



ARTICLE IN THE NEWS
 INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS (IDFR)
 WEB SITE 2013



Diploma in Diplomacy Management Asset Security
 Cultural Appreciation International Security
 (MTCP) Mid-Career Course For Diplomats Monthly
 Analysis Course Asean Leadership Forum
 Transformation, Innovation and Creativity
 Attachment at The Embassy of Malaysia
 Implementor Group of Wisma Putra
 Diplomatic Training Course for Myanmar
 Diploma in Diplomacy Management
 Cultural Appreciation International Security Symposium Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme
 (MTCP) Mid-Career Course For Diplomats Monthly Assembly Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic
 Analysis Course Asean Leadership Forum Workshop on ICT Strategic Plan Seminar on Library
 Transformation, Innovation and Creativity IDFR-UKM Masters Degree Programme Skype Conference.

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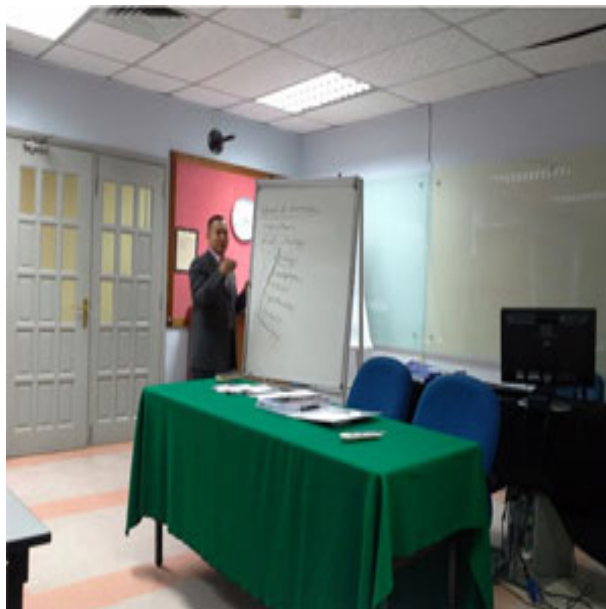
TRAINING OF TRAINERS: ETHOS AND PATRIOTISM



From 17-19 December 2013, five officers from Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) attended the Training of Trainers: Course on Ethos and Patriotism held at the National Institute of Public Administration, Bukit Kiara Campus. Officers from other public training institutions attended the course as well.

Overall the aim of the course is to provide direction and clear meaning on the concept of education and training through the views of the world of Islam to generate good men among individuals who play important roles in the society. Course participants were briefed on the current scenario of the education and training system and were taught on the meaning and purpose of education and training, including the philosophy of knowledge as well. Participants were intellectually challenged by the concept and ideas pitched to them in an encouraging and interactive atmosphere. There were sessions where participants were given scenarios and required to apply, reflect and debate on what they have learnt and understood throughout the course.

At the end of the course, participants gained a new set of knowledge in the field of education and training from a different perspective and will continuously be trained in the course of 2 years in order to effectively deliver the new set of skills and knowledge in their respective institutions.



Reported by: Zanariah Abdul Malek
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

MANAGEMENT ASSET SYSTEM WORKSHOP-PHASE 1



This Workshop was held between 19 - 20 December 2013 at the Computer Lab, Block C and was conducted by Mrs. Hanita Kassim and Mr. Hawari Hamid from the Ministry of Finance for 12 IDFR officers. The aim was to provide asset record preparation, exposure and management that is more well planned and systematic to officers responsible for asset management at IDFR. A hands-on demonstration session was also conducted by all participants. The even was concluded with a closing speech by Mr Nik Muhd Husbi Nik Daud, the Deputy Director of Management Section, Finance and Human Resource. He hoped that all participants acquired a clearer understanding of the use of the system for asset and inventory data entry at IDFR.



Reported by: Management Asset System Workshop Secretariat
Management Services and Corporate Division

EXECUTIVE TALK: PROPAGANDA, PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND NATIONAL SECURITY



On 12 December, 2013, the Centre for Media and Information Warfare Studies, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies (FKPM), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), organised the Executive Talk: Propaganda, Public Diplomacy and National Security. The speaker was Professor Dr. Nancy Snow, a Professor of Communications from California State University, Fullerton and Adjunct Professor at Annenberg School, University of South California, United States of America.

The talk inaugurated with welcoming remarks and opening speech by Prof. Dr. Azizul Halim Yahya, Dean of FKPM.

Prof. Dr. Nancy Snow, a former United States Information Agency (USIA) official and an expert in public diplomacy and propaganda studies who specialises in America's image and reputation, introduced her presentation by replying to a statement she had heard, "social media is a problem in this country." She argued that social media is not a problem; the problem is the content, and since the world today is one large social network, everyone is a journalist. She described how the press always wants more information while governments try to hide them, and because of that, there needs to be a balance between giving information and protecting national security.

She went on to explain the two basic ways to improve communication: talk louder or listen closer. She believes that listen closer is more efficient, citing examples including an excerpt from Former US President Jimmy Carter, who said the US government needed to listen more in order to understand the world better. She also argued that more communication "merely multiplies the possibilities of misunderstandings and misinterpretations." This is because "bias and distortion continue to play a large group".

The term propaganda was also defined as a “process of mass persuasion,” depending how it is used, and provided examples and models in the context of authoritarianism and democracy. According to her, propaganda is most effective when it is based upon credible truth, presented in an attractive form, arouses a human need such as security and suggests satisfaction with fulfilling that need. Besides that, she said that technology advancement is making public affairs and public communication harder, not easier. This is because the “internet spread rumours faster than authorities can set the record straight,” and “using information to control rumours will be a major issue and with more responsibilities.”



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam bin Nordin
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

FORUM FOR ASEAN YOUNG DIPLOMATS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 2013



The Forum for ASEAN Young Diplomats on International Affairs 2013 was successfully conducted from 2 to 13 December 2013. The two-week course was attended by 15 participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and ASEAN Secretariat.

The objectives of this course were to enhance participants' operational skills and expertise in the performance of their duties as diplomatic officers and to promote better understanding and interaction among ASEAN diplomats.

Throughout the course, the participants were exposed to issues and topics exemplified by experts concerning diplomacy and international relations from the Malaysian perspective. Among the topics discussed were Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Evolution of ASEAN, ASEAN Economic Pillar and External Relations, Global Movements of Moderates, Language and Diplomacy, International Negotiations and Environmental Diplomacy.

Apart from lectures, a number of study visits were organised, including visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and the Petronas Twin Towers as well as a three-day visit to the Langkawi Island.





Reported by: Awang Putra Awang Sopeian
Training Division

TRAINING OF TRAINERS: INTRODUCTION TO TRAINING SKILLS, 10 – 13 DECEMBER 2013



The Training of Trainers: Introduction to Training Skills Course was successfully conducted from 10 until 13 December 2013. The course was certified by City and Guilds, UK and conducted by its appointed consultant in Kuala Lumpur, Language Works Sdn. Bhd. Ten (10) IDFR's mid-career and senior officers attended the four-day programme.

The overall objective of the course was to train the participants to become professional trainers. The course enabled the participants to reflect on their current learning beliefs and practices and consider ways to improve their learners' learning experience. The participants were also exposed to a variety of ideas, strategies and skills for learning effectiveness.

The four-day programme included both theories and practical sessions on training delivery. The theoretical part was covered on the first and second day in which areas related to identifying learners' needs, planning and preparing learning sessions and delivering training are exposed to the participants. The participants learnt through interactive lectures, individual activities and group work. On Day 3 and 4, each participant delivered a 30-minute training session based on what had been understood from Day 1 and 2. As part of the requirements for the certification by City and Guilds, the 30-minute training session and a multiple-choice question quiz were the compulsory elements.

In conclusion, all the participants expressed their satisfaction on the content and delivery of the course. It gave the participants the opportunity to reflect and identify their own strengths and weaknesses to further improve their skills and competencies as trainers.

Reported by: Romaiza Ab. Rahman
Training Division

SEMINAR 'PUBLIC SECTOR TRAINERS MEET TRAINERS' 2013

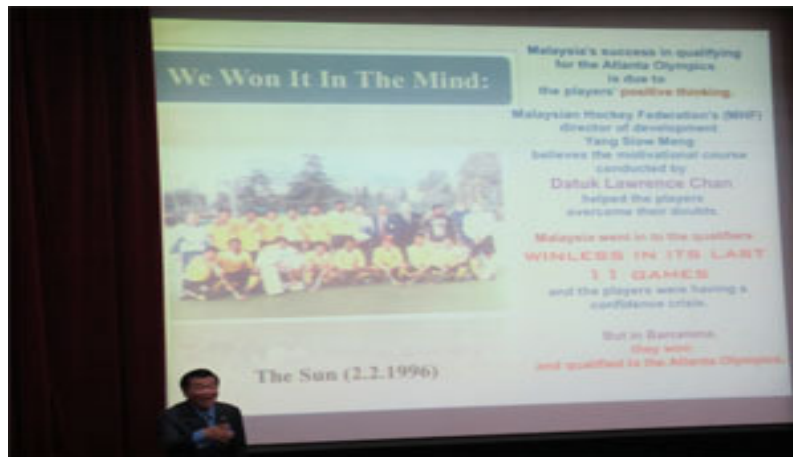


The National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) organised a seminar 'Public Sector Trainers Meet Trainers' on 10th December 2013 at the Auditorium, INTAN Bukit Kiara. Three speakers shared their thoughts on training: 'Trainer Attitude and Aptitude' by Dato' Dr. Syed Omar Sharifuddin bin Syed Ikhsan, Senior Deputy Director INTAN; 'Transforming the Minds, Hearts and Behaviour of People' by Dato' Lawrence Chan Kum Peng, Founder and Executive Chairman of Personal Development, Leadership Management Corporation; and 'Trends in Learning and Development' by Dato' Dr. R. Palan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SMR Group.

Dato' Dr. Syed Omar Sharifuddin outlined the definitions of attitude and aptitude as well as provided characteristics of an exemplary trainer which includes: Purpose, Passionate, Knowledgeable, Honesty, Empathy, Patience, Democracy, Ability to listen, Respect for experience, Pace, Prestige and Humour.

Dato' Lawrence Chan Kum Peng called upon all trainers to be transformational trainers by reaching out to the participants' hearts, minds and soul through two main approaches: AIDAC that is, Attention, Interest, Desire, Action and Commitment while the other is through 5R: Relaxing, Reminder, Reinforce, LeaRn and Rejuvenate. Dato' Dr. R Palan spoke about collaborative learning. Informal learning he said is the way now and the future. It is informal and it cuts down the learning curve. He also said that when working is learning then learning is working and it is important for trainers to tailor training and learning. Performance needs analysis is the way forward and not necessarily training needs analysis.

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) was represented by Puan Norani Ibrahim and Puan Rahimah Yeop. In all, two-hundred and fifty participants representing various Public Training Institutes attended the fruitful event.



Reported by: Rahimah Yeop
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN ASEAN THROUGH MULTI-CHANNEL DIALOGUE



A two-day Roundtable Conference was held at the Treaty Room, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) from 9-10 December 2013 on Strengthening Regional Integration in ASEAN through multi-channel Dialogue. It was led by the Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG), with Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and IDFR as joint organisers.

The Foreign Policy Study Group's aim is to “strengthen ASEAN integration by enhancing NGO linkages to complement the excellent government-to-government cooperation” and provide a platform for important stakeholders to discuss issues and suggest ways to consolidate bilateral relations between ASEAN member countries (FPSG, 2013).

Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of FPSG commenced the session with his welcoming remarks, followed by the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Hussein Nayan. The Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, YM Tengku Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Rithauddeen, then delivered his opening speech.

The conference was based on four themes – Extremism and the need for moderation on region-wide basis, Role of Media in Fostering greater ASEAN integration as ASEAN moves towards ASEAN Community in 2015, Human Trafficking and Migrant Workers in ASEAN, and Role of Youth: Harnessing Youth to participate more fully in ASEAN's domestic and intro-regional work.

Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, CEO of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) suggested for ASEAN to collaborate with the youth and women, to establish students exchange programme between ASEAN members states and organise programmes that will add value to the youths.

Tan Sri Razali raised the issue on crimes resulting from human trafficking – sexual exploitation, arms and drug abuse.

Speakers came from all ten ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DAY 2013



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia hosted the *Information Technology and Innovation Day 2013* at the WP1 Auditorium on the 5th December 2013, with the theme, “*Memantapkan Diplomasi Melalui Inovasi.*” YBhg. Datuk Othman Hashim, the Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Secretary Generals of the Ministry, Director Generals of respective departments and officers of the ministry attended the event.

In his welcoming remarks, Datuk Othman Hashim stated that, “innovation has become a necessity in today’s diplomacy to address the current changes and challenges in our efforts to propel Malaysia to a high income nation by 2020.” He also reminded everyone the four criteria that must be practised in order to have an impact on all the stakeholders:

1. Develop strategies and actions that can bring big impact on the country and its people;
2. Save and optimise existing resources through multi-tasking;
3. Shorten the implementation period and reduce the waiting time for the public or customers to obtain services; and
4. Identify, provide space and opportunities for skilled officers and young civil servants to achieve brilliance.

He urged everyone to always think creatively and innovatively, and as a diplomat, “we should always be aware and develop strategies and approaches to protect the interests of the people of Malaysia.”

Mr. Zikry Kohlil, co-founder of *The Incitement*, who was an invited speaker, shared a case study of his social innovation model. *The Incitement* began when two of the founders, Daniel de Grujtzter and himself, were not allowed to attend an event organised by Mindvalley, the company they work for. Similar to the TedxTalks, *The Incitement* is aimed at creating a “mind shift,” to provide a

platform to transform a person's life, by sharing inspiring stories. After two years, the movement has functioned in 32 countries and has been featured in several newspapers and magazines worldwide. Today, it is working closely with the children of the United Nations' Refugee Agency (UNHCR) by teaching public speaking, communication skills and how to dream big.

The programme was broadcasted live through video conferencing to the Malaysian Embassies and High Commissions in Bangkok, Beijing, Jakarta and Phnom Penh.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

INTERNATIONAL INTER CULTURAL APPRECIATION



On 29 November 2013, the participants of *Diploma Pengurusan Awam* (DPA) from the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), Kemaman Branch Campus, Terengganu, organised the International Inter Cultural Appreciation at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR). YBrs. Puan Norani Ibrahim, Deputy Director General of IDFR and YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Corporate and Management Services Division, were the guests of honour. Officials from various High Commissions and Embassies based in Malaysia were also present.

The programme's objectives were to provide the participants first-hand experience to promoting the Malaysian culture to the foreign missions and to instill deep appreciation of the Malaysian culture among the participants. In his welcoming remarks, Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob shared some of his experiences as a Malaysian ambassador with the participants.

The second session featured a demonstration of Malay Traditional Arts and Games and a fashion show of traditional and contemporary Malaysian attire. The event took place in IDFR's Multipurpose Hall, where participants thrilled guests with their talents in singing, playing traditional musical instruments, demonstrating games and even gracing the catwalk. Adhering to the theme of Batik and Songket: The Colourful Evolution and Elaboration, beautiful works of Atikah Songket and designer Adila Long were showcased. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob delightfully concluded the programme by displaying his talents on stage, singing a duet of *Pandang-Pandang Jeling-Jeling*, much to the delight of guests and participants.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

VISIT BY A DELEGATION FROM KD SULTAN IDRIS I (KDSI I), RMN LUMUT



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) received a delegation from the KD Sultan Idris I (KDSI I), RMN Lumut led by Cdr Khairil Hariss Haji Khairuddin, Head of the Seafarers Faculty of KDSI I, RMN Lumut on 27 November 2013. He was accompanied by 20 participants of the Naval Command and Staff Course 6/2013.

The delegation was received by YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, the Director of Corporate and Management Services Division and other senior officers of the Institute. The purpose of the visit which was at the request of the KDSI I, RMN Lumut, were to learn more about the organisation, duties, functions and responsibilities of IDFR in general, to expose the participants to the training and courses offered as well as issues related to foreign relations and to brief about the challenges that need to be overcome in diplomacy and international relations issues.

They were later given a briefing on the activities of IDFR, followed by a question and answer session. The visitors were later taken for a tour of the IDFR campus.

The visit ended with a luncheon hosted by YBhg. Ambassador Aminah Hj A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR.



Reported by: Aida Hanim Shoib
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION ON ISLAMIC TRAINING 2013



The Islamic Training Institute of Malaysia (ILIM) successfully organised the **Second National Convention on Islamic Training** from 26 to 27 November 2013 at Dewan Datuk Mohd Shahir, ILIM. The convention, which was a follow-up to the first one held from 21-22 November 2012, was a gathering of trainers and managers from training institutes all over Malaysia. . The convention, jointly organised by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) and ILIM, was aimed at strengthening the strategic agreement between training institutes in Malaysia to develop a Rabbani generation in public service. IDFR was represented by Puan Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director of the Library and Puan Zaiza Haji Ali, Deputy Director of ICT.

Tuan Hj. Razali Shahabudin, JAKIM's Deputy General Director (Human Development), gave the keynote address titled, *Latihan Islam Asas melahirkan Generasi Rabbani Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam di Malaysia* and later officiated the event. He also launched a book titled, *Latihan Islam Di Malaysia Suatu Pengenalan*, published by ILIM.

Eight papers were presented during the two days, namely:

1. *Personaliti Rabbani: Menjana Warga Kerja Cemerlang* by Prof. Madya Dr. Hasnan Kasan (UKM);
2. *Model Latihan Membangun Personaliti Rabbani di Pusat Latihan Islam* by Ustaz Jaafar Muhammad (YaPIEM);
3. *Pendidikan Dewasa Dalam Islam: Cabaran Pelaksanaannya di dalam Latihan Islam* by Encik Abdul Jalil Saad (Protege Management Services);
4. *Inovasi Kreatif Dalam Latihan Islam* by Encik Mahadi Mohamad (ILIM);
5. *Badan Akreditasi Latihan Islam Pertama di Dunia: Suatu Harapan* by Dr. Muhammad Yamin Ismail (ILIM);
6. *Standard Murabbi: Kelayakan dan Latihan Yang Mesti Dipatuhi* by Encik Muhammad Zamri Mohamed Shapik (ILIM);

7. *Sistem Kawalan Standard Latihan Islam (SLIM): Ke arah Kualiti Latihan Bertaraf Antarabangsa* by Dr. Nordin Ahmad; dan
8. *Keberkesanan Kaedah-Kaedah Penilaian: Asas Mengankasakan Latihan Islam di Malaysia* by Prof. Madya Dr. Nik Mohd Rahimi Nik Yusoff (UKM).

At the end of the convention, the participants agreed on a draft resolution which was presented earlier by Dr. Muhammad Yamin Ismail. The draft resolution emphasized five (5) main areas, namely:

1. To develop a Rabbani Personality – to train coaches among civil servants who combine knowledge, skill and the spiritual aspects.
2. To establish an Islamic Training Accreditation Body – its function is to evaluate and recognise a training institute as 'shariah compliant'.
3. To establish an Islamic Training Standard – using an islamic training model to tproduce future generations with high integrity and competence through the combined approach of sunnah, science and art.
4. To monitor the Islamic Training Standard – a monitoring system for the Islamic training standard will be developed as a benchmark to ensure numbers 1-3 can be achieved.
5. General - This resolution will be proposed to the head of departments conference under the auspices of One Malaysia Training Center (1MTC).

The convention ended with a closing ceremony graced by Puan Hajjah Pauzaiyah Haron, the Director General of ILIM.

Reported by: Zaiza Haji Ali
ICT Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

IDFR-UITM COLLOQUIUM: ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS



A colloquium jointly organised by IDFR and the Faculty of Information Management (FPM), Universiti Teknologi MARA titled, Ensuring Sustainability of Library and Information Science Professional was held on 25 November 2013 at the Institute. The idea behind this collaboration is to improve the performance of the library; to improve practices that will ensure the sustainability of library professionals; to equip students with the medium and skills needed to face growing environmental changes, and to run a programme as an initiative to produce efficient and sustainable information professionals.

The colloquium commenced with a welcoming remarks by Prof. Dr. Norasiah Hj. Haron, Deputy Dean (Academic) of FPM, followed by the keynote address by Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, IDFR's Deputy Director General. Four papers were presented, as follows:

1. New Demands and Challenges of Information Profession by Encik Dahlan Samad, Director, Human Resource Development, National Library of Malaysia;
2. Creativity and Innovation by Tuan Haji Azizi Jantan, Senior Librarian, Department of Strategic Planning, Tun Abdul Razak Library, UiTM;
3. Tools and Technology by Puan Sharifah Fahimah Saiyed Yeop, Senior Executive, IP, Copyright and Records Management (KMU), Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS; and
4. Skills and Competencies by Puan Hajah Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director of IDFR Library.

The Colloquium was attended by lecturers and final year students from FPM; librarians from various agencies including Malaysian National News Agency (BERNAMA) and Institute of Language and Literature Malaysia as well as IDFR officers and staff.

Reported by: Nor Azura Mior Daud
Library, Corporate and Management Services Division

SPEECH WRITING WORKSHOP FOR IDFR'S OFFICERS



A three-day workshop on “Speech Writing” for IDFR’s officers was organised by the Corporate and Management Services Division from 22-24 November 2013. The workshop was held at the Swiss-Garden Resort & Spa Kuantan, Pahang and conducted by Puan Rozanah Ibrahim, the former Director of the Language Division of IDFR. The Deputy Director General of IDFR, Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim gave the welcoming remarks and expressed hope that the officers would benefit from the workshop in terms of their knowledge and skills in writing good speeches in the context of the many events and ceremonies organised by IDFR.

Twenty-six participants from all Divisions in IDFR attended this course. The objectives of this workshop were:

- i. To enhance knowledge and skills in writing excellent speeches;
- ii. To provide ideas and concepts for preparing and writing speeches;
- iii. To enable cooperation and team spirit in preparing and writing speeches.

Throughout the workshop, Puan Rozanah shared with the participants the important elements of a good speech such as the ‘who, why, what, where and how’ aspects of a speech, which included proper and correct use of language, appropriate choice of words, style and tone. The workshop sessions also included slots on analysis of speeches as well as presentation and peer critique segment of speeches written and delivered by the participants.



Reported by: Dr. Rosli Hj. Hassan
Language Division

TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? BY PROFESSOR EUSTON QUAH



A lecture titled, Transboundary Pollution: *What We Know and What Can We Do About It?* by Professor Euston Quah, PhD from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore was held at the IDFR Treaty Room on 11 November 2013. The focus was to highlight cross boundary pollution and its effects on environmental economic issues, the depleting resources as a result of this type of pollution and to discuss the theoretical foundations.

It was divided into five parts: the economics of transboundary pollution, examples of transboundary pollution, transboundary air pollution in Southeast Asia, solutions as to what we can really do to mitigate this issue and conclusion.

Transboundary pollution, cross-border pollution and transfrontier pollution are used interchangeably when it comes to definition, for it means pollution that crosses national or state boundaries. Transboundary pollution can be differentiated by geographical characteristics such as local or cross provincial, regional and global. The type of transboundary pollution will determine the shape of pollution being emitted, the onset of environmental problems and most importantly, the abatement options available.

Professor Quah gave several examples of transboundary pollution namely, the Pearl River Delta in Hong Kong where the actual pollution and smog originated from Guangdong, China. Other examples were the pollution of the Mekong River in Southern Vietnam, paper mills from Yunan and untreated domestic waste water from Northeast Thailand.

He also highlighted that the occurrence of haze annually in Southeast Asia which is caused by a technique called slash and burn in the plantation sector was the main contributory factor. He underlined that the lack of coordination and limitations of the political, social and legal

institutions as reasons for the issue of transboundary pollution to be yet successfully addressed after nearly two decades.

The haze has also impacted negatively in areas of the economy such as health, industrial production, tourism, airline and the finishing industry. Limited resources, weak regulations and institutions of control, lack of political will and the nature of ASEAN framework were also better management of crops and enhancing the authorities and stakeholder approach to cost sharing.

He concluded that it was vital to look at the level of incorporation and reconciliation among stakeholders and institutions in both victim and polluting countries.

The attendees for this lecture included policy makers, academics, students and representatives from various governmental agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations and also the media.



Reported by: Dev Kumar A/L Balakrishnan
Regional and Security Studies Division

DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY (DiD) 2013 GRADUATION CEREMONY



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) hosted the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2013 Graduation Ceremony as well as a closing dinner for Regional and International Affairs Module (RIAM) participants on 20 November 2013. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, officers and staff of IDFR and family members attended the event.

The programme commenced with the welcoming remarks by the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Hussin Nayan. He congratulated the DiD participants upon their successful completion of the six-month course that aims to develop an all-rounded and versatile diplomats, as well as to give them "an in-depth exposure on the various aspects of diplomacy and international relations." Dato' Hussin Nayan then added that with the knowledge and insights they have gained, these young diplomats "have the necessary skills and confidence to embark on an exciting and demanding career".

YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin in his speech, urged the DiD participants "to be well read, be inquisitive and constantly challenge [themselves] to scale greater heights" in order to excel and ensure their "success in promoting and defending Malaysia's national interests". He also stated that the ministry recognises the need to invest in human capital development and the "conduct of the DiD programme for our young diplomats is but just one clear evidence of the ministry's effort in enhancing human capital development."

Ms. Nur Azura Abd. Karim, Class President of DiD 2/2013 delivered a touching and heart-warming speech. On behalf of the DiD participants, she thanked and acknowledged the training and language divisions, saying that the "DiD Secretariat and Language teachers have worked day in and day out to ensure participants are groomed to become holistic officers." Furthermore, she stated that as diplomats in the 21st century, "we are at the forefront of this change." And "as the 'sun' has set on previous approaches to conducting diplomacy and foreign relations, we should

aspire to add value upon our return to our respective Ministries and Agencies. We should aspire to be the new ‘sunrise’ of tomorrow today.”

