Affairs Section, monitors the implementation and coordination of IDFR's transformation and strategic plan. Another portfolio under the Division is to conduct studies and research on current important strategic issues in international relations.**

Another task that the Division worked on in 2018 was the compilation of Malaysia's speeches in the United Nations Security Council for the period of 2015 and 2016. This review covers statements and interventions delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN at the United Nations Security Council meetings in 2015 and 2016. Among the issues highlighted were the Palestine-Israel conflict and other Middle East problems, North Korea and Iran nuclear ambitions, counter-terrorism, children in armed conflict, human rights and women empowerment. The Division also took the initiative to gather data on the Indo-Pacific concept through collaboration with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

The Division was also involved in coordinating the International Relations module for the Diploma in Public Management 2018 under the IDFR-INTAN cooperation. IDFR provided training in *Diplomacy, Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, Cultural Diplomacy, Public Diplomacy, Media Skills* and other related subjects.

In addition, collaborations with local universities are currently being intensified, in line with IDFR's initiative to be known as the focal point for Diplomacy and International Relations in this region. Memorandums of Understanding with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA and Universiti Utara Malaysia have been signed, while intensive negotiations with new strategic partners such as Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Universiti Malaya are being carried out. These collaborations provide avenues for officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek academic advancement and also allows IDFR to further widen its potential in assessing and analysing the geopolitical dynamics around the world.



A Town Hall session between Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the academia took place at the Institute on 29 October. The session, moderated by the Minister himself, was attended by Vice Chancellors and other high ranking representatives from public and private universities in the country. This initiative is in line with the aspiration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have constructive engagements between Malaysian academicians and practitioners of diplomacy and international relations.



The Division also organised a *Majlis Forum Perdana* with Professor Datuk Dr Siddiq Fadzil, *Tokoh Ma'al Hijrah* 1440H/2018 as the speaker. The Minister of Foreign Affairs moderated the session on the topic of *Dunia Melayu dan Islam: Cabaran dan Masa Hadapan (The Malay World and Islam: Challenges and the Way Forward)*. The session highlighted the importance of the Malay-Islamic nature in this region and how Malaysia can unite the Malays in the region by emphasising on *kerumpunan sejagat*, and how the Islamic values of love and peace could bring about better relations in the region.

IDFR was also involved in *The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP) 2018*. SSEAYP is an annual youth exchange programme organised by the Government of Japan and the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Malaysian contingent was represented by 28 selected youths. The Division was responsible in organising lectures and presentations for the team with the aim to expose them to issues involving Soft Power and Public Diplomacy.







**Management  
Services  
Division**

# MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

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The Management Services Division comprises three different sections, whose roles are to support the smooth running of the Institute. The three sections are:

- \* Administration and Finance Section
- \* Library and ICT Section
- \* Corporate Affairs Section

## Administration and Finance Section

The section manages the day-to-day matters related to IDFR's general administration, assets, finance and human resource.

In terms of budget, IDFR received an operating budget of RM11,199,000.00 in 2018. Its total operating expenditure for the year was RM10,181,811.70 (90.92%), leaving a balance of RM1,017,188.30 (9.08%).

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| Operating Budget (RM) | Actual Expenses (RM) | Expenses in Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 11,199,000.00         | 10,181,811.70        | 90.92                      |

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As of December, IDFR's personnel stands at 96. Thirty six posts are still vacant, and awaiting to be filled.

In terms of movable assets, IDFR has 4,528 movable assets worth RM4,005,119.47 as of the same month.

### Library and ICT Section

The Library was set up to provide information and reference services especially for the Institute's staff and course participants. The services have also been extended to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysian Missions abroad, researchers as well as the Foreign Missions in Malaysia.

The Library has a complete collection of materials relevant to IDFR's core business, including in international relations, diplomacy and strategic studies. It continues to improve its services by enhancing its collection and providing an efficient and effective reference service. In 2018, the Library continued its initiatives to inculcate reading habits among the staff and course participants with the *Everyone Can Borrow* reading campaign. This door-to-door book loan programme has successfully increased the book loan statistics. The *Let's Read Together for 10 Minutes* and *Let's Share@IDFR* were also organised in 2018. These programmes aim to nurture a reading culture among the IDFR community. It is hoped that through these programmes, reading will become a daily habit with the staff. Other programmes organised by the Library were the Monthly Excellent Reader's Award, a visit to the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair, the implementation of the IDFR's Library Friendly Card and a *Jom Jelajah Perpustakaan* activity.

The ICT Unit provides services which include policy development, planning and project management to ensure the deployment and support of secured, reliable and robust business applications, e-services and infrastructure to the end users in IDFR. It is also responsible for strategising and deploying ICT solutions in line with the Electronic Government initiatives, through close collaborations with the various users and stakeholders.

