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INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS
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Introduction to Diplomacy, Etiquette and Communication



On 10 December 2014, Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, the Deputy Director General of IDFR representing the Director General was invited by the Senate to deliver a talk at the Seminar on 'The Practice of Diplomacy and Communication in International Relations for Senators' at the Seri Pacific Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The objective of the talk was to disclose the senators to Ambassador Aminah's knowledge and experience in the principles and practice of diplomacy.

The Seminar commenced with welcoming remarks delivered by Tan Sri Abu Zahar bin Dato' Nika Ujang, the President of the Senate, followed by Ambassador Aminah's brilliant talk and Q & A on 'Introduction to Diplomacy, Etiquette and Communication'. In her talk, Ambassador Aminah offered a dictionary definition as well as definitions of Sir Ernest Satow and Sir Harold Nicolson respectively of what constitutes diplomacy. She also spoke on the roles of diplomats, levels of diplomacy, handy tips for etiquette and communication in bilateral meetings and courtesy calls, and spoke from her experience on cross-cultural communication in Ukraine and The Republic of Croatia.

The Seminar was attended by 50 Senators. IDFR was represented by Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim; Mrs. Norani Ibrahim, Director (Special Project); Mrs. Rahimah Yeop, Director of the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division; Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman, Director of the Training Division; and Ms. Lim Hui Chin, Assistant Director of the Office of Director General.

Reported by: Lim Hui Chin
Office of Director General

Best Responsibility Centre for 2014



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) ended its year with a momentous announcement. IDFR was selected by the Accountant General's Department of Malaysia (Putrajaya Branch) as the **Best Responsibility Centre** for the year 2014 in the category of "Management of Reimbursement and Reconciliation." This certificate is accorded annually as recognition for excellent management of Finances in various categories.

On 10 December 2014, Mrs. Asmat Zainal Abidin, IDFR's representative, received the certificate during the briefing session on Closure of Accounts at the Accountant General's Department of Malaysia, Putrajaya. Representatives from other ministries and government agencies were in attendance as well.



Reported by: Jamaliah Jaafar
Corporate and Management Services Division

The 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Relations “Strengthening Regional Integration Through Strategic Partnership”



2014 marks the 40th Anniversary of Australia’s dialogue partnership with ASEAN. To commemorate this event, The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in collaboration with The High Commission of Australia organized a panel discussion themed, “Strengthening Regional Integration Through Strategic Partnership”. The objective of the panel discussion was to chart the evolution of Australia’s engagement with ASEAN, The importance of ASEAN-Australia relationship and to explore future directions together. The panel discussion consisted of YBhg. Dato’ Dr. Mohd Yusof Ahmad Head of Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs (INSPAG) Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies as the Moderator, H.E. Ambassador Simon Merrifield Australia’s Ambassador to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the first panelist, followed by H.E. Ambassador Jojie Samuel, Deputy Director General ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the second panelist and Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Distinguished Fellow of IDFR, Senior Fellow and Director, Centre for International Law and Siyar (CILAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia as the third panelist.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks by YBhg. Ambassador Aminahtun Haji A. Karim. She reminded the audience and the panelists of the significant partnership that Malaysia had with Australia in the past and that both regions have attributes that could be utilised to curb security threats involving terrorism, human trafficking and other transnational crimes.

H.E. Ambassador Simon Merrifield delivered his presentation titled, “Australia and ASEAN: The path to a Strategic Partnership and Beyond”. He recalled the historical ties between Malaysian and Australia and how Australia played an active diplomatic role in obtaining international support for the formation of Malaysia in 1963.

The panel discussion continued with H.E. Ambassador Jojie Samuel who delivered his presentation titled, “The Strengthening of ASEAN-Australia Relations under Malaysia’s Chairmanship of ASEAN 2015”. He began by giving a background of ASEAN chairmanship and highlighting that Malaysia will officially assume the role of ASEAN chairmanship beginning 1 January 2015.

The final panelist was Dr. Sufian Jusoh who spoke on “ASEAN and Australia in the era of the AEC: The way forward”. He started by sharing his personal experience when he was assigned to undertake

the study of investment flow prospects between ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Economic Co-operation Work Programme (ECWP).

This programme was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners, government officials, academicians, think-tanks and committee members from Malaysian Australia Business Council.

Reported by: Eminder Kaur Kawan Singh
Regional and Security Studies Division

Workshop on International Negotiations for Mid and Senior Level Officers



IDFR just concluded its *Workshop on International Negotiations for Mid and Senior Level Officers*, held from 2 to 4 December 2014. The workshop was attended by 18 officers from various ministries and agencies namely, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, Department of Chemistry Malaysia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defense, Malaysian Investment Development Authority, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, University of Malaya and IDFR.

The workshop's main objectives were to provide the participants with key principles underpinning successful negotiations; the role of culture in negotiations and the foundation of intercultural communication; familiarise participants with the bargaining tactics and ways to respond to them, and understand the psychological processes in general and specific individual reactions to negotiations and mediation situations.

Throughout the three-day workshop, participants were widely exposed to ways negotiations have been conducted, techniques dealing with complexities, intercultural communication styles, trade negotiations in delegations, and multilateral negotiations. These were done through interactive lectures and simulation exercises. Adding to the course content were negotiation styles related to ASEAN context as to prepare the participants for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015. The facilitator, Mr. Wilbur Perlot from the Clingendael Academy of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, is a specialist in multilateral negotiations in the EU and also in intercultural communication.



Reported by: Imran Ariff bin Mohammad Amin (Intern)
Training Division

Workshop on Etiquette, Protocol and Event Management for Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised a Workshop on Etiquette, Protocol and Event Management for The Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment from 18 to 20 November 2014. The three-day workshop was aimed at equipping the participants with the basic knowledge on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of event management as well as the roles and responsibilities of Liaison Officers, Usherettes, Floor Managers and Rapporteurs. As requested by JPSM, the workshop was specially tailored to meet the needs of the participants to know more on the procedures, protocol aspects and social etiquette in handling international events.

The officials of JPSM would be involved in the Welcoming and Protocol Committee for the Meeting of Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment (MSJCE) and the Annual Exchange of Visits (AEV) which was held from 24 to 25 November 2014. As such, the topics covered in this workshop were: *Introduction to International and ASEAN Protocol, Event Management, Roles and Functions of Floor Managers, Liaison Officers, Usherettes and Protocol Officers, Roles and Functions of Rapporteurs, Personal Grooming and Etiquette and Fine Dining Theory and Practicum*. On the final day of the workshop, the participants were brought to site visits: Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and Intercontinental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. These site visits and walkabouts were conducted with the intention of familiarizing the officers with the locations and procedures involved at both places.



Reported by: Ahmad Kham bin Abu Kassim
Training Division

Executive Talk: Asean Community 2015: Challenges and Opportunities



The Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) organised an executive talk by H.E Dr. Surin Pitsuwan on Challenges and Opportunities in the ASEAN Community on Wednesday, 5 November 2014 at Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The speaker is the former Secretary General of ASEAN.

The programme commenced with welcoming remarks by Lt Jen Datuk Dr. William Stevenson, MiDAS Chief Executive. H.E Dr. Surin Pitsuwan then presented his executive talk on "*Asean Community 2015: Challenges and Opportunities.*"

In his lecture, he mentioned about the opportunity that ASEAN has to offer to the world especially in terms of trade and investments in an integrated socio-cultural community with more than 600 million diverse people, societies and cultures. Further on, from a political and security angle, ASEAN is seen as a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region, with established rules and shared values and norms, where member states share responsibility for comprehensive security, and which constantly strives to stay dynamic and outward looking.

The two major challenges confronting ASEAN, in his view, are the Rohingya problem and the South China Sea. ASEAN should continue to work together to try to find peaceful ways to resolve these two complex issues.

As one of the founding members of ASEAN, Malaysia has always been in the forefront in advancing ASEAN as a cohesive regional organisation. He believes Malaysia will do well in its leadership role in representing ASEAN to the world.

Amongst the attendees at the event were representatives and officials from various ministries and government agencies and NGOs. IDFR was represented by Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman, Mr Major (Rtd) Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff and Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah.



Reported by: Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Panel Discussion on the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS/IL) at the Treaty Room



Two prominent scholars were invited to present a Panel Discussion on the “Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (IS/IL)” at the Treaty Room on 30 October 2014. The discussion was on a very interesting topic which was very appropriate and timely. Associate Professor Dr Farish A. Noor from the Nanyang Technical University, Singapore and Mr. Ahmad El Muhammady from the International Islamic University were the guest speakers.

Dr Farish A. Noor was the first speaker who spoke about the need to understand the reason behind the recent acts of violence conducted by the various militant or radical groups especially in Iraq and Syria. He reasoned that the violence and militant uprising should be studied from the perspective of Ibnu Khaldun, the renowned Muslim scholar who said that radicalism, extremism and even terrorism, was due to colonization. Furthermore, among the other reasons that were cited by Dr Farish Noor were due to frustration, anger, economic aspects, the failure of the ruling government and also socio-political issues. These reasons forced the young and oppressed to take up arms and fight against the oppressors, either the government or occupying forces. He also reiterated that the violence did not reflect the actual teaching of Islam, which propagates peace instead of violence. Thus, the world should not blame the religion because there was no correlation between the religion and the violence incurred. However, the West and especially the international media already had the pre-conceived idea that any aggression or extremism is due to Islamic militants or radical which was not true at all and there was not anything Islamic about the IS.

Mr. Ahmad El Muhammady spoke about how the IS militants exploited the social media to gain support, followers and sympathy especially from the young generation. The ability to spread their messages globally was demonstrated when some people started to join the group by expressing their support on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and others. There were also reports of people who travelled to Syria to join the group and fighting alongside them to fight as ‘jihadists’ and eventually die as martyrs. The IS radicals manipulated the religious texts for its own agenda and made the others believe in their desire to build the ‘Daulah Islamiyah’ (the Islamic Caliphate).

The trend is worrying because the militants are able to reach a bigger and wider audience especially the young generation who are gullible and easily influenced by such dreams of creating a Muslim caliphate in the Middle East and eventually to the rest of the world.



Reported by: Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Forum: "Readiness in achieving ASEAN Economic Community: What say the Private Sector"

The Judicial and Legal Training Institute ILKAP hosted a half-day forum for the business community and the industry players: "Readiness in achieving ASEAN Economic Community: What say the Private Sector" on 29 October 2014. The forum was organised with the objective of enhancing participants' knowledge on the Association Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community and exposing the readiness of ASEAN in realizing ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. This forum saw a gathering officers from judicial and legal; ministries, lawyers, academicians as well as participants from the private sector. IDFR was invited by ILKAP for this forum and was represented by officers there are Mr. Nekmat Ismail, Mr. Dev Kumar a/l Balakrishnan, Cik Siti Nooraznie Abdul Rahim, Mr. Mohd Hail Aniff Mohamad Fauzi and Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah.

The forum was conducted by three panelists consisting of experts in the field of trade and economy namely, Professor Dr. Sufian Jusoh (Faculty of Law, National University of Malaysia), YBhg. Dato' Muhamad Noor Yacob (Chairman of Malaysia Automotive Institute) and YBhg. Professor Jamal Othman (Faculty of Economics and Management, National University of Malaysia). The forum was moderated by Professor Nadia Mohammad.

Professor Dr. Sufian commenced the forum by discussing the nascent of ASEAN into regional cooperation; potential of Timor-Leste to join ASEAN; and the promotion and facilitation of investment within ASEAN. Professor Jamal Othman mentioned on the state of readiness of ASEAN in the context of differences economic approach by the member states. Dato' Muhammad Noor Yacob shared his view as the former Malaysian negotiator in WTO and expressed concerns arising mainly of private sector on the progress of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Reported by: Mohd Hail Aniff Mohd Fauzi
Corporate and Management Services Division

A Friday Morning Session titled, "Briefing on Chevening Scholarships"



A Friday Morning Session titled, "Briefing on Chevening Scholarships" was held on October 24, 2014 at Wisma Putra, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The briefing was delivered by Ms. Jade Robinson, British High Commission's Scholarship Officer.

This session was held to inform of the existence of the Chevening Scholarship in Malaysia and what it provides its recipients. The objectives of this particular programme are to support foreign policy objectives, to make good relationships with future leaders in their chosen disciplines, to get a positive all-round experience in the United Kingdom by looking upon the given scholarship in a positive light - experiencing the academia and cultural aspects that United Kingdom has to offer and to also build a global Chevening alumni network. The scholarship consists of tuition fees, a modest living allowance, economy class return air fare to Malaysia, gratis visa and additional gratis to cover essential expenditure. This particular programme is also in line with the saying, "you're never too old to learn"; hence recipients of this scholarship vary. The programme provides full or part funding for full-time courses at postgraduate level, normally a one-year Master's degree, in any subject and at any UK university. To name a few, the priority areas of studies are Human Rights, Foreign and Security Policy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Trade/Business/Islamic Finance and Science/Engineering and Cyber Security. For further inquiries about the programme, please visit their official website at www.chevening.org.