Cultural performances by the Graduating Class of 2013 and RIAM participants concluded the programme.

After the certificate presentation, special awards were also given – Foreign Minister’s Award for Best Student, Secretary General’s Award for Best Leadership, Director General’s Award for Best Speech Writer and Best Overall Performance of the UNSC Simulation to eight RIAM participants.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

ROYAL AUDIENCE



The Royal Patron of IDFR, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tuanku Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Regent of the State of Perak Darul Ridzuan had graciously granted an audience with Datuk Othman Hashim, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR on 14 November 2013 at Istana Changkat, Kuala Lumpur.



Reported by: Zuraini Harun
Office of Director General

THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SYMPOSIUM 2013



The International Security Symposium 2013 titled, 'Regional Order and Power Dynamics in the Asia Pacific' was held at the IDFR Auditorium on 23 October 2013. The Symposium was a smart collaborative effort between IDFR, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the Malaysian Armed Forces Defense College (MAFDC). The idea behind the collaboration was to enlighten the audience about the current regional situation with regard to the emergence of China in the East and the perceived power dynamics between China and the United States. The symposium was held with the objectives to provide a platform for the Masters Degree students and the other participants to deliberate and discuss on contemporary security issues in the Asia-Pacific and also the opportunity to update information on security trends and issues in the region.

The programme commenced with the Welcoming Remarks by His Excellency Dato' Hussin Nayan, the Director General of IDFR, who said "The dynamics of cooperation and contest within regional organisations such as in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Asian Regional Forum, East Asia Summit and Asia-Europe Dialogue are reflective of efforts to remain relevant in the process of ensuring that strength, stability, security and prosperity continues to be beneficial to all parties." His Excellency also added that a "new imaginative approach is urgently required to add to the existing and proven strategies in managing and governing the new power dynamics."

The guest of honour at the Symposium was General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin, the Malaysian Chief of Defence Force who also delivered a keynote address at the Symposium. In his keynote address, General Tan Sri Zulkifeli said, "The current regional situation occurred because of the economic prosperity that is being enjoyed by the countries in the region. Thus, it had sparked the interests of regional powers such as China and even India to jockey for positions in the region". ASEAN cannot ignore the rumblings beyond its region especially in the Asia-Pacific region because it would have an impact on the well-being and stability of the ASEAN member states.

The Symposium was formatted into three discussion sessions by distinguished moderators, discussants and speakers who were experts in their respective fields. Among the speakers who took part in the Symposium were Dato' Dr. Muthiah Alagappa from the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Senior Colonel Chen Fang Ming (retired) Research Fellow from China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS), Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore, Dr. Tang Siew Mun, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Policy and International Studies, ISIS, Associate Professor Dr. Sity Daud, Chair of the School of History, Politics and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM and Colonel Apisak Sambutcharoennon from the National Defense Studies Institute (NDSI) Thailand.

The three sessions were also handled by moderators such as Professor Dato' Dr. Zakaria Haji Ahmad, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman GMM, and Associate Professor Dr. Ravichandran from UKM. The discussants included Dr. K S Nathan from UKM, Dr. K S Balakrishnan from University Malaya (UM) and Dr. Arjunan Narayanan from UKM.

Overall, the participants were enlightened about the strategic importance of the Asia Pacific region in terms of the power dynamics from China as the emerging power in the East and the United States role in maintaining the balance of power in the Asia Pacific.



Reported by: Major Ridzuan Mohd Shariff
Regional and Security Studies Division

OUTCOME OF THE 23RD ASEAN SUMMIT AND RELATED SUMMITS



On Thursday, 17 October 2013, the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia organized a briefing at the Ministry's Auditorium on the *Outcome of the 23rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits*.

Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Director General of the National Secretariat briefed the guests, comprising ambassadors and representatives of foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur, on the key points and highlights of the Summits which recently concluded in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. He also briefly touched on the outcome documents as well as Malaysia's intervention at the Nine Leaders Meetings. Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram then highlighted several significance of the ASEAN Summit, among which was the announcement made by India to establish a separate Mission to ASEAN with a Resident Ambassador, and the success of the 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit, where Malaysia welcomed the United States' assistance and collaboration in the areas of cyber security, trade, investments and disaster management.

Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram concluded the briefing by sharing the Summit's achievements and progress, including the wide support received by Malaysia on the concept of moderates, positive developments on the South China Sea issue, acceptance of Malaysia's proposals in the area of functional cooperation through the establishment of an ASEAN-Korea Innovation Centre and the concept of a 'People-Oriented ASEAN'.

Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

IDFR'S NEW CAFÉ



Have you ever been to Makan@Flora IDFR? The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) has re-opened its cafeteria, with a new ambiance, decorations and a long listed menu to whet your appetite. For starters, *Nasi Lemak* and *Roti Canai* are available; however, if you crave for a heavier breakfast, you can simply ask for *Nasi Goreng*, *Mee Goreng*, *Mee sup*, *Kuey Teow Sup* or Western. For lunch, you can either order *à la carte* or a set meal.

After a week of its establishment, Makan@Flora IDFR has propelled positive feelings: exclusiveness and comfort. The café itself looks exclusive. The food and service has its own standards, making it appealing in every way. Furthermore, the new café has a feeling of comfort – even the waiters are welcoming and the food sumptuous! If you have never been there, now is your chance. Makan@Flora IDFR is located at the Ground Floor, Block C of the Institute, and is open to all; from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday through Friday.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

**MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP):
DIPLOMATIC TRAINING COURSE (DTC) FOR INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPANTS 2/2013**



IDFR had successfully organised the Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants Series 2/2013 from 23 September – 11 October 2013. The second series was attended by fourteen (14) diplomats namely from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Jordan, Laos, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Solomon Island, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

The objective of the three week course conducted under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) was to enhance the participant's knowledge on diplomacy and diplomatic skills. Apart from that, the course was also designed to provide exposure to Malaysia's experience in managing its foreign policy and international relations.

Among the modules included in the course were International Humanitarian Law, Terrorism, Diplomacy in Crisis Management, Security Issues and Challenges in South East Asia, Human Rights Law, ASEAN and Global Movement of Moderates to name a few. The participants were also brought on several study visits to various government ministries and agencies including the state visit to Johor and Melaka.

Overall, the participants were pleased with arrangements made as the course has also enabled the building of network and friendship among them and especially with the officials in Malaysia. The Certificate Presentation Ceremony was graced by the new Director General, YBhg. Dato' Md Hussain Nayan. Also present were the representatives of the diplomatic corps and representatives from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

Reported by: Mohd Farid Mohd Arif
Training Division

LIBRARY'S OPEN DAY 2013



On 9 October 2013, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Library successfully organised its open day called 'Information Day' from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. The open day was officiated by YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR.

The objective of the programme was to strengthen the ties between the library and IDFR staff, various agencies around the institute as well as members of the public, and also to promote the library's collections, services and facilities. A variety of informative and interactive activities were organised such as a library tour, wellness screenings, health and motivation talks, first aid demonstrations, indoor games competition, quiz, jumble sale, book stalls and lucky draws.

Officers and staff from The Ministry of Health Malaysia, Malaysia Red Crescent Society, National Library of Malaysia, Librarians Association of Malaysia, Emerald Publisher and book sellers were among those that participated in the programmes.

Other guests included staff of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Puspanita, Malaysia Red Crescent Society, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Malaysia, National Library of Malaysia, BERNAMA, lecturers and students from UiTM's Faculty of Information Studies, members of the public and IDFR staff.

Reported by: Hajjah Kamariah Jaafar

Library Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



IDFR had successfully initiated the first dialogue to further understand the Latin America and the Caribbean region through a round table discussion, “*Regional Integration Process in Latin America and the Caribbean*” at the Treaty Room on 2 October 2013. It was jointly organised by the Embassy of Ecuador and five ambassadors from the Latin American continent, namely Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, sharing their views and opinions about the progress on regional integration processes including economic, trade, education and cultural exchanges in Latin America and the Caribbean organisations.

The round table discussion was attended by 70 participants from the various governmental agencies, universities, and private sectors. The welcoming remarks were graced by H.E. Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR.

H.E. Christian Rehren, the Ambassador of Chile, begins his presentation by acknowledging H.E. Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the former Director General of IDFR, for his integral effort to craft this event to become a reality. In his speech, *Regional Integration: Conceptual Framework, History, Facts, the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean States (Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños - CELAC)*, H.E. Rehren briefed on the historical background of the Latin America and the Caribbean and emphasized that the CELAC establishment was based on respect and mutual understanding among the Latin American and the Caribbean states. Its objectives were to integrate and deepen the political, economic, social and cultural of the region through mechanism of consultation, integration and cooperation. To date, CELAC comprises 33 member states.

The session continued with the presentation on the Union of South American Nations (*Unión de Naciones Suramericanas - UNASUR*) by H.E. Marco Balarezo, Ambassador of Peru. Officially established in 2008, UNASUR is a collective effort to drive the South American Nations towards regional integration in cultural, social, economic, political, security and defense cooperation that

were based on the principle of consensus, flexibility and graduation towards achieving its set objectives. According to H.E. Balarezo, the current focus of the organisation was on connectivity and defense cooperation throughout the continent. About US100 billion has been invested in this project.

The third speaker, H.E. Gerardo Prato, the Ambassador of Uruguay, touched on the Southern Common Market (*Mercado Común del Sur* - MERCOSUR), an economic and trade agreement that comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela with Bolivia soon becoming the six accessing member. Since its establishment from the 1991 Treaty of Asunción, the bloc has seen an exponential growth in trade. With the current positive growth in trade, H.E. Prato believes that the organisation would continue to grow stronger.

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas - Peoples' Trade Treaty (*Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América - Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos* - ALBA-TCP) lecture was presented by H.E. Lourdes Puma Puma, Ambassador of Ecuador. It is an organisation based on the idea of political, economic and social integration of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Initiated by H.E. Hugo Chávez in 2001, ALBA-TCP, comprised of a group of nine countries from the Caribbean, South and Central America, brings these countries together to establish an instrument based on unity among member countries with the objective to promote fairness, cooperation and complementarity of trade and production for their citizen. H. E. Puma Puma highlighted that the current focus of ALBA-TCP was on energy and food security.

The final speaker of the session, H.E. Rodrigo Querubin, Ambassador of Colombia, presented his topic entitled The Pacific Alliance (*Alianza del Pacífico*), a Latin America Pacific group that comprised of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The Alliance, H.E. Querubin informed, was a platform created with a clear objective for economic and business growth along with social welfare and devoid of politics.

The closing remarks were made by H.E. Manuel Guzman, Dean of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries and the Ambassador of the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela who summarized that the current Latin America and the Caribbean nations witness a rapid and pragmatic integration progress through the collaborative effort made by the countries through these various organisations.

Reported by: Melvin Cheah Chee Aun
Regional and Security Studies Division

NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IDFR



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) warmly welcomes YBhg. Dato' Md Hussin Nayan as the new Director General succeeding YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, who has been appointed as Malaysian Ambassador to Egypt. He took up the post on 1 October 2013 and is the ninth Director General since the Institute's establishment in 1991.

Dato' Md Hussin started his diplomatic career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia as Assistant Secretary of South East Asia Division in 1976 and served in various postings including Second Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia Washington D.C, USA from 1980-1984 and First Secretary, High Commission of Malaysia, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1984-1986. He was appointed as Director (ASEAN II), Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1986-1989. He also served as Counselor at the Embassy of Malaysia in Austria and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) in 1989. He was subsequently assigned as Principal Assistant Secretary for Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993-1996 and was appointed as Under Secretary for International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1996-1998.

In 1998, Dato' Md Hussin was appointed as Ambassador of Malaysia to Bosnia Herzegovina and thereafter in 2000, as Under Secretary for Territorial and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From June 2003- July 2005, he was the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Australia. He was Director General of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2005-2009.

In 2009, Dato' Md Hussin was appointed the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore. He was also appointed the ASEF Governor for Malaysia in October 2011.

Dato' Md Hussin is married to Datin Jamaliah binti Hassan and they have three children. His knowledge and experience will be of great added value to IDFR to stay ahead and further develop its reputation as a prominent diplomatic training institute.



Reported by: Zuraida Zainol
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

SIGN OFF SESSION ON ICT STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015



The *sign off* session of the Development Project Information Technology Strategic Plan (ISP), IDFR, took place on 30 September 2013 in The Executive Room, Block A, IDFR. The session was held during the Development Committee Meeting ISP (JKPISP) IDFR Number 4/2013 which was chaired by YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Management Services and Corporate Division, which is also the Project Director ISP IDFR. Additionally, also presents were YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othaman, the head of the Consultant Team ISP MAMPU and Mr. Faizal Abu Kassim, member of Consultant Team ICT public sector, MAMPU and along with ISP IDFR.

In the opening speech, YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob illustrated in details that ISP IDFR was developed in collaboration with MAMPU within six (6) months starting from March to September 2013 and is a document which sets out the strategic role of ICT in supporting and expanding the functions IDFR. ISP document is also the ICT IDFR *Blueprint* from the period of 2013-2015; the action plan will be implemented based on ICT in various programs and activities. During the development period of three (3) respectively for workshops and meetings JKPISP held that the ideas and suggestions of the participants refined and the consent of the committee. He suggested that the planned projects in 2013 can be implemented successfully as KPI targets, namely:

- Website improvements IDFR;
- Network Migration 1Gov * Net;
- Reporting Requirement Study ICT peripherals and software;
- Provision of ICT Training Plan 2013-2015;
- The presence of ICT courses; and
- ICT Information Dissemination via e-mail.

After the opening speech, YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, followed by discussion of matters arising with respect to the minutes of meetings, presentations and final draft of the implementation status of the ISP writing delivered by Mrs. Zaiza Haji Ali, Project Manager ISP, Institute.

Before the *sign off* session took place, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman had demonstrated a clear explanation on the scope completed by their team, which provides consulting services for handholding and coaching for the following activities:

1. Setting the Vision, Mission, Strategic Thrusts ICT, ICT Strategy;
2. Develop ICT Action Plan. ICT Action Plan includes: programs, activities, goals/ objectives, critical success factors; period of time; program owners and key performance indicators (KPI);
3. Create cost estimates and proposed implementation plan, and
4. Assist in writing ICT Strategic Plan Document.

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman also advised that an action plan be developed ICT can be implemented within the period prescribed and used as a basis to apply any provision of ICT projects for the period 2013-2015.

Session Sign Off completed when both parties, namely IDFR represented by Dato 'Zulkifli Yaacob and MAMPU represented by Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman signed the *Sign Off* Form Project Consultancy marking the ISP by the MAMPU to the IDFR.

In closing the meeting, YBhg. Dato 'Zulkifli Yaacob representing the IDFR has to express my heartfelt congratulations on commitment, time and energy devoted to realizing ISP JKPIISP IDFR to all members. Our thanks also goes to the Consulting ISP, MAMPU on coaching and consulting services throughout the project period.

Reported by: Project Management Officer (PMO) ISP, IDFR
ICT section, Corporate and Management Services Division

BRIEFING BASIC DATABASE ON MANAGEMENT ASSET SYSTEM



A briefing on Basic Data Asset Management System or *Data Asas Sistem Pengurusan Aset* (SPA) was held on 25 September 2013 at IDFR's Computer Lab. The briefing was delivered by Puan Nurul Syuhada Samsu, Director of Information Technology from the Security and Regional Division, Ministry of Finance to 12 IDFR officials.

The main objective of the briefing was to give a detailed explanation in relation to the system and basic data information needed to implement SPA. Among the essential information emphasized were:

1. IDFR's Organization Chart;
2. Information on Division and PTJ Code;
3. Information on Staff; and
4. Information on Location Code.

Following the briefing, a session to fill in the required information into the Daftar Aset Khusus (DAK) template which was recorded in the MySPATA by the participants present. IDFR hopes to utilize the SPA by middle of October 2013.

Reported by: Nik Muhd Hasbi Nik Daud
Administrative Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

TOWN HALL SESSION WITH THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA



On 24 September 2013, a Town Hall Session with YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Ali bin Hamsa, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia was held in Auditorium WP2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Several IDFR officials also seized the opportunity to attend this session to hear the message delivered by Tan Sri Dr. Ali. During the session, Tan Sri Dr. Ali urged all the Wisma Putra officials to do the transformation in the way they do things. In this regard, Tan Sri Dr. Ali invited everyone to jointly review the working procedures as well as the organisational structure without neglecting the staff motivational and welfare issues.

Tan Sri Dr. Ali also advised the participants to not compare themselves with the past because the issues and challenges that they faced in the past might no longer be relevant in the current situation and future. So, the Wisma Putra officials need to scrutinize the current challenges and develop their own unique strategies, overcome the obstacles as well as fully utilize the resources in the best possible way. In addition, Tan Sri Dr. Ali also advised the Wisma Putra officers to keep networking with other agencies abroad. Wisma Putra officials were also recommended to equip themselves with language skills so that the officers no longer rely absolutely on a translator while working abroad.

Reported by: Zuraida Zainol
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

MID-CAREER COURSE FOR DIPLOMATS, 9 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2013



The Mid-Career Course for Diplomats was conducted from 9 until 20 September 2013 recently. Five (5) officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and two (2) from IDFR attended the 9-day programme held at IDFR.

The objectives of the course were to enhance the participants' knowledge and competencies in diplomacy and issues related to international relations; improve their skills in leadership and organizational management and enhance their creative, critical and strategic thinking ability. The modules of the course were tailored to serve these aims. Selected modules of the Course were *Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Plan, International Negotiations, Middle East Crisis, Media Skills, Communication Skills, Speech Writing and Government Transformation Plan*. A one-day workshop on Critical, Creative and Analytical Thinking was also included as an improvement to the course modules.

The course was concluded by some advice and guidance by IDFR's Acting Director General, YBhg. Ambassador Aminahtun Haji A. Karim during the certificate presentation to the participants.

Reported by: Romaiza Ab. Rahman
Training Division

AUGUST MONTHLY ASSEMBLY AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A day before our National Day which fell on 31 August 2013, the Monthly Assembly of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the Wisma Putra, Dewan Serbaguna WP2, in conjunction with the secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 'clocking-out' session.

The hall was filled with the arrival of Ministry of Foreign Affairs civil servants. The assembly programme commenced upon the arrival of YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy Foreign Minister, YBhg. Tan Sri Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahman, the outgoing Secretary General and Datuk Othman Hashim, the incoming Secretary General along with senior officers of Wisma Putra.

The assembly began with the singing of the National Anthem, Negaraku, followed by Wisma Putra song and 1 Malaysia song. YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs started off with a speech. It was followed by the launching of the 'Facebook' page of Wisma Putra by YBhg. Tan Sri Radzi. The "Penyerahan Nota Serah Tugas" or handing over notes session took place and subsequently, he gave a speech on Secretary General's resignation and his excellent contributions on serving the ministry. The assembly ended with the 'clocking-out' session by YBhg. Tan Sri Radzi for the final time and bade farewell to the Wisma Putra officers and staff.

IDFR was represented by the Director General, YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, officials and staff.

Report by: Dewi Hafiza Nazri (Intern)
Corporate and Management Services Division

**MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP):
DIPLOMATIC TRAINING COURSE FOR THE DIPLOMATS FROM THE
PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIES**



The Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Diplomatic Training Course for the Diplomats from the Pacific Island Forum Member Countries was successfully organized from 26 – 30 August 2013. Seven (7) amazing officers namely from Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu participated in the training programme. The programme is another milestone achieved because this is the first time IDFR is entrusted by the MTCP to conduct the diplomatic training course for diplomats from the Pacific Island Forum Member Countries.

The five-day programme focused on the topics related to diplomacy and international relations. The main objectives were to provide an overview of functions and responsibilities of a diplomat; develop knowledge and understanding on current international issues and to enhance and strengthen the participants' diplomatic skills and knowledge.

The participants were exposed to topic in the areas of the Cross Cultural Awareness and multiculturalism, International Humanitarian Issues, Media Skill, Government Program and Economic Transformation Program, Global Movement of Moderates and Blue Ocean Strategy. Most of the participants participated positively and made substantive interaction with the selected distinguished speakers. Apart from that the participants visited Parliament Malaysia, Malaysia Tourism Centre, Handicraft Malaysia and Petronas.

The programme also included a one-day visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, in which the participants were briefed on Malaysia and the Pacific Island Forum Member Countries, Malaysia Technical Cooperation Program, ASEAN and Regional Integration. The programme was concluded with a closing dinner and certificate presentation graced by YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Corporate and Management Services of IDFR.

Overall, the one-week course has benefited all of the participants in gaining the valuable knowledge, new skills and building network which will lead them to be a prominent diplomat in the future.

Reported by: Nurul Huda Azmi
Training Division

IDFR-UKM MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM SESSION 2013/2014



IDFR welcomed 10 new students to participate in the Masters of Social Sciences (Strategy and Diplomacy) during the opening ceremony for the programme on 3 September 2013. The opening ceremony was officiated by H.E. Ambassador Aminah Tun Haji A. Karim, Acting Director General of IDFR with the presence of YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Major Mohd Ridzuan Hj. Mohd Shariff and several IDFR officers. The students, including two international students who came from various academic backgrounds, will be undergoing a one-year Masters programme which aims to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of strategy and diplomacy.

H.E. Ambassador Aminah Tun, in her remarks, mentioned that it is a privilege for the Masters students to pursue the programme in IDFR as the organisation, under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, is the premier institute in Malaysia that specially focuses in the field of diplomacy and foreign relations. She continued that IDFR was also privileged to have a pool of talented professionals whose knowledge and expertise would be of benefit not only for the programme but for the institute as a whole.

The IDFR-UKM Masters Degree of Social Sciences (Strategy and Diplomacy), which now runs in its 14th year, is a smart collaborative effort between IDFR and UKM that provides the expertise and professional sharing of knowledge that would enhance the students career in the future.

Reported by: Regional Studies and Security Division

ORIENTATION COURSE FOR HEADS OF MISSION AND THEIR SPOUSES



IDFR has successfully conducted the Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and Their Spouses from 2 to 6 September 2013. A total number of 15 participants attended the course comprising nine (9) Ambassadors and High Commissioners-designate accompanied by their spouses.

The participants were Tan Sri Haji Ismail bin Haji Omar and spouse Puan Sri Hajjah Suriati binti Md Sobri; Datuk Seri Zahrain Mohamed Hashim bin Dato' Zainuddin Mohd Hashim and spouse Datin Seri Che Mahani binti Ismail; Datuk Awang Sahak bin Haji Awang Salleh and spouse Datin Dg. Mas Lauyah Binti Pg. Bagul; Datin Seri Blanche Olbery; Datin Renuka Das; Dato' Salman bin Ahmad; Dato' Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad and spouse Datin Shireen binti Dato' Sulaiman; Dato' Syed Sultan bin Mohd Idris and spouse Datin Zarinah Binti Hussin; Encik Jilid bin Kuminding @ Zainuddin and spouse Puan Noraimeh Binti Abdul Jalil and Encik Raszlan bin Abdul Rashid.

The objectives of the five-day course were to provide an overview of functions and responsibilities of Heads of Mission and their spouses, develop knowledge and understanding of current Malaysian and international issues and enhance and strengthen diplomatic skills of Heads of Mission and their spouses. In line with these objectives, IDFR had arranged numerous modules comprising lectures and panel discussions with the Heads of Divisions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, other agencies and government-link corporation (GLC). Prominent and distinguished speakers were also invited to share their thoughts and insights on substances related to diplomacy and international relations.

Three (3) panel discussions were conducted during the course. Firstly on Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Diplomacy by YBhg. Dato' Ahmad Suhaili Idrus, Director of NKRA (UPT), NKEA (Greater KL), PEMANDU, Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG) and Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Manager of World Trade Institute Consulting (WTI).

Secondly on “Situation in Egypt and its Impact to this Region” by Dato’ Dr. Mohamed Ghazali Md. Noor, former Director of the Strategic Planning (IDB) Group, Professor Ruhanas Harun, Director for Centre for Defence and International Security Studies National Defence University Malaysia, Associate Professor Azahari Karim, Head of Programmes, Global Movement of Moderates Foundation and Associate Professor Dr. Azmi Hassan, Geo-Strategist, University of Technology Malaysia.

Thirdly on “Traditional and New Media” by Mr. Kamarul Bahrin Haron, Anchor of Sudut Pandang, Vantage Point and Analysis of Astro Awani, Mr. Sharaad Kuttan, Journalist from the Business Radio Station (BFM), and Mr. M. Krishnamoorthy, Journalist and Lecturer from Krishna and Associates.

In addition, the participants were also privileged to listen to two (2) luncheon talks firstly on “Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) and secondly on “Leadership and Management” by Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Haji Zainul Ariffin bin Haji Hussain, Non-Executive Director, Gamuda Berhad.

Apart from that, the participants had also listened to lectures on topics related to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs such as Financial, Administration and Security matters, Perks and Privileges, Standard Operating Procedures for Humanitarian Crisis Management, Key Performance Indicator Malaysia’s Candidature to international organizations, “Etiquette and Royal Protocol” and “Dealing with Media a presentation on Defending National Interest”.

Realising the importance of spouses to the heads of mission, separate modules were also designed for them to have the right skills and ability needed to uphold Malaysia’s good name and reputation. Among them were a cooking demonstration and food presentation by a chef lecturer from Taylor’s University, a workshop on effective communication, presentation skills and public speaking by British Council Malaysia and a lecture on “The Role of Spouse” by Datin Rohayazam Kamaruzaman, President of the Ladies Association of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia (PERWAKILAN).