On 5 October, the Unit organised an *ICT Awareness Programme* in collaboration with Cybersecurity Malaysia. The objective of the programme was to enhance the staff's awareness on current cyber threats in Malaysia and the best practices to avoid from becoming cybercrime victims.



### Corporate Affairs Section

The Corporate Affairs Section, among others, coordinates courtesy calls and visits to the Institute, facilitates requests for collaborations with the Institute, extends invites and press releases to the media, and produces the Institute's periodical publications – the *Annual Report*, *Diplomatic Voice* and *Prospectus*.

The Section was honoured to coordinate the visit by His Excellency Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to IDFR on 25 October. His Excellency was on a working visit to Kuala Lumpur from 24 to 26 October. On 13 November, the Section also assisted with the visit by His Excellency Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the State of Kuwait and his delegation to IDFR. The delegations were briefed on the roles and functions of the Institute, as well as the programmes offered by IDFR. The visits ended on a high note and will hopefully lead to further collaborations and cooperation in diplomatic training.



Throughout the year, the Director General received courtesy calls from members of the diplomatic corps. In 2018, among the courtesy calls were made by His Excellency Nikoloz Apkhazava, Ambassador of Georgia to Malaysia on 18 January; His Excellency Thamer Adwan, Ambassador of Jordan to Malaysia on 21 March; Her Excellency Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora, High Commissioner of Ghana to Malaysia, also on 21 March; Her Excellency Nury Bauzán, Ambassador of Uruguay to Malaysia on 13 April; His Excellency Mauricio Gonzalez Lopez, Ambassador of Columbia to Malaysia on 17 May; His Excellency Cristiano Maggipinto, Ambassador of Italy to Malaysia on 30 May; Her Excellency Ibete Fernández Hernández, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Malaysia on 12 June; His Excellency Guido F. Loayza, Ambassador of Peru to Malaysia on 4 July; Mr. Tamim Madani, Chargé d'Affaires from the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Malaysia on 1 August; His Excellency Olexander Nechytaylo, Ambassador of Ukraine to Malaysia on 19 October; and His Excellency Walid Abu Ali, Ambassador of Palestine to Malaysia on 14 December.



Another activity under the purview of the Section in 2018 was the IDFR's 2018 Retreat Programme. Held from 9 to 11 March and attended by 61 officers and support staff, the programme discussed and generated several high impact initiatives for the Institute.



The Section also coordinated the eleventh edition of the *Young Diplomats Forum*, a joint-collaboration between IDFR and Global Diplomatic Forum. The Section was also tasked to organise a special lecture titled *Making Sense of the Fourth Industrial Revolution* for officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26 January. Delivered by Mr. Rushdi Abdul Rahim, Senior Vice President of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology, highlighted among others, how the Fourth Industrial Revolution will shape the future, the risk of jobs being replaced by automation, future challenges which includes cyber-attacks, the roles of the government in cultivating the understanding of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its challenges towards public service.







# **In and Around IDFR**

# IN AND AROUND IDFR

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah's first visit to IDFR



Foreign Minister's Town Hall session with the academia



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato' Marzuki Yahya during his first visit to IDFR



Mandarin language booth at the Cultural Appreciation Day



His Excellency Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir and his delegation



Participants of the Cultural Appreciation Day



Working Visit by His Excellency Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the State of Kuwait



H.E. Dr. Makio Miyagawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia at the *Young Diplomats Forum*



Courtesy call by Ms. Robyn Mudie, Executive Director of Australian Diplomatic Academy



Courtesy call by His Excellency Guido F. Loayza, Ambassador of Peru to Malaysia



Courtesy call by Mr. Tamim Madani from the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Malaysia



Visit by the delegation of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy



Courtesy call by His Excellency Olexander Nechytaylo, Ambassador of Ukraine to Malaysia



Courtesy call by Her Excellency Ibete Fernández Hernández, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Malaysia



Signing of MoU with Universiti Utara Malaysia



Visit from the Centre for Education and Training, Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Sharing session with Petronas Country Chairs



Courtesy call on the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Universiti Maya



Senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Foreign Minister's Town Hall session



Professor Datin Paduka Dr. Samsinar Md Sidin, Vice Chancellor of UNIRAZAK at the Foreign Minister's Town Hall session



*Young Diplomats Forum* participants attending a briefing at the Parliament



A bagpiper leading the procession into the DiD 2018 graduation ceremony



DiD class of 2017 at their graduation ceremony on 22 January



Mr. Richard Record, Lead Economist from World Bank Group delivering a lecture



Madam Norani Ibrahim's farewell on 12 April



Participants of DiD 2018 during their state visit to Penang



Hostel registration for the 2018 Master students



Mr. Rushdi Abdul Rahim of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology delivering a lecture to officers of the Ministry