This session was attended by officers from various divisions in Wisma Putra, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) as well as from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) respectively Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah and Ms. Farhana Mohamed Nor.

Reported by: Farhana Mohamed Nor
Regional and Security Studies Division

Forum on “Nuclear Weapons: Still An Existential Threat to Humankind” by Professor the Honourable Gareth Evans AC QC



A Forum titled, “Nuclear Weapons: Still An Existential Threat to Humankind” by Professor The Honourable Gareth Evans AC QC, Chancellor of Australian National University and the former longest serving Foreign Minister of Australia was held at IDFR Auditorium, on 15 October 2014. He is currently the Co-Chairs of the International Advisory Board of the New-York based Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, and is Convenor of the Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. YBhg. Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Chairman of SUHAKAM moderated the session.

YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director-General of IDFR in his welcoming remarks, said that the importance of total elimination of nuclear weapons should be consistently be at the top of the international agenda. Malaysia in this respect has also been actively pursuing for the cause for a nuclear-free world through participation in various multilateral platforms in the discourse on non-proliferation and disarmament.

Professor Gareth Evans introduced his presentation by drawing the concern of nuclear weapons' impact on climate change. Then he talked about four components of nuclear threats and risk which are existing nuclear armed states; new nuclear armed states; nuclear terrorism; and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In addition, he talked about The International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Disarmament (ICNND) initiated by the Australian Government and its action agenda including nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

The forum also highlighted that the pursuit of minimization to eliminate nuclear weapons policy should be the collective efforts of the various governments, pressure groups and more importantly, the participation of civil society. The agenda of nuclear-weapons free world would be futile if these important institutions do not work in tandem. The questions on the prospect of nuclear energy; risk management of nuclear weapons and the geopolitical conflict among the nuclear-armed states were also addressed.

The forum attracted representatives of the diplomatic corps, policy makers, academicians, university students and representatives from various governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations and the media.



Reported by: Mohd Hail Aniff Mohd Fauzi
Corporate and Management Services Division

SPKM Pre Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 5/2014 (Grade 38 and Below)



The fifth series of the Pre Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under the Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) was conducted from 13 to 17 October 2014. Forty-nine participants including thirty two staff from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Malaysia Police, Immigration Department of Malaysia, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of International Trade and Industries, Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP) and National Anti-Drug Agency and thirteen spouses attended the course. The spouses' attendance was compulsory on the first three days.

The main objective of the course was to prepare the participants prior their postings at Malaysia's offices and embassies abroad. The course emphasised important aspects and issues related to their duties and responsibilities. This course was also designed to instill esprit de corps among the participants.

Throughout the five days, the participants were familiarized with sessions related to administration, management, security, finance, auditing and protocol at missions.

The participants were privileged to have a session with Ambassador Zainol Rahim Zainuddin, for the session on, An Overview of Malaysia's Foreign Policy. Puan Fatimahwati Abd Rahman, the Secretary of the Ladies Association of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (PERWAKILAN), also shared her vast experience on spouses' roles and responsibilities abroad. Other modules included culture, grooming and etiquette.

Certificates of completion were presented to the participants by the Director of Training, Tuan Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman on the last day.



Reported by: Nur Aqilah Mohd Subari (Intern)
Training Division

Building Blocks of Good English 2/2014



The Language Division conducted the second series of Building Blocks of Good English which was held from 22 to 26 September 2014. The course was aimed at developing participants' fluency and accuracy level of English with the right usage of grammar. The participants were introduced to the grammatical aspects of the English Language such as tenses, parts of speech and sentence patterns. The participants walked through a critical analysis of English grammar through classroom discussions, group activities and presentations. These activities are vital for the participants to demonstrate the use of the language in a variety of context and most importantly to enable them to use English confidently in their everyday interactions.

The participants were from the Ministry of Health Malaysia, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Department of Social Welfare Malaysia, Department of Town and Country Planning, Urban Transportation Department, National News Agency of Malaysia, Housing and Local Government and National Visual Arts Development Board.



Reported by: Elsa Fallida Mohd Suban
Language division

Strategic Analysis Course For International Participants 2014



The Strategic Analysis Courses for International Participants 2014 was organised by IDFR from 8 to 26 September 2014. This three-week course was attended by 16 participants from nine (9) countries, namely from Albania, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Oman, Pakistan, Vietnam, Yemen and Malaysia.

The main objective of the course, which was funded by the Malaysian Government under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), was to enhance the participants' knowledge in 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. Thomas K. Samuel, the Director of Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism, Dr. Rahim Said, Adjunct Professor of HELP University and Madam Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects, IDFR were among the speakers who imparted their knowledge and invaluable experiences to the participants.

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





Reported by: Nor Haslinda Sofian (Intern)
Training Division

Address by YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz at the 3rd Raja Aziz Addruse Memorial Lecture



The Malaysian Bar Council organized an Address by YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz titled, *Inspirations from Raja Aziz Addruse: Morality and the Rule of Law* at the 3rd Raja Aziz Addruse Memorial Lecture, International Malaysia Law Conference (IMLC) 2014. The Address was held on 24 September 2014 at Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur and attended by DYMM Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, DYMM Tunku Ampuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, both local and foreign judicial authorities such as the Chief Justices of Malaysia and Hong Kong respectively, the Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak, Judges of the Federal Court, Court of Appeal and High Court; and Former Chief Justice of Thailand. The Address was also attended by Members of the Parliament and State Assembly Representatives; members of the diplomatic corps; prominent political figures and members of the Bar Council.

In his Address, YAM Tunku Zain mentioned that the late Raja Aziz Addruse is best known for three things; elected thrice to the presidency of the Bar Council; founded Malaysia's first human rights NGO, i.e. HAKAM and for dealing with profound constitutional issues through his cases, writings and speeches. That said, to YAM, the late Raja Aziz was first a family friend. He recollected the deeds and words of the late Raja Aziz, for example, in rejecting at least four Datukships in his lifetime, the late Raja Aziz said "You don't need a title to be someone. There are many people without titles who are doing alright. But there are many people just flout their titles to get somewhere. In the end they don't get very far." YAM Tunku Zain also spoke about constitutionalism; the late Raja Aziz's views on constitutionalism and the rule of law; his own background and the establishment of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS); history of democracy and the political environment today in Malaysia, in which he tried to demonstrate his inspirations from the late Raja Aziz.

IDFR was represented by Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General and Ms. Lim Hui Chin from the Office of Director General.

Reported by: Lim Hui Chin
Office of Director General

Asean Ambassadors Lecture Series "The Philippines: Trends and Prospects by H.E. J. Eduardo Malaya, Ambassador of The Republic of The Philippines to Malaysia"



His Excellency Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya, Ambassador of the Republic of The Philippines to Malaysia, delivered a lecture on the trends and prospects of The Philippines under the ASEAN Ambassadors Lecture Series. It was organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) on 23 September 2014 at the IDFR Treaty Room.

The programme commenced with welcoming remarks by Her Excellency Ambassador Aminah Hj. A Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR. Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya then presented his lecture on, "The Philippines: Trends and Prospects by H.E J. Eduardo Malaya.

A comprehensive analysis of the state of The Philippines was covered by Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya namely an overview of a resurgent Philippines economically, the stable political and security environment, foreign policy priorities, challenges and bilateral relations between The Philippines and Malaysia. Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya said, "As a next-door neighbour and a partner in ASEAN, The Philippines deeply values its relationship with Malaysia, and looks upon Malaysia as a close friend."

Amongst the attendees at the event were representatives and officials from various ministries and government agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, academicians from public and private universities and research analysts.



Reported by: Muhammad Redha Bin Rosli (Intern)
Regional and Security Studies Division

Panel Discussion: “Protecting the Interest of Foreign Workers vs. National Interest”



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised a Panel Discussion: “Protecting the Interest of Foreign Workers vs. National Interest” on 19 September 2014. The panelists were Mr. Hapdzan Husaini, Deputy Director of Foreign Workers Division, Immigration Department of Malaysia and Mr. Rhymie bin Abdul Ramli, Ministry of Human Resources with Dato’ Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR as moderator. It was attended by participants from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) Strategic Analysis Course as well as staff of IDFR.

The welcoming remarks was presented by Dato’ Hussin Nayan. He stated that it was important to study the main issues of foreign workers and methods to deal with the issues due to the country’s compliance with international rules and regulations. Dato’ Hussin Nayan also mentioned that Southeast Asian countries were among the most affected by foreign workers in order to generate wealth. As a result, security issues went on the rise in those countries.

The first panelist, Mr. Hapdzan Husaini talked about the roles and functions of Immigration Department of Malaysia as well as its objectives in dealing with the issue of foreign workers. According to him, in 2014, Malaysia had two million registered foreign workers, making it the biggest consumer of hiring foreign workers. In the manufacturing sector, 700,000 foreign workers mostly from Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh triggered 5% of the country’s economic growth annually. There are fifteen source countries that send their workers to work here namely, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. He also introduced the government-to-government (G2G) mechanism which is a system worked out by the sending country and receiving country to send workers to Malaysia. This comprehensive system protected employees from being exploited.

The second panelist, Mr. Rhymie bin Abdul Ramli continued the discussion by pointing out challenges faced by the country to regulate these foreign workers such as the management of the foreign workers’ welfare, the compliance of the minimum level standard and also the international convention that Malaysia had ratified in International Labour Organisation (ILO). In 2013 also, Malaysia had implemented payment of minimum wage and this was also applicable to foreign workers.



Reported by: Ernitasimbolon bt Erwan (Intern)
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Friday Morning Session: Brainstorming Session on “ASEAN Post-2015 : Outlook and Challenges”



A Friday Morning Session titled, “ASEAN Post-2015: Outlook and Challenges” was held on 19 September 2014, specially organised by the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat in collaboration with the Policy and Strategy Department (JPDS). The session was led by Mr. Westmoreland Anak Edward Palon, Director of ASEAN Political and Security Division (APSC).

The objectives of this session is to gather thoughts and ideas from the officers of Wisma Putra on the direction of ASEAN in conjunction of Malaysia’s Chairmanship in 2015; how to cultivate the awareness on ASEAN among Malaysians, and the challenges foreseen post 2015 Chairmanship. The participants shared issues of concern such as people-centered ASEAN, the aspiration and goals of ASEAN to be expressed to be realized rather than rhetoric, and to create a strong, practical, and materialized ASEAN institution. Among the challenges of ASEAN Post 2015 is to integrate the member states to reach a mutual agreement on free trade, human capital and socio-economic development; a consensus by bringing up all member states to compromise while safeguarding the national identity; and the issues of security especially on the South China Sea and transnational crime and terrorism.

This session was attended by officers from various department in Wisma Putra, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) as well as from IDFR respectively Mrs. Azmah Mahmud, Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah and Mr. Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri.

Reported by: Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri
Corporate and Management Services Division

Training of Trainers: Introduction to Training Skills Course



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised a *Training of Trainers: Introduction to Training Skills* course from 17 to 19 September 2014. The programme, certified by City and Guilds, United Kingdom, was conducted by its appointed consultant in Kuala Lumpur, Language Works Sdn. Bhd. Four IDFR senior officers attended this programme.

The programme was aimed at training the participants to become effective trainers or facilitators and guide them to evaluate their current learning methods and practices, as well as improve their delivery skills. In addition, the participants were also shared a variety of ideas, strategies and skills for learning effectiveness by the resource persons. During the first and second day of the programme, the participants went through interactive and fun training sessions, such as identifying learners' needs, designing and planning training session and gaining and maintaining audience's attention. Through these activities, they were taught on ways to apply effective methods in identifying their own individual styles, strengths and weaknesses as trainers.

On the last day of the programme, each participant had to deliver a 30-minute training session based on their own chosen topic, by implementing what they have learnt using their own creativity. As part of the requirement for the certification by City and Guilds, the 30-minute training session and a multiple-choice question quiz were compulsory elements.



Reported by: Nur Aqilah Mohd Subari (Intern)
Training Division

The 12th Women's Summit 2014



The 12th Women's Summit 2014 was organised by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development at the Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 15 September 2014. The event was officiated by YAB Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin Haji Mohd Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The theme for this year's summit - "Trailblaze To The Top" is about women blazing a trail in climbing the career ladder for others to follow. This entails courage and the willingness to coach and mentor other women. It is important to remain aware, educated and engaged about every aspect of women's career development. This is to ensure gender diversity and inclusiveness becomes an effective reality for all Malaysians.