The course was officially closed by YBhg. Datuk Othman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia where the participants were presented with the certificates at Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur. The closing ceremony and certificate presentation was preceded by a dinner talk on “Expectations on the Role of Heads of Mission” by the Secretary General.

In general, the participants were pleased with the course and further expressed their compliments concerning the knowledge, exposure and benefits that they had gained throughout. They have also expressed their gratitude to IDFR for convening the course. On this note, IDFR believes that the course objectives are achieved and would continue to constantly review the

modules for the Heads of Mission and their spouses so that it will be relevant to the needs, vision, mission and aspirations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia.

Reported by: Mohd Farid Mohd Arif
Training Division

IDFR'S DIRECTOR GENERAL DATO' KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI, CLOCKING OUT SESSION, 30 AUGUST 2013



It was a day of mixed feelings – happy yet sad for all IDFR staff, as it was the last day of our beloved Director General, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari at IDFR. After serving the Institute for approximately three years, Dato' Ku Jaafar has been appointed as the new Ambassador of Malaysia to Egypt.

Sharp at 12.00 noon, all the directors, officers and staff of IDFR queued up to bid their last farewell to Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari at the lobby as tears streamed from some of the staff when Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari walked out from the elevator to meet and greet everyone.

Dato' Ku Jaafar's "clocking out" session in IDFR at 12.30 pm marked his final day in IDFR as Director General. Director of Corporate and Management Services, Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob then ushered him to meet all the staff personally for handshaking and farewell bidding before he was ushered to his car. Dato' Ku Jaafar again expressed his gratitude to all IDFR staff for their support.

IDFR staff would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari for all his hard work and dedication to make IDFR one of the most prominent diplomacy training institutes in the world. We bid adios, au revoir, m'aassalamah, and zài jiàn and wish the best for Dato's future endeavour.



Reported by: Rafizah Zahri
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS COURSE 2013



The 2013 The Strategic Analysis Course for International Participants was held from 2 to 20 September 2013 at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR). The course was attended by sixteen (16) participants from Botswana, Brunei, Egypt, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Yemen. The course is funded by the Malaysian Government under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP), which among others aim to promote greater cooperation, understanding and networking amongst developing countries on issues pertaining to diplomacy and foreign relations.

The main objective of the Strategic Analysis Course is to enhance the participants' knowledge on strategic thinking and security analysis, comprising areas such as country risk analysis, national and international security, strategic communication, defence strategy, strategic planning and thinking as well as regional and international political issues. Mr. Christopher Harland the Regional Legal Adviser of ICRC, Dr. Tang Siew Mun the Director (Foreign Policy and Security Studies) of ISIS and H.E. Ambassador Aminahtun Hj A Karim, the Acting Director General of IDFR herself were amongst the guest speakers who imparted their knowledge and invaluable experience to the participants.

A three-day visit to Melaka was also organised as part of the course, with an aim to provide exposure to the participants on variety of culture exchange, diversity and historical linkages of not only Melaka, but Malaysia as a whole. Melaka was chosen because of its success in embarking economic and social development whilst still preserving its unique rich history and culture. During the visit, the participants was also honoured to be welcomed by Chief Minister of Melacca, YAB Datuk Wira Idris Harun and Melacca State Secretary YB Datuk Hj. Naim Bin Abu Bakar during a dinner hosted by State Government.

The three - week course was a success as it was not only managed to achieve its objectives and aims, but also it had created long lasting relations between IDFR and the participants; who are now among Malaysia's latest “ambassadors” to their home state.



Reported by: Haris Syarwani Razali
Training Division

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FAREWELL



On 23 August 2013, the respective directors, officers and staff at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised a farewell for the Director General, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari held at IDFR's Multi Purpose Hall. This event was organised to express gratitude to Dato' for his meritorious service at IDFR for the past three years and to congratulate him on his appointment as the new Ambassador of Malaysia to Egypt.

The farewell event commenced with a Doa, recited by Mr. Nik Muhd. Hasbi Nik Daud, Deputy Director of Finance Division, followed by farewell remarks from Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR.

The event continued with a video montage for the Director General. The highlight of the event was when Dato' Ku Jaafar took the floor with his speech. He congratulated all the Directors, officers, and staff of IDFR for their contribution and achievement at this institute. He added that, he will miss this institute and also the people here as everyone cooperated and had given their support and commitment throughout his period as Director General.





Reported by: Logini Sreedharan (Intern from Universiti Utara Malaysia - UUM)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

THE LECTURE ON “STRENGTHENING DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MALAYSIA IN THE FACE OF THE EUROZONE CRISIS” BY HIS EXCELLENCY JACQUES SANTER AT IDFR



IDFR was honored to have H.E. Jacques Santer, the former President of the European Commission to speak at a lecture entitled *Strengthening Diplomatic Ties between the European Union and Malaysia in the face of the Eurozone Crisis* at the Treaty Room on 18 September 2013. The event was a joint effort between IDFR and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Foundation, Malaysia, a German think-tank.

The EU enjoys an excellent relationship with Malaysia, both with the individual EU member states and the EU as a regional group. H.E. Santer recalled First Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) between Malaysia and the EU in 2005 which he had participated to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation. He continued that the cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and Malaysia can be traced back to 1980, and proposed that it is about time to consider upgrading the relation between Malaysia and EU from an Enhanced Partnership to a Strategic Partnership. He continued that the EU is keen to expand and broaden its relations with Malaysia to go beyond the trade and economic cooperation and to develop collaboration in the field of counter-terrorism, human rights, justice, democracy and good governance, education, science and technology and other fields. The EU was also keen to assist Malaysia in the transferring of knowledge.

With regards to the Eurozone Crisis, H.E. Santer said that the reason which led to the high employment and the Euro depreciation was largely due to the conflict between the European Union and the member countries national interests. There have been challenges in the structural economic reforms, particularly in the economic convergence to streamline the EU constitution and country's policy. Another reason of the crisis was the Euro Dollars was not the currency of

the superpower such the United States Dollars. This has cause negative impact to the value of the Euro currency as it has no capital and political influence.

H.E. Santer ends his lecture by mentioning that the membership of the EU would grow larger in the future. The issues that he foresees were not about the monetary union but economic unity. He predicts that the Eurozone crisis would end in this October, and the EU could recuperate through developing guidelines by the member states to move forward to a better political and economic power in the world.

The lecture was attended by 70 participants, with a strong representation from the diplomatic corps as well as from the various institutions, think-tanks, government ministries and agencies and institutes of higher learning.



Reported by: Mejar Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff
Regional and Security Studies Division

WORKSHOP ON ICT STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015 (SERIES 3)



Workshop on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP), IDFR, 2013-2015 (Series 3) was successfully held from 9 to 10 September 2013 in Malacca. The workshop was officiated by YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Corporate and Management Services, IDFR cum Project Director for ISP Development Committee, IDFR 2013 – 2015, and participated by 13 IDFR officers representing their respective Divisions. The workshop was moderated by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman and assisted by Mrs. Sukhaila Angsor from ISP Consultants, MAMPU.

The two-day workshop was a continuation of ISP Workshop (Series 2) and the final series of workshops need to be undertaken in the ISP development phase. The primary objectives of the workshop was as follows:

- To improve/update the contents of the draft ISP document;
- To review the draft ISP document through cross checking method among group members; and
- To review and refine the draft ISP document for compilation purposes.

The Workshop also focused on the reviews and revisions of all seven (7) main chapters outlined in the draft ISP document including a chapter on an Executive Summary. As a whole, the ISP Consultants concluded that the draft document for all chapters has reached 90% completion.

The next stage in the final phase is for the Project Management Officer (PMO) in IDFR to update and finalise the draft ISP document and to be submitted for endorsement by the ISP

Consultants, MAMPU. The process will be concluded with a Project Sign-off ceremony scheduled to be held on 30 September 2013.



Reported by: Project Management Officer (PMO) ISP, IDFR
ICT Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

MASTERS DEGREE STUDENTS STUDY VISIT TO EASTERN SABAH SECURITY COMMAND (ESSCOM) HEADQUARTERS



A delegation of Masters Degree Session 2012/13 students and IDFR officials had gone on a study visit to the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) headquarters in Lahat Datu, Sabah on 21 August 2013. The delegation which was headed by Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, the Director of Corporate and Management Services IDFR and 12 participants had conducted the visit as part of the Masters Degree program which involves visits to related strategic locations or installations. The ESSCOM headquarters was set up immediately after the incursion of several Royal Sulu Forces (RSF) intruders into Lahat Datu in February 2013 which ended in a violent battle between the Malaysian Security Forces and RSF.

The delegation from IDFR was briefed by DCP Datuk Nadzer Ahmad Nordin, Director of Security Intelligence about the role of ESSCOM and the challenges faced by the organization to ensure the state's safety following the violent incidents in Lahad Datu. ESSCOM was tasked to safeguard and provide security to Sabah's extended east coast from future incursions. The existence of ESSCOM had also achieved one of its main goals that is to restore order and confidence and also revitalize the economy of Sabah. Apart from the visit to ESSCOM, the delegation was also given a tour of one of the volatile water-based villages that is Kampung Puyut to see for themselves the people and the livelihood of the villagers who are mostly illegal immigrants.

On August 22, 2013, the participants had the opportunity to experience the wonders of Kinabalu Park which is certified as one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This was an opportunity for the participants to appreciate the wonders of the thousands of species of flora and fauna. The participants also went to the Poring Hot Springs where participants can dip in hot sulfuric water for freshness. This reliable water can make the skin become radiant and heals the skin too. At Poring, the participants experienced the chance to walk on the canopy walkway at the height of 41 meters among the treetops where you can look out over the forest canopy flora of Borneo.

On 23 August 2013, the delegation departed for Kuala Lumpur and arrived safely in IDFR at 2.00 pm.



Reported by: Zuraida Zainol
Regional and Security Studies Division

THE RALLY OF MALAYSIAN NGO'S TO HELP THE PALESTINIAN



On 15 August 2013, the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) coorganised with the other Non Governmental Organisations – Aman Palestine, Aqsa Syarif (AQSA), *Himpunan Lepas Institut Pendidikan Malaysia (HALUAN)*, Islamic Relief (IR), *Kelab Putra Satu Malaysia*, Mercy Malaysia, Malaysia Relief Agency (MRA) and Viva Palestine hosted the ‘Perhimpunan NGO – NGO Membantu Palestin’ at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC).

The main objective of this forum was to come up with efficacious ideas between the non-governmental organisations on how to help the Palestinian people. The forum commenced with a welcoming speech by Tan Sri Norian Mai, Chairman of Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) where he said that the aim of the gathering is to cooperate together to help Palestine people on the principle of humanity.

The forum’s first session was moderated by Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, the Board of Trustees of Perdana Global Foundation (PGPF). The speakers were Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Chairman of Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS); H.E Tan Sri Ahmad Al Farra, Ambassador of Palestine to Malaysia; Major Mohd Ridzuan Haji Mohd Sharif, Senior Deputy Director of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR); and H.E Hind Elias Murad Khouri, Jerusalem Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The session titled, “The Current Development in Middle East” discussed the issue on the present situation in Palestine and the actions to be taken in order to overcome this circumstance. All the speakers touched the broad overview of West Asia and the overall picture in the Middle East. All speakers agreed that the West Asia region is still facing difficulties in sustaining their stability and challenges in providing jobs for the people, reducing the poverty rate, recover the growth of economy and also to attract investors. It is hoped that Malaysia will continue the support and help the Palestine people as they deserve to see the real peace and also real stability.

The second session was moderated by General Tan Sri Mohd Azumi Mohamed, the Board of Trustees of Perdana Global Foundation (PGPF). The speakers for the second session were Mr. Muslim Abu Omer, Chairman of Palestine Cultural Organisation Malaysia, YB. Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim, Honorary Ambassador to Palestine, Dr. Hj Abdullah Sudin Ab Rahman, President of *Himpunan Lepasn Institusi Pendidikan Malaysia (HALUAN)*, and Ustaz Abdullah Zaik Abd Rahman, representative from Aman Palestine.

The session covered on the hopes of Palestine people and drastic steps taken by our NGOs previously in order to assist the people who are treated unfairly by the Israelis. According to Mr. Muslim Abu Omer, the Palestine people are still suffering, yet they still manage to resist the policies for sixty years. He added that a lot has to be done and Malaysia has contributed greatly. He expressed that these projects will continue, not only short term but also with the projects that will leave a long term effect. Besides that, he hoped that upcoming projects will reach out to the Palestine refugees.

The next session at the forum was the speech by former Prime Minister of Malaysia YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, as President of Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF). Tun Dr. Mahathir congratulated the NGOs of Malaysia to come together to discuss on what has to be done to support the Palestinians. He said that, we need proper strategies and objectives to overcome this problem and it takes more than providing food, money and water.

The last session in the forum was the press conference with the invited members of institutes and also other NGOs.

IDFR was represented by Major Mohd Ridzuan Haji Mohd. Shariff, Senior Deputy Director of Regional and Security Studies Division, Mrs. Rafizah Zahri, Deputy Director of Academic Studies, Research & Publication Division, Mr. Syahrul Nizzam Nordin and Ms. Logini Sreedharan both from Academic Studies, Research & Publication Division.



Reported by: Logini Sreedharan (Intern Universiti Utara Malaysia - UUM)
Academic Studies, Research and & Publication Division

IFTAR AT ISTANA ISKANDARIAH, KUALA KANGSAR



His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Regent of the State of Perak Darul Ridzuan as well as Royal Patron of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and Her Royal Highness Tuanku Zara Salim graciously hosted Iftar to members of institutions of higher learning at the Istana Iskandariah, Kuala Kangsar, Perak Darul Ridzuan on 3rd August 2013.

Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR, Ambassador Aminahtun Haji A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR, Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Corporate and Management Services Division and Rahimah Yeop, Director of Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division were among the 300 guests that attended the Iftar.

The evening began with the breaking of fast, followed by Maghrib, Isyak and Tarawikh prayers. It was exhilarating when Their Royal Highnesses mingled with the guests at the end of the Iftar programme.



Reported by: Rahimah Yeop
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

IFTAR AT IDFR



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations' (IDFR) Welfare Club organised an Iftar event on 1st August, 2013, held at the Multi-Purpose Hall.

Dr. Rosli Hj. Hassan, Chairman of the IDFR Welfare Club commenced the event with his welcoming remarks, followed by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of the Institute with his speech.

IDFR's Spanish Language teacher, Señor Arifin Gutierrez Abdullah then gave a *tazkirah* where he shared his own personal experiences when he first embraced Islam, and has become a devout Muslim since.

All of the Institute's respective directors, officers, and staff were present, including participants from the Masters' and Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) programme. Families were also welcomed, making the night lively and eventful for the club members.

The *Azan* and *Doa* recital then marked the *Iftar*. After consuming some dates, drinks and *kuih* provided, the Muslim men and women congregated for the *Maghrib* prayer, led by Dato' Ku Jaafar himself. The event resumed with the official dining session. The *Nasi Briyani* delighted everyone, including the various side dishes such as *Satay*, *Murtabak*, *Roti Jala*, *Roti Canai*, and many more that were prepared and contributed by each division.

After performing *Iyakh* and *Tarawikh* prayers, the *Moreh* session ended the splendid Iftar event.

Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
(Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

THE 10TH ASEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM



On 18 July 2013, the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) coorganised with the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) and other sponsors – Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, Strait of Malacca Partners, Invest Hong Kong and Macquarie hosted the 10th ASEAN Leadership Forum at Sunway Resort Hotel Spa, Bandar Sunway, with the theme *ASEAN at a Crossroads – Towards a Common Future, Shared Prosperity and Regional Stability*.

The objective of this forum was to stimulate interactive interchange of views between Government, Business and Civil Society leaders on the future of ASEAN and what ASEAN's future challenges are. The forum commenced with a welcoming speech by Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Chairman of ASEAN Leadership Forum and Chief Executive Officer, ASLI. He said that in order for ASEAN to be a leader, we have to make sure we achieve the ASEAN community challenge of generating the opportunity and security by the end of this year. The introductory speech was given by Dato' Sri Jamaludin Ibrahim, President and Group Chief Executive Officer of Axiata Group Berhad, which is the joint organiser.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia and the special address about *Moving ASEAN Forward, Straightening Community Building* was delivered by H.E Mr. Le Loung Minh, ASEAN Secretary General. He mentioned that ASEAN should promote South Asia as a free zone from nuclear and to maintain the ASEAN community. ASEAN needs to demonstrate cohesiveness and coordination.

The forum's first session was moderated by Mr. Mohd Ridzal Sheriff, Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). The speakers for the first session title *Pushing Forward ASEAN Integration, Strengthening Community Building* were H.E. Mr. Lee Yi-Shyan, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Siasavath Savengsuksa, Vice Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR, Ambassador Chung Hae Moon, Secretary General of ASEAN-Korea Centre. Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director of

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and Mr. Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific Chief Economist and Senior Director of HIS Global Insight, Singapore.

The session covered on how to build and strengthen integration in ASEAN community. According to H.E. Mr. Siasavath Savengsuksa, in realising the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, there are key priority areas that individual ASEAN member State, as well as ASEAN as a whole, should concentrate from now to achieve the ASEAN Economic Community and to ensure the wellbeing and resilience of the ASEAN community. Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura added that there are four interdependent pathways to ASEAN moving up economically and stepping up internationally they are competitive and dynamic pathway, inclusive pathway, sustainable pathway and dynamic equilibrium pathway with ASEAN centrality.

The second session titled, *“Towards a People Centric Asean”* discussed the issue on how to enhance the Social Cultural Community and making Asean more relevant to the younger generation. This session was moderated by Mr.Khalek Awang, Chief Executive Officer of Global Movement of Moderates Foundation, Malaysia. The speakers were Dr.Farish Noor, Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim, Executive Director of The Habibie Center, Jakarta, Indonesia, Datuk Dr.Denison Jayasooria, Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Ms. Moe Thuzar, ISEAS Fellow and lead researcher for sosio-cultural affairs at Asean Studies Centre (ASC) at ISEAS.

The panel purported that the importance of Asean is given low priority and there is a wide gap of understanding and awareness of Asean among the people. According to Dr.Farish Noor, the people in Asean countries do not even recognise the logo of Asean and they are more interested in K-Pop. He added that, Asean countries need to find a way to change this situation which will shape the destinies of millions of Southeast Asians in the generations to come.The panel agreed that we need to promote Asean in order to make Asean more relevant and also to create the awareness on Asean among the younger generation.

The last session in the forum was the China Daily workshop which focused on China and Asean business and economic partnership.

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) attended this Asean Leadership Forum- represented by Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR, Mrs.Rahimah Yeop Director of Academic Studies, Research & Publication Division, Meior Mohd Ridzuan Haji Mohd Shariff Senior Deputy Director of Regional and Security Studies Division, Ms.Aida Hanim Suid @ Shoib and Ms.Logini Sreedharan, both from Academic Studies, Research and & Publication Division.



Reported by:
 Logini Sreedharan (Intern),
 Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and

Aida Hanim Suid @ Shoib,
 Academic Studies, Research and & Publication Division

DISCOURSE ON ALAMTOLOGI



On Wednesday, 17 July 2013, several IDFR officers attended a *discourse titled, Scientific Interactions between Human and the Universe Based on Insights into Alamtologi*, held at the Al-Farabi Hall, Human Ecology Faculty of University Putra Malaysia (UPM). The programme commenced with a welcoming speech by Encik Hamk Adz-Dzikree, President of Al-Biruni Club, which is the joint organiser.

Dr. HA Zamre, Founder of Alamtologi, then took the floor to share with the audience his 25 years of perseverance that unfolded this new knowledge. Alamtologi, according to Dr. HA Zamre, is a “terminology which verifies the evolution of a scientific and technological research and development process, which is dependent on the laws of nature.” The concept, however, is much more complex than that, as Dr. HA Zamre presented a good two hours of insightful knowledge, sharing all kinds of new information.

The programme ended with a question and answer session, which saw the audience taking the opportunity to learn more about Alamtologi.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
(Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

SKYPE CONFERENCE WITH LSE



A conference call was held on 16 July 2013 between Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari Director General of IDFR and Mr.Yuri Bikbaev, Director Executive Education, London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) to discuss on possible collaboration between these two reputable institutions.

Dato' Ku Jaafar briefed Mr.Yuri on IDRF's role and functions as a training arm of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and its scope of work. He also mentioned that besides training IDFR has expanded its scope of work by developing into a research centre and engages with seminar/forum/roundtable discussion programmes too.

LSE also mentioned that they are organising an LSE forum in April next year and invited IDFR to be part of the forum.

Reported by: Logini Sreedharan
(Intern from Northern University of Malaysia)
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

THE GRAND OPENING CEREMONY OF AUSTRALS



On 15 July 2013, the grand opening ceremony of UT MARA AUSTRALS 2013 was held at the Multi Purpose Hall, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR). AUSTRAL is the second largest and second most prestigious competitive debating tournament in the world and it is also one of the largest annual student events in the world. Besides that Australs has continually expanded the scope of its participants, now attracting around 300 competitors each year from the Asia Pacific Region.

The main purpose of UT MARA AUSTRALS is to build brand value and positive public relations of the organisation within the Australasian debating platform.

This event was organised by UT MARA English Debating Society and supported by Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia Exhibition & Convention Bureau and Malaysian institute for Debate and Public Speaking. IDFR acts as the co-sponsor for this eminent event.

There are 14 countries and 185 institutions participating in the debate. The ceremony started with the recitation of Du'a. Then, the viewers entertained with a traditional performance *the silat*. The welcoming speech was delivered by the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, followed by the speech and officiation by Prof. Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Omar.



Reported by: Logini Sreedharan
(Intern from Northern University of Malaysia)
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

MAJLIS AMANAT KETUA PENGARAH IDFR SEMPENA RAMADHAN



On Tuesday, 9 July, 2013, there was a *Majlis Amanat Ketua Pengarah Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Sempena Ramadhan 1434H/2013M* held at the Auditorium, IDFR.

The programme commenced with words from the Chairman of the IDFR Welfare Club, Dr. Rosli Hj Hassan who welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the programme. He also gave insights of upcoming events that will take place during Ramadhan.

The Director General of IDFR, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari then was welcomed to address his message on Ramadhan.

Dato' Ku Jaafar began by reminding us to always appreciate Allah SWT and what He has given us, with a brief history of how the holy month of Ramadhan started. Dato' Ku Jaafar continued to address the main points of the holy month with reference to verses in the Al Quran such as *Surah Al-Baqarah*, *Surah Ar-Rahman*, and *Surah Al-Araf*. He also introduced us to the concept of Al-Mizan, which is broken down into two contexts: intangible (wants) and tangible (needs).

The programme was fulfilled with the recital of *Doa Kemenangan* by the Director General himself.

DOA KEMENANGAN

Segala puji bagi Allah, pujian bagi haknya. Kepunyaanya pujian yang banyak.

Ya Allah, kurniakan pada kami kemudahan untuk taat,
Menjauhi maksiat,
Meluruskan niat dan
Mengetahui kemuliaan.

Muliakan kami dengan hidayah dan istiqamah.
Luruskan lidah kami dengan kebenaran dan nikmat.
Penuhi hati kami dengan ilmu dan makrifat.
Bersihkan perut kami dari haram dan syubhat.
Tahani tangan kami dari kezaliman dan perampasan.
Tundukan pandangan kami dari kemaksiatan dan pengkhianatan.
Palingkan pendengaran kami dari ucapan yang sia-sia dan umpatan.

Kurniakan kepada ulama kami kezuhudan dan nasihat.

Pada para pelajar kesungguhan dan semangat.
Pada para pendengar, kepatuhan dan peringatan.
Pada kaum muslimin yang sakit, kesembuhan dan ketengangan.
Pada kaum muslimin yang meninggal, kasih sayang Allah dan rahmat.
Pada orang-orang tua kami kehormatan dan ketenteraman.
Pada para pemuda, penjelasan dan taubat.
Pada wanita, rasa malu dan kesucian.
Pada orang-orang kaya, rendah hati dan kemurahan.
Pada orang-orang miskin, kesabaran dan kecukupan.
Pada para pejuang, kemenangan dan penaklukan.
Pada para tawanan, kebebasan dan ketengangan.
Pada para pemimpin, keadilan dan kasih sayang.
Pada seluruh rakyat, kejujuran dan kebaikan akhlak.

Berkatilah para jemaah haji dan para penziarah dalam bekal dan nafkah.

Sempurnakan haji dan umrah mereka dengan kurnia dan rahmatmu.
Ganjarkan pahala yang melimpah pada mereka yang ikhlas berpuasa atas namamu, bukan untuk lapar dan dahaga.
Selawat Allah dan salamnya ke atas junjungan kami, Nabi Muhammad keluarganya serta sahabatnya dan kepujian itu bagi Allah, Tuhan sekalian alam.
Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
(Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

SEMINAR ON LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY



A one-day seminar on library transformation, innovation and creativity was held by the Committees of Special Libraries from the Librarians Association of Malaysia in collaboration with the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) on 8 July 2013 at IDFR Auditorium.

The aim of this seminar was to provide knowledge sharing and experiences on the importance of creativity and innovation at the library as well as ideas to improve the library delivery system.

The seminar was officiated by YBhg. Dato ' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR, in which he highlighted that librarians need to be more creative and innovative in planning programs to strengthen the library delivery system. Also present was the Chairman of the Librarians Association of Malaysia, Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad. Four papers were presented by distinguished speakers who brilliantly had experiences in transforming their library as follows:

1. Transformation, innovation and creativity at the Petroleum Resource Centre by Mr. Azhar M. Noor, Chief Librarian of PETRONAS;
2. Transformation, innovation and creativity at Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Library by Ms Mazmin M. Akhir, Chief Librarian of University Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP);
3. Transformation, innovation and creativity at Penang Public Library by Ms Shukriah Hj. Yon, Director of Penang Public Library; and
4. Transformation, innovation and creativity at Open University Malaysia (OUM) Library by Mr. Shahril Effendi Ibrahim, Senior Librarian of OUM.