A study visit from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department



Among the participants of the Pre-Posting Orientation Course



Vote of thanks by the representative of the *Young Diplomats Programme*



One of the activities at the retreat



Farewell speech by the Director of Management Services Division prior to his retirement



Visit from UTM's Master students



A programme with Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa

# Appendix

# APPENDIX

## 2018 Programme Participants

### Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy

| No. | Courses   | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
|-----|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>Strategic Analysis Course for Malaysian Participants</i>                 | 23                     | 23                     | -                          |
| 2.  | <i>MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2018</i> | 14                     | -                      | 14                         |
| 3.  | <i>MTCP: Economic Diplomacy Course for Vietnamese Officials 2018</i>        | 19                     | 4                      | 15                         |
| 4.  | <i>MTCP: Economic Diplomacy for International Participants 2018</i>         | 17                     | 2                      | 15                         |
| 5.  | <i>Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Attachment Officers</i>             | 12                     | -                      | 12                         |
| No. | Discourses  | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
| 1.  | <i>Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2018</i>                                     | 88                     | 79                     | 9                          |
| 2.  | <i>Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2018</i>                                     | 91                     | 66                     | 25                         |
| 3.  | <i>IDFR Lecture Series 1/2018</i>   | 112                    | 89                     | 23                         |
| 4.  | <i>IDFR Lecture Series 3/2018</i>   | 77                     | 72                     | 5                          |
| 5.  | <i>IDFR Lecture Series 4/2018</i>   | 120                    | 105                    | 15                         |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>  | 573                    | 440                    | 133                        |

## Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy

| No. | Courses   | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
|-----|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses (Series 1 to Series 5)</i> | 271                    | 271                    | -                          |
| 2.  | <i>Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders Council</i>                                  | 20                     | 20                     | -                          |
| 3.  | <i>International Negotiations Workshop 2018</i>   | 23                     | 23                     | -                          |
| 4.  | <i>Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2018</i>   | 20                     | 20                     | -                          |
| 5.  | <i>Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 2/2018</i>   | 17                     | 17                     | -                          |
| 6.  | <i>Workshop on Dealing with the Media</i>   | 9                      | 9                      | -                          |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>  | 360                    | 360                    | -                          |

## Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy

| No. | Courses   | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
|-----|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>Say it Right: A Course on Pronunciation (Series 1 and 2)</i> | 38                     | 38                     | -                          |
| 2.  | <i>Building Blocks of Good English</i>                          | 23                     | 23                     | -                          |
| 3.  | <i>Effective Writing Skills</i>                                 | 38                     | 38                     | -                          |
| 4.  | <i>Presentation Skills at the Workplace</i>                     | 19                     | 19                     | -                          |
| 5.  | <i>English Language Module for Diploma in Diplomacy</i>         | 16                     | 16                     | -                          |
| 6.  | <i>Workshop on APEC for Papua New Guinea Officials</i>          | 49                     | -                      | 49                         |
| 7.  | <i>Arabic Level II</i>  | 8                      | 8                      | -                          |
| 8.  | <i>Foreign Language Modules for Diploma in Diplomacy</i>        | 16                     | 16                     | -                          |

| No. | Courses                                       | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
|-----|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9.  | <i>Spanish Level I</i>                        | 9                      | 9                      | -                          |
| 10. | <i>Spanish Level II</i>                       | 5                      | 5                      | -                          |
| 11. | <i>Spanish Level IX</i>                       | 6                      | 5                      | 1                          |
| 12. | <i>Conversational Malay Language Course 1</i> | 6                      | -                      | 6                          |
| 13. | <i>Conversational Malay Language Course 2</i> | 1                      | -                      | 1                          |
| No. | Discourses                                    | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
| 1.  | <i>IDFR Lecture Series 2/2018</i>             | 81                     | 69                     | 12                         |
| 2.  | <i>Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 2018</i> | 157                    | 147                    | 10                         |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | 472                    | 393                    | 79                         |

#### Centre for Competency Enhancement

| No. | Courses   | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
|-----|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>Diploma in Diplomacy</i>                               | 16                     | 16                     | -                          |
| 2.  | <i>Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy</i> | 11                     | 7                      | 4                          |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>  | 27                     | 23                     | 4                          |

#### Other Programmes

| No. | Programme                        | Number of Participants | Malaysian Participants | International Participants |
|-----|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>Cultural Appreciation Day</i> | 519                    | 476                    | 43                         |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>                     | 519                    | 476                    | 43                         |



## Enquiries

All enquiries should be directed to:

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