The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development with the cooperation of TalentCorp introduced The Life At Work Award. The various awards highlighted best practices to encourage more employers to promote work life integration and parent-friendly working environment. The aim is to increase the participation of women in the workforce and to promote a diverse and inclusive working environment. The Award categories were the (1) Malaysian Organisation (2) International Organisation and (3) Lean Organisation. There were also three new categories for the Summit - (1) New Initiative/Pilot Programme, (2) Making a Difference (3) CEO Champion.

The start of the event was a dialogue session between the Deputy Prime Minister with the participants involving past matters, issues and concerns on the development of women that touches the masses in Malaysia. After the dialogue session, a lively debate session on "CEOs Get It: Driving Diversity and Inclusion" from distinguished panel of speakers and Johan Merican of TalentCorp as moderator. The second session was on "SPOTLIGHT: Communications in 4Dimensions" by Elisabeth Franzoso. The third speaker, Cynthia Zai talked about, "HIGHLIGHT: Find Power in your Voice" and lastly, there were 4 breakout sessions; "Commanding an Executive Presence" by Hamidah Naziadin, "Negotiating Pay Rise" by Boonsiri Sochit-Ong, "How to build a Success Career in a Global Multinational Company" by Clare Muhuiudeen and speakers from Shell and Maybank who talked about, "Life at Work: Hear it from the Winners."

The participants were from various ministries, members of the diplomatic corps, multinational companies, private sector, NGOs, individuals and media. IDFR officers: Mrs. Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin and Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah were also nominated to this programme.



Reported by:
Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin
Regional & Security Studies Division

Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah
Academic Studies, Research & Publication

Friday Morning Session: “A Dialogue Session between Human Resource Management Division and Assistant Secretaries 41/44”



A Dialogue Session between Human Resource Management Division and Assistant Secretaries 41/44 was held during the Friday Morning Session on 12 September 2014 at the Auditorium WP1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wisma Putra). The session saw the participation of officers from Wisma Putra and three officers from IDFR. The objective of the session was to share insights and an open dialogue between Human Resource Management Division and the entire Assistant Secretary in the ministry.

Mr. Hassan Bal, Undersecretary of the Human Resources Management Division, Wisma Putra was the speaker of the session. He started his talk by highlighting the services provided by the division. He stressed the importance of training and learning programmes locally and abroad, to have a good general knowledge, excellent analytical skills, outstanding social skills and the most important is the commitment given to the Ministry. He then reminded everyone to become dedicated officers and future diplomats.

The three officers who attended the session from IDFR were Ms. Lim Hui Chin from the Director General Office, Mrs. Azmah Mahmud and Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah from the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division.



Reported by: Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Asia-Europe Institute Public Lecture on Media and Generations: A Research and Learning Approach for Media Education and Audience Studies by Professor Cristina Ponte



On 11 September 2014, the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) organised a public lecture titled, “Media and Generations: A Research and Learning Approach for Media Education and Audience Studies.” The lecture was delivered by Professor Cristina Ponte, from New University of Lisbon, Portugal. Professor Cristina’s research centres on media, journalism and society, media and generations, children, youth and the media and digital inclusion.

In her lecture, Professor Cristina shared her insights on her research projects related to media and generations. Several methodologies and reflections by other scholars in the related field were mentioned for example, mediagraphies which comprise of reports based on biographical stories and interviews of primary sources along with secondary sources such as newspapers, photos and history books.

From her research projects, the idea of generations emerged as a critical issue. This is where media is considered as part of the story of generations and media is greatly involved in shaping identities of people, communities and nations. Professor Cristina revealed that the researcher is always situated in relation to his/her objects or respondents from the points of view of gender, nationality, age and generation too.

The lecture ended with notes from Professor Cristina suggesting the next direction of her research project followed by Q&A session. Officers from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and representatives from public and private universities attended the lecture.



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

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



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in collaboration with the United Nations Association Malaysia (UNAM) organised a workshop related to climate change with the theme, "*Malaysia's Climate Change Strategies: Plan of Action*" on 10 September 2014 at the IDFR Auditorium.

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

The workshop comprised of five presentation blocks namely: Setting the Scene, Global Perspective on Climate Change, Malaysia's Current Policies and Actions, Scientific Community View Point and Moving Forward and Preparation for Climate Summit 2014 respectively.

The event addressed the increasingly adverse threat of climate change to the planet and that it should be recognised as a serious crisis that does not discriminate between borders, hence requiring the coordinated efforts of all countries. Furthermore, it was pointed out that climate issues will be the primary focus for debate in the Climate Summit to be held on 23 September 2014 followed by continued discussion as a key agenda on this subject at the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2014.

Representatives and officials from various ministries and government agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, council members of UNAM, UNAM Youth Circle and its UN Clubs, think tanks, public and private universities and relevant NGOs.



Reported by: Muhammad Redha Bin Rosli
Regional and Security Studies Division

Diploma in Diplomacy 2014 Graduation Dinner



The Graduation Dinner of Diploma in Diplomacy was held on 6 September 2014 at Marriot Putrajaya Hotel. It marked the conclusion of the Diploma in Diplomacy 2014 and completion of the Regional and International Affairs Module (RIAM). The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin graced the ceremony and presented the certificates to the participants. The ceremony was also attended by YBhg. Dato' Ramlan Ibrahim, Deputy Secretary General of Bilateral Affairs, YBhg. Dato' Ibrahim Abdullah, Deputy Secretary General of Management Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, ambassadors and high commissioners, senior officers from the Ministry and IDFR, parents and spouses of the participants and facilitators of the programme.

The evening began with the welcoming remarks by YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR, followed by the address by YB Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin and presentation of diploma and certificate. The highlight of the agenda was the presentation of the awards for the Top Performers of the UNSC Simulation Exercise, Director General's Award for Best Speech Writer, Deputy Secretary General's Award for Best Presentation Skills, Secretary General's Award for Best Leadership and Foreign Minister's Award for Overall Best Student. The evening continued with the vote of thanks delivered by the best student, Ms. Priscilla Ann Yap. The rest of the evening was filled with the participants' performances.

In his address, YB Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin congratulated all the participants for completing the course and hoped that all of them benefitted well from the programme. He further emphasized on the role of diplomats as the managers of globalisation, whose roles are endless in "the shifting dynamics of international relations, characterized by geo-strategic changes, rapid technological changes and the need for leadership to deal with the myriad of international issues". Additionally, YB Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin stressed the importance of the roles of young diplomats in raising the profile of ASEAN by ensuring the success of Malaysia's functions for ASEAN Chairmanship 2015.

Reported by: Romaiza Abd Rahman
Training Division

**Friday Morning Session:
Anger Management through Aroma Therapy Technique**



A Friday Morning Session on *Anger Management through Aroma Therapy Technique* was held on 5 September 2014 at Auditorium WP1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The talk was delivered by Puan Norazimah Ibrahim, a Psychology Officer from the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia.

In her talk, she highlighted the definition of aroma therapy; the differences between essential oils and perfumes; safety level of using essential oils and perfumes; anger management using essential oils; and how to make our own essential oil using natural resources.

The participants were also shown various types of essential oils that can be used as aroma therapy, such as Lavender, Green Tea, Sandalwood, Lemon and Rose. Every aroma could produce different effect, such as reducing stress, strengthen the mind and soothe the soul.

This session was attended by officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia as well as four officers from IDFR; Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah, Mrs. Azmah Mahmud, Ms. Nik Nazarina Nek Mohammed and Ms. Dzuita Mohamed.

Reported by: Dzuita Mohamed
Training Division

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



Following the new intake of students, IDFR organised the Master in Social Science (Strategy & Diplomacy) Orientation Programme Session 2014/2015 from 2 to 5 September 2014. Puan Norani Ibrahim, Director (Special Projects) of IDFR delivered the opening remarks. In her address, she expressed the hope that the Master's programme would benefit the students profoundly. She also noted that the programme is a tough and challenging task which requires strong commitment.

On the first day, Mr. Dev Kumar Balakrishnan, the Senior Deputy Director of Regional and Security Studies Division gave a briefing on the overall structure of the Master's programme. It was followed by another briefing on academic matters by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ravichandran Moorthy, the coordinator of the Master's programme from *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)*.

On the second and third day, the orientation programme was conducted at UKM. Associate Professor Dr. Sity Daud, Chairperson of *Pusat Pengajian Sejarah, Politik dan Strategi (PPSPS)* presented the welcoming remarks and was followed by a briefing on visa and logistic matters. The students were taken on a UKM Library Familiarisation tour as well as other facilities followed by a medical check-up.

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

Reported by: Amirrul Siddiq Bin Mohd Nasir
Regional and Security Studies Division

Friday Morning Session: Law of Attraction



A Friday Morning Session was held on 29 August 2014 at the Auditorium, WP1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia with a topic on *Law of Attraction*. The talk was delivered by Dr. Raja Kamariah Raja Mohd Khalid, a Senior Psychology officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

In her talk, she shared three important elements of the Law of Attraction; expand the positive vibes, visualize one's goal and resign oneself to The Creator (*tawakkal*). In order for everyone to get the energy and expand positive vibes, everyone has to think positive at all times and remove all the negative vibes that might be interfering. Another way to build the positive vibes is to mix with positive thinking people. Second, visualize oneself in the future and determine one's goal in a certain period of time. By visualizing this goal, one would be inspired and motivated to achieve that goal. However, this activity of visualizing should be done frequently, so that it would inspire one continuously. The last element is *tawakkal*. As a muslim, one needs to leave it all to The Creator after all efforts have been taken.

Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia attended the talk as well as five officers from IDFR; Ms. Zuraini Harun, Ms. Asmat Zainal Abidin, Mr. Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri, Ms. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah and Ms. Azmah Mahmud.

Reported by: Azmah Mahmud
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

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



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised the Executive Workshop on Diplomacy and Security for Senior Government Officials 2014 from 25 to 29 August 2014. The programme, conducted under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), was attended by nine (9) senior government officials from Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar and Pakistan.

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

The one-week course included several substantive topics on *Intelligence and National Security*, *South China Sea: Malaysian Approach*, *Multilateral Diplomacy and Environmental Issues*, *Terror, Counter-Terrorism and Moral Dilemma*, *Malaysia's-UN Peacekeeping*, *Maritime Non-traditional Issues*, *Malaysia's Foreign Policy*, *ASEAN Community 2015*, *The Role of Media during Crisis*, *The Role of Global Movement of Moderates in Establishing Stability*, *Diplomacy in Crisis Management*, and *Sharing of Experiences on Evacuation Process during Crisis*.

Tan Sri Razali Ismail delivered talk on *The Role of Global Movement of Moderates in Establishing Stability*. This particular session was also attended by the participants of Diploma in Diplomacy course, as well as senior officials from IDFR.

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

Reported by: Ahmad Kham Abu Kassim
Training Division

Farewell Dinner for Masters' Students for Session 2013/2014



A farewell dinner was hosted by IDFR for students of the IDFR-UKM Master of Social Sciences (Strategy and Diplomacy) Programme, Session 2013/2014 on 25 August 2014 at Restoran Rebung Chef Ismail, Kuala Lumpur. It was attended by IDFR officials, lecturers from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the students. It began with welcoming remarks by Puan Norani Ibrahim, the Director (Special Projects) of IDFR followed by remarks from Associate Professor Dr. Ravinchandran Moorthy from UKM.

In her speech, the Puan Norani Ibrahim expressed the hope that the students, who would be graduating soon, had benefited from attending the Master's programme and that it would help them in their careers. She noted that the theories and concepts that they had learned would enable them to better understand and analyze international issues and the ever changing geopolitical landscape. She wished them success in their future endeavours and expressed her appreciation to the lecturers from UKM and the coordinators from IDFR and UKM for their effort in making this programme a success.

Ms. Jasmine Sia Sien Chun, the student's representative conveyed a vote of thanks to IDFR and UKM. It was then proceeded with Puan Norani Ibrahim presenting certificates of attendance to all students.



Reported by: Amirrul Siddiq Mohd Nasir
Regional and Security Studies Division

SPKM Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 4/2014 (Grade 41 and Above)



IDFR had just concluded its fourth series of *SPKM Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses*, which was held from 11 to 22 August 2014. The course was attended by 46 officers with their spouses. The participants came from various ministries and agencies, such as Department of Standards Malaysia, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Istana Negara, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources, Prime Minister's Department, Public Service Department of Malaysia, Royal Malaysia Customs Department, Royal Malaysian Police and Selangor State Road Transport Department.