This seminar was attended by 83 librarians and library staff from the whole of Malaysia.



Reported by: Hajjah Kamariah Jaafar
Library Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

ENGLISH TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR DEVAWONGSE VAROPAKARN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THAILAND



IDFR had the honour of a third visit from the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand for an English Language Training Programme for two days, from Thursday, 4th –Friday, 5th July 2013. There were sixty eight delegates and 4 accompanying officials.

Their programme comprised 5 training sessions aimed at honing effective communication skills which provided maximum opportunities for oral interactions through simulation activities.

Malaysia values its relations with Thailand where the two countries have been enjoying cordial bilateral ties at all levels. On the whole the general feeling was that the course was truly beneficial and wished that it could have been extended for another 3 days.



Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

MALAYSIA LIBRARIES CONVENTION 2013



Malaysia Libraries Convention 2013 was successfully held on 4 July 2013 at the Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN), Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur. Objectives of this convention were to increase awareness among the librarians regarding the library development in Malaysia, provided space for the librarians to share their knowledge on role that need to be played and raise the library's role so that library will stay relevant in line with the country's development.

The convention was co-organised by the National Library of Malaysia and Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia with the theme 'Become Popular Knowledge, High Ranking Library'. It was officially launched by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Ismail Alias, Deputy Director-General of Public Service Malaysia (Operations).

In his speech, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Ismail Alias said 'Blue Ocean Strategy' or collaboration with various capable parties will generate more dynamic creativity to fulfill current expectations by the society that always want information quickly. At the same time, libraries in this country also need to be constantly updated in order to remain relevant in the society's eyes in line with global current phenomenon which demands comprehensive and structured transformation.

This one day convention was attended by 400 librarians. The programme comprised four forums and the presentation of a working paper about current developments and challenges in empowering library institutions in this country. At the closing ceremony, the programme was officially closed by YBhg. Dato' Raslin Abu Bakar, Director General of National Library of Malaysia. IDFR was represented by Miss Nor Azura Mior Daud, Assistant Director of IDFR Library.



Reported by: Nor Azura Mior Daud
Library Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO PARLIAMENT MALAYSIA: PANEL DISCUSSION I – MEMBERS OF DEWAN RAKYAT



The participants of the DID 2/2013, took a study-tour to Parliament of Malaysia on 4 July 2013. They had a meeting with three (3) Members of Parliament (MP) from Dewan Rakyat, namely YB Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang (Kanowit), YB Datuk Makin @ Marcus Majigoh (Putatan) and YB Mas Pn. Mas Ermieyati Samsudin (Masjid Tanah). The participants also paid a courtesy call on YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It was an interactive session and a beneficial moment for the participants to gain valuable knowledge and skills from the experiences and challenges of the MPs during their political mileage.

Reported by: Nor'airin Abd Rashid
DiD 2/2013

FORUM ON OIC TRADE INTEGRATION



On 3 July 2013, a forum on OIC Trade Integration with the theme “The Prospect of an OIC Closer Investment and Trade Integration” was held at the Treaty Room, IDFR. It was jointly organised by IDFR and the World Trade Institute (WTI).

The first session entitled “International Trade in Islamic Countries: The past and the Present Trend” was presented by Dr Haniff Ahamat from the International Islamic University, Malaysia. The speaker touched on the history of the earlier Islamic International Law (Siyar) and its practices during the early periods. He mentioned that during that period, only taxes that were mentioned in the Quran and hadith could be imposed by the state as it was written in the hadith: “One who wrongfully takes an extra tax (sahib maks) will not enter paradise”. This siyar principles however was not adhered to by the later Islamic states as they started to impose higher tax including customs duties and it has now become an obligation and tradition to the states.

The second session was presented by Dr Sufian Jusoh from the World Trade Institute, Bern where he talked about Cross Border Investment and Trade in Services between OIC Member Countries. The forum later was continued with a discussion entitled “The Prospects of Preferential Trade Agreement between OIC Member States” moderated by Dr Haniff Ahamat and Dato’ Nazim Johan from the Persatuan Pengguna Islam Malaysia. It was actively participated by the audiences.

Dr. Anowar Zahid from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia then talked on “Integration of Islamic Financial Markets of the OIC Countries”. Dr Anowar explained that he had made a study to look into the best and possible ways how to integrate the Islamic financial markets among OIC countries. Last but not least, His Excellency Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR gave a talk entitled “The Way Forward, Overcoming Political Economy Issues” where he delivered the subject based on his own personal experience during his period with the OIC desk.

Reported by: Rafizah Zahri

Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN ASEAN THROUGH MULTI-CHANNEL DIALOGUE



A two-day Roundtable Conference was held at the Treaty Room, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) from 1-2 July 2013 on Strengthening Regional Integration in ASEAN through multi-channel Dialogue. It was directed by the Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG), with Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and IDFR as joint organisers.

Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of FPSG commenced the session with his welcoming remarks, followed by the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari. The Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, YM Tengku Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Rithauddeen then delivered his opening speech.

The conference was based on three themes – Role of Non-State Actors in fostering greater ASEAN Integration, Towards ASEAN Community in socio-economic and cultural terms, and strengthening regional integration beyond formal diplomacy through linkages at youth, press and media and civil society levels. In relations to these, speakers from all 10 member states of ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia), and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, presented their arguments, proposed ideas, and findings.

The two-day Roundtable Conference concluded with the closing remarks from FPSG's Chairman.

Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
(Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

PRACTICAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR IMPLEMENTER GROUP OFFICERS WISMA PUTRA 2013

The Language Division of IDFR conducted the second series of the above course in 'Practical English Skills for the Implementer Group Officers, Wisma Putra' from 28 until 30 June 2013 (Friday - Sunday) at the Puteri Resort Ayer Keroh Melaka. The course was attended by twenty four participants.

The first of the above series was held at the same place for forty one participants from 21 until 23 June 2013.

For both the series the participants were from the following Divisions: Protocol, Consular, Security from IDFR, SEARCCT and MFA.

The aim of the course was to address the needs of the front-line staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that basically was to inculcate listening, understanding and speaking in the English Language. It is hoped that this course would develop a greater interest to use the language and build on the confidence and basic proficiency through practical and fun activities.

Among the topics covered over the three days were 'Essential Functions for Conversations' like 'Formal and Informal Introductions', 'Formal and Informal Greetings and Goodbyes', 'Asking Questions', 'Pronunciation', 'Telephone Skills' and general socializing skills. Simulation activities and language games were some of the strategies employed.

The response from course participants was very positive and many wished to attend similar courses in future.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

WORKSHOP ON ICT STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015 (SERIES 2)



Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Section conducted a workshop on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP) IDFR, 2013-2015 (Series 2) on 27 until 29 June 2013, at Berjaya Hills Golf & Country Club, Bukit Tinggi, Pahang.

The workshop was opened by YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR and it was a continuation of the first workshop which was held earlier on 7th and 8th May 2013. This three-day workshop was attended by 26 participants from all divisions and assisted by two (2) ISP Consultants from MAMPU, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman and Ms. Sukhaila Angsor who acted as facilitators.

The objectives of this workshop were:

- i. To identify and list the ICT initiatives and programs;
- ii. To identify and plan for ICT action plan; and
- iii. To estimate the cost of ICT programs and priorities.

Through this workshop, the necessary inputs in the development of the ICT strategic plan including an action plan, the estimated cost of the program to be implemented and the priority of the program were successfully produced.

As a whole, the workshop received good cooperation and commitment from all the participants, especially for the group discussions and presentations. The ICT Strategic Plan Workshop (Series 3) is planned for August 2013.

Reported by: Badriyah Johari
Section ICT, Corporate and Management Services Division

**IDFR WELCOMES THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SERVICE AND INSURANCE,
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**



On Thursday 20 June, 2013, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) had the honour to receive the Honourable Nabil Abdul Shamsan, Minister of Civil Service and Insurance, Republic of Yemen who visited the Institute for the first time. He was welcomed by YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR and other respective directors.

A meeting was then held in the Executive Room between the Yemeni delegation with the directors and officers of IDFR.

Afterwards, the Honourable Nabil Abdul Shamsan was taken on a tour of the Institute's facilities. Participants of the Crisis Management programme were fortunate as the Minister made his way to their classroom.

An exchange of mementos between Dato' Ku Jaafar and H.E. Nabil Abdul Shamsan concluded the visit.

Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
(Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

PRACTICAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR THE IMPLEMENTOR GROUP OF WISMA PUTRA



The above course was held in Puteri Resort Melaka from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd, June 2013. The forty one participants who attended the course were made up of the front- line staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely the Administrative Assistants of the Consular and the Protocol Divisions, the Security Division of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, SEARCCT , and the Administrative and Security Division.

The primary aim of this course was to encourage participants to use the English language more confidently in their day to day interaction with the public. As such many of the sessions required them To overcome their inhibitions and become involved and participate in all the simulation and speaking activities .Language games as well as group songs were among the strategies employed to get everyone using the target language.

The course ended on a positive note with the participants happy and willing to make a good attempt to use more English as well as improve on their skills in their work environment.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

EFFECTIVE WRITING SKILLS 1/12013



A course entitled Effective Writing Skills was conducted at IDFR from 17 to 20 June 2013. A total of seventeen government officers attended this four- day programme. These participants came from many parts of the country, including five nursing tutors from Sabah and Sarawak. The others were from the Royal Malaysian Police, the Ministry of Education the Department of Environment Kedah, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the National Sports Institute, and The National Population and Family Development Board.

The course objectives were to develop the participants' competence and skills in writing, to enable them to apply the principles of effective writing and to enhance their ability to draft, write and edit their work.

The course participants expressed their gratitude for giving them a chance to learn specific and useful skills involved in writing well. They were sure they had grasped the techniques required to write smoothly and confidently in future.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP): CRISIS MANAGEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

The Crisis Management Course International Participants was successfully organized from 3 – 21 June 2013. Sixteen (16) officers participated the course namely from Albania, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Mexico, Oman, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Turkey And Uzbekistan. IDFR has also achieved another milestone because it was the first time IDFR received participation from Jamaica and Mexico.

The three weeks course, made possible under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) focused on the topic of crisis management. The main objective was to build and increase the participants' knowledge and awareness on theories, practical approaches and techniques in crisis management. The participants were exposed to the theory of crisis management, theory of forecasting crisis management, management and strategic thinking of crisis management. Apart from those, issues such as energy crisis, human trafficking, food and commodity, media, economic diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, arm conflicts, environment, trans-boundary crimes and energy crisis were also covered during the course.

A number of study visits were also organised which included visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, Putrajaya, Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Center in Port Dickson, Iskandar Regional Development Authority and the Southern Region Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency. The participants had also the opportunity to learn more about Malaysia's culture, customs and traditions through their study visit to the historical city of Malacca.

Overall, the participants had participated positively and made substantive interactions with the selected distinguished speakers. Among the comment made was, "the course had provided the platform for the exchange of ideas and experience in crisis management" and "the course was very informative and educational".

On the last day, the Certificate Presentation Ceremony for the Diplomatic Training Course was held at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel. The ceremony was graced by YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director-General of IDFR. Also present were the Ambassadors from Azerbaijan and Lao PDR, other diplomatic corps, and representative from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and IDFR officers.

Reported by: Mohd Farid Mohd Arif
Training Division

WORKSHOP ON SPECIFIC ASSET REGISTER (DAK) FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' GOVERNMENT IMMOVABLE ASSETS



A workshop on special assets registration was officiated by Encik Zakri Jaafar, the Secretary of the Development Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and was attended by 15 participants at IDFR on 12-14 June 2013. It was organized by the Secretariat of the Government Asset Management Committee (SGAMC) of the MFA. The workshop aimed to explain the process of collecting and registering information pertaining to the immovable assets of the Government, to receive feedback on issues relating to management and registration of immovable assets as well as to foster understanding of the use of Immovable Asset Management System (IAMS). During the course of the workshop, participants were given clarifications regarding the role and responsibility of each level of asset users and the system features of the IAMS (or mySPATA), involving the need to use a uniform code for managing government immovable property, in addition to knowing the concept, immovable asset code structure, aspects of asset registration and their importance. The workshop was conducted by two officers from the Department of General Works (JKR), namely Mr Nazrul Izham Bisnan and Mr Zamzuri Mohammad. All special assets in the country should have their registration completed through mySPATA by the end of June 2013.

Reported by: Nik Muhd Hasbi Nik Daud
Management Services and Corporate Division

FINE DINING PRACTICUM FOR PARTICIPANTS OF DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY (DiD) 2/2013



The Fine Dining Practicum for participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2/2013 was led by the distinguished YBhg. Datin Paduka Melanie Leong on 19 June 2013. Prior to the dinner in the evening, participants were earlier briefed in a two-hour theory session on fine dining decorum and protocol at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR).

A four course meal at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, provided an opportunity for the participants to apply their knowledge on fine dining. Each participant was required to give a toast during the dinner as part of the training to hone diplomatic elemental skills. YBhg. Datin Paduka Melanie Leong is certainly no stranger to fine dining etiquette and protocol. A former Malaysian ambassador, YBhg. Datin Paduka authored the Guide to fine dining etiquette for Malaysian diplomats, published in 2008.



Reported by: Adlina binti Baharil Ihzan
DiD 2/2013

KICK-OFF MEETING ON ICT STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015



Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Section, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) conducted a Kick-Off Meeting on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP) IDFR, 2013-2015 on 14 June 2013, at Lecture Room 205, Block A.

YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Corporate and Management Services cum Project Director for ISP Development Committee, IDFR, opened the meeting. This was followed by a talk by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman, Head of ISP Consultants from MAMPU. He mentioned about the definition of the base elements for the ISP project and project planning activities on ISP, as well as future actions by the project team of ISP. The ISP Consultants from MAMPU joined mid-way in the ISP, IDFR project implementation because the first phase of the ISP, IDFR was developed in-house/internally. The one hour and fifteen minute meeting also saw a talk by Puan Zaiza Haji Ali, Deputy Director of ICT. She explained the progress status in the implementation process of the ISP, IDFR.

Reported by: Project Management Officers (PMO) of ISP, IDFR
ICT, Corporate and Management Services Division

FORUM PERDANA EHWAL ISLAM



On Wednesday, 13 June 2013, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture hosted *Forum Perdana Ehwat Islam* at the Multi-Purpose Hall, with the theme *Islam's Perspective on Tourism*.

The objective of this forum was to enhance the knowledge of Malaysians on the concept of tourism in the Islamic perspective, and to create awareness on the roles played by Malaysians for the success of the *Visit Malaysia Year 2014* Campaign. The forum was moderated by Dr. Ridhuan Tee Abdullah of National Defense University of Malaysia (UPNM).

The speakers for the first session entitled *We are the Host* were Prof. Madya Dr. Syarifah Hayati Syed Ismail from University Malaya (UM), Dato' Hj. Mohd. Ayub Hassan, President of Bumiputera Travel and Tour Agents Association of Malaysia (BUMITRA), and Dato' Dr. Hj. Azizan Noordin, Deputy Director General (Planning) of Tourism Malaysia.

The session covered the importance of welcoming tourists to our country and finding methods to attract more, by incorporating Islamic values and principles. According to Dato' Dr. Hj. Azizan, the Ministry plans to establish a course for workers involved in tourism, in order to improve their skills in welcoming tourists. He also touched on the Homestay programme. Dato' Hj. Mohd. Ayub added that the Homestay programme is another medium to promote our traditional food and customs. He suggested that Malaysians should unite and work together to convey the uniqueness of our multiracial country through performances.

The second session was titled *Semua Allah Punya*, and the speakers were Dr. Zahazan Mohamed, a television personality, Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Kadir Haji Din, Advisor of Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC), and Dato' Mohd Khalid Harun, President of the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA). The session stressed on appreciating our surroundings, and the cleanliness of food stalls and institutions.

The speakers shared the same views on improving cleanliness of facilities and dealing with wastage problems in Malaysia, which will result in an increase in tourist arrival.

The forum was recorded by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM), which is the coorganiser of the event. The date and time for its broadcast has yet to be confirmed.



Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
(Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR OFFICIALS FROM
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION
OF MYANMAR**



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) had the honour to conduct a two-week English Language Development Programme for fourteen officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The programme was held from 3- 14 June 2013. The aim of the course was to enhance general English Language proficiency and to improve the use of English specifically in diplomacy and international relations.

Among the other topics covered were *Writing a Press Release, Language for Negotiation, and Theory and Practice on Translation and Interpretation.*

Besides the classroom activities the participants were also taken on the K L City Tour and visits to Malacca, Malaysia Craft and MATIC which provided them with some exposure to the Malaysian culture and traditions.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S FIRST VISIT TO IDFR



YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, the new Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia made his first visit to IDFR yesterday. He was greeted by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the General Director, along with the Director of each division, staff of the Institute and participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy programme. It was a delight to all as it was also their first time meeting the new Deputy Minister.

A briefing was also conducted on IDFR's activities, future events and programmes. YB Dato' Hamzah commended the Institute for its core values and goals to conduct training, research and publication in diplomacy and foreign relations, not only national but international fora. He also expressed his thoughts for the Institute to leverage further in reaching out to the world through the Malaysian Technical Corporation Programme (MTCP), and collaboration with Institutions and think-tanks in the field of diplomacy. Before he left, he was taken on a tour of the facilities of the Institute.

Upon reflection, it was an overwhelming experience to meet with the new Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. I had to take into account many aspects of preparation – attire, body language, articulation – not only for myself but noticing others as well, as it is the image of the Institute.

Reported by: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin (Intern from University of Tun Abdul Razak)
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

MONTHLY ASSEMBLY WITH THE MINISTER AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Wisma Putra's monthly assembly for June, was held at Wisma Putra Multipurpose Hall on 6 June 2013. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, senior officials, heads of departments, officers as well as staff of the Ministry also attended the assembly. The assembly commenced with a doa recital, the pledging of the civil service oath by those present, the singing of the National Anthem and Wisma Putra's song. This was then followed by the address by Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman expressed his appreciation to the Prime Minister for having the trust in him to once again helm the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the 13th General Election. The Foreign Minister also congratulated and welcomed the new Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yang Berhormat Dato' Hamzah Bin Zainudin. He expressed the hope that all the staff of Wisma Putra will maintained their hard working spirit and perseverance shown throughout previous years and also to continuously enhance their skills, knowledge and attitude in order to act proactively and responsively towards the increasing demands of the stakeholders and clients.

The Assembly ended with the Monthly Excellence Service Awards certificate giving ceremony to the recipients and light refreshment.



Credit Photo: Wisma Putra

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MODULE FOR PTD CADET 2013



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) jointly organised the International Relations (IR) Module for the Diploma in Public Management (DPA), Cadets 1/2013. This was the first time IDFR received a total of 101 DPA cadets. The course was conducted from 4 – 5 June 2013 and 7 June 2013 with the first two days in IDFR and the last day, in INTAN.

The objective of this course was to enhance participants' skills and knowledge on international relations, to expose the participants on the roles and functions of diplomats and to provide an overview of Malaysia's position on International issues. Among the topics that were included in the module were Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Vienna Convention of Protocol, English and Diplomacy, International Negotiation and ASEAN Regional Cooperation.

YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR had also delivered a talk "The Diplomatic World" on the last day. The dinner talk had indeed provided the cadets first hand information and knowledge from the perspective of a Malaysian Ambassador. Judging from the question and answer session, the cadets were very pleased with the talk and many had stated their interest to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia. The Director General of IDFR had also presented the certificates to the cadets at the closing ceremony.

Reported by: Azmah Mahmud
Training Division

ATTACHMENT AT THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN HANOI, VIETNAM



Ten Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013 participants went on an attachment programme to the Embassy of Malaysia in Hanoi, Vietnam from 18 to 25 May 2013. Officials of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, which included the Director General, the Director of Training and the Assistant Director of Training accompanied the participants. The objective of the attachment is to upgrade knowledge in diplomacy and international relations, to develop linguistic skills particularly in English and to enhance and apply hands-on best practices in diplomatic service in a mission.

The programme provided the DiD participants the opportunity to observe the activities conducted by the Malaysian Missions overseas and to experience the diverse rich culture and the astonishing scenery of Vietnam. Study visits included a city tour around Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, the Embassy of Malaysia in Vietnam, the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, the Ministry of Planning and Investment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board.

Reported by: Melvin Cheah

Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013 Participant

ATTACHMENT AT THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



Starting from 18 until 25 May 2013, the participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy Session 1/2013 were given a golden opportunity to undergo an attachment programme at the Malaysian mission overseas. They were divided into two groups, one group were sent to the Indochina region i.e Hanoi, Viet Nam and the other group was attached to the Philippines. The objectives of the programme were; to expose the participants on how Malaysian Missions operates, to get first-hand experience on the aspects and practices of diplomacy, to encourage analytical thinking and to learn cultures and way of life of the host country.

In Manila, the modus operand of the attachment programme covers on study visit to the Malaysian Embassy in Manila, Tourism Malaysia Office and Trade Office (MATRADE). There, the participants were exposed to the daily routine of Malaysian Missions as well as how they operate and managed.

As for the host country's perspectives, the participants were given an opportunity to conduct a study tours at the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and its training arms, the Foreign Service Institute. We also had an opportunity to visit Asian Development Bank, a multilateral financial organization that was tasked to facilitate developments in this part of the world. The observations, discussion exchange of ideas were conducted in a cordial manner, which helps ease the participant's weariness due to the extremely packed schedules.



Reported by: Ahmad Fuad Mohd Norzin
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013 Participant

THE DIPLOMATIC TRAINING COURSE FOR MYANMAR OFFICERS IN NAY PWI TAW, MYANMAR



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) successfully conducted the Diplomatic Training Course for Officers from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 16 – 22 May 2013 in Nay Pwi Taw. The course was conducted under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) at the request of Government of Myanmar in conjunction with their preparation for ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014.

The opening ceremony, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar was officiated by the Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar, His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Faisal Muhammad. Present at the ceremony was also Mr. Tha Aung Nyunt, Director General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Relations and Mr. Myint Thu, Director of the Political and Security Division from the ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar.

The objective of the course is to equip the participants with the necessary knowledge and to enhance their capabilities to take on the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 as well as to organize the ASEAN Summit and various ASEAN related Meetings. A total of 90 participants representing 28 different Ministries such as Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Commerce, Culture, Health, Information, Science and Technology and Boarder Affairs attended the course.

IDFR arranged several talks pertaining to the ASEAN Community 2015, ASEAN Summit and other Related Meetings an Inter-Agency Coordination. Other talks were based on the following modules: Protocol, Media Relations and Media Skills, Registration and Accreditation, Liaison Duties, Etiquette, Health, Finance and Budget, Accommodation, Security, Transportation Arrangements, Food Management, Gift and Souvenirs, Gala Dinner and Side Events

Committee. Apart from that the participants were also requested to do several simulation exercises of a mock conference on the ASEAN Plenary and Retreat Sessions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the participants voiced their satisfaction with the programme and expressed their appreciation to IDFR for having arranged such a beneficial programme. They now felt, indeed, better prepared to face the responsibilities and challenges when the Government of Myanmar holds the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. The closing ceremony was conducted in an auspicious manner and certificates were presented by Mr. Mohd Zamruni Khalid, Deputy Director General, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Madam Daw Aye Aye Mu, Deputy Director General from the ASEAN Department and Mr. Tha Aung Nyunt, Director General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Relations Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar.



Reported by: Mohd Farid Mohd Arif
Training Division

PUBLIC SECTOR ICT SECURITY CONFERENCE 2013



The Public Sector ICT Security Conference was successfully held on 23 May 2013 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC). The conference was organized by the Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) with the theme "Security Beyond Minds" and officiated by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Nor Aliah Mohd Zahri, Deputy Director General (ICT), MAMPU cum Malaysia Government Chief Information Officer (CIO).

The participant from IDFR was represented by Puan Noor Asyirah Abd Rahman, Information Technology Officer from ICT Section. The conference saw the participation from ICT Officers from the government and private sectors. The conference also acted as a platform to discuss and share ideas and knowledge among them, especially about security issues on ICT public sector. Working papers were also presented by a few speakers on various topics such as: Data Leakage Protection, National ICT Security Coordination, Cybersecurity Safety Standards, The Age of Cyberwar and Mobile Security. Participants were also invited to the Public Sector ICT Security Exhibition 2013 which showcased products and services from ICT security providers, such as EC Council and Ofisgate. Participants had ample opportunities to interact with ICT service and product providers at the ICT exhibition which was held at the same venue.

During the afternoon session, there was a Focus Group Discussion sessions which was divided into two (2) groups. Group 1 discussed the topic on ICTSO/CERT/PRISMA/MyGSOC/MyGRiC and Group 2 discussed the Public Sector Information Security Management System (ISMS). The Question and Answer Session between the panelists and the participants was conducted smoothly. The seminar was officially closed by Encik Wan Mohd Rosdi bin Wan Dolah, Head of ICT Technical Consultant, Public Sector ICT Consultant Team.

Reported by: Noor Asyirah Abd Rahman
ICT Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

SEARCCT'S LOOKING BACK LECTURE SERIES 1/2013



The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised the first of their Looking Back Lecture Series for 2013 this morning, 23 May at IDFR.

The title of the lecture was *Search and Destroy: The Experience of VAT 69*, delivered by Datuk A. Navaratnam, former member and first commandant of a special forces group named Very Able Troopers (VAT) 69.

In his lecture, Datuk Navaratnam related to the audience some of his troops' experiences, being involved in counter insurgencies operations and combating communists in the deep forest of Perak, Pahang and near Betong. He also shared several anecdotes with us. His lecture based on personal experience was a real eye-opener and the audience, who came from various backgrounds including the police and the armed forces, took the opportunity to learn from his experience during the question and answer session.

Reported by: Noraini Awang Nong
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

SAY IT RIGHT 2/2013



The above course on speaking skills was conducted for the professional and management group from several ministries and government agencies all over the country. There were twenty one participants in all. They were from the Methodist Girls School (1) Brickfields K.L., The Royal Malaysian Police, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Allied Health Sciences College Kota Kinabalu, Department of Fisheries Malaysia Kedah, Yih Choon National (Chinese) School Kedah, Royal Malaysian Police Kelantan, National Population and Family Board, National Sports Institute, the Royal Malaysian Police Selangor, the Royal Malaysian Police Melaka, National Visual Arts Development Board, the Ministry of Works, the Armed Forces Fund Board, Bruas (T) Primary School, Department of Multimedia and Communication and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

The areas covered were the English Sound System, Stress in Words and Sentences, the Beat and Tune of English, Use of Natural Speech in Simulation Activities and Story Telling.

The participants expressed great satisfaction and believe they have become more aware about the need of speaking clearly.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

PEACE AND SECURITY FORUM 2013



Coorganised by IDFR, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia and The Cordoba Foundation and in partnership with the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) and the Diplomatic Institute of the State of Qatar/Embassy of the State of Qatar in Kuala Lumpur, the Peace and Security Forum 2013 was held at IDFR today, 16 May 2013.

With the theme *Islam and Diplomacy -The Search for Human Security*, the Forum saw the participation of more than 300 guests, including former ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from think tanks, universities and NGOs, and officers from various Ministries and government agencies.

The Welcoming Address was delivered by Professor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali of IAIS, followed by an Address by His Excellency Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al-Attiyah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar. In his speech which was delivered in Arabic, His Excellency Dr. Khalid said, among others, “that peace cannot prevail nor can human security be achieved as long as international relations are based on the logic of force and as long as force resorts to politicizing the law to justify its intervention.”

This was followed by the Keynote Address by His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, Regent of the state of Perak Darul Ridzuan and IDFR’s Royal Patron. In his Address, His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah said that, “a foremost requirement for promoting human security is the recognition of diversity and difference in our global context, as well as within the boundaries of individual nations. We should cultivate awareness and understanding of the worldview of others, and learn to respect their various traditions. The combined experiences of human societies in the modern era in the economic, political, social and cultural domains of life

are pushing towards recovering the basis of security reflected in basic human needs and hopes. Peace will only be achieved between nations, and among the diverse peoples within nations, when security is understood in these terms.”

Two panel discussions followed the opening session. As continuity to the Forum, a dinner talk by Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister and Patron of IAIS will be held later tonight. Tun will speak on *Islam and Peace Building in the 21st Century*.



Reported by: Noraini Awang Nong
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

**PRE POSTING ORIENTATION COURSE FOR OFFICERS AND SPOUSES
UNDER SISTEM PENTADBIRAN KERAJAAN MALAYSIA DI LUAR NEGARA
(SPKM)**



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) had successfully organized the second series of the Pre Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under the *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara* (SPKM) from 6 – 17 May 2013. The course was mandatory and specially designed for the officers (together with their spouses) who are going to serve at Malaysian Mission abroad for the first time.

The main objectives of the course are to increase knowledge and skills of the participants in diplomacy and international relations and to prepare them for their overseas assignment. In particular, the stress is on their role and responsibilities representing the country under the leadership of the Ambassador. It was attended by fifty seven (57) participants; twenty one (21) participants from Tourism Malaysia, ten (10) participants from MINDEF, three (3) participants from MIDA, one (1) participant from MATRADE, two (2) participants from Royal Malaysian Customs, three (3) participants from Immigration Department, two (2) participants from JAKIM, two (2) participants from Lembaga Tabung Haji, two (2) participants from Yayasan Pahang and eleven (11) participants from Wisma Putra.

The course was conducted fully in English where participants went through interactive lectures and group discussions. Among the modules were *Administration and Security Matters at Mission*, *Financial Management at Mission*, *Protocol and Consular Matters at Mission*, *Legal Matters at Missions*, *Promoting Malaysia as an Preferred Investment Destination*, *Tourist Attractions*, *Language and Diplomacy*, *Grooming and Social Etiquette*, *Fine Dining Etiquette*, *Royalty and Palace Protocol and Role of Spouses at Mission*.

Overall, the course has equipped the participants with important international relations knowledge and diplomatic skills in enhancing their professionalism while performing their duties abroad.

Reported by: Romaiza Abd Rahman
Training Division

MALAYSIA-AUSTRALIA YOUNG DIPLOMATS ROUNDTABLE



IDFR played host to the third Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Roundtable which was successfully held from 8 – 9 May 2013. The two-day event was attended by ten young diplomats from Australia and the same number of participants from the Foreign Ministry including two officers from the Malaysian International Trade and Industry (MITI). The young diplomats from Australia were flown in from the various Australian missions such as from Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila and others. Apart from that, the 21 young Foreign Ministry officers who were currently attending the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD 2013) course were also given the opportunity to participate in the roundtable as observers.

The roundtable was officially opened by His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Director General of IDFR. His Excellency Miles Kupa, the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia was also at the roundtable to witness the event and also to show his support to the roundtable. In his opening speech, His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari encouraged the young diplomats to take the opportunity to gain some knowledge while at the same time strengthening their networking with diplomats from either countries. The roundtable, among others, included lectures and discussions on various subjects of interest to both Malaysia and Australia which included issues on foreign policies, bilateral relations, trade and economic policies and agreement and others.

The young diplomats who attended the roundtable were also invited to a dinner hosted by the Director General of IDFR at the Saloma Theatre Restaurant. The guests did not only enjoy dinner but were also treated to several singing and dancing performances by the young diplomats from both countries. The DiD course participants put up a very lively and captivating traditional dancing performance which captured the hearts of the guests. On the second day, all the young diplomats and senior officers from IDFR were treated to lunch by His Excellency Miles Kupa at

his official residence. In the later part of the day, the Australian young diplomats were brought to a tour of Putrajaya to cap the two-day roundtable.

In a nutshell, the Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Roundtable was a very beneficial and meaningful session whereby all the participants had the chance to share their knowledge and experience which could in one way or another, improve the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Australia. All the young diplomats were encouraged with the response, feedback and extensive networking that they had which could go a long way in their career in the future. Overall, everybody was happy and satisfied with the way the event was conducted and believed that the experience had enriched their knowledge, perspective and opinion personally and officially. Everybody also looked forward to the next Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Roundtable which will be hosted by Australia in 2015.

Reported by: Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff
Regional and Security Studies Division

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' EXCELLENT SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY



One hundred and twelve Ministry of Foreign Affairs' staff based locally and at Missions were bestowed the Excellent Service Award at a ceremony held this morning, 9 May 2013, in Putrajaya.

In his speech, Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, the Secretary General of the Ministry said that the award was a form of recognition by the Government and the Ministry for the recipients' excellent service in implementing the Government's policies. He hoped that the award would help to motivate them to improve their quality of work and enhance their quality of life. He also took the opportunity to remind all those present at the ceremony to not misuse social media for personal gain, in line with the Ministry's Code of Ethics.

Three IDFR staff were among the recipients; Puan Noraini Awang Nong from the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division, Puan Shahrulbariah A. Rashid from the Regional and Security Studies Division and Encik Mahassan Mahamad from the Corporate and Management Services Division.

Reported by: Noraini Awang Nong
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

WORKSHOP ON ICT STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015 (SIRIES 1)



Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Section, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) conducted a workshop on ICT Strategic Plan (ISP) IDFR, 2013-2015 (Series 1) on 7 and 8 May 2013, at Lecture Room 106, Block C.

These two-days workshop was attended by 31 participants from all divisions. YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Director of Corporate and Management Services cum Project Director for ISP Development Committee, IDFR, opened the workshop. In order to ensure the smooth running of the workshop, two (2) ISP Consultants from MAMPU, Mr. Lee Kok Seng and Ms. Sukhaila Angsor were also invited to attend the workshop and act as facilitators.

The objectives of this workshop are:

1. To submit the results of a survey on Feedback and Satisfaction on ICT Facilities Questionnaire;
2. To present the results of a study on the Systems Applications, Infrastructure and ICT Security;
3. To identify the SWOT approach in the scope of ICT in IDFR;
4. To obtain the current level of ICT infrastructure; direction, vision and mission; and
5. To share the analysis of issues, challenges, expectations, current and future environment of ICT.

As a whole, the workshop received good cooperation and commitment from all the participants, especially for the group discussions and presentations. The ICT Strategic Plan Workshop Series II and III are planned for July and August 2013.

Reported by: Zaiza Haji Ali
ICT Section, Corporate and Management Services Division

BEACH CLEANING PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH “MOBILE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION CENTRE (CTC) PROGRAMME”



On 27 April 2013, the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013 participants together with Majlis Perbandaran Sepang (MPS) organised a beach cleaning project as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme at Pantai Bagan Lalang in Sepang. This beach cleaning project was part of the Mobile Community Transformation Centre (CTC) Programme which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Finance and Selangor State Government.

About 31 participants comprising of DiD participants, masters students, officers from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Training Unit and Director-General Office participated in this programme. Also present were Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director-General of IDFR, Ambassador Aminah Hj A. Karim, Deputy Director-General of IDFR and Puan Rahimah Yeop, Director of Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division of IDFR.

The objectives of the project were to raise environmental awareness, encourage volunteerism and strengthen relationship between the IDFR management team and DiD participants. Armed with beach cleaning equipment, participants were in high enthusiasm cleaning the beach. All of these debris were gathered in one place before being collected by the MPS. Before departing for IDFR, looking back at the cleaned beach made the participants happy and proud for having initiated this CSR project. At least the weekend was not wasted. It was an amazing day filled with pride, joy and excitement for all participants.



Reported by: Ridzwan Shahabudin
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013 Participant

FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S MULTICULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE ASIAN CENTURY



The scale and pace of Asia's development has been remarkable with profound implications to the world including for Australia. Australia being located right among the Asian countries in its effort to seize the opportunity of becoming a more prosperous and resilient nation from the uprising in the Asia, has established what had been termed the 'Asian Century'. With the embodiment of diverse cultural, ethnicity and religions, Australia encourages and fosters multiculturalism which plays a role in ensuring the success of the Asian Century.

To discuss the issue of multiculturalism in the Asian Century, Mr. Waleed Aly, Lecturer in Politics, School of Politics and Social Inquiry, Monash University, Australia delivered a Forum on "Australia's Multicultural Identity in the Asian Century" at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia on 30 April 2013.

Mr. Waleed Aly compared the nature of multiculturalism in the United States of America (US) and the European region with Australia. The US practices a nation state and the idea of individual liberty while the European region experiences parallel-mono culturalism. Australia which fundamentally is a new nation founded on a huge number of immigrants who are distinctively non-European, on the other hand, becomes a multicultural society without having to try hard and it evolved organically. People can relate themselves as Australians and at the same time not compromising their individual identity. Australia has created an environment where they are not being divided into social grouping and people can embrace their dual-identity.

In this Asian Century, Australia will let its identity shine through and it is also slowly evolving in having representation of the real multicultural society of Australia in the government institutions, sports and other outlets.

IDFR was represented by Ms. Khairul Bariah Che Amat, Assistant Director of Public Affairs Unit.



Reported by: Khairul Bariah Che Amat
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED SPEECH WRITING COURSE

Two Speech Writing Courses for officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) were recently concluded. The first one, Intermediate Speech Writing Course, was held from 15 until 17 April 2013 and attended by thirteen (13) Principal Assistant Secretaries and meanwhile, the second one, Advanced Speech Writing Course, was organised from 22 until 24 April 2013 with participation from thirteen (13) Undersecretaries from the Ministry.

The objectives of the course were to increase understanding of the principles of successful speech writing; expose the participants to the skills, techniques and strategies in speech writing and delivery, and enable the participants to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses as speech writers. The course was conducted in a series of interactive lectures, simulation exercises, individual and group work/discussion and in-class speech writing exercises.

Both sessions were facilitated by Mr. Simon Lancaster, who is one of the UK's top speechwriters. He has written speeches for the CEOs of many of the world's biggest companies and trained hundreds of professional writers over the years.

Among the modules of the courses were The Art and Craft of Speech Writing, Skills, Techniques and Strategies in Speech Making, Analysis of Best Speeches, Organisation of a Speech, The Use of Metaphors, Repetitions, Rhetoric and Contradictions in Speech Writing and Speech Editing. In addition, the course also touched on some aspects in speech delivery in which the participants were exposed to techniques and skills in becoming effective orators.

Both sessions received very favourable and positive responses and feedback from the participants. Many have suggested that the course should be attended by all officers from MOFA as speech writing is an integral part of the officers' responsibilities.

Reported by: Romaiza Ab. Rahman
Training Division

ORIENTATION COURSE FOR SECRETARIES



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) had successfully organised the Orientation Course for Secretaries, from 15 to 26 April 2013. The Course was specially designed for secretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and aimed to enhance knowledge, skills and professionalism of the participants to suit the needs of MOFA as the leading Ministry in promoting Malaysia's foreign affairs. It was the third series of such a course since year 2011 and this year, it was attended by nine (9) secretaries from MOFA and one (1) secretary from IDFR.

The two-week course gave the participants enormous opportunity to gain knowledge to elevate their capabilities as competent secretaries. In addition, the course also exposed them to the different aspects of good office management in improving their communication skills in oral and written correspondence, inculcating the importance of presenting a good image and enhancing their inter-personal skills. Overall, the course has enriched the participants with important competencies to enhance their efficiency and professionalism at performing their tasks and responsibilities.

Reported by: Jarin Sijaya Abdul Hathi
Training Division

CLOSING AND HAND-OVER CEREMONY OF THE PHOTO EXHIBIT “PEACE CORPS IN MALAYSIA: 50 YEARS OF ENDURING FRIENDSHIP, 1962 – 2012



Malaysia's remarkable relationship with Peace Corps began in 1962 – 50 years ago. During the 21 years that the Peace Corps served here, it brought more than 4,000 American volunteers to live and work in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. American Peace Corps volunteers worked hand-in-hand with Malaysians to improve lives and promote livelihoods. Some volunteers taught maths, science and English to thousands of Malaysians. Others helped establish agricultural organisations and public works programmes or played critical roles in the fight against tuberculosis and improving public health.

In conjunction with the 50 years of friendship between the U.S. and Malaysia, U.S. Embassy organised a series of photo exhibitions with the theme, "Peace Corps in Malaysia: 50 years of enduring friendship, 1962-2012. The exhibition was first launched at the Lincoln Corner, Kuala Lumpur Library on April 12, 2012 and has travelled throughout Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

The photo exhibition saw the collection of photographs taken by the volunteers who had served in Malaysia.

The closing and hand-over ceremony of the photo exhibit was held in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in collaboration with the Institute of American Studies (KAMERA) and The Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON) on 16 April 2013.

The session began with a welcoming remarks by Associate Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli, Director of IKON followed by an address by H.E. Datuk Paul W. Jones, Ambassador of the United States to Malaysia and YBhg. Prof. Datuk Noor Azlan Ghazali, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and International Affairs, UKM.

This ceremony also witnessed the symbolic handing over a collection of photographs and certificate of appreciation to the National Museum. Deputy Director General of National Museum, Mr. Wan Jamaluddin Wan Yusof received the certificate from Ambassador Paul W. Jones on behalf of National Museum, which will make it a part of their permanent collection. IDFR was represented by Mejar (R) Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff, Senior Deputy Director of Regional and Security and Ms. Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director of Library.



Reported by: Kamariah Jaafar
Library Section, Management Services and Corporate and Division

EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION SKILLS 1/2013



A course on “Effective Presentation Skills “was conducted by the Language Division of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) from 9-12 April 2013. Fifteen participants comprising several senior officers from various government ministries and agencies attended this course. They were from the Board of Examination Malaysia, National Sports Institute, The Royal Malaysian Police, Meteorological Department, Penang and the Malaysian Parliament among others.

The course content included Verbal and Non-verbal communication Skills, The Right Kind of Language needed to make effective presentations, Video Viewing and Analysis, Visual Aids and Handling of Speech Anxieties as well as the right way to handle questions.

Overall, the course achieved its primary aim of enabling the participants to enhance their public speaking skills.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

WORKSHOP ON INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) has successfully organized the Workshop on Introduction to Public International Law from 8 to 11 April 2013. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the participants' understanding of major segments of public international law relevant to diplomatic practices, international relations and international trade and investments. The four-day workshop was attended by 6 participants from the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

Among the topics included were The Nature and Scope of Public International Law, The Application and Limitation of Public International Law, The Sources of International Law, International Human Rights Law, International Maritime Law, International Economic Law (WTO), UN Commission on International Trade Law, International Settlement Disputes: International Courts and Tribunals, The Law of Treaties and The Law of State Responsibility and International Environmental Law.

Reported by: Romaiza Abd Rahman
Training Division

DEVAWONGSE VAROPAKARN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THAILAND



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Malaysia had the opportunity to conduct a course on Effective Communication Skills under the English Language Training Programme for 65 participants from the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand. They comprised officers from various Government ministries like the Department of Employment, Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary, Ministry of Industry Phangnga Province Office, Office of Atoms of Peace, Secretary of the House of Representatives, The Secretariat of the Senate and many others. This group was accompanied by four officials from Thailand.

This visit of the Thai delegation was from 7-9 April 2013. On arrival in Kuala Lumpur officers from the Language Division of IDFR accompanied them on a City Tour which covered Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), Dataran Merdeka and the Cocoa Boutique.

This was followed by two days of intensive language course consisting of four training sessions in which the participants were immersed in interactive activities which honed their skills in presentation skills. They also had the opportunity to mingle and gather information about different aspects of Malaysia over a Hi- Tea session with IDFR staff as well as participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy course who are currently undergoing a programme at IDFR. Overall, this trip to Malaysia was much appreciated.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

STUDY VISIT TO ISTANA NEGARA, JALAN DUTA, KUALA LUMPUR



Participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013 went on a study visit to the new Istana Negara in Jalan Duta, Kuala Lumpur on 27 March 2013. They were given a special briefing session on the topic of Royalty and Palace Protocol by Mr. Sophian Ab Rahman, Palace's Ceremonial Officer. The session was indeed memorable and gave us such a valuable insight into the procedures and protocols about the National Palace. We were also given a short briefing on Royalty and Palace protocol and information about DYMM Yang DiPertuan Agong's family.

The highlight of the study visit was the mock ceremony on procedures and protocols involved in the signing in ceremony of a new Ambassador of Malaysia and foreign Ambassadors. The participants were given the opportunity to act as ambassadors in the smaller Balairong Seri where the event actually took place.

It was a very valuable experience and interactive session the participants had with Mr. Sophian Ab Rahman, who patiently answered all questions posted to him. The DiD 1/2013 participants were fortunate for being the first delegation allowed by the National Palace authority to have a tour of the new National Palace.



Reported by: Nur Adham Fazuan Mohd Nor
DiD Participant 1/2013

STUDY VISIT TO THE KUALA LUMPUR CRAFT COMPLEX



On 25 March 2013 (Monday), IDFR organised a study trip to the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex in Jalan Conlay for the 21 participants of Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD). The objective of this trip is to inculcate among the participants a sense of appreciation of local arts and crafts such as batik, songket, pottery, pewter, ceramic and woodcarving.

The Craft Complex styled after a Malay Sultan's palace, is a comprehensive cultural centre offering an entire spectrum on Malaysia's traditional crafts, arts and culture. The Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation- a constitutional body under the Ministry of Culture, Art and Heritage, manages the complex and are tasked with the promotion and preservation of the country's handicraft and related industries, as well as providing visitors: both foreign and local, with an insight into the uniqueness of the various handicraft of Malaysia and the people behind the crafts. The Craft Complex is divided into four main blocks: Craft Museum, Craft Village, Artist's Colony and Karyaneka Craft Boutique.

The Craft Museum showcased a wide range of Malaysian handicrafts and artifacts; the main highlights of the trip to the Craft Complex would undoubtedly be the Craft Village which is dedicated to showcase examples of Malaysian arts and crafts, craft demonstrations and practical interactive session. The participants were allowed to watch artists and craftsmen going about their work and were given a chance to experience the process of batik, ceramics and woodcarving.

Reported by: Nur Ezira Mahadi
DiD Participant 1/2013

DIPLOMATIC TRAINING COURSE (DTC) FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS



The Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants Series 1/2013 was successfully organised from 11 – 29 March 2013. Sixteen (16) junior diplomats from Azerbaijan (1), Cambodia (2), Kyrgyz Republic (1), Oman (1), The Philippines (1), Sudan (1), Tajikistan (2), Tanzania (1), Timor Leste (3), Turkey (1) and Uzbekistan (2) successfully completed the DTC for International Participants Series 1/2013.

This three-week course conducted under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) created conducive environment for the participants to enhance their knowledge on diplomacy, strategic thinking, negotiations, public speaking, Malaysia's foreign policy and experience on ASEAN, Malaysia's economic development and industry, media skill and various other important subjects which would lead to an all-rounded diplomat.

The course was also a platform for the participants to exchange new ideas, to learn from each other and to gain different perspective regarding their duties as diplomats. All these were made possible through an integrated teaching and learning methodologies including briefing, discussions, lectures, simulation and exercises. The DTC participants also went on several study visits to various government ministries and agencies to gain knowledge about their roles and functions. The visit also included a visit to beautiful Kuala Terengganu and the crystal clear waters of Redang Island in conjunction with “Visit Terengganu Year 2013”.

Overall, IDFR received positive feedback from the participants, as they said, “we have gained valuable knowledge, various skills and establish new network that will lead us to be prominent diplomats in the future through this course. We wish to come back again for the same course with the same friends in the future”. The participants thanked IDFR and MTCP for conducting such a constructive course and for giving them an exclusive chance to experience Malaysia's delicious food, diverse cultures, traditions, religions and the harmony of different ethnic groups living together.

The Certificate Presentation Ceremony for the Diplomatic Training Course was held at Swiss Garden Hotel and Residences, Kuala Lumpur on the last day of the course. The ceremony was graced by YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director-General of IDFR; also present were Ambassadors, IDFR officers, and representatives from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).



Reported by: Jarin Sijaya Abdul Hathi
Training Division

SEMINAR ON ASEAN COMPHREHENSIVE INVESTMENT AGREEMENT (ACIA)



IDFR hosted a seminar on the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) with the theme “Transforming Investment in ASEAN through ACIA” at the Treaty Room, IDFR on 19-20 March 2013. The seminar was organized by the ASEAN Economic Department from the ASEAN Secretariat and managed by the World Trade Institute (WTI). It was supported by the ASEAN –Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II) and MIDA.

This two-day seminar saw a gathering of 34 participants from all over the ASEAN countries namely Singapore, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Brunei and Malaysia. There were also representatives from ASEAN and AADCP II.

The Seminar was conducted by world experts in the field of investment policies and investment laws namely Dr Sufian Jusoh, Mr. Tay Yu Jin, Mr. Pierre Sauve and Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret. They had shared their wealth of knowledge and experience in the international investment policy and rule making; dispute prevention and dispute management as well as how to handle investment in the context of ASEAN.

The Seminar also covered various important topics such as the position of ACIA in the context of international investment law; the importance of liberalization of sectors for ASEAN and foreign investors; the promotion and facilitation of investment within ASEAN; the protection of investors and their investment; and the access to dispute settlement mechanisms.

On the second day, the participants had a break out session where they had a simulation exercise on the role of investors and the Investment Promotion Agencies. During the closing ceremony by the Director General of IDFR, Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, expressed his gratitude to the

eminent speakers and he also hoped that all the participants had a very fruitful and beneficial seminar.

Reported by: Rafizah Zahri

Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS ON THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY AND PANEL DISCUSSION



Dr. Sukhdave Singh, the Assistant Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia delivered the Governor's Address at a seminar held at Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Resort on Thursday, 21 March 2013. He was recently appointed by the central bank as Deputy Governor effective 16 April 2013.

In his address, Dr. Sukhdave spoke on the Outlook for the Malaysian Economy and the Financial Sector. He said that the Malaysian economy is expected to remain on a steady growth trajectory of five to six per cent in 2013 and will continue to be driven by private sector activity. According to Dr. Sukhdave also, private investments are expected to remain robust and the labour market conditions are also expected to remain favourable. In terms of external trade, Dr. Sukhdave said that export growth will be higher amid continued expansion in imports. Robust regulatory and supervisory framework will continue to support financial stability. Dr. Sukhdave summed up the address by saying that positive outlook for domestic financial stability will be maintained in 2013.

The Governor's Address was followed by a panel discussion chaired by 'Tan Sri Dato' Mohd. Sheriff Mohd Kassim, President of the Malaysian Economic Association. The panelists were Dr. Ravi Balakrishnan from the International Monetary Fund who gave a detailed explanation about Malaysia's Transformation: Progress and Challenges; Mr. Raymond Tang from CIMB Principal Asset Management who spoke on Capital Flows and Imbalances and Professor. Dr. Ahmad Zubaidi Baharumshah of Universiti Putra Malaysia who spoke at length on Debt and Uncertainties in the Malaysian Economy.

Reported by: Noraini Awang Nong
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2013 - “COMMONWEALTH: OPPORTUNITY THROUGH ENTERPRISE”



A Forum was held at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in commemoration of the Commonwealth Day which is in its 36th installation this year. The Commonwealth Day has been celebrated annually on the second Monday in March throughout the 54 independent nations of the Commonwealth since 1977. This year's Commonwealth Day commemoration is themed “Commonwealth: Opportunity Through Enterprise”.