The objectives of this course were to increase participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations; to expose them to the matters related to the working at the mission; to prepare the officer as well as their spouses for varied functions, duties and overcome their challenge abroad; and lastly, to instill *esprit de corps* among the participants for effective performance at missions.

Throughout the two-week course, the participants were briefed on matters related to administrative, finance, auditing, ethics, security, media skills, cultural, protocol, grooming and social etiquette. The speakers included Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF), Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), and Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation.

On the fifth day of the course, the participants were fortunate to have an interactive session with YBhg. Datin Siti Hawa Othman, from PERWAKILAN, who shared on the *Roles of Spouses*. Later that day, they were also privileged to have a session with Ambassador Aminah Tun Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR, for the Fine Dining Theory and Practicum module at Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The certificates were presented by the Director of Training, Tuan Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman on the last day of the course.



Reported by: Nur Aqilah Mohd Subari (Intern)
Training Division

Friday Morning Session: “Laughter Therapy towards Improving Quality of Life”



With the theme *Laughter Therapy towards Improving Quality of Life*, the Friday Morning Session of 15 August 2014 was held at Auditorium WP1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wisma Putra). The session saw the participation of officers from Wisma Putra and six officers from IDFR. The objective of the session was to provide an insight into the importance of laughter therapy that can reduce stress and improve quality of life through the processes of physiological and psychological indirectly.

Dr Norzah Abd. Ghani, from the Ministry of Education was the guest speaker of the Friday Morning Session. She started her talk by getting the audience to take deep breaths to relax the body and mind. Next, she made everyone look at other people to initiate laughter. The eye contact is the most important factor in eliciting genuine giggles. As the session progressed, the quality of laughter improved. The audience was laughing non-stop.

In her non-stop laughing session, she highlighted the benefits of laughter therapy. It includes reducing the stress and strengthens the immune system, helps to change one's mood within minutes by releasing certain chemicals from the brain cells called endorphins and brings more oxygen to the body and brain, thereby making one feel more energetic and relaxed. Laughter therapy also helps to create a positive mental state to deal with negative situations and negative people. It gives hope and optimism to cope with difficult times.

In her final talk, she reminded everyone to love themselves and encouraged as many people as possible to share their smile with others in order to increase more positive energy.

The six officers who attended the session from IDFR were Ms. Lim Hui Chin, Mrs. Zuraini Harun, Mr. Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri, Mrs. Azmah Mahmud, Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah, and Ms. Nik Nazarina Nek Mohamed.



Reported by: Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah
Academic Studies, Research, and Publication Division

Friday Morning Session: "Aspects of Protocol"



With the theme Aspects of Protocol, the Friday Morning Session of 8 August 2014 was held at Auditorium WP1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wisma Putra). The session saw the participation of officers from Wisma Putra and IDFR. Among them, officers of Grades 41-44 were the majority who attended the session. The objective of the session was to advance the knowledge and understanding of protocol in Malaysia and abroad.

Dato' Syed Munshe Afdzar, Chief of Protocol, Wisma Putra was the speaker of the Friday Morning Session. He spoke on the definitions of protocol, privileges and immunity; the composition of the Protocol Department as well as its roles and functions; the influence of culture and heritage in protocol and fine dining. In his talk, Dato' Syed Munshe Afdzar highlighted that first impression is a lasting impression. Thus, he urged the participants, especially the diplomats to invest and pay attention to grooming and clothes, so as to look professional. Dato' also said that fine dining is an important feature in protocol and that the culture of fine dining needs to be nurtured among our diplomats. This is to ensure that our diplomats represent Malaysia as a modern and progressive developing country.

The initiative of the Human Resource Management Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organising the session such as this is praiseworthy as the topic is very much relevant, important and useful for diplomats and officers working under the Ministry. IDFR's officers who attended the session were Ms. Lim Hui Chin, Mrs. Zuraini Harun, Mr. Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri, Mrs. Azmah Mahmud, Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah, and Ms. Nik Nazarina Nek Mohamed.



Reported by: Lim Hui Chin
Office of Director General

Malaysia-Australia Relationship



On 22 July 2014, a talk on “Malaysia-Australia relationship” by His Excellency Rod Smith, High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia was held in IDFR. This talk was attended by junior diplomats, who are now undergoing their Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD). Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR presented the welcoming remarks.

During the talk, H.E. Rod Smith focused on Malaysia and Australia relations and the importance in strengthening both countries’ relationship. He pointed out that the exercise of a country’s foreign policy is the reflection of a country values and character. Moreover, foreign policy is also the extension of a country’s national interests in which it is essential for everyone to understand it. He introduced contemporary Australia that is a very diverse country of which 1.7 million of its population were born in Asia, and is considered a country of migrants. Australia now becomes more livable and attractive and this reflects how Australia is internationalised in the world today. Other than that, H.E. Rod Smith also highlighted relations between ASEAN and Australia that could ultimately bring peace and prosperity for the region.

He also shared some important traits of a diplomat. First, diplomats should be able to be ready for surprises and open to challenges. In terms of this, diplomats will have to deal with uncertainty and therefore should be ready to handle any circumstance. Second, diplomats should always keep an open mind as every country is complex and different. It is crucial for them to know how a country thinks and how it works. Apart from that, diplomats should also be able to see things in a bigger picture as well as focus on the details. Third, diplomacy is not a zero-sum game. It is about partnership and partnership is about building approaches and finding common interests. In order to build a good relationship, it is important to find common interests that are eventually beneficial for both sides as well as being prepared to compromise. The fourth point stated by H.E. Rod Smith is about interest, influence and impact which is the capacity to advance a country’s foreign policy. H.E. Rod Smith also stated that it is essential to be well prepared to deal with crisis. Flexibility, situational awareness, as well as managing information and coordination are also important elements in the areas of diplomacy.



Reported by: Ernitasimbolon Erwan (Intern)
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Indonesian Election: Opportunities for Indonesia and Challenges for the Region



Indonesia is getting ready for its presidential poll set on 9th July 2014, following the legislative election on 9th April. The two presidential candidates, Jakarta's Governor, Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo and retired general, Prabowo Subianto have promised to develop Indonesia. To help us understand how the election of the largest economy in South East Asia will affect the region and influence her foreign policy, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia hosted a Lecture by Associate Professor Dr. Farish A. Noor, at the Treaty Room, IDFR on Tuesday, 23 June 2014.

IDFR is honoured to have Associate Professor Dr. Farish A. Noor, who is also a Distinguished Fellow of IDFR, to give the lecture titled, "Indonesian Elections: Opportunities for Indonesia and Challenges for the Region". Dr. Farish A. Noor is presently an Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University; where he is part of the research cluster 'Transnational Religion in Southeast Asia'. His academic thoughts and valuable insights on the topic of Indonesia's political, cultural and historical legacy is sought after having done a considerable number of years doing research and field work in Indonesia.

He expressed his hope that Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN 2015 will begin on a positive footing by forming a stronger multilateral pact among ASEAN members and succinctly described the journey Indonesia had experienced during the Post Suharto Era which had led the country of multiple complexities to become one that is stronger and resilient. Further to this, Indonesia's main challenge would now be to strategise its available resources in order to better manage success and stability. He further added that Indonesia had undergone enormous socio economic changes that will project better regulations and more transparency in Indonesia's upcoming election.

Reported by: Zuraini Harun
Regional and Security Studies Division

Lecture on Ukraine and the European Security by Professor Dr. Sarah Birch, Chair of Comparative Politics at School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow



On 1 July 2014, IDFR with the support from Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG) and the Jeffrey Cheah Institute of Southeast Asia, hosted Professor Dr. Sarah Birch, Chair of Comparative Politics at School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow to deliver a lecture on *Ukraine and European Security*. The programme began with welcoming remarks by YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, the Director General of IDFR and the lecture was moderated by the Deputy Chairman of FPSG, YBhg. Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi.

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

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

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

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

up to the West. At the same time, many smaller states are also dismayed at the erosion of international rule of law.



Reported by: Zuraini Harun
Regional and Security Studies Division

Crisis Management Course for International Participants 2014



The Crisis Management Course for International Participants 2014 under the auspicious of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) was conducted from 2 to 20 June 2014. It was attended by 24 participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Congo, Cuba, Gambia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The objective of the course is mainly, (i) to enhance knowledge and understanding on the theoretical and practical aspects of international crisis and crisis management; (ii) to increase knowledge and skills in the various approaches and techniques of crisis management; and (iii) to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences in crisis management.

The three-week course included several substantive topics on *Theory and Concept of Crisis Management, Food and Commodity Crisis, Energy Crisis, Diplomacy in Crisis Management, Economic and Global Crisis, Media Response in Crisis Management, Simulation Exercise: Media Response in Crisis Management, Strategic Thinking in Crisis Situation, Crisis Forecasting, The Law and Armed Conflict in International Crisis, Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes Through Adjudication by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Emerging Global Environmental Crisis Adjudication by ICJ, Conflict Resolution: Respect for Diversity, Country Risk Management, Simulation: Country Risk Management, Maritime Security in Southeast Asia and Managing Change After Crisis.*

Besides that, the participants were also given the opportunity to participate in the public lecture titled, *My Experience with the International Media and the Importance of Truthful and Moderate Approach*, delivered by H.E Dr. Haris Silajdzic, Former Member of Presidency and Prime Minister of Bosnia And Herzegovina. They also participated in a number of study visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysian Handicraft Corporation, Putrajaya Holdings, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (Klang District), Tourism Malaysia Pahang and East Coast Economic Region (ECER), Kuantan, Pahang.



Reported by: Azmah Mahmud
Training Division

Lecture titled, Experience with the International Media and the Importance of Truthful and Moderate Approach



IDFR held a lecture titled, Experience with the International Media and the Importance of Truthful and Moderate Approach at the Treaty Room on 11 June 2014.

The lecture was conducted by H.E. Dr. Haris Silajdzic. Possessing many years of experience in his role as a foreign minister, Prime Minister as well as former member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he has very rich experience in dealing with the media. In fact, he has played a crucial role to increase public understanding of Bosnian issues worldwide, especially with respect to war, aggression and devastation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, through media. H.E. Dr. Haris Silajdzic, in his lecture, briefly discussed the history, happenings and suffering of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lecture also touched on the role and focus of the Bosnian Foreign Ministry. He believes that truthful and moderate approach in engaging both the media and the world has never been more important for building trust.

Sixty-eight participants comprising the diplomatic corps, government agencies, universities, think tanks as well as media attended the lecture.

Reported by: Lim Hui Chin
Regional and Security Studies Division

The 31st ASEF Board of Governors' Meeting in Riga, Latvia and Working Visit to Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia



The Director General of Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) attended the 31st Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) Board of Governors' Meeting held in Riga, Latvia from 29th till 30th May 2014 and had a working visit to Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia on 2nd June 2014.

ASEF is an institute established under the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM). As ASEF continues its work in mutual understanding of Asia-Europe ties through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, the meeting was set to discuss various issues especially with regards to synergies between ASEF's activities with ASEM process. During this meeting, the Governor from Malaysia, Dato' Hussin Nayan, was elected as the Asian Member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

This meeting was attended by 62 Governors and Note takers from both Asia and Europe member countries. Apart from the meeting, the contributions from member countries and some of ASEF project portfolios were also discussed. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia both hosted a reception and a dinner for the attending Governors and Note takers. There was also a cultural tour on 31st May 2014 around Riga.

To also fulfil the invitation from Tallinn University of Technology (TUT), a working visit to Tallinn, Estonia was also organised. During this meeting, the prospect of people-to- people exchanges was discussed and the Malaysian delegates were shown around the campus and university's facilities. In conjunction with the visit to TUT, meetings with the Estonian School of Diplomacy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia was also arranged. H.E Andres Unga, the Ambassador of Estonia to Australia was also present to welcome the Malaysian delegates.

Reported by: Ms Siti Nooraznie Abdul Rahim
Academic Studies, Research & Publication Division

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): English Language for Diplomacy Course 1/2014



IDFR organised the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): English Language and Diplomacy Course series 1/2014 from 19 to 30 May 2014. Twenty-three participants namely from Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Comores, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uzbekistan and Vietnam attended the two-week course.

The objective of the programme was to enhance the participants' proficiency in the use of English specifically in the realm of diplomacy and international relations. Apart from that, the course also aimed at enhancing the participants' general English Language proficiency in the four skills areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

In line with the objectives, IDFR arranged interactive modules such as Active Listening, Writing Diplomatically: Sentence Structure and Applying Grammar, The Sound of English Language: Pronunciation, Presentation Skills and Public Speaking as well as Speech Drafting.