The forum, organised by IDFR, was opened by YBhg. Dato' Selwyn Das, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Subsequently, YBhg. Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther, Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Management delivered the keynote address. Over 200 participants attended the forum comprising officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from think tanks and non-governmental organisations, academicians and IDFR course participants.

Malaysia places great importance in its continued efforts to unlock abundant opportunities through enterprise and the need for innovation to flourish. To create these opportunities, various areas such as education, innovation, youth empowerment and human capital development should be further rejuvenated in a collective manner, be it at the national or international levels.

Ranging from the most developed to the least developing nations, it is believed that the Commonwealth will continue to be a platform for all of its member nations to thrive through unity by creating opportunities across geographical barriers, nurturing the youth and encouraging collaboration for a better future.



Reported by: Sara Othman
Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013 Participant

WORKSHOP ON DIPLOMACY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MUSLIM UNITY (IIMU)



At the request of the International Institute for Muslim Unity (IIMU), the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) successfully conducted the Workshop on Diplomacy from 19 – 20 March 2013. This is another milestone for IDFR as this is the first official collaboration established between IDFR and IIMU.

The objective of the workshop was to promote awareness and basic knowledge concerning diplomacy and international relations. Participants who attended the workshop were both local and international students from the International Islamic University Malaysia. In the two-day workshop, the participants had the opportunity to listen to lectures and talks on diplomacy by speakers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Wisma Putra).

The workshop is also in line with IDFR's ongoing effort in its out-reach programmes with various Malaysian academic institutions. The foremost objective of this out-reach programme is to instil in Malaysian students the importance of diplomatic practices and finesse from the Malaysian perspective.

The participants and officials of IIMU expressed their gratitude to IDFR for organizing the workshop. Further to that, IIMU hopes the collaboration between IDFR will continue and more workshops will be organised in the near future.

Reported by: Azmah Mahmud
Training Division

INTAN EXECUTIVE TALK ON LEADERSHIP AND HUMAN GOVERNANCE



On 15 March 2013, five senior officers – Ambassador Aminahtun A. Karim, Puan Rahimah Yeop, Encik Nik Hasbi Nik Daud, Puan Noraini Awang Nong and Puan Rafizah Zahri – attended an INTAN Executive Talk on Leadership and Human Governance at INTAN Bukit Kiara. The speaker was Professor Dato’ Dr. Aziuddin Ahmad, member of the Board of Directors of Yayasan Putra Business School and Board of Governors of Putra Business School. He is also Rector/Chief Executive of the International Islamic University College Selangor and a Trustee of Zakat Selangor. With more than 30 years’ experience in the corporate sector and the academia, Professor Dato’ Dr. Aziuddin has a wealth of experience especially in the area of human governance.

In his talk, Professor Dato’ Dr. Aziuddin said that leadership is about akhlak (moral) and making choices which come with obligations, and that the manner in reaching the end result is important. He also said that to teach someone a concept, a good leader must have experienced that concept. He gave the example of a banana. A good leader must have seen, touched or eaten a banana before being able to teach about it. Human governance, according to Professor Dato’ Dr. Aziuddin, is decision making and leadership from inside out, and “doing the right thing even when no one is looking”. Throughout his talk, Professor Dato’ Dr. Aziuddin also stressed on the importance of respect, manners, courtesy and humanity. A piece of advice which left an indelible mark was for the audience to “go where no one has gone and leave a trail”.

Reported by: Noraini Awang Nong and Rafizah Zahri
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS AND CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

On 11th and 14th March 2013, 21 young officers from DID 1/2013 attended a two-day course on Interpersonal Skills and Cross Cultural Communication by Mr. Faiket Luari the Chief Marketing Officer of Egnatia Group. It was an eye-opening experience for them as they learnt the importance of Interpersonal Skills and Cross Cultural Communication and how both elements influence working relationships.

Mr Faiket Luari emphasized that in communication, everything should be expressed clearly, and in the right manner in order to achieve the effect wanted. According to the speaker, effective intercultural negotiations require a diplomat to look into the variety of cultural values from other countries and compare them to their own values, then try to adjust and adapt to those values. As stated by Matsumoto, Juang during cross-cultural negotiations, diplomats represent not only the aims of their visit, but also the culture they belong to.

Reported by: Anita Kaur A/P Gala Singh
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013

FINE DINING PRACTICUM



On 12 March 2013, 21 participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) attended a practicum on fine dining, a session conducted by YBhg. Datin Paduka Melanie Leong, the former Director of Training in Institute of Diploma and Foreign Relations (IDFR). The session was held in Berjaya Time Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

During the session, each participants was evaluated by YBhg. Datin Paduka and the DiD's Secretariat on their dinner attire, how they carry themselves during the dinner, their speech toast and etc.

The participants were exposed to the theoretical part of fine dining especially on the do's and don'ts during fine dining, the layout of the dining table and the various types of cutlery used. YBhg. Datin Paduka also emphasised on the importance of knowing the do's and don'ts in fine dining because as future diplomat, the participants are expected to play host and be invited to numerous official functions, where others will judge them on how they carry themselves. Through this exercise, it is expected that the participants would be gracious hosts as well as guests, and enhanced their interpersonal skills. The participants were also expected to project a favourable image and be comfortable in any dining situation.

The practicum session was a very good exposure to the participants.

Reported by: Chenderawasih Abdul Malak
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013

INNOVATIVE THINKING



On 6 March 2013, twenty-one participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013 put on their innovative thinking caps with En. Azim Pawanchik of Alpha Catalyst Consulting (ACC) to discuss how to bring about innovation – defined as strategic change which adds value – in Malaysia.

The day-long session combined both theory and practical exercises to illustrate the process of innovation, common barriers and obstacles faced at each stage of the process and the ideal mindset needed to encourage innovative ideas.

One of the refreshing aspects of the session was the focus on practical examples and exercises ranging from juggling, aikido and delving into the workings of the coffee industry to drive home key points on creating innovation.

The session left an indelible impression on the DiD participants and it is hoped that the discussions held will spark future innovation in Wisma Putra and beyond.

Reported by: Shazana Mokhtar
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013

EXPERIENCE OF A DIPLOMAT



On the 6 of March 2013, the Deputy Director General of IDFR, Ambassador Aminahtun Hj A Karim, was invited by Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) to deliver a talk entitled 'Experience of a Diplomat'. The talk was attended by faculty members Dr. Ahmad Zainudin Husin, Deputy Dean (Academic and Student Development) (Faculty of Humanities), Dr. Samsudin Suhaili, Head of Department (Department of Social Studies and Citizenship), Dr. Halim Saad, Visiting Professor and about 50 students from the Social Science Faculty.

Among other things, YBhg. Ambassador Aminahtun explained about diplomacy and the role of diplomats. Additionally she shared her experience serving in numerous Malaysian Embassies abroad and divisions in Wisma Putra, the plus sides and challenges met throughout her career, as well as interesting personal anecdotes.

The students showed keen interest throughout the talk and afterwards inquisitively posed questions which Ambassador happily answered, including the process to join the Malaysian Foreign Service. This talk is hoped to be the first among many to come and serve as an initial bridge for a more fruitful collaboration between IDFR and UPSI.

Reported by: Nadhirah Mohamad Zanudin
Office of Director General

BUILDING BLOCKS OF GOOD ENGLISH



The above course was conducted at IDFR from 4-8 March 2013. The officers who attended this course came from various government agencies and ministries among which were the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture, the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation, Community Nursing College, Training Division, Serian, Sarawak, Nursing College Training Division Sungai Petani, National Youth and Sports Department, Department of Environment Langkawi Branch, Department of Veterinary Sciences Malaysia, Malaysian Centre for Infrastructure and Geospatial Data and teachers from national school.

The five day course aimed at enhancing the proficiency level of the participants by getting to grips with grammar. A variety of strategies including role plays, simulation activities, songs and games were employed to generate maximum participation.

Overall, the objectives of the course were achieved as could be observed by the results of the pre and post tests administered to them.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

GROUP DYNAMICS



Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2013 kick started on 4 March 2013, involving 21 Assistant Secretaries from Wisma Putra. For the programme on team-building, the participants had a session on 'Group Dynamics' conducted by SkillFocus Consultancy Pte Ltd on 5 March 2013.

The one-day session focused on team-building activities. It helped the participants to know more about each other, as well as foster the feeling of camaraderie among them. The participants competed in a series of challenging games which tested them, not only on teamwork but also on their communication, questioning, negotiating, strategic and innovative skills.



Reported by: Nur Diyana Badarudin
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2013

DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY (DiD) 2013



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) welcomed the students of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2013 in an opening ceremony on 4 March 2013 officiated by YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR. 21 officers from Wisma Putra make up the aspiring batch of junior diplomats who will be undergoing a three-month training programme which aims to equip participants with knowledge and skills in diplomacy as well as international relations.

YBhg. Dato' in his remarks voiced his fervent hope for participants to participate actively in all activities throughout the course. He also mentioned that IDFR has a wide array of topics as well as a good number of distinguished speakers set in-line as IDFR aims to provide the finest intensive diploma course for the country's future diplomats.

The participants were glowing with enthusiastic vibes after taking their oath (Aku Janji) promising their dedication and commitment to the course. DiD 2013 which now runs on a new format rather than the previous six-months format is seen as one of the premium training provided by IDFR which hopefully would chart a brilliant beginning for our country's upcoming diplomats.

Reported by: Khairul Bariah Che Amat
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MODULE FOR THE PARTICIPANTS OF DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (DPA) 2/2012



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) jointly organized the International Relations (IR) Module for the Diploma in Public Management (DPA) 2/2012. Participants attending the module were divided into two large groups, one from INTAN Eastern Regional Campus (INTIM) and another from INTAN Southern Regional Campus (IKWAS).

The objective of the module is to instil knowledge and understanding of the concept of diplomacy and international relations and to provide an overview of the roles and functions of Malaysian Diplomats. The IR module for the participants from INTIM was organized at the Eastern Regional Campus in Kemaman, Terengganu while the similar module for participants from IKWAS was organized in Kuala Lumpur.

Among the lectures that were included in the IR module were topics concerning Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Vienna Convention and Consular Relations, ASEAN Regional Cooperation, Public Diplomacy and Media Relations, International Negotiations, Malaysia's Position on Counter Terrorism as well as Language and Diplomacy.

In addition to this the participants from IKWAS had the privilege to listen to YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR during his session on the topic of "Experience of a Diplomat". The participants from IKWAS also had the opportunity to meet Captain John Segura, Senior Defense Official/Defense and Naval Attaché, and Mr. Paul Brown, Economic Counselor from the Embassy of the United States of America who were invited to share their views concerning Diplomats in the 21st Century.

Reported by: Nadhirah Mohamad Zanudin
Office of Director General

PRE-POSTING ORIENTATION COURSE FOR OFFICERS AND SPOUSES 1/2013



The first series of the Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses in 2013 was conducted from 18 February until 1 March 2013. It was attended by 64 participants from various ministries and government agencies. It saw the biggest participation from the Ministry of Higher Education with 27 officers and their spouses. Other participants were from the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Majlis Amanah Rakyat, Immigration Department, Royal Custom, Terengganu State Department, Yayasan Islam Kelantan and Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia.

The first series maintained 85% of its standard modules which ranged from matters related to the work and operation at a mission to etiquette and culture. A new module on Matters Related to Foreign Service was delivered by a representative from the office of Ketua Setiausaha Negara as part of the course's improvisation on its substance.

Reported by: Romaiza Abd Rahman
Training Division

IDFR DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS MEETING



IDFR had the honour to host a meeting and luncheon event for the institute's Distinguished Fellows on 27 February 2013. Nine out of thirteen Distinguished Fellows attended the memorable event.

YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Director General of IDFR in his welcoming remarks expressed his gratitude to the Distinguished Fellows for being able to attend the event. Its purpose of the event was among others to allow the Distinguished Fellows to get to know the institute's officers and management, to brief the Distinguished Fellows about IDFR's training and research programmes and also the institute's future plans.

A short briefing was given about the background and the achievements of the Institute followed by a discussion. YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar touched on the future direction of the Institute and welcomed the significant role and contribution of ideas from them especially in manifesting IDFR to be a prestigious institute of diplomacy and international relations of a global standard. The Distinguished Fellows shared their views and opinion. The institute's officers took this opportunity to get to know more about the Distinguished Fellows.

The nine (9) Distinguished Fellows who attended the luncheon were:

1. YBhg. Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of Global Movement of the Moderates Foundation (GMMF);
2. YBhg. Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Chairman of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS);
3. YBhg. Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Haji Abdul Razak, Secretary General of the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation;
4. YBhg. Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Chairman the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM);

5. YBhg. Professor Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, President of International Movement for a JUST World, Malaysia (JUST);
6. YBhg. Professor Dr. K.S. Nathan, Director of the Institute of Malaysia and International Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia;
7. YBhg. Professor Dato' Dr. Zakaria Ahmad, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) HELP University; and two newly appointed Distinguished Fellows,
8. YBhg. Tan Sri Professor Dr. Mohd. Kamal Hassan, Distinguished Professor, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) and
9. YBhg. Dr. Sufian Jusoh, External Consultant of the World Trade Institute (WTI), Bern, Switzerland.

The other Distinguished Fellows are:

1. Admiral (R) Tan Sri Mohd Anwar Hj. Mohd Nor, Chairman and Board of Directors , National Defense University of Malaya;
2. Emeritus Prof. Datuk Osman Bakar, Chair/Professor, Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS) University Brunei Darussalam;
3. Prof Dr. Zafar U. Ahmed, Professor of Marketing and International Business , School of Business Lebanese American University ,Beirut, Lebanon; and
4. Dr. Farish A. Noor, Associate Proffesor, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Republic of Singapore.

Reported by: Nafizal Haris Ismail
Regional and Security Studies Division

MEDIA CONFERENCE ON MALAYSIA'S TRADE PERFORMANCE 2012 BY YB DATO' SRI MUSTAPA MOHAMED, MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI)



Officers of the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation's (MATRADE) who attended the Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2013 in January 2013 invited IDFR's officers to the Media Conference on Malaysia's Trade Performance 2012 by YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on 8 February 2013. Two officers and an intern namely Puan Rafizah Zahri, Cik Khairul Bariah Che Amat and Cik Sheerena from the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division attended the Media Conference as the ideal learning ground of execution of a press conference involving senior official at national level.

YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed informed the media that Malaysia recorded the highest trade of RM1.31 trillion compared with RM1.27 trillion in 2011. Meanwhile, the export rate increased by 0.6% to RM702.19 billion and the import rate increased by 5.9% to RM607.36 billion totaling to a trade surplus of RM94.83 billion for the 15th consecutive year of surplus since November 1997.

Expansion of trade was also recorded with Malaysia's main partners among others were with ASEAN, an increase of 8.2%; the People's Republic of China (PRC), increase of 8%; Australia, increase of 13.6%; India, increase of 7.3%; the United Arab Emirates (UAE), increase of 17.3%; and Republic of Korea (ROK), increase of 0.9%. While trade with Japan decreased by 1%; the European Union (EU), decreased by 2.4%; and the United States of America (USA), decreased by 2.8%.

The event concluded with a dialogue with YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, YBhg. Datuk Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria (Secretary General of MITI) and YBhg. Datuk Dr. Wong Lai Sum

(Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation). It was attended by media representatives, senior officers of government agencies and trade organisations as well as captains of industries.



Reported by: Khairul Bariah Che Amat
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

**VISIT BY PROFESSOR BAE GEUNG-CHAN, THE DIRECTOR OF THE
INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY (IFANS)
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**



Professor Bae Geung-Chan, the Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), Republic of Korea made a visit to IDFR on 20 February 2013. The Director was accompanied by the Mr Chong-Sul, the Second Secretary from the Republic of Korea (ROK) embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

Professor Bae Geung-Chan made a courtesy call on the Director General's office and discussed about the role and function of IDFR with YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Director General of IDFR and YBhg. Ambassador Aminah Tun Hj A. Karim, the Deputy Director General. After that, Professor Bae Geung-Chan was given a briefing by Mr Lim Juay Jin, the Director of Training and Miss Romaiza Abdul Rahman, the Senior Deputy Director of Training on training conducted at IDFR. Professor Bae Geung-Chan was very impressed with the variety and level of training especially on the areas of diplomacy and international relations. During the briefing, Professor Bae expressed his interest to have similar training to be conducted at IFANS. Professor Bae said he would share his knowledge and the information gained during the briefing with his officers at IFANS.

Reported by: Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff
Regional and Security Studies Division

SAY IT RIGHT



A course on Pronunciation Skills entitled 'Say It Right' was offered to government officers who saw the need to improve themselves. Twenty one participants registered for the three-day course from 4 - 6 February 2013.

Among the participants were officers from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Department of Islamic Religion Kuala Lumpur, Ministry of Commerce Terengganu, Ministry of Higher Education, and teachers from National schools in Kedah and Selangor.

The primary aim of the course is to develop clarity in speech which involves clear sounds of English, stress in words, sentences and intonation. It is hoped that through this course participants will be able to express themselves with greater confidence.



Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

INVITATION TO PRESENT LECTURES AT ISTEDOD FOUNDATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN TASHKENT, REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



An invitation to present lectures at ISTEDOD, Foundation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was extended to Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff (retired) Senior Deputy Director, Regional and Security Studies Division, IDFR. The invitation was to present lectures on Case Study – Methodology and Techniques, Crisis Management, Strategic Analysis, Leadership and Management and Media Handling to a group of university and college lecturers organized by ISTEDOD in Tashkent from 23 – 30 January 2013.

During the four-day lecture, Major Mohd Ridzuan gave lectures from 9.00am until 4.30pm to the academic group which comprised of five PhD holders, 17 Masters Degree holders and the rest had degrees in various academic background such as Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Chemistry, Public Relations and English Language. Out of the 45 people in the academic group, only 22 people could communicate in English. Thus, Major Mohd Ridzuan was ably assisted by an interpreter who translated most of the information in both Uzbek and Russian languages. All the participants had shown keen interest in the subjects delivered and they were very enthusiastic especially during the question and answer sessions. The participants were curious to know and learn how Case Study methodology was taught in Malaysia because according to the participants, it was different from the way the subject was taught in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Apart from delivering lectures in the classroom, Major Mohd Ridzuan was also interviewed by the local TV station who was interested to know about the methodology used by Malaysians in presenting Case Study methods and how he was invited to deliver lectures at ISTEDOD. On his final day of lectures at ISTEDOD, the lecture presented by Major Mohd Ridzuan was hooked on video conferencing to other universities and colleges in Tashkent, Samarqand and Bukhara. The academic fraternity in Tashkent was really interested and enjoyed thoroughly the lectures presented by Major Mohd Ridzuan.

The invitation to present lectures at ISTEDOD was a recognition to Major Mohd Ridzuan personally and also generally to IDFR for its outreach program in providing extensive lectures and quality courses to officers and institutions around the world. Indeed, IDFR had achieved a lot of recognition and acknowledgement in diplomacy and international relations.

Reported by: Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff
Regional and Security Studies Division

**FORUM ENTITLED MIDDLE EAST REVISITED: GEO STRATEGIC
IMPLICATIONS, DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE AND THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL (CASE OF EGYPT).**



Earlier this morning (31 January 2013), IDFR in collaboration with the Alumni Association of the Administrative and Diplomatic Officers (PTD Alumni), IDB Alumni Malaysia and the University of Southern California Alumni Association Malaysia (USC Alumni Association) organised a forum entitled *Middle East Revisited: Geo Strategic Implications, Democratic Transformation Challenge and the Economic Development Potential (Case of Egypt)*.

His Excellency Tun Datuk Seri Utama Mohd Khalil Yaakob, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka was the guest of honour at the event.

The forum commenced with welcoming remarks by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Director General and Opening Remarks by Tan Sri Dato' Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, President of the PTD Alumni. This was followed by the forum discussion moderated by Datuk Dr. Mohamed Ghazali Md. Noor, President of IDB Alumni Malaysia.

The speakers at the forum were Dr. Azmi Hassan, GeoStrategist, Institute of Geospatial and Perdana School, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; Dr. Farish A.Noor, IDFR's Distinguished Fellow and Associate Professor at Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University; and Dr. Ali Soliman, former CEO/MD, Islamic Corporation of the Development of Private Sector IDB Group and Professor at the British University of Egypt. Dr. Azmi Hassan spoke on *Geo Strategic Implications and Consequences of Post Arab Spring Middle East*; Dr. Farish Noor gave his viewpoint on *Democratic Transformation of Post Arab Spring Middle East-Challenge of Governance* and Dr. Ali Soliman elaborated on *Economic Development Potential (Case of Egypt)*.

A short but interesting question and answer session came at the end of the forum and five members of the floor took the opportunity to engage with the speakers. Approximately 150 participants attended the three-hour forum.



Reported by: Noraini Awang Nong
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

“EURO ZONE CRISIS: THE OUTLOOK FOR EUROPE IN 2013 AND ITS GLOBAL IMPACT”



A roundtable discussion on “Euro Zone Crisis: The Outlook for Europe in 2013 and Its Global Impact” was held on 29 January 2013 at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations. Prof. (FH) Dr. Anis Bajrektaravic who was a career diplomat and a well-known speaker among the academia gave a talk on the title.

Dr. Anis Bajrektaravic is not a new name to IDFR. He had visited IDFR in 2010 with a group of students undertaking a programme called “Business Focus ASEAN”. He is currently Chairman of the International Law and Global Political Studies at the University Of Applied Sciences of Krems, Austria. Among the numerous positions he holds include that of Advisory Board member of the Oxford Academy of Total Intelligence, the New York based GHIR (Geopolitical, History & International Relations) Journal; and, the Canada-based Geopolitics of Energy Journal.

In his talk, Dr Anis mentioned on the history of European Union (EU), EU economy, the crisis that has been challenging, recent developments in the EU on the future of the Union and its likely impact on the ASEAN region and the rest of the world.

The euro zone crisis arose out of the difficulty or inability of some members of the European Union to repay or refinance their sovereign debt without the assistance of third parties. Among the countries affected by the crisis include Greece, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus. However, of late, there have been some optimism coming out of the European Union with encouraging signs that the union would be able to turn the corner in reducing some of the more severe political, economic and social problems precipitated by the crisis.

With the political support of the more developed economies like Germany and France and the undertaking by the European Community Bank (ECB), to ease the debt burden of the debtor nations, the outlook for the EU, on the whole, appears to be getting much better today. Later, the roundtable discussion was ended with a question and answer session.

Reported by: Rafizah Zahri

Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

MAJLIS AMANAT KETUA SETIAUSAHA NEGARA TAHUN 2013



On 22 January 2013, representatives from the Institute Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) attended Majlis Amanat 2013 by the Chief Secretary to the Government, YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa. It was organised by the Prime Minister's Department at the Plenary Hall, Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC). This event was also attended by the Secretary Generals, Heads of Departments, civil servants and the media.

The programme started with opening remarks by YBhg. Datuk Othman bin Haji Mahmood, Senior Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Department and followed by the highlight of the event - the speech by YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa. He began by conveying his pleasure in meeting all the participants and expressed his gratitude as well as appreciation for their support and commitment in bringing Malaysia's Public Service to a higher level. YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa also stressed on the important role of Malaysian civil servants as the key pillar to the government administration. He also emphasised on the positive attitude that should be instilled in each public servant in order to encounter challenges and obstacles.

There were a few concepts explained by YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa in his address. He underlined the importance of 'thinking outside the box' to find solutions for a problem. Apart from that, he encouraged all the Heads of Departments to practice 'amalan turun padang' (going down to the ground) as a way to bring public service closer to the people. He urged all civil servants to optimise the usage of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to share positive thoughts and opinions about the government. He also pointed out the importance of public servants to be proactive in order to facilitate service to the public. In addition, the 'Blue Ocean Strategies' and 'breaking-the-silos' were also mentioned by him. The Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) and 1Malaysia one-call-centre (1MOCC) were introduced based on these strategies.

The event concluded with the launching of two books entitled, *Pengalaman Budaya Ketepatan dalam Gagasan 1 Malaysia: Transformasi ke Arah Pembentukan Negara Maju* by Nik Azis Nik Pa and *Buku Gagasan 1 Malaysia: Kreativiti dan Inovasi dalam Pembinaan Peradaban* by Mohd Yusof Haji Othman.



Reported by: Shereena Kamarulzaman (Intern)
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

VISIT OF THE DELEGATION FROM DEVAWONGSE VAROPAKARN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THAILAND



On 21 January 2013, IDFR had the privilege of receiving a delegation of sixty nine participants and three accompanying officials from the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs (DVIFA), Thailand. The visit was in reciprocity after a delegation from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) to DVIFA July last year. The visit was led by YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR and comprised of course participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2012.

YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari in his welcoming remarks expressed IDFR's pleasure of the blossoming relationship and is looking forward for further collaboration and experience-sharing with DVIFA. It was followed by a briefing on IDFR's background, roles and functions of each division in IDFR, core training programmes as well as other aspects of IDFR. The participants were then taken on a tour of IDFR to showcase the facilities and infrastructure for public lectures, seminars, roundtables and training programmes which are continuously being improved to provide a conducive learning environment.

The Language Division then conducted two training sessions – 'Sounds of English' and 'Grammar in English' to the participants. YBhg. Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR in her closing remarks conveyed IDFR's fervent hope that the visit had succeeded in enhancing relationship between the two institutes and DVIFA is always warmly welcome to visit IDFR again.

Reported by: Joyce Abraham
Language Division

A TALK ON FIRE SAFETY MEASURES



A talk on Fire Safety Measures by Mr. Jeff Tan from Safety Protection Academy was held on 18 January 2013 at IDFR's Auditorium. This educative talk was participated by all the staff in IDFR. The main objective of this talk was to create awareness to prevent and reduce the likelihood of fire that may result in death, injury and property damage.

In his talk, he introduced the types of fires and stressed on the essential fire prevention strategies that should be made available to every building. The prevention strategies include installing fire extinguishers and smoke detection systems in residential buildings. Apart from that, Mr. Jeff also mentioned on the do's and don'ts during fire emergencies.

Reported by: Shereena Kamarulzaman

Intern - Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND MEDIA SKILLS 1/2013



To start the New Year with a positive impact, the Training Division of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) had successfully organised the Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2013, from 14 to 17 January 2013. The Workshop received an encouraging turnout from officers in various ministries and agencies namely from SEARCCT, MATRADE, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Department (PMO), Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), Land Acquisition Section and IDFR. A total of 25 participants attended the Workshop.

With the increase of instant dissemination of information and response to the diverse situations, it is vital to remain relevant, accurate and adequate in handling challenging issues through public diplomacy. With that in mind, the Workshop was conducted to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills in handling the media in the context of public diplomacy and advocacy. It addresses conceptual and practical aspects of public diplomacy and media skills through specific topics such as Public Diplomacy, Cross-Cultural Understanding, the Role of Media in Public Diplomacy and Effective Media Relations. Hands-on training also was conducted through Press Conferences and Media Interviews to groom the participants with skills, techniques and sufficient tools in handling the media.

Reported by: Alina Murni Md Isa
Training Division

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MAJLIS AMANAT



On 14 January 2013, “Majlis Amanat Tahun Baru 2013” was held at IDFR’s Multipurpose Hall. This event was participated by all the staff. The main purpose of this auspicious ceremony was to enable YBhg. Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari to deliver his New Year message.

The two-hour programme started with opening remarks by Dr. Rosli Hj. Hassan, the Chairman of the Welfare Club followed by the Director General’s address. In his speech, Dato’ Ku Jaafar expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all the staff for their constant commitment and for elevating IDFR’s name which is now more prominent in international arena. He hoped that this new beginning will open a new chapter and create determination and spirit among IDFR’s staff. He also mentioned that everyone must fulfill the needs of stakeholders to continually improve IDFR in terms of training programmes, lectures, publication and infrastructure in tandem with IDFR’s mission and vision. Dato’ Ku Jaafar also briefly mentioned IDFR’s achievements in 2012. Apart from that, the emphasis of the speech was on the “Blue Ocean Strategy” (Reducing, Removing, Creating, and Increasing Opportunities) as a model in IDFR. Dato' Ku Jaafar concluded his address by stressing on the core values of IDFR which is “A.Z.A.N (Adherence, Zeal, Ability, and Nobleness) as well as reminding all to apply the principle of “hands on, minds on, hearts on and 'Surah Al-Rahman’”. The event continued with the presentation of a scroll containing the 2013 New Year Message and a calendar to representatives from each division.

The Director General then presented mementos to staff who recently left the IDFR family and to children of staff who achieved excellent results in the PMR exam. The memorable event which ended with refreshments created a New Year spirit and determination among the staff to bring IDFR to a higher level in the international relations and foreign affairs world.



Reported by: Shereena Kamarulzaman
Intern - Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

BENGKEL SISTEM PENGURUSAN ASET (SPA) - FASA 1

Bengkel Sistem Pengurusan Aset (SPA) telah diadakan pada 19 – 20 Disember 2013 di Makmal Komputer, Blok C, IDFR. Bengkel ini disampaikan oleh Puan Hanita Kassim dan Encik Hawari dari Kementerian Kewangan kepada 12 orang pegawai IDFR.

Matlamat bengkel ini diadakan bertujuan memberikan persediaan, pendedahan dan pengurusan rekod aset yang lebih terancang dan sistematik kepada pegawai yang bertanggungjawab menguruskan aset di IDFR. Turut diadakan sesi '*hands on*' penggunaan sistem tersebut oleh kesemua peserta yang hadir.

Majlis ditamatkan dengan ucapan penutup oleh Encik Nik Muhd Husbi Nik Daud, Timbalan Pengarah Seksyen Pentadbiran, Kewangan dan Sumber Manusia. Beliau mengharapka semua peserta mendapat pengetahuan yang lebih jelas bagi kaedah penggunaan sistem berkenaan dan mengguna pakai untuk pengisian data-data aset dan inventori di IDFR.

Dilaporkan oleh: Urusetia Bengkel SPA

Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

KONVENSYEN LATIHAN ISLAM PERINGKAT KEBANGSAAN KALI KE-2 TAHUN 2013

Institut Latihan Islam Malaysia (ILIM) telah menganjurkan Konvensyen Latihan Islam Malaysia Peringkat Kebangsaan kali yang ke-2 dengan menemukan para pengurus dan jurulatih institut latihan dari seluruh Malaysia pada 26 – 27 November 2013 bertempat di Dewan Datuk Mohd Shahir, ILIM. Konvensyen ini merupakan kesinambungan daripada konvensyen kali pertama yang diadakan pada 21–22 November 2012. Konvensyen yang dianjurkan bersama di antara ILIM dan Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM) adalah bertujuan memperkasakan kesepakatan strategik antara institusi latihan di Malaysia dari sudut untuk melahirkan dan memupuk generasi rabbani dalam perkhidmatan awam. Pihak IDFR telah diwakili oleh Puan Kamariah Jaafar, Timbalan Pengarah Perpustakaan dan Puan Zaiza Haji Ali, Timbalan Pengarah ICT.

YBhg. Tuan Hj. Razali bin Shahabudin, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Pembangunan Insan), JAKIM menyampaikan ucpatama bertajuk 'Latihan Islam Asas melahirkan Generasi Rabbani Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam di Malaysia' dan seterusnya merasmikan konvensyen tersebut. Semasa sesi ini juga YBhg. Tuan Hj. Razali bin Shahabudin merasmikan pelancaran Buku 'Latihan Islam Di Malaysia Suatu Pengenalan', terbitan ILIM.

Sebanyak lapan (8) kertas kerja dibentangkan untuk tempoh dua (2) hari konvensyen tersebut, iaitu:

1. Personaliti Rabbani: Menjana Warga Kerja Cemerlang - Prof. Madya Dr. Hasnan Kasan (UKM);
2. Model Latihan Membangun Personaliti Rabbani di Pusat Latihan Islam – Ustaz Jaafar Muhammad (YaPIEM);
3. Pendidikan Dewasa Dalam Islam: Cabaran Pelaksanaannya di dalam Latihan Islam – Encik Abdul Jalil Saad (*Protege Management Services*);
4. Inovasi Kreatif Dalam Latihan Islam – Encik Mahadi Mohamad (ILIM);
5. Badan Akreditasi Latihan Islam Pertama di Dunia: Suatu Harapan – Dr. Muhammad Yamin Ismail (ILIM);
6. Standard Murabbi: Kelayakan dan Latihan Yang Mesti Dipatuhi – Encik Muhammad Zamri Mohamed Shapik (ILIM);
7. Sistem Kawalan Standard Latihan Islam (SLIM): Ke arah Kualiti Latihan Bertaraf Antarabangsa – Dr. Nordin Ahmad; dan
8. Keberkesanan Kaedah-Kaedah Penilaian: Asas Mengangkasakan Latihan Islam di Malaysia – Prof. Madya Dr. Nik Mohd Rahimi Nik Yusoff (UKM).

Hasil konvensyen dua hari tersebut, para peserta telah mempersetujui satu draf resolusi yang disampaikan oleh Dr. Muhammad Yamin Ismail semasa sidang pleno dan pembentangan resolusi tersebut. Draf resolusi memberikan penekanan kepada lima (5) aspek utama, iaitu:

1. Personaliti Rabbani – melahirkan jurulatih di kalangan penjawat awam yang mengabungkan pengetahuan, kemahiran dan aspek kerohanian.
2. Penubuhan Badan Akreditasi Latihan Islam – badan ini berperanan untuk menilai dan mengiktirafkan sesebuah institut latihan adalah ‘patuh syariah’.
3. Standard Latihan Islam – menggunakan model latihan Islam kepada para peserta dengan pendekatan sunnah, sains dan seni untuk melahirkan generasi berkompentensi tinggi dan berintegriti luhur.
4. Pengawalan ke atas standard latihan Islam – satu sistem kawalan standard Latihan Islam akan dihasilkan sebagai tanda aras dalam memastikan perkara bilangan 1 – 3 dapat dijayakan.
5. Am – resolusi ini akan disyorkan melalui persidangan ketua-ketua jabatan yang bernaung di bawah *One Malaysia Training Center* (1MTC).

Konvensyen berakhir dengan majlis penutupan konvensyen yang disempurnakan oleh YBhg. Hajjah Pauzaiyah Haron, Ketua Pengarah ILIM.

Dilaporkan oleh: Zaiza Haji Ali

Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

KOLOKIUUM BERSAMA IDFR - UITM: MELESTARIKAN PROFESIONAL PERPUSTAKAAN DAN SAINS MAKLUMAT

Satu kolokium anjuran bersama Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDFR) dan Fakulti Pengurusan Maklumat (FPM), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) bertajuk “Kolokium Melestarikan Profesional Perpustakaan dan Sains Maklumat” telah diadakan pada 25 November 2013 di IDFR. Idea kerjasama ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan prestasi perpustakaan, meningkatkan amalan yang dapat memastikan kemampanan profesional perpustakaan, melengkapkan para pelajar dengan medium dan kemahiran yang diperlukan untuk memenuhi perubahan persekitaran yang semakin berkembang dan menjalankan satu program sebagai salah satu inisiatif untuk menghasilkan profesional maklumat yang cekap dan lestari.

Kolokium ini dimulakan dengan ucapan alu-aluan oleh Prof. Madya Dr. Norasiah Hj. Harun, Timbalan Dekan (Akademik), FPM, UiTM dengan disusuli uapptama dan perasmian oleh YBhg. Ambassador Aminah Hj A. Karim, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah, IDFR.

Sebanyak empat (4) kertas kerja telah dibentangkan seperti berikut:

- i. Keperluan Baru dan Cabaran Profesion Maklumat oleh Encik Dahlan Samad, Pengarah Pembangunan Sumber Manusia, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia;
- ii. Kreativiti dan Inovasi oleh Tuan Haji Azizi Jantan, Pustakawan Kanan Jabatan Perancangan Strategik, Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak, UiTM;
- iii. Alat dan Teknologi oleh Cik Sharifah Fahimah Saiyed Yeop, Eksekutif Kanan Sistem, IP, Hakcipta dan Pengurusan Rekod (KMU) Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS; dan
- iv. Kemahiran dan Kompetensi oleh Puan Kamariah Jaafar, Timbalan Pengarah Perpustakaan IDFR.

Kolokium ini dihadiri oleh pelajar-pelajar tahun akhir dan pensyarah dari FPM, UiTM, para undangan yang terdiri daripada pustakawan dari pelbagai agensi termasuk Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia (BERNAMA), Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) serta pegawai dan kakitangan IDFR.

Dilaporkan oleh: Nor Azura Mior Daud
Seksyen Perpustakaan, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

SESI *SIGN OFF* PROJEK PEMBANGUNAN PELAN STRATEGIK TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT (ISP) IDFR 2013-2015

Sesi *Sign Off* Projek Pembangunan Pelan Strategik Teknologi Maklumat (ISP), IDFR telah berlangsung pada 30 September 2013 di Bilik Eksekutif, Blok A, IDFR. Sesi ini diadakan semasa Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pembangunan ISP (JKPISP) IDFR Bilangan 4/2013 yang dipengerusikan oleh YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Pengarah Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat, merangkap Pengarah Projek ISP IDFR. Turut hadir adalah YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman Ketua, Pasukan Perunding ISP MAMPU dan Encik Faizal Abu Kassim ahli Pasukan Perunding ICT Sektor Awam, MAMPU serta ahli Jawatankuasa ISP IDFR.

Dalam ucapan aluannya, YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob menjelaskan bahawa ISP IDFR telah dibangunkan dengan kerjasama pihak MAMPU dalam tempoh enam (6) bulan bermula Mac hingga September 2013 dan merupakan dokumen yang membentangkan peranan strategik ICT dalam menyokong dan memperluaskan fungsi-fungsi IDFR. Dokumen ISP ini juga adalah *Blueprint* ICT IDFR untuk tempoh 2013-2015, yang bakal dilaksanakan berdasarkan pelan tindakan ICT dalam pelbagai bentuk program dan aktiviti. Sepanjang tempoh pembangunan sebanyak tiga (3) masing-masing bagi bengkel dan Mesyuarat JKPISP diadakan supaya idea dan cadangan para peserta dimurnikan semula serta mendapat persetujuan ahli jawatankuasa. Beliau turut menyarankan agar projek-projek yang dirancang pada tahun 2013 dapat dilaksanakan dengan jayanya sebagaimana KPI yang ditetapkan, iaitu:

- Penambahbaikan Laman Web IDFR;
- Migrasi Rangkaian 1Gov*Net;
- Laporan Kajian Keperluan Pekakasan dan Perisian ICT;
- Penyediaan Pelan Latihan ICT 2013-2015;
- Kehadiran Kursus ICT; dan
- Penyebaran Info ICT melalui e-mel.

Selepas ucapan aluan YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, disusuli pula dengan sesi perbincangan bagi perkara-perkara berbangkit dengan merujuk kepada minit mesyuarat, pembentangan status pelaksanaan dan deraf akhir penulisan ISP yang disampaikan oleh Puan Zaiza Haji Ali, Pengurus Projek ISP, IDFR.

Sebelum Sesi *Sign Off* diadakan, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman telah memperjelaskan tentang skop yang selesai dilaksanakan oleh pasukan mereka, iaitu memberi khidmat perundingan secara *handholding* dan *coaching* bagi aktiviti berikut:

1. Menetapkan Visi, Misi, Teras Strategik ICT, Strategi ICT;
2. Membangunkan Pelan Tindakan ICT yang mengandungi maklumat:
program, aktiviti, sasaran/objektif, faktor kejayaan kritikal, tempoh masa, pemilik program dan petunjuk prestasi utama (KPI);
3. Membuat anggaran kos dan cadangan pelan pelaksanaan; dan

4. Membantu penulisan dokumen Pelan Strategik ICT.

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman turut menasihati agar pelan tindakan ICT yang dibangunkan tersebut dapat dilaksanakan dalam tempoh yang ditetapkan dan dijadikan sebagai asas dalam memohon sebarang peruntukan projek ICT bagi tempoh 2013-2015. Sesi *Sign Off* selesai apabila kedua-dua pihak, iaitu IDFR diwakili oleh Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob dan MAMPU diwakili oleh Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman menandatangani Borang *Sign Off* Projek Khidmat Perundingan yang menandakan khidmat perundingan ISP oleh pihak MAMPU kepada pihak IDFR berakhir.

Sebagai penutup mesyuarat, YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob yang mewakili pihak IDFR telah merakamkan ucapan setinggi-tinggi tahniah dan syabas di atas komitmen, masa dan tenaga yang dicurahkan untuk merealisasikan ISP IDFR kepada kesemua ahli JKPIISP, IDFR. Ucapan terima kasih juga disampaikan kepada Pasukan Perunding ISP, MAMPU di atas khidmat bimbingan dan perundingan sepanjang projek tersebut berlangsung.

Disediakan oleh: Pegawai Pengurusan Projek (PMO) ISP, IDFR
Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

BENGKEL PELAN STRATEGIK ICT (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015 (SIRI 3)

Bengkel Pelan Strategik ICT (ISP), IDFR, 2013 – 2015 (Siri 3) telah diadakan dengan jayanya pada 9 hingga 10 September 2013 di Melaka. Bengkel tersebut telah dirasmikan oleh YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Pengarah Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat, merangkap Pengarah Projek Jawatankuasa Pembangunan ISP, IDFR 2013 – 2015 dan telah dihadiri oleh seramai 13 orang peserta terdiri dari pegawai-pegawai IDFR yang mewakili Bahagian masing-masing. Perunding ISP MAMPU yang diketuai oleh YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman dan dibantu oleh Puan Sukhaila Angsor telah turut diundang untuk mengendalikan bengkel dua (2) hari tersebut.

Bengkel ISP ini adalah kesinambungan daripada Bengkel ISP (Siri 2) dan juga bengkel terakhir dalam fasa pembangunan ISP, IDFR dengan objektif utamanya adalah seperti berikut:

- Menambahbaik/mengemaskinikan deraf penulisan ISP mengikut bab oleh setiap kumpulan;
- Menyemak deraf penulisan ISP antara ahli kumpulan secara *cross checking*; dan
- Memurnikan deraf dokumen ISP untuk dibukukan.

Penekanan yang diberikan semasa bengkel ini adalah proses penambahbaikan dan pemurnian ke atas deraf dokumen ISP yang terdiri daripada tujuh (7) bab utama dan satu bab Ringkasan Eksekutif. Secara keseluruhannya, pihak Pasukan Perunding ISP, MAMPU membuat rumusan bahawa deraf dokumen tersebut telah mencapai tahap 90% siap. Proses pengemaskinian deraf penulisan oleh pihak Pegawai Pengurusan Projek (PMO) dan semakan oleh pihak Pasukan Perunding ISP, MAMPU akan dilaksanakan dalam tempoh tiga (3) minggu, dan disusuli dengan Majlis *Sign Off* Projek Pembangunan ISP di antara pihak IDFR dengan MAMPU, yang dijangka diadakan pada 30 September 2013.

Dilaporkan oleh: Pegawai Pengurusan Projek (PMO) ISP, IDFR
Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

TAKLIMAT DATA ASAS SISTEM PENGURUSAN ASET (SPA)

Taklimat Data Asas Sistem Pengurusan Aset (SPA) telah diadakan pada 25 September 2013 di Makmal Komputer, Blok C, IDFR. Taklimat telah disampaikan oleh Puan Nurul Syuhada Samsu, Pegawai Teknologi Maklumat dari Bahagian Kawalan dan Pemantauan, Perbendaharaan Malaysia kepada 12 orang pegawai IDFR.

Tujuan utama taklimat ini adalah untuk memberikan penerangan terperinci berkaitan sistem dan maklumat data asas yang diperlukan dalam melaksanakan SPA. Antara maklumat asas yang ditekankan oleh beliau semasa penyampaian taklimat tersebut adalah keperluan mengenai perkara berikut:

1. Maklumat Carta Organisasi IDFR
2. Maklumat Bahagian dan Kod PTJ
3. Maklumat Kakitangan
4. Maklumat Kod Lokasi

Pada sebelah petangnya, diadakan sesi pengisian maklumat kod lokasi binaan atau bangunan ke dalam templat berdasarkan Daftar Aset Khusus (DAK) IDFR yang telah direkodkan dalam MySPATA oleh para peserta yang hadir. Pihak IDFR berharap agar SPA dapat digunakan sepenuhnya di IDFR bermula pertengahan Oktober 2013.

Dilaporkan oleh: Nik Muhd Hasbi Nik Daud
Seksyen Pentabiran, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

**PROGRAM LAWATAN SAMBIL BELAJAR KE SABAH, PROGRAM SARJANA
SAINS SOSIAL (STRATEGI DAN DIPLOMASI) SESI 2012/2013, INSTITUT
DIPLOMASI DAN HUBUNGAN LUAR NEGERI**

Program lawatan sambil belajar ke Sabah yang telah dirancang akhirnya dapat dilaksanakan dengan jayanya dari 20 hingga 23 Ogos 2013 melibatkan 5 pelajar Program Sarjana. Rombongan tersebut diketuai oleh YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Pengarah Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat dan turut disertai oleh beberapa pegawai IDFR dan Pensyarah UKM. Tujuan utama lawatan ini adalah untuk membawa pelajar-pelajar ke Ibu pejabat Kawasan Keselamatan Khas Pantai Timur Sabah (ESSCOM) bagi mendedahkan mereka kepada latar belakang dan isu insiden keganasan di Lahad Datu serta strategi yang dilaksanakan bagi menangani insiden ini.

Pada 21 Ogos 2013, peserta dibawa ke ESSCOM yang terletak di Lahad Datu, dan mereka telah diberi taklimat oleh DCP Datuk Ahmad Nadzer Nordin, Pengarah Bahagian Perisikan Keselamatan mengenai peranan pewujudan ESSCOM dan cabaran-cabaran yang dihadapi organisasi berkenaan bagi memastikan keselamatan perairan negeri terjamin berikutan insiden pencerobohan pengganas di Lahad Datu. Justeru itu, kewujudan ESSCOM di Sabah juga diyakini mampu mencapai matlamatnya untuk mengembalikan semula ketenteraman dan merancakkan semula kegiatan ekonomi di negeri Sabah. Peserta juga dibawa melawat perkampungan air Kampung Puyut untuk melihat sendiri cara hidup masyarakat di situ.

Keesokan harinya pula, peserta berpeluang merasai pengalaman kembara ke Taman Kinabalu yang merupakan Tapak Warisan Dunia UNESCO. Di sini peserta dapat menghayati keajaiban beribu-ribu spesies flora dan fauna. Peserta juga dibawa ke Air Panas Poring di mana mereka boleh merendamkan diri ke dalam air panas (sulfurik) untuk kesegaran. Air ini dipercayai boleh menjadikan kulit lebih cerah dan memulihkan penyakit kulit. Di Poring, peserta turut merasai pengalaman melintasi Laluan Kanopi setinggi 41 meter sambil menghayati pemandangan kanopi Hutan Borneo Flora.

Rombongan tersebut telah berangkat pulang ke Kuala Lumpur pada 23 Ogos 2013 dan selamat tiba di IDFR pada jam 2.00 petang.

Dilaporkan oleh: Zuraida Zainol
Bahagian Pengajian Serantau dan Sekuriti

MAJLIS IFTAR

Majlis iftar Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri telah berjaya diadakan di Dewan Serbaguna IDFR pada 1 Ogos 2013. Majlis iftar yang penuh meriah itu dianjurkan oleh Kelab Kebajikan IDFR.

Majlis dimulakan dengan ucapan alu-aluan oleh Dr. Rosli Hj. Hassan selaku Pengerusi Kelab Kebajikan IDFR diikuti ucapan Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Ketua Pengarah IDFR.

Guru Bahasa Sepanyol IDFR, Señor Arifin Gutierrez Abdullah kemudiannya memberi tazkirah di mana beliau berkongsi pengalaman peribadinya semasa pertama kali mengenali agama Islam dan bagaimana beliau kemudiannya menjadi seorang penganut agama Islam.

YBhg. Ambassador Aminah Hajji A. Karim, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah IDFR, Pengarah-pengarah, pegawai-pegawai dan kakitangan dari semua bahagian hadir di majlis tersebut bersama-sama peserta-peserta dari program Master dan *Diploma in Diplomacy* (DID). Majlis iftar itu dimeriahkan lagi dengan kehadiran ahli keluarga warga IDFR.

Laungan Azan telah menandakan masuknya waktu iftar. Setelah menikmati hidangan buah kurma, kuih-muih dan minuman yang disediakan, semua hadirin yang beragama Islam berkumpul untuk solat Maghrib yang diketuai oleh Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari sendiri. Majlis diteruskan dengan juadah makan malam. Para hadirin menjamu selera dengan menu utamanya nasi briyani dan pelbagai hidangan sampingan seperti sate, murtabak, dan roti jala yang disumbangkan oleh semua bahagian.

Selepas solat Isyak dan Tarawikh, majlis iftar yang penuh meriah itu diakhiri dengan sesi Moreh.

Dilaporkan oleh: Logini Sreedharan
Intern daripada Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM),
Bahagian Akademik, Penerbitan dan Penyelidikan

BENGKEL PELAN STRATEGIK ICT (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015 (SIRI 2)

Seksyen Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (ICT) telah mengendalikan Bengkel Pelan Strategik ICT (ISP) IDFR, 2013 – 2015 (Siri 2) pada 27 hingga 29 Jun 2013, bertempat di Berjaya Hills Golf & Country Club, Bukit Tinggi, Pahang.

Bengkel tersebut dirasmikan oleh YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Ketua Pengarah IDFR, merupakan kesinambungan daripada Bengkel ISP (Siri 1) yang diadakan pada 7 hingga 8 Mei 2013. Bengkel tiga hari tersebut dihadiri oleh dua puluh enam (26) pegawai dari semua Bahagian di IDFR dan dibantu oleh dua (2) wakil daripada Pasukan Perunding ISP MAMPU iaitu YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman dan Puan Sukhaila Angsor yang bertindak sebagai fasilitator bengkel. Objektif bengkel diadakan adalah:

- i. Menenal pasti dan menyenaraikan inisiatif dan program ICT;
- ii. Menenal pasti dan merancang pelan tindakan ICT; dan
- iii. Membuat anggaran kos dan prioriti program ICT.

Bengkel tersebut berjaya mengumpul dan menghasilkan input-input yang diperlukan dalam pembangunan pelan strategik ICT di antaranya pelan tindakan, anggaran kos program yang bakal dilaksanakan dan prioriti sesuatu program.

Secara keseluruhannya, kerjasama dan komitmen yang padu daripada semua peserta terutamanya bagi sesi perbincangan dan pembentangan kumpulan amat memuaskan. Bengkel ISP (Siri 3) dirancang diadakan pada Ogos 2013.

Dilaporkan oleh: Badriyah Johari
Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

SEMINAR TRANSFORMASI, INOVASI DAN KREATIVITI DI PERPUSTAKAAN

Jawatankuasa Tetap Perpustakaan Khusus, Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia (PPM) dengan kerjasama Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDFR) telah menganjurkan Seminar Transformasi, Inovasi dan Kreativiti di Perpustakaan pada 8 Julai 2013 bertempat di Auditorium IDFR.

Seminar ini bertujuan untuk berkongsi maklumat dan pengalaman mengenai amalan terbaik yang melibatkan transformasi, inovasi dan kreativiti di perpustakaan bagi memantapkan lagi sistem penyampaian perpustakaan.