Reported by: Sufrinizam Abd. Hamid
Training Division

Orientation Course for Secretaries and Executive Officers



The Orientation Course for Secretaries and Executive Officers was conducted from 19 until 30 May 2014. It was attended by 16 secretaries and executive officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course was conducted at the request of the Ministry in preparing the participants for their duties and responsibilities at the Ministry and missions.

The modules of the course were monitored closely by the Ministry as to ensure strict adherence to its practices, rules and regulations. During the first week of the course, participants went through lectures on Financial Matters delivered by officers from the Ministry including asset management, auditing and financial management. The participants were also required to sit for a short test as part of the course module. For the second week, the participants were exposed to topics ranging from protocol and consular matters, preparation before posting, grooming and etiquette, language and communication.

Reported by: Romaiza Abd. Rahman
Training Division

ASEAN-China Young Diplomats Training Course 2014



The ASEAN-China Young Diplomats Training Course 2014 was conducted from 19 to 30 May 2014. The two-week course was attended by 16 participants from Brunei, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and ASEAN Secretariat.

The objectives of this course were to enhance the awareness of young diplomats on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and to encourage people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and China.

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, Asean Community 2015, ASEAN Economic Pillar and External Relations, Global Movements of Moderates, Geopolitical Relations of China with ASEAN Nations: A Psychological Perspective, International Negotiations and Environmental Crisis.

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

Reported by: Haris Syarwani Razali
Training Division

**SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Their Spouses Series 3/2014
(Grade 41 and Above)**



The third series of the SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Their Spouses was held from 19 to 30 May 2014. The course was attended by 76 participants from various ministries and government agencies under Sistem Pentadbiran Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM). The participants comprised of 41 officers for grade 41 and above and 35 spouses.

The main objective of the course was to prepare the participants prior to their first postings abroad in aspects related to foreign policy, administration, management, finance, culture, diplomacy, security and etiquette. Focus was also given to topics relevant to promoting Malaysia from the points of view of tourism, investment, products and culture. As for the spouses, the course exposed them to their roles, functions and responsibilities while accompanying the officers abroad.

Reported by: Romaiza Abd. Rahman
Training Division

Adam Smith on the Decline of Islamic Science



On 26 May 2014, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), in collaboration with Noah Foundation, organised a public lecture titled, Adam Smith on the Decline of Islamic Science. It was presented by Professor George Saliba, Mohamed Noah Fellow at Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford University and Professor of Arabic and Islamic Science, Columbia University.

Professor George Saliba introduced his lecture with a question that was raised by Joseph Needham, a British scientist and historian, on why Modern Science developed in Europe in 16th century but not in Islam's, China's and India's civilization. He argued with those who believed the rise of religious thought, exemplified by the works of Imam Ghazali, author of *Tahafut al-Falasifa* (incoherence of the Philosophers) and the unwillingness to undergo religious reformation were directly responsible for diverting attention from the pursuit of philosophy and science.

Through the famous 18th century economist and philosopher Adam Smith, Professor George Saliba explained that the answer lies in the global shifts that took place during that century such as the discovery of the United States of America. As a result of the "Age of Discovery", science was enslaved to the commercial market and shifted into investments in navigation instruments; whereas in Islam, astronomers and mathematicians invented instruments to locate Mecca. He also stated that during the Italian Renaissance, many inventions such as Galileo Galilei's Geometric and Military Compass were duplicated from Islam. It was Khafir Ghulan who designed, "The Perfect Compass" in 10th century, Baghdad.

The Oxford University Professor concluded by stressing the fact that phenomenon of decline in science and philosophy was not restricted to Islamic civilization, but was a universal phenomenon that covered all other non-European civilizations. In order for science to develop in Islam, it must comply with Shariah Law; knowledge must be shared, monopolies and interest rates erased.

In attendance were President and Vice Chancellor of UNIRAZAK, Prof. Datuk Seri Dr. Md Zabid Hj Abdul Rashid, Chairman of Noah Foundation, Datin Paduka Dr. Faridah Abdullah, think-tanks, NGOs, professors from public and private universities and post-graduate students. IDFR was represented by Syahrul Nizzam Nordin.

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

Panel Discussion in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of Malaysia-China Diplomatic Relations



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Malaysia-China Friendship Association and Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, organised the *Panel Discussion in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of Malaysia-China Diplomatic Relations*. This panel discussion was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China. It was also to provide an overview and understanding of the relationship of these two countries as well as enhance awareness of the importance of bilateral relations between Malaysia and China to the public. It was held on 20th of May 2014 at the Auditorium, IDFR.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks by YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR. H.E Huang Huikang, Ambassador of China to Malaysia then delivered the Keynote Address. He reminded us the significant visit made by Malaysia's second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein Al-Haj to China, which paved the way to build stronger cooperation between the two countries, resulting in a bilateral trade volume of 106 billion US Dollars in 2013 and an exchange of 100 million personnel within a year.

In the first session titled "Revisiting 40 Years of Malaysia China Relations: Insight from Diplomacy", the panelists, YBhg. Dato' Khor Eng Hee (Honorary Governing Council, UNAM), YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Michael Chen Wing Sum (Former Housing and Local Government Minister) and YBhg. Dato' Abdul Majid Khan (Former Malaysian Ambassador to China and President Malaysia-China Friendship Association) deliberated on historical and present factors that led to the structuring of Malaysia-China relationship which strengthened and benefitted both countries economically, politically and socially. Ambassador (R) Dr. Azhari Karim was the moderator.

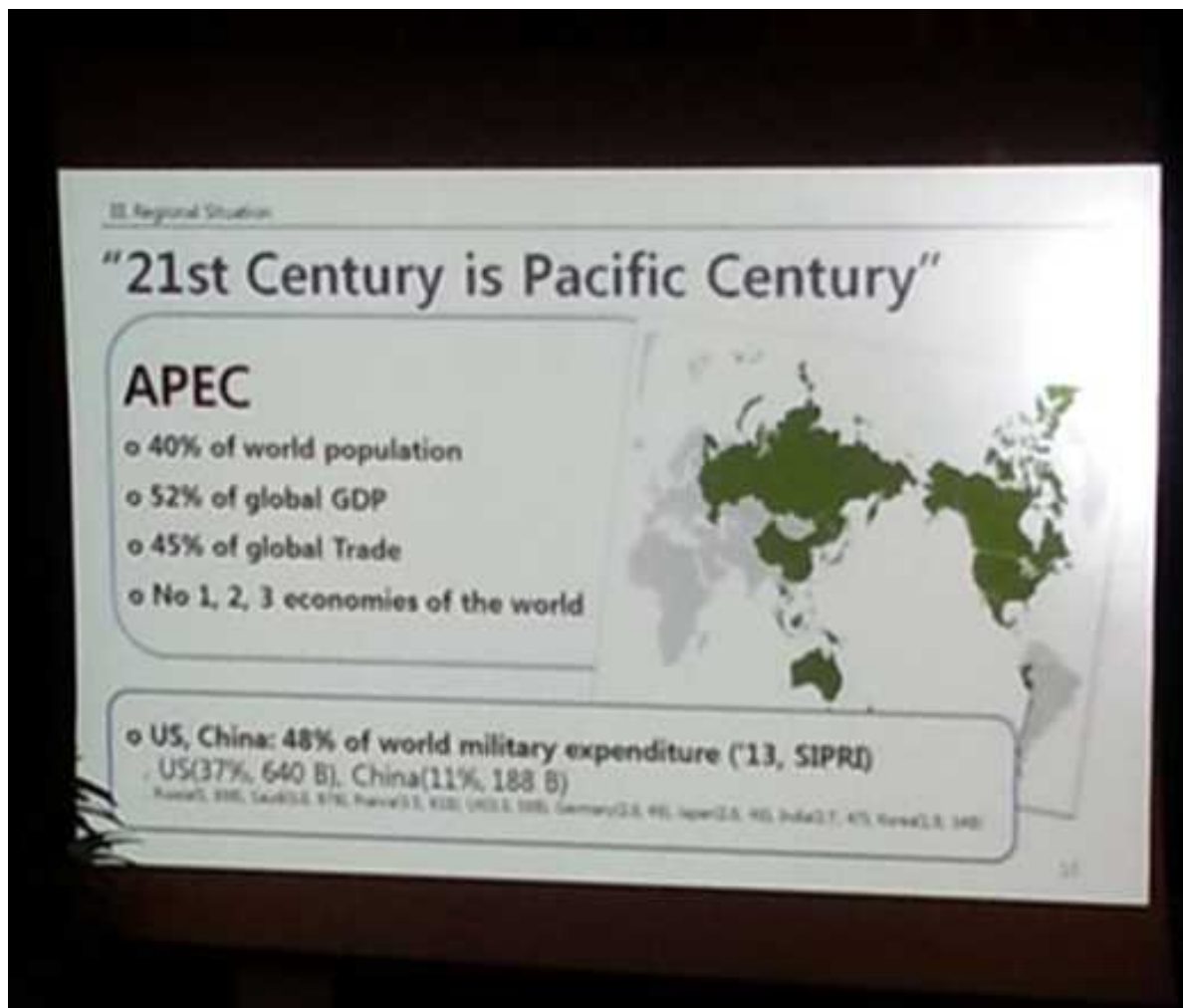
Speakers of the second session titled, "The Rise of China and Its Implications for Malaysia-China Relations: Economics, Political and Strategic Perspectives" were Professor Dr. Cheong Kee Cheok (Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya), Professor Dr. Li Mingjiang (Coordinator of China Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU, Singapore) and Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing (Senior Research Fellow, Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya) and moderated by Professor Dr. Lee Poh Hing, Senior Research Fellow in the

Institute of China Studies, Universiti Malaya. The emerging power and influence of China in the region and the rest of the world and how that has affected the relationship between the two countries were discussed, and the continued debate as to whether China is an aggressor in the South China Sea concluded the programme.

In attendance were respective Ambassadors and High Commissioners, academicians, think-tanks, NGOs, foreign participants from the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), ASEAN-China young diplomats and members of the media.



Reported by: Rafizah Zahri
Regional and Security Studies Division



A lecture by H.E Cho Byungjae, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea was held at the Asia-Europe Institute, University Malaya on the 8th of May, 2014. It is part of the Ambassadors Lecture Series (Ales) titled, "Malaysia-Korea Win-Win Partnership."

Ambassador Cho spoke about the ties Malaysia and Korea's long diplomatic ties focusing particularly on Malaysia - Korea relations, ASEAN - Korea relations, situation in the region where cooperation and rivalry is concerned and Malaysia - Korea win - win partnership. The ties has been long forged and heightened with the implementation of Malaysia's Look East policy by the former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. He also discussed about the relations between ASEAN and Korea in terms of trade i.e. shared strategic goals, middle power cooperation, complementary economies and being a natural partner for cooperation.

He pointed out that Malaysia and Korea had worked for a partnership for regional cooperation and economic partnership through the Economic Transformation Plan and Korea's Creative Economy: Innovation & Transformation. With the flocks of tourists from Malaysia, it has also impacted Korea socially. Korea is more susceptible to the requests of Halal food and the needs of muslim tourists. He also said that Malaysia and Korea are working on the second version of the Look East Policy (LEP) where focus is more on trade and industrial cooperation, particularly in green technology, information and communications technology, as well as biotechnology.

The lecture was attended by foreign ambassadors, mission representatives and academicians. IDFR was represented by Siti Nooraznie Abdul Rahim, Deputy Director of the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division and Saiful Ezane Mazlan, Deputy Director of Regional and Security Studies Division.



Reported by: Siti Nooraznie Abdul Rahim
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Third National Defence University Malaysia (NDUM) – Institut Des Hautes Etudes De Defense Nationale (IHEDN) Conference on Defence and Security Cooperation



A conference on Defence and Security Cooperation between Malaysia and France was organised by the National Defence University Malaysia (NDUM) in collaboration with France's Institut Des Hautes Etudes De Defense Nationale (IHEDN) at the Prince Hotel on 8 May 2014. The conference was the third series in the annual programme between these two institutions with the sole purpose of strengthening the bilateral relationship in the related defence and security cooperation.

The conference was officially opened by General Tan Sri Haji Zulkifli Haji Zainal Abidin, the Vice Chancellor of NDUM. The first session of the conference titled "Malaysia – France Bilateral Relations (defence, security and technical collaboration)" included speakers such as Dato' Jesbil Singh, Deputy Vice Chancellor of NDUM, Miss Virginie Hervo, from the Ministry of Exterior Affairs, France and Mr Christian Bourdeille, Ministry of Defence, France. The speakers spoke about the close working relationship between Malaysia and France in the global arena, the regional and international Peacekeeping Operations and the importance of cooperation, not only in defence related matters but also in education, tourism and the economy. There was also the importance of expanding the scope of the cooperation under the strong bilateral relationship due to the strong and stable political and economic situations in both countries. The session was moderated by Professor Dr Faizal Ali from NDUM.