Seminar ini telah dirasmikan oleh YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Ketua Pengarah IDFR. Berucap ketika merasmikan seminar berkenaan, beliau menegaskan Pustakawan perlu menjadi lebih kreatif dan inovatif dalam merencana program-program bagi keberkesanan perkhidmatan perpustakaan masing-masing. Turut hadir di majlis berkenaan adalah Yang DiPertua PPM, Profesor Madya, Dr. Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad.

Sebanyak 4 buah kertas kerja telah dibentangkan oleh Pustakawan yang cemerlang dan berpengalaman dalam mentransformasikan perpustakaan masing-masing seperti berikut:

- i. Transformasi, inovasi dan kreativiti di Pusat Sumber Petroleum oleh En. Azhar M. Noor, Ketua Pustakawan PETRONAS;
- ii. Transformasi, inovasi dan kreativiti di Perpustakaan Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra oleh Pn. Mazmin M. Akhir, Ketua Pustakawan Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP);
- iii. Transformasi, inovasi dan kreativiti di Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Pulau Pinang oleh Pn. Shukriah Hj. Yon, Pengarah Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Pulau Pinang; dan
- iv. Transformasi, inovasi dan kreativiti di Perpustakaan Universiti Terbuka Malaysia (OUM) oleh En. Shahril Effendi Ibrahim, Pustakawan Kanan OUM.

Seminar ini telah dihadiri oleh 83 Pustakawan dan petugas perpustakaan daripada seluruh Malaysia.

Dilaporkan oleh: Kamariah Jaafar

Seksyen Perpustakaan, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

KONVENSYEN PERPUSTAKAAN SEMALAYSIA 2013

Konvensyen Perpustakaan SeMalaysia 2013 telah diadakan dengan jayanya pada 4 Julai 2013 bertempat di Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN), Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur. Objektif konvensyen ini adalah untuk meningkatkan kesedaran dalam kalangan warga pustakawan berkaitan pembangunan dan perkembangan perpustakaan di Malaysia, menyediakan ruang untuk mereka berkongsi ilmu tentang peranan yang perlu dimainkan secara keseluruhan dan mengangkat peranan perpustakaan agar terus relevan dalam pembangunan negara.

Konvensyen yang dianjurkan oleh Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia dengan kerjasama Kementerian Pelancongan dan Kebudayaan Malaysia dengan tema 'Merakyatkan Ilmu, Memartabatkan Perpustakaan' ini telah dirasmikan oleh YBhg. Dato' Dr. Ismail Alias, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam (Operasi).

Dalam ucapan beliau, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Ismail Alias berkata 'Strategi Lautan Biru' atau kolaborasi dengan pelbagai pihak, mampu menjana minda dan kreativiti lebih dinamik sekali gus memenuhi harapan semasa masyarakat yang sentiasa mahukan maklumat dengan cepat di hujung jari. Di samping itu, perpustakaan di negara ini juga perlu diremajakan agar kekal relevan di mata masyarakat sejajar dengan arus fenomena global yang menuntut transformasi menyeluruh dan berstruktur.

Konvensyen sehari ini telah dihadiri 400 pustakawan dan melibatkan empat sesi forum dan pembentangan kertas kerja berkaitan perkembangan semasa serta cabaran dalam memperkasa institusi perpustakaan di negara ini. Majlis penutup telah dilaksanakan oleh YBhg. Dato' Raslin Abu Bakar, Ketua Pengarah Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia. IDFR telah diwakili oleh Cik Nor Azura Mior Daud, Penolong Pengarah Perpustakaan IDFR.

Dilaporkan oleh: Nor Azura Mior Daud

Seksyen Perpustakaan, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

LAWATAN MENTERI PERKHIDMATAN AWAM DAN INSURANS, REPUBLIK YEMEN KE IDFR

Pada hari Khamis, 20 Jun 2013, Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDFR) diberi penghormatan untuk menyambut kedatangan Encik Nabil Abdul Shamsan, Menteri Perkhidmatan Awam dan Insurans, Republik Yemen yang pertama kali melawat Institut ini. Beliau disambut oleh YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Ketua Pengarah IDFR dan Pengarah-Pengarah Bahagian yang lain.

Satu mesyuarat telah diadakan di Bilik Mesyuarat Eksekutif di antara delegasi dari Yemen dengan para pengarah dan pengawai IDFR.

Selepas itu, Encik Nabil Abdul Shamsan dibawa melihat kemudahan-kemudahan di Institut ini. Beliau turut melawat para peserta program *Crisis Management* di dalam kelas.

Pada akhir lawatan, Dato' Ku Jaafar dan Encik Nabil Abdul Shamsan telah bertukar cenderamata.

Dilaporkan oleh: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Pelatih Indsutri dari Universiti Tun Abdul Razak

Diterjemahkan oleh: Aida Hanim Shoib
Bahagian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan

MESYUARAT *KICK OFF* BAGI PELAN STRATEGIK ICT (ISP), IDFR 2013 – 2015

Seksyen Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (ICT), Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDFR) telah mengadakan Mesyuarat *Kick Off* Pelan Strategik ICT (ISP) IDFR, 2013-2015 pada 14 Jun 2013, bertempat di Bilik Kuliah 205, Blok A.

YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Pengarah Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat, merangkap Pengarah Projek Jawatankuasa Pembangunan ISP, IDFR, memulakan mesyuarat. Diikuti dengan ceramah oleh YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zahari Othman, Ketua Perunding ISP, MAMPU. Beliau memaklumkan mengenai definisi bagi perkara-perkara asas projek ISP dan aktiviti perancangan ISP serta tindakan selanjutnya yang perlu dilaksanakan oleh pasukan projek ISP.

Pihak Perunding ISP, MAMPU menyertai pada pertengahan pelaksanaan projek ISP, disebabkan pada fasa pertama, ISP IDFR dibangunkan secara dalaman. Semasa mesyuarat satu jam dan 15 minit ini, turut diadakan penerangan oleh Puan Zaiza Haji Ali, Timbalan Pengarah ICT. Beliau menjelaskan mengenai status kemajuan proses pelaksanaan ISP, IDFR.

Dilaporkan oleh: Pegawai Pengurusan Projek (PMO) ISP, IDFR
Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

FORUM PERDANA EHWAL ISLAM

Pada Rabu, 13 Jun 2013, Kementerian Pelancongan dan Kebudayaan telah menjadi tuan rumah kepada Forum Perdana Ehwal Islam bertemakan Pelancongan dari Perspektif Islam bertempat di Dewan Serbaguna Institut ini.

Objektif forum diadakan adalah bagi meningkatkan pengetahuan rakyat Malaysia tentang konsep pelancongan dari perspektif Islam dan mewujudkan kesedaran tentang peranan mereka dalam menjayakan kempen Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2014. Forum tersebut dipengerusikan oleh Dr. Ridhuan Tee Abdullah dari Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM).

Penceramah bagi sesi pertama yang bertajuk *We are the Host* ialah Prof. Madya Dr. Syarifah Hayati Syed Ismail dari Universiti Malaya (UM), Dato' Hj. Mohd Ayub Hassan, Presiden Persatuan Agensi-Agensi Pelancongan dan Pengembaraan Bumiputera Malaysia (BUMITRA) dan Dato' Hj. Azizan Noordin, Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Penggalakan Pelancongan Malaysia (*Tourism Malaysia*).

Sesi tersebut merangkumi kepentingan menyambut kedatangan pelancong ke negara kita dalam usaha untuk menarik lebih ramai lagi untuk datang melawat, dengan menyelitkan nilai-nilai dan prinsip-prinsip keIslaman. Menurut Dato' Hj. Azizan, Kementerian Pelancongan bercadang untuk menawarkan kursus bagi para pekerja yang terlibat dalam sektor pelancongan, dalam usaha meningkatkan kemahiran mereka menyambut kedatangan pelancong. Beliau turut menyatakan bahawa program *Homestay* adalah salah satu medium lain untuk mempromosi makanan tradisional dan adat resam kita. Beliau mencadangkan agar rakyat Malaysia bersatu dan bekerjasama dalam memaparkan keunikan negara kita yang berbilang kaum melalui acara-acara persembahan.

Sesi kedua bertajuk *Semua Allah Punya* dan penceramahnya adalah Dr. Zahazan Mohamed, seorang personaliti televisyen, Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Kadir Haji Din, Penasihat Pusat Pelancongan Islam (ITC) dan Dato' Mohd. Khalid Harun, Presiden Persatuan Ejen-Ejen Pelancongan dan Pengembaraan Malaysia (MATTA). Sesi tersebut menekankan cara menghargai persekitaran kita, dan kebersihan gerai-gerai makanan dan institusi.

Para penceramah tersebut berkongsi pandangan yang sama dalam meningkatkan kebersihan kemudahan dan menangani masalah pembaziran di Malaysia, yang akan membantu meningkatkan kadar kemasukan pelancong.

Forum tersebut telah dirakam oleh Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), yang merupakan penganjur bersama. Tarikh dan masa untuk siaran masih belum ditetapkan.

Dilaporkan oleh: Syahrul Nizzam Nordin

Pelatih Industri dari Universiti Tun Abdul Razak

Diterjemahkan oleh: Aida Hanim Shuib

Bahagian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan

MAKMAL DAFTAR ASET KHUSUS (DAK) BAGI ASET TAK ALIH KERAJAAN KEMENTERIAN LUAR NEGERI

Satu makmal berkaitan pendaftaran aset khusus di IDFR telah dianjurkan pada 12-14 Jun 2013 oleh Urusetia Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Aset Kerajaan (JKPAK), Kementerian Luar Negeri (KLN). Penganjuran makmal ini bertujuan memberikan pendedahan terhadap proses mengumpul dan pendaftaran maklumat aset tak alih Kerajaan, mendapatkan maklum balas berkaitan isu-isu pengurusan dan pendaftaran aset tak alih serta pemahaman terhadap penggunaan Sistem Pengurusan Aset Tak Alih atau mySPATA.

Makmal tersebut dirasmikan oleh Encik Zakri Jaafar, Setiausaha Bahagian Pembangunan KLN dan dihadiri seramai lima belas (15) orang peserta. Sepanjang bengkel tersebut, para peserta diberi penjelasan tentang peranan dan tanggungjawab yang perlu dilakukan oleh setiap peringkat pengguna serta memahami ciri-ciri sistem yang terdapat dalam mySPATA merangkumi keperluan penggunaan kod yang seragam bagi pengurusan aset tak alih kerajaan di samping pengetahuan mengenai konsep, struktur kod aset tak alih, perkaitan daftar aset dan kepentingannya. Makmal tersebut dikendalikan oleh dua orang pegawai dari Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) iaitu Encik Nazrul Izham Bisnan dan Encik Zamzuri Mohammad.

Kesemua aset khusus tersebut yang berada dalam negara perlu diselesaikan pendaftarannya menerusi mySPATA pada akhir bulan Jun 2013.

Dilaporkan oleh: Nik Muhd Hasbi Nik Daud
Seksyen Pentabiran, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

LAWATAN PERTAMA TIMBALAN MENTERI LUAR NEGERI KE IDFR

YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Timbalan Menteri Luar Negeri telah mengadakan lawatan pertama beliau ke IDFR semalam, 10 Jun 2013. Beliau disambut oleh YBhg. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Ketua Pengarah IDFR, Pengarah setiap bahagian, penjawat awam Institut serta para peserta program *Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2/2013*. Perjumpaan dengan Timbalan Menteri Luar itu sangat dinanti-nanti kerana ia merupakan yang pertama dengan beliau.

Satu taklimat juga telah dijalankan mengenai aktiviti, acara dan program akan datang di IDFR. Dato' Hamzah memuji nilai-nilai asas dan matlamat Institut ini untuk menganjurkan latihan, penyelidikan dan penerbitan dalam bidang diplomasi dan hubungan luar, bukan sahaja di peringkat kebangsaan tetapi juga di peringkat antarabangsa. Beliau turut melahirkan pandangan agar Institut ini dapat berkembang dengan lebih meluas melalui Program Kerjasama Teknikal Malaysia (MTCP) dan dengan kerjasama Institusi dan kumpulan pemikir dalam bidang diplomasi. Dato' Hamzah kemudian telah dibawa melawat kemudahan yang ada di Institut ini.

Pertemuan dengan Timbalan Menteri Luar Negeri yang baru itu merupakan satu pengalaman yang amat mengujakan. Saya mengambil kira pelbagai aspek persediaan – pakaian, isyarat badan, sebutan – seperti mereka yang lain juga kerana ia melambangkan imej Institut ini.

Dilaporkan oleh Syahrul Nizzam Nordin
Praktikal dari Universiti Tun Abdul Razak

Diterjemah oleh Aida Hanim Shoib
Bahagian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan

PERHIMPUNAN BULANAN BERSAMA-SAMA MENTERI DAN TIMBALAN MENTERI KEMENTERIAN LUAR NEGERI

Perhimpunan bulanan Wisma Putra untuk bulan Jun diadakan di Dewan Serbaguna Wisma Putra pada 6 Jun 2013. Timbalan Menteri Luar Negeri, pegawai-pegawai kanan, ketua-ketua jabatan, pegawai-pegawai serta kakitangan Kementerian telah menghadiri perhimpunan tersebut. Perhimpunan dimulakan dengan bacaan doa, ikrar perkhidmatan awam oleh kesemua yang hadir, nyanyian Lagu Kebangsaan dan Wisma Putra. Seterusnya, penyampaian amanat oleh Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Menteri Luar Negeri.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman telah menyampaikan penghargaan kepada Perdana Menteri di atas kepercayaan sekali lagi kepada beliau untuk menerajui Kementerian Luar Negeri selepas Pilihan Raya Umum ke-13. Menteri Luar Negeri juga mengucapkan tahniah dan mengalu-alukan Timbalan Menteri Luar Negeri yang baru, Yang Berhormat Dato' Hamzah bin Zainudin. Beliau melahirkan harapan agar semua kakitangan Wisma Putra dapat mengekalkan ketekunan dan semangat bekerja keras sebagaimana yang telah ditunjukkan pada tahun-tahun sebelumnya dan juga untuk terus meningkatkan kemahiran, pengetahuan dan sikap untuk bertindak secara proaktif dan responsif terhadap permintaan yang semakin meningkat daripada para *stakeholder* dan pelanggan.

Perhimpunan itu berakhir dengan penyampian Sijil Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang kepada penerima-penerima anugerah dan jamuan ringan.

Kredit foto dari: Wisma Putra

PERSIDANGAN KESELAMATAN ICT SEKTOR AWAM 2013

Persidangan Keselamatan ICT Sektor Awam telah diadakan dengan jayanya pada 23 Mei 2013 di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC). Persidangan ini dianjurkan oleh Unit Pemodenan Tadbiran dan Perancangan Pengurusan Malaysia (MAMPU) dengan tema “*Security Beyond Minds*” dan dirasmikan oleh YBhg. Dato’ Dr. Nor Aliah Mohd Zahri, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (ICT), MAMPU merangkap Ketua Pegawai Maklumat (CIO) Kerajaan Malaysia.

IDFR diwakili oleh Puan Noor Asyirah Abd Rahman, Pegawai Teknologi Maklumat dari Seksyen ICT. Persidangan ini menyaksikan penyertaan dari kalangan pegawai ICT sektor kerajaan dan swasta. Persidangan itu juga bertindak sebagai platform perbincangan, perkongsian idea dan pengetahuan di kalangan para jemputan, terutama mengenai isu-isu keselamatan ICT sektor awam. Kertas kerja turut dibentangkan oleh para penceramah mengenai pelbagai topik seperti : *Data Leakage Protection*, *Koordinasi Keselamatan ICT Peringkat Kebangsaan*, *Cybersecurity Safety Standards*, *The Age of Cyberwar* and *Mobile Security*.

Para peserta juga dijemput menghadiri Pameran Keselamatan ICT Sektor Awam 2013 yang mempamerkan produk dan perkhidmatan daripada pembekal keselamatan ICT, seperti EC Council dan Ofisgate. Peserta berpeluang untuk berinteraksi dengan para pembekal produk dan perkhidmatan ICT semasa pameran tersebut yang diadakan di tempat yang sama.

Pada sesi petang, terdapat sesi Perbincangan *Focus Group* yang dibahagikan kepada dua (2) kumpulan. Kumpulan 1 membincangkan tajuk ICTSO/CERT/PRISMA/MyGSOC/MyGRiC dan Kumpulan 2 pula berkenaan *Information Security Management System (ISMS)* Sektor Awam. Sesi soal jawab antara ahli panel dan para peserta berjalan dengan lancar.

Upacara penutup disempurnakan oleh Encik Wan Mohd Rosdi bin Wan Dolah, Ketua Perunding Teknikal ICT, Pasukan Perunding ICT Sektor Awam.

Dilaporkan oleh: Noor Asyirah Abd Rahman
Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

CERAMAH “SEARCCT’S LOOKING BACK” SIRI 1/2013

Pusat Serantau Asia Tenggara bagi Mencegah Keganasan (SEARCCT), Kementerian Luar Negeri telah menganjurkan siri ceramah *Looking Back* yang pertama untuk tahun 2013 pada pagi ini, 23 Mei di IDFR.

Ceramah yang bertajuk *Search and Destroy: The Experience of VAT 69*, telah disampaikan oleh Datuk A. Navaratnam, bekas anggota dan komandan pertama unit pasukan khas yang diberi nama *Very Able Troopers (VAT) 69*.

Dalam ceramah beliau, Datuk A. Navaratnam menceritakan kepada para hadirin tentang beberapa pengalaman pasukan beliau semasa terlibat dalam operasi pemberontakan dan memerangi komunis di dalam hutan Perak, Pahang dan berdekatan Betong. Beliau turut berkongsi beberapa anekdot. Ceramah beliau yang berkisar pengalaman peribadi telah memberi kesedaran baru kepada para hadirin yang terdiri daripada pelbagai latar belakang termasuk polis dan angkatan tentera, dan mereka mengambil peluang untuk belajar daripada pengalaman Datuk A. Navaratnam semasa sesi soal jawab.

Diterjemahkan oleh: Aida Hanim Shoib
Bahagian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan

FORUM KEAMANAN DAN KESELAMATAN 2013

Satu forum bertajuk *Forum Keamanan dan Keselamatan 2013* telah diadakan di IDFR pada 16 Mei 2013. Forum tersebut adalah anjuran bersama IDFR, Institut Kajian Tinggi Islam Antarabangsa (IAIS) Malaysia dan Yayasan Cordoba dengan kerjasama Yayasan Gerakan Kesederhanaan Global (GMMF) dan Institut Diplomatik Qatar/Kedutaan Besar Qatar di Kuala Lumpur.

Bertemakan *Islam and Diplomacy -The Search for Human Security*, Forum tersebut telah dihadiri oleh lebih 300 tetamu, termasuk bekas para duta besar, ahli-ahli kor diplomatik, wakil-wakil daripada kumpulan pemikir, universiti dan badan bukan kerajaan serta para pegawai dari pelbagai Kementerian dan agensi kerajaan.

Ucapan alu-aluan telah disampaikan oleh Profesor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali dari IAIS, diikuti ucapan oleh Tuan Yang Terutama Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al-Attiyah, Menteri Hal Ehwal Luar Negeri Qatar. Dalam ucapan beliau yang disampaikan dalam bahasa Arab, Tuan Yang Terutama Dr. Khalid berkata, antara lain, "keamanan tidak akan dapat diwujudkan dan keselamatan manusia tidak mungkin boleh dicapai selagi hubungan antarabangsa adalah berdasarkan tindakan kekerasan dan selagi ia digunakan secara paksa untuk mempolitikkan undang-undang dalam membolehkan campur tangan luar."

Ini diikuti Titah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, Pemangku Raja Perak Darul Ridzuan dan juga Penaung Diraja IDFR. Baginda telah bertitah bahawa "satu keperluan paling utama dalam mempromosi keselamatan manusia adalah kesedaran mengenai kepelbagaian dan perbezaan dalam konteks global serta konteks dalaman negara-negara individu. Kita perlu memupuk kesedaran dan kefahaman tentang pandangan hidup individu lain dan belajar untuk menghormati kepelbagaian tradisi mereka. Gabungan pengalaman masyarakat di era moden dalam bidang ekonomi, politik, sosial dan budaya kini menjurus ke arah mengembalikan keselamatan dalam bentuk keperluan asas dan harapan manusia. Keamanan akan hanya dapat dicapai antara negara-negara dan dalam kalangan masyarakat majmuk negara-negara tersebut apabila keselamatan ditafsirkan dalam konteks ini. "

Dua perbincangan panel telah diadakan selepas perasmian Forum tersebut. Satu ceramah oleh Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, mantan Perdana Menteri dan juga Penaung IAIS akan diadakan pada sebelah malam hari di mana beliau akan berkongsi pandangan tentang *Islam and Peace Building in the 21st Century*.

Diterjemahkan oleh: Aida Hanim Shoib
Bahagian Pengajian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan

MAJLIS ANUGERAH PERKHIDMATAN CEMERLANG KEMENTERIAN LUAR NEGERI

Seramai seratus dua belas kakitangan Kementerian Luar Negeri dari dalam dan luar negara telah diberi Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang dalam satu majlis pada 9 Mei 2013, di Putrajaya.

Dalam ucapan beliau, Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian berkata bahawa anugerah tersebut merupakan pengiktirafan Kerajaan dan juga Kementerian atas khidmat cemerlang yang ditunjukkan oleh kesemua penerima dalam melaksanakan dasar-dasar Kerajaan. Beliau berharap anugerah tersebut akan membantu memberi motivasi kepada mereka untuk meningkatkan kualiti kerja serta kualiti hidup. Beliau turut mengambil peluang untuk mengingatkan kesemua yang hadir untuk tidak menggunakan media sosial bagi tujuan peribadi dan berpegang kepada Kod Etika Kementerian.

Tiga kakitangan IDFR adalah antara penerima anugerah; Puan Noraini Awang Nong dari Bahagian Pengajian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan, Puan Shahrulbariah A. Rashid dari Bahagian Pengajian Serantau dan Sekuriti dan Encik Mahassan Mahamad dari Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat.

Dilaporkan oleh: Noraini Awang Nong
Bahagian Pengajian Akademik, Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan

BENGKEL PELAN STRATEGIK ICT (ISP), IDFR 2013 - 2015 (SIRI 1)

Seksyen Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (ICT), Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDFR) telah mengendalikan Bengkel Pelan Strategik ICT (ISP) IDFR, 2013 – 2015 (Siri I) pada 7 dan 8 Mei 2013, bertempat di Bilik Kuliah 106, Blok C, IDFR.

Bengkel yang berlangsung selama dua hari ini telah dihadiri oleh 31 orang peserta dari kesemua Bahagian di IDFR. Perasmian bengkel disempurnakan oleh YBhg. Dato' Zulkifli Yaacob, Pengarah Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat, IDFR merangkap Pengarah Projek bagi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan ISP, IDFR. Bagi melancarkan perjalanan bengkel, dua (2) orang wakil daripada pasukan perunding ISP MAMPU iaitu Encik Lee Kok Seng dan Puan Sukhaila Angsor telah turut diundang menghadiri bengkel tersebut dan bertindak sebagai fasilitator bengkel. Objektif bengkel ini diadakan ialah bagi:

1. Mengemukakan hasil kaji selidik berdasarkan Borang Soal Selidik Maklum Balas Dan Kepuasan Penggunaan Kemudahan ICT;
2. Membentangkan hasil kajian mengenai Aplikasi Sistem, Infrastruktur dan Keselamatan ICT;
3. Mengenalpasti pendekatan SWOT dalam skop ICT di IDFR;
4. Mendapatkan tahap semasa infrastuktur ICT; hala tuju, visi dan misi ICT; dan
5. Berkongsi analisis isu, cabaran dan harapan serta persekitaran semasa dan masa hadapan ICT di IDFR.

Secara keseluruhannya, bengkel ini telah mendapat kerjasama dan komitmen yang padu daripada semua peserta terutamanya bagi sesi perbincangan dan pembentangan kumpulan. Bengkel Siri II dan III dirancang diadakan pada bulan Julai dan Ogos 2013.

Dilaporkan oleh: Zaiza Haji Ali

Seksyen ICT, Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan dan Korporat

BENGKEL DIPLOMASI BAGI PESERTA INSTITUT ANTARABANGSA UNTUK PERPADUAN UMAT ISLAM (IIMU)

Atas permintaan Institut Antarabangsa untuk Perpaduan Umat Islam (IIMU), IDFR telah berjaya menganjurkan Bengkel Diplomasi untuk para peserta mereka dari 19 hingga 20 Mac 2013. Bengkel ini merupakan salah satu penanda kejayaan bagi IDFR memandangkan ia adalah kerjasama rasmi yang pertama antara IDFR dan IIMU.

Objektif bengkel ini adalah untuk mempromosi kesedaran dan pengetahuan asas mengenai diplomasi dan hubungan antarabangsa. Para peserta yang menghadiri bengkel ini terdiri daripada pelajar tempatan dan antarabangsa dari Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia. Di bengkel dua hari ini, mereka telah berpeluang mendengar ceramah dan taklimat daripada para pegawai Kementerian Luar Negeri.

Bengkel ini juga sejajar dengan usaha berterusan IDFR dalam program *outreach* dengan pelbagai institusi akademik yang mana objektif utamanya adalah untuk memupuk minat para pelajar tempatan terhadap kepentingan amalan dan kemahiran diplomatik dari perspektif Malaysia.

Para peserta serta para pegawai IIMU amat berbesar hati atas penganjuran bengkel ini oleh IDFR. Seterusnya, IIMU berharap kerjasama ini dapat diteruskan dan lebih banyak bengkel akan dianjurkan pada masa akan datang.

Dilaporkan oleh: Azmah Mahmud
Bahagian Latihan