The second session titled "Current European Geopolitical Scenario" was helmed by Professor Dato' Dr B A Hamzah and the speakers were Ambassador Nicolas Normand from IHEDN, Dr Adam Leong from NDUM and Mr Thornike Gordadze from IHEDN. In this session, the speakers highlighted about the crisis that was happening in the Crimean Peninsula in Ukraine which could be traced back to the 1938 Munich Conference, the aggressive move made by Russia under President Putin to re-establish Russian influence in Ukraine despite the protests made by the world community. Another interesting topic was about the post-Arab Spring situation in several Arab countries that were rocked with demonstration, anarchy and the collapse of the ruling governments.

The third and final session of the one-day conference was titled "East Asian Security Scenario" which was moderated by Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ahmad Ghazali Abu Hassan from NDUM. The

speakers included Professor Dr Aruna Gopinath from the Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS) NDUM, Captain (Navy) Christophe Pipolo from the Ministry of Exterior Affairs, France and Lieutenant Colonel Zaini Salleh from NDUM. The speakers enriched the audience about the fragile security situation in the seas between the Philippines and Malaysia, especially Sabah, the insurgents in South Philippines and the recurring kidnapping issues in the surrounding areas of eastern Sabah coast. Another issue was about the volatile situation in southern Thailand which had caused several lives, loss of business and revenue and total destruction in several tourist and business districts and its effects on Malaysia.

In conclusion, the conference had created awareness about the security concerns especially in the Southeast Asian region as highlighted by both Malaysia and France. The conference also gave some insights about crises, volatile issues and disputes which occur around the world currently and could in one way or another have an impact not only to Malaysia and its neighbours but also to France and its strategic partners.



Reported by: Major Mohd Ridzuan Hj. Mohd Shariff
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Book Launch: 'A UN Chronicle'



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) is pleased to announce its latest publication titled '*A UN Chronicle*' by Razali Ismail (Tan Sri) with Sharifah Shifa al-Attas. It chronicles his years at the United Nations (UN) beginning his appointment as Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations until his tenure as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar from 2000 to 2005.

In this book Tan Sri Razali Ismail examined his years at the UN during a time when multilateral diplomacy struggled to find relevance towards the end of the Cold War and after. Tan Sri Razali described how Malaysia fought its diplomatic battles and also provided new revelations into the goings-on, as well as describing in fresh detail aspects of leadership at the UN as reflected in his own presidency of both the Security Council in 1989 and the General Assembly from 1996 to 1997. In so doing, he revealed the roles played by Malaysia on a number of key issues that emerged at that time.

The book was launched on 30 April 2014 by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad at IDFR. The event was hosted by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Othman Hashim and attended by officials from the Ministry, diplomatic corps, various government agencies, universities, various associations, private sector and members of the media.

In his impromptu speech, Tun Dr. Mahathir voiced his support for Tan Sri Razali's effort in writing the book with the aspiration that the dialogues and discussions on the UN reforms and changes be galvanized for a better future. He acknowledged that it was a very challenging task due to the structure of the UN itself and the fact that "people in power loathe to give up power".

Tun Dr. Mahathir also reminisced the days when he delivered his speech at the UN as a delegate and described Tan Sri Razali as someone who always delivered. He hopes that Tan Sri Razali's book will be a useful reference for everyone and wittily expressed his outlook on the book.

'*A UN Chronicle*' retails at RM100.00 and is available at IDFR. For further inquiries, kindly contact us at 03-2149 1043/1044/1160.



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

Intermediate and Advanced Speech Writing Courses and Speech Writing Course for Advanced Level



Two Speech Writing Courses for officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) were recently concluded. The Intermediate Speech Writing Course was held from 16 until 18 April 2014 and attended by nine Principal Assistant Secretaries. Meanwhile, the Advanced Speech Writing Course, was organised from 28 until 30 April 2014 with participation from seven Undersecretaries.

The objectives of the course were to increase understanding on the principles of successful speechwriting; expose the participants to the skills, techniques and strategies in speechwriting, and enable the participants to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses as speechwriters. The courses were conducted in a series of interactive lectures, individual and group work and in-class speechwriting exercises. Among the course modules were The Art and Craft of Speech Writing, Skills, Techniques and Strategies in Speech Making, Analysis of Best Speeches, Organisation of a Speech and The Use of Metaphors, Repetitions, Rhetoric and Contradictions in Speech Writing.

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



Reported by: Mohd Farid Mohd Arif and Romaiza Ab. Rahman
Training Division

Bangladesh Trade Policy: Meeting The International Standards and Technical Regulations and Overcoming The Barrier in International Trade



A workshop on “Bangladesh Trade Policy: Meeting the International Standards and Technical Regulations and Overcoming the Barrier in International Trade” was held on 17 April 2014 at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR). It was attended by nine trade senior officials from Bangladesh and moderated by Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Senior External Fellow from the World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Bern, Switzerland.

Among topics discussed in the workshop included International Standards and Technical Regulations, how government can overcome barriers in international trade and elements that can cause major impact to trade such as globalisation, deregulation and privatisation.

The participants also discussed on the measurements that can be used to overcome problems in trade policy such as reviewing the existing International Standard and Technical Regulation, remove unnecessary rules and compliance cost and improves efficiency through enabling fair competition.



Reported by: Mohamad Fadhli Bakar
Regional and Security Studies Division

Community Wealth Creation Through Geographical Indications (GI)



On 17 April 2014, the Institute Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in collaboration with the World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Bern, Switzerland organised a workshop titled “**Community Wealth Creation Through Geographical Indications (GI)**”. Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Senior External Fellow from the WTI moderated the workshop which was attended by five participants.

During the workshop, participants learned about the overview of GI, GI contributions to socio-economic development, international legal framework for GI, Malaysian GI law and barriers faced by the GI product exporters.

Dr. Sufian Jusoh also emphasized that it is important for the local GI entrepreneurs to register their products under the competent authority or a trade organization to ensure proper implementation is taken.



Reported by: Muhammad Sahfiqal Abdullah Saidi
Regional and Security Studies Division

Investor-State Dispute Settlement: From The Context of Investor Protections and State's Right to Pursue National Agenda



On 16 April 2014, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), in collaboration with the Centre for Economic Diplomacy Asia-Pacific and the World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Berne, Switzerland organised a workshop under the Economic Diplomacy Series titled **“Investor-State Dispute Settlement: From The Context of Investor Protection and State’s Rights To Pursue National Agenda and Trade Integration”**. Associate Professor Dr. Juliean Chaisse, Director of Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, Chinese University Hong Kong and Chief Legal Counsel of World Trade Advisors delivered a lecture on the subject matter.

The session commenced with welcoming remarks from YBhg. Dato Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR. Datuk Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Secretary General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) graced the session with her opening remarks.

In his lecture, Associated. Professor. Dr. Juliean Chaisse talked on the issues of treatification of foreign investment law, provided an understanding of States to investment claims and for States to pursue their national agenda whilst protecting investors’ rights.

He mentioned that investment treaties have provided investors with the assurance of a transparent and predictable investment regime in a host country. Proper implementation of investment rules is crucial and will preserve a State’s regulatory rights. He also explained on positive impacts and potential downsides by implementing these investment treaties.

Two members of parliament, YB Datuk Wira Hj Ahmad Hamzah (chairman of the parliamentary caucus) and YB Wong Chen PKR (Kelana Jaya) attended the event.

Officials from various government agencies and NGOs such as Wisma Putra, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry Of Finance, Attorney General Chambers, Bank Negara Malaysia, Securities Commission, MIDA, Bar Council, Pricewaterhousecooper (PwC), Badan Bertindak BANTAH TPPA (BANTAH), Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi Melayu (MTEM) and Third World Network.



Reported by: Mohamad Shafiqal Abdullah Saidi
Regional and Security Studies Division

Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 2/2014 under The Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM)



The second series of the Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-based Staff and Spouses under the Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan di Luar Negara (SPKM) was successfully conducted from 7 until 11 April 2014. This course which was meant for civil services officers graded 38 and below, was attended by eighteen (18) participants from various ministries and government agencies namely Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration Department and Tourism Malaysia.

The main objectives of the course are to increase the participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations, expose participants to matters related to the working at mission and to instill spirit de corps among the participants for effective performance in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as representatives of the country. In addition, the course also exposes and prepares the participants' spouses of their varied functions and responsibilities.

The five-day course included interactive lectures and group discussions.. Among the topics discussed were Financial Management at Mission, Protocol and Consular Matters at Mission, Grooming and Social Etiquette, Fine Dining Etiquette, Role of Spouses at Mission, Standard Operating Procedure in Humanitarian Crisis, Cross Cultural Awareness and Communication and Cooking Demonstration.

Reported by: Azmah Mahmud
Training Division

International Digital Libraries Conference 2014



The International Digital Libraries Conference 2014 with the theme 'Preserving and Sharing Digital Resources Through Co-operation and Collaboration' was successfully organised by the National Library of Malaysia in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia from 8 till 10 April 2014 at the Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The conference commenced with a welcoming remarks by the Director General of National Library of Malaysia, YBhg. Dato' Raslin Abu Bakar, followed by the opening ceremony that was officiated by Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Tan Sri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia. The keynote address was delivered by Dato' Sri Dr. Halim Shafie, Chairman of the National Library Advisory Board. The conference aimed at creating regional cooperation and collaboration in implementing digitization programmes to enable information sharing, networking and preserving digital resources that support social and economic development, education and research, tourism and creative industries.

The two-day conference cum one-day workshop was attended by 250 local and foreign participants. Among them were librarians, information managers, knowledge professionals, IT professionals, academicians and students, information service providers and publishers. An exhibition and poster sessions related to library services and ICT was also held concurrently. IDFR was represented by Ms. Hajah Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director of Library.



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

National Colloquium on Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN 2015



From 8 to 10 April 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia hosted a National Colloquium on Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN. Participants of the Colloquium were various stakeholders from the government sector, practitioners, academicians, think tanks, civil society organisations, the youth groups, members of the media and experts in ASEAN affairs.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Hj. Abdul Razak officiated the Colloquium and delivered a Keynote Address. In his address, the Prime Minister shared his assessment, views and vision related to Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015. Malaysia has identified the creation of a truly '**People-Centred ASEAN**' as the central element of its Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015. The establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015 will further strengthen regional integration and cooperation which reflects on ASEAN's readiness to contribute positively to global affairs.

Throughout the three-day event, participants were engaged in various sessions delivered by prominent speakers. Dato' Hussin Nayan, the Director General of IDFR moderated a session titled "ASEAN Outlook: Re-assessing the Pillars Approach and How Malaysia Can Take A Proactive and Constructive Leading Role as Chair of ASEAN in 2015". Speakers for the session were Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamad, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob from the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat and Datuk Hj. Ab. Ghaffar A. Thambi from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Other sessions included theme related to community building, youth, security and economic matters.

The Colloquium proved to be a constructive event where various proposals, comments and observations were shared based on enthusiastic responses received from participants. In his closing remarks, Datuk Othman Hashim, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured that the Ministry will continue to engage the stakeholders and expressed that coming together is a beginning, keeping together will be a sign of progress and working together will surely lead to success.



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

Launching of the National Cataloguing Standards



The National Cataloguing Standards (RDA) was launched on 3rd April 2014 at the National Library of Malaysia. The Resource Description and Access (RDA) is a new standard of documentation that meets the needs and the suitability of the digital world and technology environment to replace the Anglo- American Cataloguing Rules Second Edition (AACR2).

The ceremony was officiated by YBhg Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal , the Director General of the Public Services Department (PSD), Malaysia. In his speech, Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi acknowledged that the national cataloging standards that has been implemented at the National Library of Malaysia (PNM) is a new transformation that allows the documentation to be accessed easier and faster to meet the needs of the world of technology today.

Currently, Malaysia is the eighth country in the world to implement the system for accessing digital information resources at PNM as the leading library information services after the Library of Congress, National Agricultural Library, the National Library of Medicine, USA; The British Library; Library and Archives of Canada; National Library Board of Singapore; and the National Library of Australia.

The ceremony was attended by librarians from the various governmental departments and private agencies throughout Malaysia. YBhg. Dato ' Hussin Nayan , the Director General of IDFR, accompanied by Ms Hajah Kamariah Jaafar, the Deputy Director of Library were present at the event.



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

Attachment Programme at the Embassy of Malaysia in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia



Sixteen participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) course series 1/2014 had the opportunity to attend an attachment programme at the Embassy of Malaysia in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 22 to 29 March 2014. The eight-day programme was headed by Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of the Institute Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR). The programme is aimed to train Malaysian junior diplomats in the fields of diplomacy and international relations. It is also designed to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for their diplomatic career.

During the programme, the participants had not only managed to learn more about the Republic of Indonesia in context of politics, economy, social and culture, but they also managed to experience the ups and lows of life as Malaysian diplomats abroad. Participants also had the opportunity to interact with counterparts from agencies pertinent to their diplomatic roles, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (KEMLU), School of Foreign Service of the Republic of Indonesia (SEKDILU) and ASEAN Secretariat. Discussion sessions were also held between the participants and the committee members of Malaysia Chambers Jakarta (MCJ) and representative of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences to further understand the local political, economical and social scenes. Apart from the substantive schedule, the participants also visited National Museum of the Republic of Indonesia and Taman Mini Indonesia Indah.



Reported by: Mohd Firdaus Azman
Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2014

Workshop on Introduction to Public International Law



The Workshop on Introduction to Public International Law was successfully conducted from 24 to 27 March 2014. The objective of this workshop was to enhance understanding of the major segments of public international law that are relevant to diplomatic practice, international relations and international trade and investments. Among the topics discussed at this workshop were The Nature and Scope of Public International Law, International Economic Law, International Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Maritime Law, International Settlement of Disputes, and The Law of Treaties and the Law of State Responsibility.

The workshop was attended by a total of 16 participants from the Prime Minister's Department (1), Ministry of Education (1), Ministry of Defense (4), Ministry of International Trade and Industry (5), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3), and IDFR (2).

Reported by: Ms Romaiza Ab. Rahman
Training Division

The 4th Series of Introduction to Protocol Course: Self-Grooming and Image Branding



On 26 March 2014, the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Malaysia (IDFR) organised the fourth series of its Introduction to Protocol Course titled, "Self-Grooming and Image Branding" for officers and staff of IDFR.

The morning session on appearance, behaviour and communication was delivered by Mr. Hafiz Mustapha, an image and protocol consultant and trainer from CuteCarry Enterprise. He touched on the basis of building self-confidence through image, stating that respecting yourself and staying positive is important. He then shared tips on how to look elegant and professional by wearing attire that complements one's physique. He also talked about managing and maintaining healthy hygiene as a way to boost one's self-esteem.

The afternoon session was focused on facial appearance. Mr. Zulkifli Hassan from Joey Make-Over began by describing the various ways to care for one's face based on the condition of one's skin. He also explained the types and colours of make-up that will be suitable. It concluded with a make-up demonstration for day and evening look.



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

Seminar Titled 'Reflections on Lahad Datu: One Year Later' Held at the National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM)



Introduction

A half-day seminar titled '*Reflections on Lahad Datu: One Year Later*' was organised by the Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM) was held on 24 March 2014. The seminar was organized to reflect upon the incident whereby Sulu armed insurgents who called themselves 'The Royal Sulu Army' from the southern island of Mindanao, Philippines had landed in Lahad Datu on 12 February 2013. The intruders wanted to claim Sabah as belonging to Jamalul Kiram, the self proclaimed Sultan of Sulu's family. The intruders refused to leave Lahad Datu after several negotiations with the government failed which led to armed conflict between the Malaysian Defence Forces and the Sulu intruders in March 2013. This incident had marred the country's image and tarnished the good diplomatic relationship between Malaysia and the Philippines.

Objectives

The objectives of the seminar included the need to highlight the historical reality about the legal implication on the Sultan of Sulu's claim on Sabah, to enlighten the participants about the geographical intimacy between the sprawling islands of Philippines and northeast Sabah and to inform the participants about the economical implications that attract the people of Philippines to settle in Sabah.

Speakers and Topics

The seminar was moderated by Lt Col Ajaya Kumar from NDUM. Among the speakers who presented their papers and views during the seminar were as follows:

- a. Dr Aruna Gopinath, Desk Officer for South East Asian Studies, CDISS NDUM with the topic titled '*Lahad Datu: A Historical Perspective*'.
- b. Lt Col Principal Fellow Ahmad Ghazali Abu Hassan, Director CDISS with the topic titled '*Lahad Datu: An International Law Perspective*'.

- c. Captain Martin A. Sebastian (RMN), Fellow Centre Head for Maritime Security and Diplomacy, Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) with the topic titled '*Holistic Security – Fighting Fire with Water*'.

Observation

The seminar was held to explain about the historical and legal perspectives that had some implications on the desire by the Sultan Sulu claims on Sabah. The historical aspect covered right from the beginning when the Spanish conquered the Philippines right through the American adventure in the country and then followed by the Japanese invasion during the Second World War. The participants were briefed about the various treaties and agreements which eventually relinquished Sultan Sulu's claim on Sabah which the descendants had vehemently denied that they had lost their rights on Sabah.

The speakers touched on the legality of the claim and reiterated that Sultan Sulu does not have the '*locus standi*' to bring his claims to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The seminar did not touch on the operational aspects of the Lahad Datu incident because the seminar did not want to prejudice the ongoing court case on the intruders involved in the incident. The exclusion of the operational aspects dampened the discussion somewhat because it was generally believed that the briefing or lecture on the operational aspect would be more interesting.

Conclusion

The seminar gave some information about the lessons learnt from the Lahad Datu incident and the causes that had instigated the 'Royal Sulu Army' to infiltrate into Sabah in the hope of waging war against Malaysia in order to re-claim Sabah. The historical perspectives lecture was an important reminder that Sabah will forever remain with Malaysia and no outside forces could legally claim Sabah as theirs. Moreover, the seminar also highlighted the importance to safeguard the eastern coast of Sabah from future intrusions from outside parties because Sabah's economy is booming and this potential for wealth looks very attractive to external forces.

A total of 67 participants from IDFR, ISIS, MIMA, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Malaysian Institute of Defense and Security (MIDAS), Ministry of Defence and Strategic Studies students from NDUM attended the seminar.



Reported by: Major Mohd Ridzuan Hj. Mohd Shariff
Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 1/2014



IDFR had successfully organised the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 1/2014 from 3 – 21 March 2014. The three-week programme was attended by 29 diplomats from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brunei, Cambodia, Congo, Egypt, Fiji, Guinea, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

The objective of the programme was to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills on diplomacy and international relations, to expose the participants' to Malaysia's experience in managing its foreign policy and international relations and to provide the participants with hands-on experience and networking.

An integrated teaching and learning methodologies were conducted which included briefings, discussions, lectures, and simulation exercises. In general, modules covered included Malaysia's Foreign Policy, current international relations and global issues, regional security, diplomatic skills and language. The participants were also taken to several onsite briefings such as Putrajaya, MATRADE and Central Bank. In addition, the participants were privileged to experience state level governance when they visited the historical city of Melaka and Johor.

Overall, the participants commented that the objectives of the programme were achieved. They expressed that they had gained new knowledge and experience throughout the programme. Among the positive comments received included "expectation of the programme were met, improved knowledge and better understanding of diplomacy and international relations from the Malaysian experience, gained networking with Malaysian officials and among participants.

Reported by: Awang Mohammad Putra Awang Sopeian
Training Division

The 8th Heads of Mission Conference



From 23 February to 1 March 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia organised the 8th Heads of Mission Conference with the theme, “Transforming Malaysia’s Diplomacy Towards 2020 and Beyond.” The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) hosted the conference from 23 to 26 February 2014.

Throughout the six-day conference, participants were engaged in numerous dialogues between NGOs, economists, academicians, federal and state government officials.

The opening ceremony of the Eighth Heads of Mission Conference 2014 was officiated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak on 24 February 2014. The programme commenced with welcoming remarks by YB Dato’ Sri Anifah Hj Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, followed by a keynote address by the Prime Minister. YAB Dato’ Sri Najib stated that as a Middle Power, Malaysia must continue its commitment towards ASEAN and devote adequate resources to strengthening our bilateral relations with its neighbors and continue to value ASEAN as the fulcrum of peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

YAB also said as policymakers, diplomats and members of the international community, Malaysia must react to the transformations that is trending around the region and the world, with a transformation of our own, a foreign policy which will see Malaysia through to a developed status and beyond by 2020. Also “as Malaysia’s chief representatives abroad, you each have a unique role; in your hands rest the task of ensuring that our Malaysian stands proud in the world. Based on past experience, I know you will rise to the challenge.”

On 25 February 2014, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin delivered his address titled, Engaging and Mobilizing Malaysian Diaspora to Strengthen the Nation. Later, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa spoke about the Role of Malaysian Diplomats towards Realising the National Transformation Agenda. A special spouse programme was also conducted which included talks on Understanding Emotional Intelligence and Professionalism and Moments of Truth at Missions. YBhg. Datin Sri Siti Rubiah Datuk Abdul Samad, wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, was the guest of honour.

On Wednesday 26 February 2014, Ambassador Aminah Hj. A. Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR, was the moderator of a session titled, “Malaysian Diplomats: Today and Tomorrow” which featured Datuk Dr. Ahmad Faizal, Tan Sri Dato’ Dr. Mohd Munir Abdul Majid, Dato’ Din Merican Azaddin Merican and Dato’ Dr. Muthiah Alagappa.

The second half of the conference was set in Kuching, Sarawak and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

A closing dinner of the 8th Heads of Mission Conference 2014, hosted by YB Dato' Sri Anifah Hj Aman, concluded the six-day conference.



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

National Congress of Muslim Women Leadership 2014



The National Congress of Muslim Women Leadership 2014, with the theme of "Women's Leadership Drives the Transformation of Ummah" was successfully organised by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) and Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) on 19 March, 2014 at IKIM. The opening ceremony was officiated by YB Major General Dato' Seri Jamil Khir B. Hj. Baharom (R), Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, who also delivered the keynote address.

Three papers were presented:

1. Women: Lead or Led by Che Asmah binti Ibrahim, Deputy Head of the Organisation of Women, IKRAM, Malaysia;
2. Discourse on Gender Equality: Confused Muslim Feminists by Dr. Khalif Muammar A. Harris, a lecturer from University Technology Malaysia; and
3. Women's Leadership Issues at Global Settings by Prof. Dr. Raihanah Hj Abdullah, Deputy Dean, Research Centre, Department of Syariah and Law, Academy of Islamic Studies, University Malaya.

In addition a forum titled, "Women and the Challenges of Secularism" was held. Panel members included Professor Dr. Hayaati Sharifah binti Syed Ismail, a lecturer from the University of Malaya; Dato' Dr. Siti Norlasiah binti Ismail, Director General of the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) and Dr. Asyraf Wajdi bin Datuk Haji Dusuki, President of the Islamic Dakwah Foundation Malaysia (YADIM). The forum was moderated by Prof. Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Deputy Director General of IKIM.

The congress was attended by three hundred participants comprising senior women officers from government ministries and agencies, statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as representatives and students from local universities. IDFR was represented by Ms Hajah Kamariah Jaafar, Deputy Director of Library.



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

INTAN Public Policy Ministerial Forum Series 2014: "Corruption-Are You The Problem Or The Solution?"



On 17 March 2014, National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) organised its Public Policy Ministerial Forum Series titled, "Corruption-Are You The Problem Or The Solution?". The guest speaker was Senator Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. The programme commenced with welcoming remarks by Dato' Dr. Mazlan Yusoff, Director of INTAN followed by a keynote address by Senator Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan.

In his keynote address as the minister with the portfolio of governance and integrity, Senator Datuk Paul Low told the audience that in today's scenario, demands from the people for greater transparency, accountability and the assurance of social justice is the order of the day. It is not merely about politics and having a free and fair elections, but building a democracy that is sustainable and brings about real economic growth that improves the standard of living and the quality of life for all its people.

In order to achieve this, the government of the day must embark on continuous reform to transform and strengthen its institutions and its administrative prowess to effectively respond to not only domestic issues but also internationally as well.

The minister reminded civil servants that without the right culture and attitudes that support and enhance integrity in the exercise of authority and power, curbing corruption will be limited. He emphasized that **"our walk in integrity is a battle that is to be fought not in the outside but within us in our hearts and minds"**. He ended his address by asking everyone whether they are one of those who will stand for integrity and fight corruption and everyone including himself need to ask themselves whether they are the problem or the solution.

Officers from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and various ministries and government agencies attended the forum.

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

Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 1/2014 Under the SPKM



The Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 1/2014 under the Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) was successfully conducted from 10 until 21 February 2014. The first series was specifically for officers grade 41 and above. 27 participants from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Human Resource, Public Service Department, Department of Islamic Development Malaysia, Immigration Department, Malaysia Nuclear Agency and Yayasan Islam Kedah attended the course.

The main objectives of the course are to increase the participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations, expose participants to matters related to the working at mission and to instill esprit de corps among the participants for effective performance in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as representatives of the Country. In addition, the course also exposes and prepares the participants' spouses of their varied functions and responsibilities.

The ten-day course included the interactive lectures, group discussions and practical sessions on aspects related to working at a mission. Among the topics are, *Financial Management at Mission, Protocol and Consular Matters at Mission, Legal Matters at Missions, Language and Diplomacy, Grooming and Social Etiquette, Fine Dining Etiquette, Royalty and Palace Protocol, Role of Spouses at Mission, Promoting Malaysia as a Preferred Investment Destination and Promoting Malaysia's Export of Manufactured Products, Standard Operating Procedure in Humanitarian Crisis, Cross Cultural Awareness and Communication, Art of Conversation and Cooking Demonstration.*

The course received favourable responses from the participants. Not only that they found the course to be very beneficial in exposing them to the overall working at a mission abroad, but the course also created a platform for them to build a network of acquaintances as they are from different ministries and government agencies/departments.

The second series of the course will be conducted from 7 until 11 April 2014, which will be for home-based staff at grade 38 and below.

Reported by: Azmah Mahmud
Training Division

Seminar on Organisational Transformation Management



Three officers from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) attended the above seminar at INTAN Bukit Kiara on 18 February 2014.

The seminar commenced with Welcoming Remarks by Dato' Dr. Mazlan Yusoff, the Director of INTAN followed by Keynote Address by Dato' Seri Zainal Rahim Seman, the Deputy Director General of Public Service (Operations).

In his address, Dato' Seri Zainal Rahim emphasised the importance of understanding transformation in an organisation. He said that the elements that needed to be changed are the mindsets, attitudes and beliefs. The said changes will come with risks but also rewards. He also stressed the fact that, "you cannot change your life until you change something that you do daily".

The Deputy Director General also spoke about the Blue Ocean Strategy and underscored the six steps to success. According to Dato' Seri Zainal, they are: S - Set your goal; U - Understand what is required; C - Check your facts; C - Create your achievable plan; E - Embrace the challenge; S - Start and stay focus, which leads to S - SUCCESS.

Two more topics were later delivered; *Pemacu Kejayaan Transformasi* by Datin Siti Laila Sri Asih of Tenaga Nasional Berhad and *Mengurus Transformasi di Era Digital* by Encik Azman Mohd Yusof of MAMPU.

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

The Official Launching of Mahathir Global Peace School



On 17 February 2014, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) hosted the Official Launching of Mahathir Global Peace School with the theme "Global Peace and Conflict Resolution". The programme was organised by Universitas Muhammadiyah Yokyakarta and the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF).

The objective of Mahathir Global Peace School is to explore strategies in order to construct a just and peaceful world and aims to investigate the political, ethical, legal and economic implications of global peace and its relationship to cosmopolitanism as an alternative to more traditional notions of nationalism.

The programme commenced with welcoming remarks by the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Hussin Nayan and the Rector of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yokyakarta, Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Bambang Cipto.

The Fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of Perdana Global Peace Foundation, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad then delivered his keynote address and official launching. He mentioned that democracy stresses on human rights however, the rights of civilians are taken away when bombs land on their soil. He also believes that ordering others to kill is the worst crime. With regards to creating a just and peaceful world, Tun Dr. Mahathir stated that diplomacy is the best tool to resolve conflicts. He provided examples of regional conflicts that occurred during his time as Prime Minister and conveyed that Malaysia and its neighbours would seek help from the world court rather than to use force.

Public lectures from Former Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. M Jusuf Kalla and Chairperson of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah, Prof. Dr. M Din Syamsudin concluded the programme.



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

A Dinner Talk by Professor Dr. Farish A. Noor



On 14 February 2014, the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) organised a Dinner Talk by Professor Dr. Farish A Noor, Associate Professor of S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations' (IDFR) Distinguished Fellow, on Indonesian Election Watch: 2014 - Trends and Undecidables at the Heritage Room, Royal Selangor Golf Club. The programme commenced with welcoming remarks by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of GMMF.

Prof. Dr. Farish Noor conducted research and field work around Indonesia for months, covering the trends of the upcoming election in Indonesia. He shared his insights on the subject and highlighted some of the factors namely the structural changes of the campaign process, new political order that's occurring in Indonesia and the expectations from the people.

Due to the new trends and changes of Indonesia's politics and its people, he stressed the need for Malaysia to appreciate how complex Indonesia has become and must develop new strategies when negotiating with them in the future.

In attendance were the media, representatives of GMMF, professors from various universities, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and officers from IDFR.



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

Desktop Mac Pro Training Intermediate Level



On 4 and 5 February 2014, eight (8) of the Institute staff have attended Desktop Mac Pro Training Intermediate Level which was held at the Futureworld Training Centre, Wangsa Walk Mall. This training aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on Mac Pro to a higher level. Training starts at 10.00am and ends at 5.30pm. The instructors specially brought in from Apple Company, Mr. Ahmad Shahr.

First day of training starts with an introduction to System Preferences, Finder Window and participants are asked to create a user account, changing profile picture, change the screensaver, change the layout of the icons and know the keyboard shortcuts. In the afternoon session, participants were exposed to the Internet, creating iCloud accounts and Wikispaces, hold a video conference via FaceTime among participants, download iBook Author and create rhythm through iTunes.

On the second day, participants learn about Photo Booth, recording audio and video, create photo albums via iPhoto and video using iMovie. In the afternoon session, participants were given training to create a Wikispaces account to upload any media files on it and create iBooks Author and exported in the form of digital textbooks.

Overall, participants follow the training so well and give full focus throughout the exercise. There are also some questions raised by the participants and explained clearly by the trainers. The participants were given a certificate of attendance and a Compact Disc containing handouts at the end of training.

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

**Lecture on Beyond the Horizon: Potential Political Breakthrough in the South China Sea by
Professor Dr Vivian L Forbes**



IDFR Lecture Series for 2014 took off with a lecture held in collaboration with the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) on 23 January 2014 at the Institute's Treaty Room. The lecture on "Beyond the Horizon: Potential Political Breakthrough in the South China Sea", was delivered by the distinguished Professor Dr. Vivian L. Forbes, Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of Earth and Environment, University of Western Australia, and Senior Visiting Research Fellow of MIMA.

Professor Dr. Forbes is also a professional and practicing cartographer; a marine political geographer; a lecturer in spatial sciences and marine affairs; and a former Merchant Naval Officer. He is also a Guest Professor, China Institute for Boundary and Ocean Studies, Wuhan University, and Guest Professor, South China Sea Institute, Xiamen University, China.

Professor Forbes shared his vast knowledge and expertise on matters related to South China Sea which saw the overlapping territorial claims. He also emphasized on a number of diplomatic initiatives and cooperative activities that have been undertaken as part of the efforts to ensure the peace and stability in the SCS amidst the overlapping claims by the claimant countries namely China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei.

Based on his experiences through the studies conducted while being attached to the China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies (CIBOS) at Wuhan University and SCS Institute at Xiamen University, Professor Forbes also shared perspectives on the ASEAN's Declaration on the Code of Conduct on the SCS; the validity of China's claim; possible cooperation and joint submission between claimant states; and US position on the SCS issue.

The lecture also saw the presence of high level officials from various Government agencies and academic institutes that were dealing with the South China Sea issues such as Wisma Putra, National Security Council, Attorney General's Chambers, National Hydrographic Centre, Naval Cartography Department, Royal Malaysian Navy and Department of Survey and Mapping.



Reported by: Rafizah Zahri
Regional and Security Studies Division

Introductory Course On Protocol and Etiquette



On 20 and 22 January 2014, the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised a two-day course on the Introduction to Protocol for officers and staff of IDFR.

The course was conducted by Puan Rahimah Yeop, Director of Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division. Course participants were taught on the basics of protocol beginning with the definition which is a system that comprises etiquette, discipline, manners, values, rules and regulations that must be observed. With regards to tools of protocol, participants were told to stick to the golden rules of knowing the place, time and the occasion and to develop wisdom through the collection of attitude, skills, knowledge and competency. Different types and levels of protocols were highlighted such as International, Federal and State protocols as well as observing protocol and etiquette in daily situations. Participants were also exposed to the other elements of protocol relating to seating arrangements, attire, formal and informal events.

The second session of the course was particularly on fine dining. Participants were briefed through a video presentation on the methods of communication, manners, the right way of holding and handling dining utensils, the correct table setting and attire. Participants then had a practical session at Kelab Golf Perkhidmatan Awam (KGPA).



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

Majlis Amanat Ketua Setiausaha Negara 2014



On 20 January 2014, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa delivered his message to the civil servants at the Plenary Hall, Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) regarding several initiatives, mainly the transformation programme and creating a people-oriented civil service.

In order for Malaysia to become a developed country by 2020, Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa reminded the civil servants about the Transformation Programme. He stated that civil servants must

prepare innovative and collaborative strategies in order to accelerate towards Malaysia's vision. Using the Public Service Department and Treasury as prime examples, he urged other agencies to start a transformation agenda – positive work culture, structured organisation – to achieve a high-performing and dynamic public service. He then informed that the Malaysian government has agreed for the Public Service Department to work closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to conduct a study in ensuring that the civil service is able to implement the transformation programmes systematically, guided by mandates and objectives set for each ministry.

With regards to creating a people-oriented civil service, Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa underlined six key principles:

1. Openness – to adopt an open mind in giving services to our clients;
2. *Turun Padang* – to observe firsthand the needs and expectations of the people;
3. *Musyawaharah* – to enhance our engagement with customers by giving clear information;
4. *Insaniah* – to balance the spiritual needs and well-being in the way we work;
5. Belonging – appreciating our differences and strengthen our common interests; and
6. Collaboration with the Public, Private and NGO – means to work closely with them and always strive to achieve mutual consensus.

Reducing government spending, increase incentives for civil servants, create sustainable success through the blending of talents, strengthening good governance and integrity and the use of social media as a platform to reach out to the people were other measures that were pointed out. All the ministries and government agencies sent their representatives to attend the event.

The Director General of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Dato' Hussin Nayan and 26 officers and staff attended the programme.

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

Top 10 articles visited on IDFR Website for 2014

No.	Article	Visits
1	The 8th Heads of Mission Conference	2,342
2	INTAN Public Policy Ministerial Forum Series 2014: "Corruption-Are You The Problem Or The Solution?"	2,180
3	National Colloquium on Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN 2015	1,941
4	Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 1/2014	1,699
5	A Dinner Talk by Professor Dr. Farish A. Noor	1,618
6	The 31st ASEF Board of Governors' Meeting in Riga, Latvia and Working Visit to Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia	1,313
7	International Digital Libraries Conference 2014	1,200
8	<i>Majlis Amanat Ketua Setiausaha Negara 2014</i>	1,155
9	Panel Discussion in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of Malaysia-China Diplomatic Relations	1,115
10	Book Launch: 'A UN Chronicle'	1,071

List of contributors of articles on IDFR Website for 2014

No.	Name	No. of Articles
1	Ahmad Kham bin Abu Kassim	2
2	Amirul Siddiq Bin Mohd Nasir (Intern)	2
3	Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri	1
4	Awang Mohammad Putra Awang Sopeian	1
5	Azmah Mahmud	4
6	Dzuita Mohamed	1
7	Elsa Fallida Mohd Suban	1
8	Eminder Kaur Kawan Singh	1
9	Ernitasymbolon Erwan (Intern)	2
10	Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah	4
11	Farhana Mohamed Nor	1
12	Hajah Kamariah Jaafar	3
13	Haris Syarwani Razali	1
14	Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin	1
15	Jamaliah Jaafar	1
16	Lim Hui Chin	4
17	Major Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff	3
18	Mohamad Fadhli Bakar (Intern)	1
19	Mohd Farid Mohd Arif	1
20	Mohd Firdaus Azman	1

21	Mohd Hail Aniff Mohd Fauzi	2
22	Muhammad Redha Bin Rosli (Intern)	2
23	Muhammad Sahfiqal Abdullah Saidi (Intern)	1
24	Noor Asyirah Abd Rahman	1
25	Nor Haslinda Sofian (Intern)	1
26	Noraini Awang Nong	1
27	Nur Aqilah Mohd Subari (Intern)	2
28	Rafizah Zahri	2
29	Romaiza Abd Rahman	5
30	Sharizan Laily Shahrudin	1
31	Siti Nooraznie Abdul Rahim	2
32	Sufrinizam Abd. Hamid	1
33	Syahrul Nizzam Nordin	7
34	Zanariah Abdul Malek	4
35	Zuraini Harun	2
	Total	70

--- Thank You ---